

# Core Discipleship Group Workbook

"One standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12) CORE Discipleship is a faith-based, Christian organization. Our mission is to help you make disciples of Jesus. We provide a simple and reproducible discipleship process based on Jesus' "inner circle" or "core" comprised of Peter, James, and John. We also provide discipleship training and free discipleship resources as free downloadable eBooks.

Just like you, Father God is using the many events and circumstances of life's journey to mold and shape me into the person He desires. Occasionally, I've cooperated completely. It's in those rare moments when something extraordinary takes place - Heaven touches earth, mountains are moved, a part of me is transformed.

Through His infinite patience and unfathomable love I am learning to become the man He created me to be. As I daily surrender my life to Him through His precious Holy Spirit, I see more clearly life eternal.

My hope and prayer for you are that you too will discover God's purpose and become exactly what He has planned for you all along - His son or daughter.

May God grant that we become His disciples by His grace,

# Doug Morrell

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Doug is a seasoned discipler and small group leader. Since graduating from Texas Tech University in 1984, he's worked in a dual capacity -- working within for-profit businesses around the country while also serving the church in various pastoral roles. Additionally, he and his wife Suzie are the founders/directors of CORE Discipleship, a ministry dedicated to making disciples who make disciples. Doug and Suzie have three children: Katheryn, Hannah, and Nathaniel.

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#### **Foreword**

"One standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:12 TLB).

As evangelical Bible-based followers of Christ, we have tended to embrace the theology of the New Testament, while ignoring many of the patterns of structure for the Church. While good theology is absolutely essential, there are many hidden jewels in the patterns of Christ and the early church that allow for a more effective ministry. One of those patterns of Christ is crowd-twelve-three. Jesus ministered to the crowd, discipled the twelve, and closely trained the three (Peter, James, and John).

In the terms of this book,we are called to celebration-small group-core. As I look around, I see churches that excel in one or two of these areas. But, imagine a church that is intentionally investing simultaneously in each of these areas.

Imagine a church that knows how to gather a crowd. They produce an excitement for what God is doing corporately. They provide a way for a celebration that comes from the heart.

Imagine a church with a strong small group network. The Kingdom of God is moving forward throughout the week building relationships and being involved in one another's lives.

Imagine a church sprinkled with CORE Groups. Men and women growing deeper in their faith and being challenged to new levels of commitment, evangelism and discipleship.

Now, imagine these three strands intertwined in the same local church. In my opinion, that is a church that cannot be stopped. The "three-strand" church is a world-changing church.

While there has been volumes of books written on corporate worship and small group ministry, comparatively very little has been put in print regarding CORE Groups. Doug Morrell fills in the gap with the CORE Group Manual. It is a "hands on" book that will allow the third missing strand of the church to gain much needed momentum.

Use this book as a field guide, not a theology textbook. Commit yourself to be a doer of the word and never look back.

Make way for the "three-strand" church!

Phillip Hearn

Founding Senior Pastor New River Fellowship Hudson Oaks, Texas

This Manual belongs to:	
Address:	_
City/State/Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	
My discipler:	
This guide was started on:	-
This guide was completed on:	

Recommended Process/Timeline (12-52 weeks*):
1. Overview 10 weeks Developing life-long relationships/process Community/preservation
2. Ephesians 6 weeks Your position and practice in Christ Jesus Eph. 3x; disciplines of unity
3. Your Testimony 1 week Clearly writing and communicating your story Empowers; confidence
4. Galatians 6 weeks Salvation by faith alone; being Spirit led Gal. 3x; being Spirit led
5. Sharing the Gospel. 1 week Steps in leading someone to Jesus Evangelism
6. Philippians 4 weeks Rejoicing in all circumstances; joy Phil. 3x; unity
7. Colossians 4 weeks The Lordship of Jesus; wisdom
8. John
9. James
10. 2nd Timothy 4 weeks Committed to ministry
*Depending upon the spiritual maturity of the CORE Group members (see page 33 for Church FastTrack use).

# Core Discipleship

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# Introduction Discipleship Is A Process...Not A Program

Often times, in our zeal to teach God's Word, we exchange programs for process; we give fish instead of teaching others to become fishers of men. In the larger sense, we are raising up a generation not capable of discipling the next generation. Based on the Great Commission, the Apostle Paul established a pattern for the preservation and transmission of the gospel. Teaching is to be passed on to successive generations without addition or alteration.



"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Tim. 2:2)

### **Discipleship Is Spiritual Parenting**

Discipleship is like raising children; to instill God's truth, it should be relational and intentional. It embraces two precepts: We can do more together than we can ever do by ourselves. And, the more effective those you join with, the more effective your growth will be.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Eccl. 4:9-12)

"Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor. 15:33)

"He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." (Prov. 13:20)

A disciplemaker, spiritual parent, mentor or coach is a person whom you intentionally enter into a personal relationship with and who can help you grow in every area of your life (spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, physically, etc.). It is someone who:

- a. Will encourage you. We tend to become what the most important person in our lives thinks we'll become. Great instructors/coaches are those who bring out the best in us. They are great encouragers.
- b. Will confront you. Proverbs 27:5, 6 says, "Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." It is someone who knows that confrontation develops a person and that criticism destroys a person. It is someone who knows that to critique is to criticize. He or she will hold you accountable while demonstrating a spirit of mutual submission. A discipler is a person in your life who will ask you the hard questions. They know the point is always restoration and work to that end. Disciplers are trustworthy.
- c. Will intercede for you. A mentor is bold in their witness but humble in their relationships with others. They act as a bridge between God and those they are praying for and are bonded together with those they are discipling/parenting.

d. Will be your lifelong partner. They are there to help you lift the load. One draft horse can pull two tons; two draft horses can pull 23 tons. There is power in numbers.

Like parenting, discipleship a lifelong process.

To illustrate, if Jesus had spent only 12 hours a day with His men for three years that would be 4,380 hours a year or at least 13,140 hours over that three-plus-year period. In comparison, if today's pastor were able to spend one hour each day with just one person he

"...the Bible - God's inerrant, infallible Word - is central to the CORE Group, followed only by fellowship, communion, and prayer. All four are key aspects of the early church and paramount to the CORE Group process and success."

would have invested 365 hours in one year. At that rate it would take 36 years to match the number of hours Jesus invested with the 12. Based on the CORE process, one year is not an unreasonable amount of time to invest into the life of a few who can be trained, supervised, and released to then repeat the process.

# **Current Discipleship Trends - How Are We Doing?**

According to noted Christian researcher George Barna, the Christian Church in America is comprised of "many converts, but shockingly few disciples." This conclusion is based upon two years of research Barna conducted regarding the current state of discipleship. His findings included the following:

- When Christian adults were asked to identify their most important goal for their life, not a single person said it was to be a committed follower of Jesus Christ, or to make disciples of Christ.
- Less than one out of every five born again adults had any specific and measurable goals related to their personal spiritual development.
- Less than 1% of all believers perceived a connection between their efforts to worship God and their development as a disciple of Jesus.
- The most widely-known Bible verse among adult and teen believers is "God helps those who help themselves" which is not in the Bible, and actually conflicts with the basic heart of Scripture.
- A minority of adult and teen believers contends that absolute moral truth exists.
- Less than one out of every ten believers possess a biblical world view as the basis for his/her decision-making or behavior.
- $\bullet$  When given thirteen basic teachings from the Bible, only 1% of adult believers firmly embraced all 13 as being biblical perspectives.
- Research revealed specific and significant problems related to core spiritual practices such as worship, evangelism, stewardship, community service, and life-styles.

Barna also noted that most believers stated that their church does little to help them grow as a true disciple. "Few believers said that their church lacked programs, but most Christians complained that

little is done to effectively motivate and facilitate their development as genuine, fervent followers of Christ. Our surveys among pastors showed that they dismissed such views as excuses and as inaccurate, but the bottom line remains unchanged: most Christians are simply not making progress in their personal spiritual development."

I want to say at the outset that there's no such thing as "the perfect discipleship model." There are, however, several principles that will help us understand what Jesus did so that we can attempt to build according to His pattern.

Jesus chose men. He knew the quality of their lives. He walked with them. He scrutinized their lives. He spent a night in prayer before making His selection. And then He chose. What we learn is that God establishes men and women - men and women who are surrendered to Him and controlled by His Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew those men. He chose them from all others because He saw them not in terms of what they were, but what they would become as He invested His life in them. They were men with open hearts and minds. Most likely, they were hungry for the wrong things, but He kindled their passion into a burning desire for Him. He chose them because they hungered and thirsted after righteousness. He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

In the same way, Jesus tells us, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

We are to "make disciples." The other action verbs are all subordinate to this main idea to make disciples. Literally, Jesus tells us, "Having gone, make disciples by baptizing and by teaching." He tells us what is involved in making disciples. The main idea is to make disciples, not friends for Jesus, not fans, not to develop a large following, because Jesus says there will never be many who will follow. To follow Jesus involves a cross - His Passion - and a cross means the laying down of our own goals and purposes, hopes and dreams, the things for which we live, and settling once and for all that Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives, and that we are going to serve Him.

There will never be many who will make that kind of decision. The Lord always drew the lines hard and fast and He said that there would be very few that would cross over. And when they did, He would hit them immediately with his claim as Lord, "Are you willing to follow me, and yield everything?"

If you are using this guide, you are already demonstrating a hunger for righteousness. As such, you are to present Christ, and then to stay with those you train and prepare them until they themselves are independently dependent on the Lord and able to go on, released to repeat the same process.

May God grant that we become disciples by His grace,

# Doug Morrell

#### **Overview**

Jesus gave us these three characteristics of a disciple:

- 1. Obedient to God's Word: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciple." (John 8:31);
- 2. Loving: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." (John 13:35);
- 3. Fruitful: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciple." (John 15:8).

If you are this kind of person, then it is your job, whether as an electrician, lawyer, student or housewife, to make disciples. Regardless where you are or by what means you earn your living, God has given you a platform for making disciples. You simply need to take the next step in faith and you will then discover you have your entire lifetime to work out the exciting details of this adventure called discipleship.

Additionally, these same three characteristics are what you should look for in those you prayerfully consider and choose as members of your CORE Group.

No one has to be a theologian or pastor to see incredible fruit. Immediately, you'll begin seeing your CORE Group develop in ways resembling the early church.

What is a disciple, anyway? A Biblical disciple is a Christ-believer in process - someone who is moving toward maturity. The process of discipleship begins at the moment a person receives Jesus as Lord and Master of their life and continues as long as he or she keeps learning and growing. Salvation is a free gift; everything else is going to cost us something. Our war is against the flesh, not so much our enemy. We begin the journey as a baby and others should not expect a baby to act like a mature saint. Growth, just like in the natural, has various stages. There are all kinds of starts, false starts, victories and defeats. But there should always be growth.

As you'll notice, the Bible - God's inerrant, infallible Word and being Holy Spirit-led - are central to the CORE Group, followed only by fellowship, communion, and prayer. All four are key aspects of the early church and paramount to the CORE Group process and success.

By using the CORE Guide as a "roadmap" - from just one CORE group - you will have invested more than 80-hours together as a group, thoroughly read and digested seven books of the Bible, maintained a year-long journal with notes, memorized over 50 key scriptures, written and used your testimony, learned to discern various levels of spiritually maturity, learned to effectively present the Gospel, read through the Book of Proverbs 12 times (highly recommended, but optional), read through such devotionals as "Practicing His Presence", "My Utmost For His Highest", or "A Testament Of Devotion" (as presented by the CORE leader and as an option), prayed for and evangelized eight converts and began discipling four new disciples, established life-long relationships, will have launched at least one other CORE Group with three more CORE Groups soon to follow. All in one year ... now that's the Power of One - Give God the glory!

#### **How To Use This Guide**

This guide is designed for Core Groups and is a training manual for Core Group leaders and members. Those who have experienced the fellowship found in small groups will find that many of the same dynamics can be used in the CORE, but greater emphasis is placed on God's Word and deeper degrees of relationship - relationships that will last long beyond the Group's time together.

If you're not familiar with small groups, one excellent resource on small group life is David Finnell's fine work entitled "Life In His Body" (available from Touch Publications, Houston, Texas).

- 1. Each section begins with a CORE Group Guide (Lesson 1 on the opposite page is the outline for the Group's first meeting). Each person needs to review and complete the Lesson prior to the next meeting. During the group meeting, you can use the discussion and accountability questions as a guideline.
- 2. Depending upon the spiritual maturity level of each member, the CORE process can be imparted in as little as 3 months or in 12 months. Some of the members in your CORE Group will have tremendous understanding of God's Word, having walked with Him for years, and simply need to understand the process. Others will be new believers, or those needing to see the big picture and these will take more time to establish foundations. This Manual is a tool. As the CORE leader and discipler, you are free to choose and recommend additional optional reading, to choose how much time is necessary to ensure spiritual maturity, and to lead others into a deeper fullness and understanding of the principles of the Great Commandment and Great Commission. Be Spirit-led and don't simply use the tool as a lecturing resource.
- 3. The CORE purpose is to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission using the 4 keys found in Acts 2:42, the enterprise outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13, and the pattern found in 2 Timothy 2:2. These five major Scripture passages form the "hand-shake" of Core Groups.
- 4. Try and keep each meeting time from 60-90 minutes in length; the majority of your time will be spent in God's Word, fellowship, communion, and prayer. Build lasting relationships.
- 5. A disciple is someone who is in the process of learning to observes all that Jesus commanded. Likewise, to ensure the preservation and transmission of the CORE Group process, CORE Groups should be born from CORE Groups.

Additionally, the first lessons are purposely designed to build a foundation for the CORE Groups and will help you understand and present the biblical basis for discipleship, how the CORE Groups can be integrated as a "third strand" into existing or new church discipleship processes, provides an introduction to spiritual life stages, contains a spiritual life stage assessment tool, lays the groundwork for the CORE, and contains an overview and reminder of effective communications for the CORE. It is both academic and vocational. Every lesson, meeting, and relationship is an opportunity to know God and make Him known.

Let's get started!

Journal & Notes:	

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# **CORE** Guide

# Lesson I: Jesus' Pattern For Discipleship

Date:

Assistante		leted?
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read the Core Group Manual (pages 14-19); read John 8:31; John 13:35; John 15:8 (read through each chapter for context)		
Bible Study		
Prayerfully consider each of these passages and be prepared to review each in your meeting time.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• John 13:35		

From these 3 passages, what 3 criteria mark Jesus' disciples?
How do you abide in God's Word?
What is a disciple?
Who are to be Jesus' disciples? Who is commanded by Jesus to make disciples?
What two promises can be claimed by Jesus' disciples?
What kind of fruit are disciples to bear?
I am praying that
will become a disciple.

# Lesson I: Jesus' Pattern For Discipleship

Jesus ministered to the multitudes at least 17 times according to the Bible. At times His ministry was conducted one-on-twelve. He also provided on-the-job training with the 70; and spent some apprentice-ship time with the 120 as well as placing some emphasis with the 500 in Galilee. However, there are approximately 46 mentions in the Bible where He spent His time in private with His disciples. In those smaller

"inner-group" settings He trained His committed followers for their own ministries. He ministered one-on-one, one-on-two,

and one-on-three.

In his book, "The Holy Spirit", Billy Graham states the following as being vital to the biblical process of establishing new believers in their faith:

"One of the first verses of Scripture that Dawson

Trotman, founder of The Navigators, made me memorize was, "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2 KJV). This is a little like a mathematical formula for spreading the gospel and enlarging the Church. Paul taught Timothy. Timothy shared what he knew with faithful men; these faithful men would then teach others also. And so the process goes on and on. If every believer followed this pattern, the Church would reach the entire world with the gospel in one generation. Mass crusades, in which I believe and to which I have committed my life, will never finish the Great Commission; but a one-by-one ministry will."

The great commission has two parts. The first is for us to go and make disciples. The second is of no less significance, but is often times set aside to secondary importance if used at all. It is to teach people (apprentice disciples) to obey. There cannot be a disciple without this training. And there cannot be training without accountability. The primary objective of the believer today as outlined by Jesus is for disciples of Jesus to develop other men and women into disciples. We must understand that God is never concerned about the size of a group. Size has nothing to do with success. Success is always based on a relationship that produces lasting fruit.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19,20)

The Great Commission maintains one imperative and that is to "make disciples." The other action verbs are all subordinate to this main idea to make disciples. Jesus tells us, "Having gone, make disciples by

Notes:	 	 	 

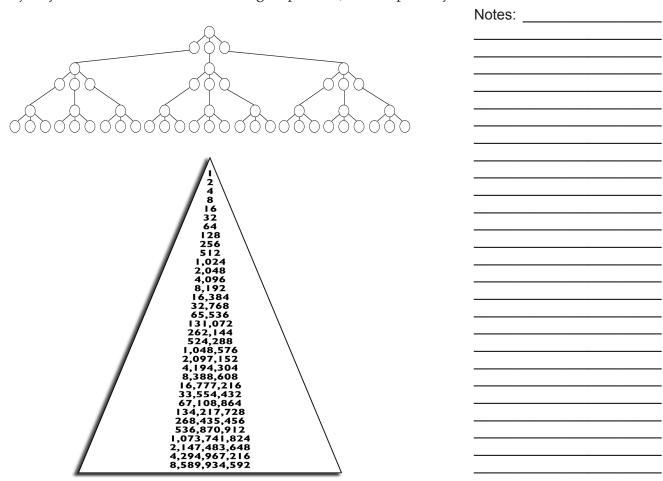
baptizing and by teaching."

What follows is an overview of the current discipleship process found in many churches today with one major addition. This one addition can greatly enhance your discipleship efforts, increase the depth and quality of leadership, and provides a safe and caring environment for those to whom you are discipling. This biblical process provides for the establishment of new converts in the faith, the equipping (preparing, repairing, repentance, restitution, restoration, restoring to Kingdom dynamics, and releasing) of disciples for ministry, the enlistment of all to follow Jesus' plan for discipleship, and the expansion of the kingdom of God throughout the world. Think about it in these terms - if you commit today to this process, your Church can change an entire generation!

"If every believer followed this pattern, the Church would reach the entire world with the gospel in one generation."

As such, when you lead people to Christ, you must have a process in place to stand by them to help them grow until Christ is fully formed in them (Galatians 4:19).

As Christians, we are called to a lifelong process of growth in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; Jesus called this process being His disciples. Though Jesus ministered to the multitudes on many occasions, He spent the majority of His time with a smaller group of 12, and especially



Notes:	fivefold purpose of the Church (worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, and ministry).
	If we are to follow the New Testament model of discipleship, we should review our discipleship efforts so that we can provide more effective discipleship opportunities for all the members of our church family. What follows is a process which has produced real disciples into the fourth generation and one in which not only offers an overview, but provides the why, what, and when of the discipleship model
	The most important reason is that it is pleasing to God. God's plan includes our bringing others into spiritual maturity. We are to present others perfect in Christ Jesus. The word perfect does not mean flaw-less; it means mature or complete. Like the apostle Paul, we must work wholeheartedly toward helping others become mature spiritually. If we consistently follow God's plan for discipleship, the church will expand exponentially as well-taught believers would teach others and commission them, in turn, to teach still others. Disciples must be equipped to pass on their faith; our work is not done until new believers are able to make disciples of others (see Ephesians 4:12, 13).
	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"
	(60100014110 1.20)
	"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many
	love - like Christ in everything." (Ephesians 4:15a, The Message).
	"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples." (John 8:31).
	"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30).

one-on-one, one-on-two, and one-on-three. This last group became the inner or "CORE" group. There is no greater privilege in the universe

Jesus has invited us to come and be His disciples; to follow Him and become more like Him. His joy is overwhelming as we take on discipleship according to His plan and as we do so in a joyously intentional way (Matthew 9:9, Romans 8:29).

We must realize that true spiritual maturity (power and authority) comes only as we maintain right relationships:

"Like the apostle Paul, we must work wholeheartedly toward helping others become spiritually mature."

- Godliness is living the way God wants us to (Review Ephesians 4:1; 5:1, 2; 5:18-20; 6:18-20);
- Our behavior how we act especially when no one else is around should be just like Jesus;
- A healthy, balanced life is both vertical (with God) and horizontal (with man).

The Christian life (spiritual) parallels the physical life (natural):

- There are definite stages in life;
- Each stage of life in the Christian journey builds upon the other;
- Just as there are natural parents, there must be spiritual parents;
- Only through "growth" does a person pass from one stage to the next;
- When growth does not occur, it is a sign of a serious problem.

There is a major difference between physical growth and spiritual growth:

- Physical growth usually takes place with little to no effort on our part;
- Spiritual growth must be nurtured and overseen by more spiritually mature "fathers and mothers" who understand the process as being intentional, relational and that the process is 100% spiritual.

From the mature writings of Apostle John we discover several truths (1 John 2:12-14):

"I write to you dear children...young men...fathers"

• There are three different stages with various shades within each stage in the Christian life which are not necessarily dependent

•		

Notes:

Notes: • In each stage there are blessings to be enjoyed and instruction/ virtues to be realized and learned: • Children need to become young men or young women, and young \_\_\_\_\_ men or young women need to become fathers or mothers. We should adhere to God's New Testament discipleship model as best we can. That attempt to build according to code is presented in the following statements: \_\_\_\_\_ • Provide the opportunity for more children to have quality Bible study and deeper worship experiences, to begin and develop a living relationship with Jesus Christ and to begin to understand that Christ's love lives in them by and through the Holy Spirit. • Provide the opportunity for more youth to have meaningful time in God's Word, develop and increase relational development within the context of a smaller, more intimate group setting; learn to become less influenced by selfish desires and learn to place an ever increasing measure of value in the well being of others; become more desirous of allowing God's plans to be realized than self goals; becoming more controlled by the Holy Spirit as opposed to fleshly desires. • Provide adults with biblically based scriptural and relational development opportunities in small and CORE group settings; provide opportunities to continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and to encourage, equip, and release these into an active discipleship role. **Biblical Examples of Discipleship:** • The 12 disciples of Jesus (Mth. 10:1-4) • The 70 disciples sent forth by Christ to witness and teach (Luke • Disciples of John the Baptist (Mth. 11:1-3) • All disciples were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26) • Paul and Timothy (1 Tim. 1:1-4; 2 Tim. 2:1, 2) "As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ." (2 Cor. 8:23) "We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith" (1 Thess. 3:2)

and Mothers in the faith);

upon chronological age - Children (boys and girls in the faith); Youth (young sons and daughters in the faith); Maturity (Fathers

### We Are Commanded to Teach God's Principles:

"and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Mth. 28:20)

"For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church." (1 Cor. 4:17)

"Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach" (1 Tim. 3:2)

"Command and teach these things." (1 Tim. 4:11)

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Tim. 2:2)

"And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful." (2 Tim. 2:24)

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children" (Titus 2:3, 4)

"There are three different stages with various shades within each stage in the Christian life which are not necessarily dependent upon chronological age - Children (boys and girls in the faith); Youth (young sons and daughters in the faith); Maturity (Fathers and Mothers in the faith)"

notes.		 	

esson Notes/Prayer Requests:
<del>-</del>
CCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
SING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# **CORE** Guide

# **Lesson 2: Core Group Overview**

_		
Date:		

Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read the Core Group Manual (pages 25-35); read Matthew 23 (3x);		
suggest "Wild At Heart" as reading (ransomedheart.com).		
Bible Study		
Prayerfully consider the material and be prepared to review in		
your meeting time.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Mth. 23:11		
*Review and complete the CORE Covenant on page 35		

Whose job is it to preach the Gospel and to make disciples?
Are you spending time with God in the disciplines of our faith?
What are the 4 fundamental foundations of the CORE?
What separates the CORE from Bible studies, accountability groups, and small groups?
What should be the single most evidence resulting from a CORE Group?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying that

# **Lesson 2: CORE Group Development**

As we've discussed, the apostle John addressed three levels of spiritual maturity. It is here that I will introduce the 3-Strand Church Model which purposely embraces the process of discipleship.

Most of us are familiar with traditional Sunday corporate gatherings.
Many are also familiar and possibly involved in some type of small
group process whether it be in Sunday School classes or home groups.
But few are actively involved in the third strand called CORE Group
Ministry.

Let's briefly review each of the three strands (a more thorough overview of each of these three stands can be found in the pastor's addendum).

# **Strand One: The Sunday Corporate Gathering**

Weekly, corporate gatherings - these are comparable to Jesus' teaching of the "multitudes." Mixed gender and ages.

# Strand Two: The Small Group Network

Weekly, smaller group meetings known also as cells, focus groups, home groups, small group, or discipleship groups. Usually, mixed gender and more specific age or life stage emphasis with the focus on fellowship and general Bible study or devotionals. This strand would be comparable to what Jesus did with the 12.

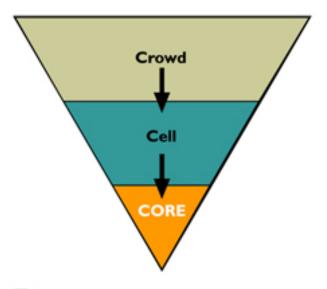
# **Strand Three: CORE Discipleship Groups**

It appears that Jesus focused much of His ministry upon this third strand, the CORE or "inner circle" (one-on-one, one-on-two, one-on-three). CORE provides an atmosphere where:

- The discipleship process can be greatly accelerated;
- Discipleship can be developed that will continue to multiply itself through many spiritual generations;
- Provides a process for the discipling of a new convert and helps to establish him or her in the basics of our faith;
- Helps develop and grow believers in their knowledge of God, forgiveness, ministry, and spiritual warfare.

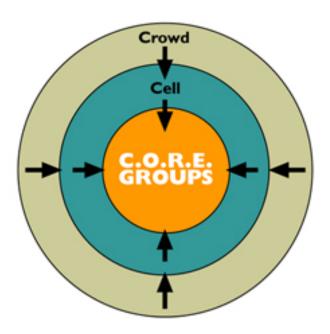
This grassroots discipleship level is seen in the "inner group" of Christ (Peter, James and John) and produces the basis of successive leadership development. These one-on-one, one-on-two, or one-on-three CORE Groups represent a powerful tool for the church. This tool empowers and models Jesus' call to discipleship at a foundational level. These groups meet once each week for an hour or two, but because of the intense relationships, accountability, in-depth study of God's Word, prayer, and transparency, those in CORE Groups spend more time in

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"It is within the CORE group that discipleship can be accelerated..."

- Crowd: Sunday large group worship; 50+ people; celebration centered; mostly mixed gender
- Cell:Weekly small group meetings; 5-16 people; fellowship centered; mixed gender
- CORE: 3 or 4 meeting weekly; gender specific; discipleship specific



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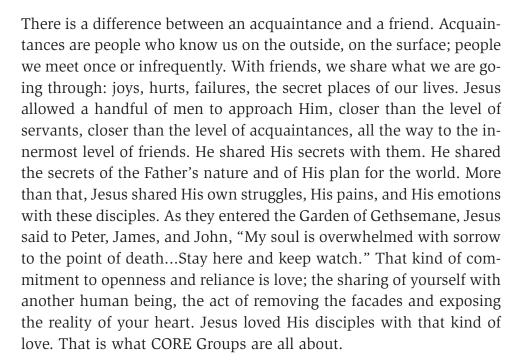
Notes:	se; it is a "father or mother" in the faith who intentionally, relationally, and spiritually births and nurtures a "son or daughter" in the faith until Christ is formed in them. They, in turn, are equipped and released to repeat the process. The actual process involves the developing and maintaining of lifelong relationships, intense reading and application of God's Word, focused prayer, and mutual accountability.
	<ul> <li>What Is A CORE Group?</li> <li>Discipling is best accomplished in the relational context of Christian believers helping one another grow and mature in a CORE Group setting, just as Jesus discipled the group of Twelve and the inner circle of three (Peter, James and John).</li> </ul>
	A CORE Group is the name used to describe our one-on-one, one-on-two, and one-on-three discipleship groups that meet weekly. We participate in studying God's Word, worshipping and praying together, along with finding and extending the support necessary to grow toward maturity in Christ. CORE provides for a time to build equality, deep and caring friendships, men with men and women with women. CORE is a place to be loved, accepted, and to extend Christ's forgiveness to one another. CORE Groups are patterned after the life of Jesus and are designed to develop disciples of Jesus Christ who can then make disciples.
	The Difference Between A CORE Group And A Small Group:  Though a CORE Group does have similarities to a home or cell group, it is not a "smaller, small group" or an "accountability group." A CORE Group is smaller than most Home Groups, Cell Groups, or Sunday School Classes and provides a "platform" for even deeper discussion and interaction.

communication with each other throughout the week (a natural occurrence). These groups are gender specific. There is no "curriculum" per

# **CORE Groups are Dedicated to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission:**

Though CORE Groups are relational, they are less social than home groups, providing a deeper degree and opportunity for one-on-one accountability and encouragement to grow spiritually in very specific ways. CORE Groups are gender specific, while most home groups are made up of different genders.

Jesus said, "You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you" (John 15:14). Notice how Jesus elevated these men from the level of mere servants, who must obey in order to avoid punishment, to the level of friends who want to obey because they have been admitted into the inner secrets of another person's life. It is at this "friendship" level that CORE Groups find their strength.



One way we can express this kind of Christ-like love is by being open and honest in sharing ourselves with others. CORE Groups provide a "safe place" where we can expose the reality of our hearts with a few trusted believers, just as Jesus shared Himself with the Twelve and especially with the inner circle - Peter, James and John.

We need to understand that our vertical relationship with God will determine our horizontal relationship with others. In other words, the depth and quality of our personal time with God (in His Word, in fellowship with Him, in communion with Him, and in communica-



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tion with Him) will determine the depth and quality of our time with each other (in His Word together, in fellowship with each other, in communion with each other, and in communication with each other).

<ul> <li>CORE Group discipleship is characterized by these traits:</li> <li>discipleship is 100% spiritual;</li> <li>discipleship is intentional;</li> <li>discipleship is personal;</li> <li>discipleship is relational (vertical and horizontal).</li> </ul>
I believe that all Christians should be in a CORE Group, studying the Bible together, worshiping God together, fellowshiping together, serving Jesus together, sharing their lives together. In fact, CORE Groups and home fellowships were the essential building blocks of the first-century church, and they are the essential means to transcend the bigness of big churches today. Ideally, CORE Groups should emerge out of the home group, cell group, life group, or Sunday School class because the dynamics found in the CORE are structurally the same. If you have never been involved in a CORE Group, I urge you to find one or prayerfully consider launching one. Find a few like-minded believers (obedient, loving, fruitful) and agree to meet together on a weekly basis, agree to do some ministry together, agree to spend time sharing yourselves with one another, learning about God together, and really loving one another as Jesus commanded.
What A CORE Group Is Like:  A CORE Group could be compared to a flock of sandhill cranes - those great long-necked birds that fly south every winter in a majestic V-formation. Three keys about these cranes will help you as you launch
your CORE Group:
your CORE Group:  1. There is always a leader to the V-formation. That leader sets the direction for the entire formation. If the Lord has led you to begin a CORE Group, you get to fly out frontat first.
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<ol> <li>There is always a leader to the V-formation. That leader sets the direction for the entire formation. If the Lord has led you to begin a CORE Group, you get to fly out frontat first.</li> <li>Just like the sandhill cranes, you're not to dominate, but allow others to lead, too! These birds instinctively share the leadership among themselves, taking turns being out in front and setting the course for the group.</li> <li>Whenever they fly, the rest of the birds encourage the leader,</li> </ol>

# **CORE Group Purposes:**

# I. Loving God:

"Loving God with all our hearts, minds and souls," is fulfilled through our devotion to God expressed in our time in His Word, in fellowship with Him, in communion with Him and in prayer with Him. We express our love by magnifying and glorifying God.

### 2. Loving others:

"Loving our neighbors as ourselves" is fulfilled as we continually express to the world that we are vitally concerned and connected with all of God's creation.

# 3. Go and make disciples:

"Go and make disciples" which we fulfill through evangelism and discipleship, spreading the good news about a loving God in every corner of our world.

# 4. Union with Christ Jesus:

"Baptize them" takes place when we unite a believer with Jesus Christ in his or her death to sin and resurrection to new life. Baptism symbolizes submission to Christ, a willingness to live God's way, and identification with God's covenant people.

### 5. Spiritual parenting:

"Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you" which we accomplish through our CORE Group, providing teaching, training and instruction in Kingdom life and principles (thinking, living, and praying 24-7).

# **CORE Group Priorities:**

According to George Barna:

"Over the past 20 years we have seen the nation's theological views slowly become less aligned with the Bible. Americans still revere the Bible and like to think of themselves as Bible-believing people, but the evidence suggests otherwise. Christians have increasingly been adopting spiritual views that come from Islam, Wicca, secular humanism, the eastern religions and other sources. Because we remain a largely Bible-illiterate society, few are alarmed or even aware of the slide toward syncretism - a belief system that blindly combines beliefs from many different faith perspectives."

Acts 2:42 presents four fundamental devotions that taken together, form the "grid" or "foundation" from which discipleship, interpersonal relationships, small group ministry, and corporate gatherings should be based:

1. Doctrine (God's Word): Allowing sound doctrine to transform our minds and behavior. I cannot tell you how important the ministry

"From the start make sure that everyone understands that "no one is in charge." In other words, you're gathering together as brothers or sisters - equals - under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the direction of His Holy Spirit. You come expecting Jesus through His Holy Spirit to guide you, teach you, speak to you - through His Word and one another."

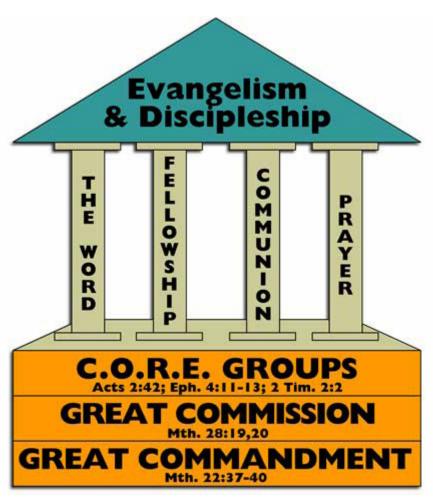

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of the Word is today. According to many Christian researchers, we are the most biblically illiterate people in all of history...the Word of God simply must be learned and applied. The Word of God gives substance to our faith; it stabilizes, enables, equips, brings confidence, and brings assurance in times of trouble and fear. The Word of God is the core of CORE Groups;

- 2. Fellowship: Sharing, unity, partnership, it is "brotherhood" or "sisterhood" this is "koinonia" or real love of one another;
- 3. Communion: Building relationships with each other and becoming a very close knit family;
- 4. Prayer: Seeking God's direction and intervention in our lives.

Whenever a CORE group meets, all four should be experienced. Real success will take place if you keep at the top of your list the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, God's Word, fellowship, communion, and prayer.



#### **Results:**

- 1. Christ Likeness: "...until Christ is formed in you" (Gal. 4:19).
- 2. Reproduction: Equipping the Saints for the work of the ministry and inviting new people to join us. From the outset, each CORE member is asked to begin praying for two people whom they can share the Gospel and one person whom they can begin discipling using the same process provided them.

"It is only when we willingly surrender our will to the control of the Holy Spirit that he can then renew, reeducate, and redirect our minds so that we can be truly transformed."

### **Testimonials From CORE Group Members:**

The most convincing and compelling evidence from this New Testament model is the lasting fruit it produces.

Here are a few brief statements written by three men who are a part of an existing CORE Group:

"What an honor it has been to walk with you for about 2 years now. I have opened up my life to you and revealed things I have never told anybody before. By doing those things I have found freedom in many areas of my life during this time - from wrong doctrines to sinful habits. I have not had spiritual growth like this ever in my life. The growth that takes place is amazing when you walk with an older, mature, man in the faith. I know we will be friends for life. I also know that I will pass discipleship onto the next generation as I am presently doing." -Paul G.

"The way I feel about our discipleship group is the excitement I sense knowing that God is going to challenge me in the deepness of His Word. You don't just come and listen; you participate in the Word. We apply God's Word to our lives in a real way. The best part is walking with three other men in an inseparable relationship that God has handpicked. Knowing there is always three people to bounce things off of or lean on. Knowing they love me the way I love my wife and kids. We just come expecting big things. What an honor it is to walk in this kind of relationship." -Chad L.

"I would like everyone to think back to the day they were saved. That was the day we felt such joy, peace, and love. It's nearly indescribable. Soon after, however, most Christians either get plugged-in and begin serving Christ or they slowly begin to fade into a "lukewarm" Christianity. The group that I belong to is the perfect fit for both circumstances. I'm encouraged, loved and taught one-on-one with life partners who help me to find out exactly what God wants for my life. This kind of discipleship group keeps you off the fence. Our group focuses on the Word of God so that I can grow in Christ. Behind God and my family, I place the time and relationships that have been developed within this group as next in line and depth." -Jeff J.


Notes:

Disciples need to be equipped to pass on their faith; our work is not done until new believers are able to make disciples of others.

the cost." A week or so is usually adequate.

Notes:	Choosing Your CORE Members  How can we keep the purity of the Gospel from one generation to
	the next? By entrusting the teaching of God's truth to those who will keep it safe (2 Tim. 2:2). In other words, we are to pass on that which we've been taught to those who will guard the trust. These are men or
	women who are believing, loyal and reliable - committed to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. These should be:
	1. Obedient to God's Word: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciple." (John 8:31);
	2. Loving: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." (John 13:35);
	3. Fruitful: "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciple." (John 15:8).
	This is a sacred trust and must be continually guarded. That's precisely what Jesus did with the 12 and Paul committed with Timothy. We are to do no differently.
	Based on the following Spiritual Life Stage Section, you will want to choose no more than three people for your CORE Group. Ideally, try and choose one each from the various life stages described in the following section - a person who is in spiritual childhood, one who is in spiritual adulthood, and one who is in spiritual parenthood.
	How To BeginThe Power of One!  1. Pray. Ask God to reveal those individuals whom you are to begin your CORE Group. This can sometimes take months. Wait on God's timing. Consult with your local church leadership.
	2. Go. Ask those whom God has placed on your heart to prayerfully consider becoming members of your CORE Group. Look for "faithful" not "able" men or women (see 2 Tim. 2:2). Explain the basic dynamics of the CORE. Based on the "inner-circle" of Jesus' discipleship, gather no more than 3 others to join you. Let them know that the CORE meets just once each week with the specific purpose of evangelism and discipleship.
	3. Wait. Give each person some time to "count

Some will join; others will not. Don't be dismayed - CORE Groups are intense and build relationships where people simply cannot "hide" behind a mask for too long. For this reason, CORE Groups will be qualitative, not necessarily quantitative.

4. Begin. At this point, you're probably going to think, "I'm not qualified." You're in good company. None of the 12 Jesus chose were qualified either. No one ever is or ever will be. That's why it's called "faith." Just start - remain pliable, teachable, submitted to your church leadership, and humble and you'll be amazed at how the Holy Spirit of God can work if you allow Him to. This CORE Manual will help you keep the group moving forward with the pointed purpose of fulfilling both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

"Ideally, CORE Groups should emerge out of the home group, cell group, life group, or Sunday School class."

#### **Guidelines:**

- 1. Pick a specific meeting place and time, say Monday evenings from 6 to 7:30 pm at a local restaurant. I've found that 60-90 minutes per meeting time once each week is very realistic and does not place a burden on those in your group. Start on time and end on time. The CORE Group I'm currently in meets every Thursday morning from 6:00am 7:20am, at a pancake house.
- 2. Start with a small number of men or women, (less than four) and don't expand by adding additional members. Each CORE member should be committed to being on time and being there as regularly as possible. Visitors should be welcomed to come and observe and participate, but they are not to remain. CORE Groups can be one-on-one, one-on-two, or one-on-three; more than that and you've launched a small group and the dynamics of the CORE will be quickly lost.
- 3. From the start make sure that everyone understands that "no one is in charge." In other words, you're gathering together as brothers or sisters equals under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the direction of His Holy Spirit. You come expecting Jesus through His Holy Spirit to guide you, teach you, speak to you through His Word and one another. Jesus said,

"You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them and their great men exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. Whoever would be great among you must become your servant and whoever would be first among you must become your slave, just as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mth. 20:25-28)

Jesus tells us that true greatness comes in serving others. Be humble enough to admit that you can learn from each other.

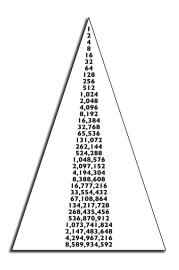
Most businesses, organizations, and institutions measure greatness by personal achievement; the more you succeed - the more people

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Notes:	service is the way to get ahead. The desire to be on top will hinder, not help. Rather than seeking to have your needs met, look for ways that you can minister to the needs of others. CORE Groups are led by the Holy Spirit. Obviously there is one person who should be the facilitator (discipler), but it is someone who knows that they are on the same journey as everyone else, but just a little further down the path than those in the group. It cannot be emphasized enough that, "Where two or more are gathered together in my name, there I [Jesus] am in the midst of you." That's the power of CORE Groups.
	Additionally, make it known from the beginning that the purpose of the CORE Group is to fulfill the Great Commandment through the Great Commission. In other words, challenge each member to begin praying for two unbelievers and one other person that they can begin discipling, using the same process and materials. Pattern your CORE Group after Jesus' model of discipleship, "show, tell, release, supervise". In time, each member of your CORE Group should be released to launch their own CORE Group and so on. It's amazing what happens when you follow the Master's guide.
	4. You'll want to devote about half of your typical time together to God's Word. Over time, you'll want to allow the other group members the responsibility of leading the group. As the CORE Group leader, you'll want to critique their study and encourage those who clearly have teaching gifts. Every Christian receives something uniquely his own, and this needs to be shared for the edification and encouragement of all the other members.
	5. Be sure to allow adequate time for sharing in your group, and for lots of prayer. Don't allow the prayer time to be shortened to the last five minutes. Start your time together in prayer. It's a good idea to stop and pray for members as they share. Sometimes, a given member may have little to report, on other occasions the concerns of one member may take up the entire discussion and prayer time. Watch the overall balance and treat the weekly meeting as very important. Give the time together a very high priority. Members need to learn to listen and tune in to the others as well as sharing and giving. If the Holy Spirit is leading a CORE Group, no one person will ever end up dominating the time together.
	6. Take steps of faith and risk being open and vulnerable. Those in your CORE Group will become lifelong friends. Just as is true in natural parenting, the members of your CORE Group will become a lot like family. I have people whom I've discipled, released, and are now making disciples and who, from time-to-time, call me with questions about major issues they're facing. We're very connected and I know our relationship will always remain intact. In fact, one of the men Linstructed said to me recently. "Our lives are so inter-

you climb over to reach the top of the ladder - the more successful you are viewed. In Christ's kingdom, however, it's just the opposite; twined that we can go for months and not have any conversation, but pick up right where we left off, and not miss a thing!" We're very connected. Schedule some group social times such as a basketball, BBQs, half-day or all-day retreats at the beach or in the mountains, special social times with wives and girlfriends and visitors, etc.

- 7. Every Christian has one or more different spiritual gifts. Try to help each other person discover their gifts and help them learn to use their gifts more effectively. As the CORE Group deepens in Spirit, individuality will blossom and the effectiveness of the members in the world will be noticeably increased. Love for one another and a great sense of joy and expectation will highlight the meetings. In fact, though our dedicated Group times are precious, we actually spend more time together outside the CORE Group than within!
- 8. Develop some outreach projects together. Repair a house for someone. Do a landscape project for someone who can't. Go clean someone's home. Go to Mexico and help build an orphanage. Team up in witnessing efforts your brothers are involved in their home, work, or family life.
- 9. Encourage each member to write out and share his or her own personal testimony of faith in Jesus with the Group. Each time the Group meets, he or she is encouraged to share current needs and struggles as well.



### Church CORE Launch: The FastTrack

#### 12 weeks - Produces 3 CORE leaders - 12 members

- 1. Select 3 of your most spiritually mature men and/or women (the key is "faithful") to come and listen as you cast the vision for the CORE Groups.
- 2. Invite them to join you one day each week as you launch the CORE Network.
- 3. In three months, these same men/women can be released under your supervision to repeat the process.
- 4. Once the men's CORE is launched, ask your wife to join you and repeat the process with a group of your most spiritually mature women. Release her to lead the women's CORE.

#### 12 weeks - Produces 24 CORE leaders - 96 members

- 1. Select and personally invite 12 men and 12 women to join you as you launch the CORE Network (the key is "faithful") personally inviting each person works best; cast the vision to the entire group; pastor presents the overview material each week for one half the time and then break-out into pre-assigned groups of four (gender specific); the remaining time is spent in the assigned CORE Groups, dedicated to the lessons (regardless of church size, choose your most spiritually mature to begin whether 4, 8, 12, 16, etc.) this should be no less than 3 men and 3 women.
- 2. In 12 weeks, these 24-CORE leaders can be released under your supervision to repeat the process with your next most spiritually mature believers; you now have 24 CORE Groups with 96 members.
- 3. The next multiplication will take 3-6 months and can produce 384 CORE members and so on; the next multiplication will take 12 months and can produce 1,536 in CORE.

Notes:	become independent of them and dependent upon God (independently dependent). Help them get established. Again, just as is true in natural parenting, those released are now your "friends" in Christ; though they will always look to you for prayerful counsel and consideration, they must be allowed to move out and on in their faith walk, too.
	At this point, your CORE Group will have an opening. Go back to step one and start over, but this time, you have the other CORE Group members to join you in the process. Once you've prayerfully petitioned our Father for His direction and selection, ask your remaining CORE Group members to join you in prayer as well. Present your choice, and if you have unanimity, invite the person to "come see" for two or three meetings. Explain the entire process; allow the other CORE Group members to share their testimony of what they've experienced in the CORE Group life together. At the end of the "come see" period, ask the candidate to carefully consider joining the Group. This is the "follow me" stage where Jesus devoted Himself to their lives and it simply should not be rushed. If they respond positively and all the Group is in agreement, begin. If the person chooses not to join the CORE Group, encourage them and continue praying for another.
	As you'll discover, CORE Groups can be an incredible means of rediscovering the church as the Body of Christ. We are all members of Christ and members one of another as Christians. "If one suffers, all suffer. If one rejoices all rejoice." Stick with the Group and work things out until the deep bonds of our common life in Jesus are discovered. Then begin releasing each person so that they can begin to repeat the same passion, promise, and power of God through their own CORE Group.

10. Release. Just as is true in natural parenting, there comes a time when parents know that their children are ready to move out and

# **CORE Group Covenant**

A covenant is a promise made to another in the presence of God. Its purpose is to indicate your intention to make yourself available to one another for the fulfillment of the purposes of the CORE Group.

- 1. The purpose of our CORE Group is know God and make Him known.
- 2. Our goals will be to commit to God's Word, the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, fellowship, communion, prayer, one another, and for each member to begin praying for two unsaved people and one person to be discipled.
- 3. We will meet for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.
- 4. We will meet from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ and we will strive to start on time and end on time.
- 5. We will meet at \_\_\_\_\_\_ (place)
- 6. I agree to the following ground rules for our CORE Group:
  - Priority: While I am in the CORE, I will give the Group meetings priority;
  - Participation: Everyone is encouraged to participate and no one dominates;
  - Respect: Everyone has the right to his or her own opinion, and all questions will be encouraged and respected;
  - Confidentiality: Anything said in the meeting is never to be repeated outside the meeting without the expressed consent of the other CORE Group members in advance;
  - Life Change: We will regularly assess our own life change goals and encourage one another in our pursuit of the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, and toward becoming Christ-like;
  - Evangelism: I will pray for two unsaved people and for one whom I can begin discipling;
  - Care & Support: Permission is given to call upon each other at any time especially in times of crisis. The CORE Group will provide care, safety, and God's love for each CORE member;
  - Accountability: I agree to allow the CORE Group members to hold me accountable to the commitments which each of us make in whatever Biblically loving ways we decide upon;
  - Mission: I will do everything in my power and as Spirit-led, to launch another CORE Group;
  - Ministry: The CORE Group will encourage one another to volunteer and serve in ministry, and to support the mission of our local church, our church leadership and authority, and to support the church with our tithes and offerings.

# My personal covenant:

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord, Master and Savior, believing that He, along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are One, and being in agreement with my local church mission, vision and values, I commit myself to Almighty God and to the following:

I realize God's ultimate goal for me is to make me like Christ (1 John 3:2). As I become more and more like Him, I will discover my true self, the person I was created to be. I desire to be conformed to Christ's likeness by reading and obeying God's Word, by studying Jesus' life on earth through the Gospels, by being filled with and daily walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, to my becoming a student, to be challenged to become spiritually mature, and by doing God's work in the world. I believe that Jesus commands me to tell others the Good News and that I must first be a disciple before I can make disciples of others for His Kingdom. As such, I agree with the terms of this covenant:

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Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

### **CORE** Guide

### **Lesson 3: Launching Your Core Group**

Accimoneta		Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Mth. 22:37-40; Mth. 28:19, 20; Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11-13; and 2			
Tim. 2:2; Read the Core Group Manual (pages 38-41)			
Bible Study			
Prayerfully consider each of these passages and be prepared to			
review each in your meeting time.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Eph. 4:1-3			
		_	

## Lesson 3: Launching Your CORE Group Tools You'll Need:

CORE Groups travel light! All you'll need is a willingness to learn and to launch out, your Bible, the CORE workbook, something to write with, an optional one-year daily devotional such as Oswald Chambers' "Utmost For His Highest" (other resources can be purchased from www. coregroups.org or your local Christian bookstore), and your willingness to obey and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Group Meetings 1-5 are purposely designed to build relationships; a "safe place" in the lives of those you are discipling, to present a more detailed understanding of each of the topics, and build a close interpersonal network. Provide an overview - this time is designed specifically to present a broad overview of the entire process, call the disciples to evangelism and discipleship, and develop a commitment to the process.

Recommended Process/Timeline (12-52 weeks*):
1. Overview 10 weeks Developing life-long relationships/process Community/preservation
2. Ephesians 6 weeks Your position and practice in Christ Jesus Eph. 3x; disciplines of unity
3. Your Testimony 1 week Clearly writing and communicating your story Empowers; confidence
4. Galatians 6 weeks Salvation by faith alone; being Spirit led Gal. 3x; being Spirit led
5. Sharing the Gospel. 1 week Steps in leading someone to Jesus Evangelism
6. Philippians 4 weeks Rejoicing in all circumstances; joy Phil. 3x; unity
7. Colossians 4 weeks The Lordship of Jesus; wisdom
8. John
9. James
10. 2nd Timothy 4 weeks Committed to ministry
*Depending upon the spiritual maturity of the CORE Group members (see page 35 for Church FastTrack use).

### **CORE Group Lesson I:**

• Jesus' Pattern For Discipleship

### **CORE Group Lesson 2:**

• CORE Group Overview

#### **CORE Group Lesson 3:**

• Launching Your CORE Group

#### **CORE Group Lesson 4:**

Spiritual Life Stages

### **CORE Group Lesson 5:**

• How To Improve Your Serve

### **CORE Group Lesson 6:**

• The Great Commandment

#### **CORE Group Lesson 7:**

• The Great Commission

#### **CORE Group Lesson 8:**

• Four Keys Of CORE Groups

#### **CORE Group Lesson 9:**

• The Work Of Ministry

#### **CORE Group Lesson 10:**

• The Pattern Of Discipleship

#### **CORE Group Lessons 11-16:**

• Ephesians Study

### **CORE Group Lesson 17:**

• Writing Your Testimony

### **CORE Group Lessons 18-23:**

Galatians Study

### **CORE Group Lesson 24:**

• Learning To Share The Good News

### **CORE Group Lessons 25-28:**

• Phillipians Study

### **CORE Group Lessons 29-32:**

• Colossians Study

### **CORE Group Lessons 33-42:**

• John Study

#### **CORE Group Lessons 43-47:**

• James Study

### **CORE Group Lessons 48-51:**

• 2 Timothy Study

Your most mature member can be released once they've completed Lesson 9 (about 2 months). At this point, they will have a good understanding of the process, have their CORE Group members selected, and sense God's timing to launch another CORE Group.

The remainder of the CORE Group time will be invested in the application and realization of Acts 2:42 with God and those in the CORE Group. Students will begin to understand that as their vertical relationship with God increases (His Word, communion, fellowship, and prayer) that their horizontal relationship with others will also increase (His Word, communion with one another, fellowship with one another, and praying for one another). These times will be invested in reading and studying God's Word together, developing increasingly deeper times of fellowship, communion and prayer.

We must understand that it is only through God's Word and by His Holy Spirit that lives are changed (Word and Spirit). For instance, the first book we begin with is Ephesians (chapters 1-3 are all about a believer's position in Christ and chapters 4-6 are all about how we are to practice our position). Instruct your group to read the entire book of Ephesians the first week. Over the planned six week period you're in the book of Ephesians, the CORE Group will have read Ephesians at least three times! Each week:

• As the CORE Group leader, study various commentaries about each planned Bible book; do your homework. There are many, many good resources for you either at your local Christian Bookstore or on-line via the internet. A few references are listed below. Study to show yourself approved!

"Just as is true in the birth, growth and release of natural children, spiritual dads and moms are to stand by their spiritual children throughout life until Christ Jesus is fully formed in them."


Notes:

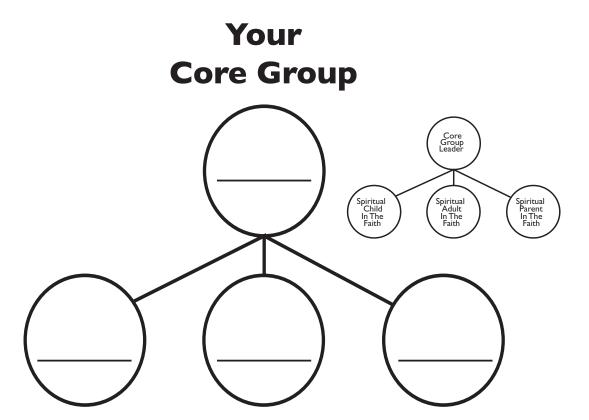
### **Christian Bookstores Online:** http://www.coregroups.org http://www.berean.com http://www.familychristian.com Notes: http://www.lifeway.com **Internet Resources:** http://bible.crosswalk.com/Commentaries http://www.studylight.org/com http://www.ccel.org http://www.bible.org • Begin in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together. • Review the previous week's study/application and any practical changes. Use the journal pages in the Guide and record the date, who is present, a brief summary of what we talked about and any notable changes, prayer requests, concerns, and make notation of any "next steps" that might have arisen in our time together. I then review the previous week's notes prior to our next CORE meeting. This has been a great tool and I highly recommend it. • Read out loud the assigned Bible chapter (have each person read a portion). There are times when you might want to divide the chapter in two portions. Be Spirit led! • Ask the group to comment on key points. This makes for a lively time together because each person is in a unique life-stage and the Word will speak to them on a personal level. • Ask specific questions (use the What, Why, How, When, Where format): "What is the single most important Kingdom of God principle found in what we've read?" "Why is this principle important?" "How does this principle impact you?" "When are you to apply this principle?" "Where are you to apply this principle?"

### **Example:**

Our CORE Group meets each Thursday morning from 6:00 - 7:20am at a local restaurant. We spend a few minutes ordering breakfast (the folks at the restaurant know all of us by name and even what we're

going to order...in fact several of the restaurant workers have actually sat down next to us and listened in, asking questions and some have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior!). Begin by asking one of the members to pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead and guide. Next, everyone takes out their Bibles and we take turns reading a portion of the Bible chapter we're in. We then begin discussing how the Word applies in practical ways, and also discuss the questions while we enjoy our food. As the Group discipler, it is important to ask each member how they are doing with the two they are praying for and the one they are seeking out as their disciple. We leave about 10-15 minutes open at the end for questions, concerns and for prayer. Because we all have jobs and need to be at our work places by 8:00am, we keep a tight reign on the time.

"Begin in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide and direct your time together."



Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
<del></del>
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

### **CORE** Guide

### **Lesson 4: Spiritual Life Stages**

Date:
-------

Assignments		Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the Core Group Manual (page 44-63); Complete the Spiritual Life			
Assessment; take two weeks for this process if needed			
Bible Study			
Prayerfully consider the materials and be prepared to review in			
your meeting time.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Romans 8:5			

Does your conduct match your faith?
Are there areas in which you are still conformed to this world's ways? Explain why:
How can a disciple be renewed?
What does it mean to "walk in God's presence" 24/7? Are you?
Are you learning to walk in the Spirit? How?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying thatwill become a disciple.

### **Lesson 4: Spiritual Life Stages**

Being a part of the CORE, you'll notice that while everyone is "on the journey" each person is at various points along the pathway. It will help to understand these various spiritual life stages in the group.

lotes:	ncip to understand these various spiritual me stages in the group.
	Without trying, we model our values - we are what we believe. Parents in particular demonstrate to their children what they consider important and valuable. 'Like father, like son' is not just a well-worn cliche; it is a truth repeated in our homes. And experience proves that children often imitate the life-styles of their parents, repeating their successes and mistakes.
	It must be understood that every Christian is in a continuing education program - it is a journey, a process. The more we know of Christ and His work, the more we choose to "walk in the Spirit," the more we will become like Him. This process is a lifelong journey - we must never stop learning and obeying. There is no justification for drifting along, but there is an incentive to find the rich treasures of growing in Him (John 10:10).
	"and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." (Colossians 3:10)
	What does it mean to "put on the new self"? It means that our conduct should match our faith. If you are a Christian, you should act like it. To be a Christian means more than just making good resolutions and having good intentions; it means taking the right actions. This is a straightforward step that is as simple as putting on your clothes.
	"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will ishis good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)
	As Christians, we are called to "not conform any longer to the pattern of this world," with its behavior and customs that are selfish and corrupting. We must go beyond the superficial level of external behavior modification - to be truly "renewed" we must "be transformed by the renewing of our minds." It is possible to be a Christian for a lifetime, avoid most worldly customs and still be angry, proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn, and arrogant. It is only when we willingly surrender our will to the control of the Holy Spirit that He can then renew, reeducate, and redirect our minds so that we can be truly transformed.
	"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds

with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." (Romans 8:5)

Daily - moment-by-moment - we must consciously choose to center our lives on God. To continuously move forward through the various levels of spiritual maturity we must ask ourselves, "What would Jesus have me do?" It is precisely at that moment, when the Holy Spirit points out what is right, that we do it eagerly that we discover God's will (Romans 6:6-8, Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:3-17; Galatians 5:16-25).

"a person's character, behavior and future are all shaped by what a person believes to be truth"

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Galatians 5:16)

As believers, we are to be led by the Holy Spirit. Being Holy Spirit-led involves our desire to hear, the readiness to obey God's Word, and the sensitivity to discern between our subjective feelings and the Holy Spirit's promptings. We are to live each day controlled and guided by the Holy Spirit. It is then, through the disciplines of our faith, growing in Christ likeness - the various life stages - that the words of Christ can be in our minds, the love of Christ behind our actions, and the power of Christ available to help curb and control our very selfish natures.

The maturing process includes these basic steps:

- 1) Learning to stand;
- 2) Learning to walk;
- 3) Learning to engage in battle.

It is critically important to understand the idea that true spiritual power comes only as we obey God's Word, His Holy Spirit, and as we maintain right relationship with both God and man. Your conduct is the single most evidence of a transformed life.

Godly character is essential for growth. When we are born again, we become spiritual newborn babies. If we are healthy, we will desire to grow to become "fathers" or "mothers" in the faith. Once we see our need for God's Word and begin to find nourishment in Christ, our spiritual appetite will increase, and we will begin to mature.

# True Spiritual Power & Authority Comes As We Maintain Right Relationships:

- Godliness is living the way God wants us to (Review Ephesians 4:1; 5:1, 2; 5:18-20; 6:18-20);
- Our behavior how we act especially when no one else is around
- should be just like Jesus;

Notes:	 	 	

• A healthy, balanced life is both vertical (with God) and horizontal (with man).

Notes:	Stages:
	1. The Christian life (spiritual) parallels the physical life
	(natural):
	a. There are definite stages in life.
	b. Each stage of life in the Christian journey builds upon the other.
	next.
	e. When growth does not occur, it is a sign of a serious problem.
	2. There is a major difference between physical growth and
	spiritual growth:
	our part
	h Chimitagle groups the mark he name and expenses by more entities
	,
	being intentional, relational, personal and that the process is 100%
	spiritual.
	2 Even the meture writings of apostle John we dissover
	3. From the mature writings of apostle John we discover three stages of spiritual maturity (1 John 2:12-14):
	three stages of spiritual maturity (1 John 2:12-14):
	"I write to you dear childrenyoung menfathers"
	I write to you dear crimarenyoung menidirers
	a. There are different stages in the Christian life not necessarily
	dependent upon chronological age:
	• Children (boys and girls in the faith)
	• Youth (young sons and daughters in the faith)
	• Maturity (Fathers and Mothers in the faith)
	b. In each stage there are blessings to be enjoyed and instruction/
	virtues to be realized and learned.
	c. Children need to become young men or young women, and young
	men or young women need to become fathers or mothers.
	4. Spiritual Transformation
	becoming a mature Christian.
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### **Spiritual Disciplines**

The following disciplines help train, correct, mold, and perfect character. The degree we practice these disciplines determines the depth and quality for the following spiritual life assessment.

1. Filled With The Holy Spirit: Moment-by-moment, I am learning to be filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit; my life demonstrates this reality by the evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in my life (Gal. 5:16, 22-25; 1 John 1:7). As such, I am walking in the Spirit and as such, not fulfilling the lusts of my flesh (Galatians 5:16, 22-25; 1 John 1:7).

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

2. Committed To The Great Commandment: I love God and because I love God, I understand that love for others is the hallmark of my life in Christ (John 13:34, 35; 15:9-13; 1 John 4:7-11). I display submission (Luke 22:42; John 4:34; 5:30), acceptance (John 8:11), compassion (Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34) and forgiveness (Matthew 9:2; Luke 5:20). I fully know that I cannot bear the fruit of the Spirit and manifest the character of Christ without being spiritually joined to Christ (John 15:4, 5) and without having the seed of the Word planted in my heart (John 15:3, 1 Peter 1:22, 23).

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

3. Committed To The Great Commission: I am either being discipled or I am discipling others. Jesus' final instructions to the disciples before departing back to Heaven was to make disciples. I am reaching out and partnered with a few other Christian friends helping them grow and mature in every area of life.

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

4. Committed To Spiritual Disciplines: Spiritual disciplines include such practices as prayer, praise, worship, confession, fasting, meditation/quiet time and the study of God's Word. I know that the practice of Christian disciplines and virtues begins at home (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7). My family has devotions and we try to provide a Christian environment in the home (1 Timothy 3:3, 4; 5:8). I am actively, daily practicing these disciplines.

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

5. Committed To My Local Church & Church Authority: Because I realize that the church is God's Body - a group of people living out their relationship with Jesus - I am actively involved in my church in fellowship, encouragement, and worship in ministry and mission. I understand and am submitted to the leadership of my local church (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17) in the spiritual grace of humility (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5, 6).

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

6. Committed To Personal Ministry: I agree with the Bible that tells me that every Christian is a priest - a person set apart to serve God and others (1 Peter 2:5). Every Christian offers spiritual sacrifices and worships with praise and prayers. I understand that as a Christian, I am a minister (the word "minister" simply means "servant"). I am actively involved in a ministry within the church and either developing a ministry or co-laboring in an existing ministry outside the church (Eph. 2:10).

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

7. Committed To Godly Stewardship: I understand that everything belongs to God and that I am simply a manager of His resources. I realize that I will be held accountable for how I use my time, talent and money. As a good steward I recognize that how I use money is directly related to my life in Christ. My life is not opulent. I am faithful in giving, providing for the financial needs of my local church through tithes and offerings (1 Cor. 4:2; Luke 16:10,11; Phil. 4:11,13; 2 Cor. 9:12-14).

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

8. A Quiet Life: I purpose to lead a quiet life. I am generally calm and peaceable. My ambition is not for fame, glory, riches, and honor but learning to be calm and quiet in my mind, in patience to possess my own soul, and to be quiet toward others. My life is characterized by meekness and mildness, gentleness and a peaceable disposition, not given to worldly busyness, strife, contention, or division (1 Thess. 4:11; 1 Tim. 2:2; 2 Thess. 3:12,13).

Not at all Occasionally Sometimes, but irregularly Consistently Continuously

### Spiritual Life/Character Assessment

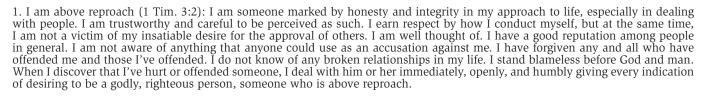
No one is perfectly perfect - each of us have weaknesses as well as strengths. Our character is expressed by what we believe. So, it is important to understand that God has provided a "picture" of what a healthy, mature saint looks like.

The following Spiritual Life Stage Assessment is a tool that can help you determine where you are spiritually by using the qualifications that the apostle Paul provided for those in the final stages of spiritual maturity (qualifications for overseers). These are character qualities to which all Christians should aspire, but which should be modeled by those in leadership and especially elders (at home or in the church). The cultural setting, size, age, and current understanding of God's Word by the individual or the church will all have a bearing on what is or is not acceptable and the level of adherence. It is not to be used as a "pass or fail" test.

As a tool, it is designed to help you realize where you are on your journey compared only to Christ Jesus. These 22 immutable characteristics are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 and are the "measuring stick" for a believers speech, life, love, faith and purity. All believers should desire these virtues because they are consistent with what God says is true and right; these are the "end product" of a life lived in the fullness of God's Holy Spirit.

#### **Instructions:**

- 1. Using a scale where 1 = weak and 9 = strong, circle the number that best represents how you view yourself in each area compared to Jesus, not someone else. Be honest and transparent.
- 2. Ask at least two others who know you best to complete an evaluation about you, too (mentor, CORE members, pastor, spouse, a close friend, others in ministry, your oldest son or daughter if they are no longer in your home). This will help promote accountability.
- 3. To allow for an honest evaluation, ask each person to complete an evaluation about you and have them anonymously forward their evaluation to a third party (your mentor or other spiritually mature person such as your pastor).
- 4. Your mentor or pastor should then tally all the responses, taking the overall average, and can then assist you in areas of needed growth. NOTE: This spiritual mapping is only a tool. It is specifically designed as a gauge and should only be used to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Heb. 10:24,25; 3:13; 10:25; 1 Thess. 5:11).
- 5. Assessments should be held in the strictest of confidence and used only as a tool to identify areas of needed growth and affirmation of strengths. It should be used to restore, build up and never, ever used as a weapon to assault another's character.



weak	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	strong
------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--------

ted to meeting the needs of my marriage partner physically, emotionally and spiritually. I enjoy my spouse's company and speak tenderly and gently. I develop and maintain an atmosphere of encouragement and acceptance through continual affirmation. I love my spouse deeply and express that love in every possible way. My marriage exhibits the grace of God. I have one spouse (the opposite sex). I am not physically or mentally promiscuous. If single, I am not promiscuous and I am not overly attracted to the opposite sex, i.e., I am not a philanderer, not attracted to every guy or girl that walks down the street, not constantly eyeing the opposite sex. My physical and mental life is pure. (*This quality does not exclude divorced, single or widowers, etc, but is designed to describe the quality of a person's relationship with their spouse).
weak 1234569 strong
3. I am temperate (1 Tim. 3:2): I am someone who is not carried away to extremes, but whose life is marked by balance and stability. I am not swayed by adulation nor crushed by criticism. I am not volatile but even-tempered. I am not carried away by power, title, or position. I am easily regenerated and refueled for ministry. I am a well-balanced, well-adjusted person who is not flighty or nervous, constantly jumping from one thing or project to another. I do not overdo anything in my life. My life is balanced. I am not excessive in any area of my life. My response to most of life's situations would be considered by others to be average, normal, calm.
weak 1234569 strong
4. I am sensible (1 Tim. 3:2): I am a prudent person whose judgment enables me to discern the effects of extremes. The foundation of the decision making process in my life is humility, a recognition of God's grace and a desire to be a good steward of what God has given. I have committed my position as subordinate to God's authority and my prudence is seen in my continuing commitment to make God look good and never myself. I show good judgment in my life and I have a proper perspective regarding my abilities and myself. I don't take myself too seriously. People see me as a humble person (that I know God is God and I am not). I am self-controlled; a kind of "inner peace" governs my life. My life is pretty much level and steady.
weak 1234569 strong
5. I am respectable (1 Tim. 3:2): I am a person who lives so as to be respected by others. I have a well-ordered life which, when interfacing with others, attracts them rather than repels them. I am perceived as being winsome and my life adorns the Gospel; it does not detract from it. Because my life is ordered, it reflects that God is a God of order. As a respectable person, others find my being with them a joy and a blessing. I conduct my life, work, and ministry in an honorable way, and people have and show respect for me. My life is orderly and not helter-skelter. I am aware of what's going on around me and I am not overly moved by life's events and circumstances.
weak 1234569 strong
6. I am hospitable (1 Tim. 3:2): I understand that what I enjoy in stewardship is really a gift from God and that my role is a custodian of His resources. I administer these resources given to me by God in such a way as to reflect the character of God. I use my home for the benefit of others to show God's love and display a freedom from the accursed love of possessing. I have come to terms with the difference between earthly possessions, which are temporary, and spiritual possessions, which are eternal. I use my home and resources as a place and opportunity to serve and minister to Christians and non-Christians. As the Holy Spirit leads, I open my home to strangers and to the people of the church.
weak 1234569 strong
7. I am able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2): I have a teachable spirit, modeling God's truth in a humble and sensitive way. I am not quarrel-some but kind, patient and gentle, especially in correcting those who are in opposition. I am secure in Christ and secure in myself and in control of my personality (mind, will and emotions). I love God's Word and live by it and eager to help others understand the freedom of its principles. Others would say that I am an encourager, not a discourager. When I teach God's Word, I show an aptitude for handling the Scriptures with care and reasonable skill. I have a good understanding of the essential, foundational truths of God's Word. I am able to communicate the Scriptures to others in such a way that they "see" God and not me. I am able to gently and firmly correct those who are misusing God's Word and recognize error when it appears.
weak 1234569 strong
8. I am not addicted to wine (1 Tim. 3:3): I understand that this quality has to do with inappropriate use more than a requirement to abstain from alcoholic beverages. I have learned to control my body and appetites so that I am not driven by any desires where excess would be perceived as improper behavior. I understand that any overindulgence could corrupt and cause another brother or sister to stumble in their walk of faith and as such, is always avoided because the welfare of the body of Christ is of higher importance than my personal freedoms. I am careful to encourage rather than discourage people in their walk with God. I am not addicted to alcohol or drugs of any kind. The Holy Spirit controls me - I am sober in my spirit. If I do drink alcoholic beverages or indulge in other legally acceptable but potentially addictive practices, I do so in moderation, never violating known, legal standards or God's commandments. I do not overindulge in anything. I fully understand that my body is not my own and is representative of the temple of God.
weak 1234569 strong
9. I am not violent (1 Tim. 3:3): I know that physical violence will never mark a mature Christian. I understand that to be pugnacious is to exercise an uncontrolled personal vindictiveness toward another person, taking the form of physical attacks or even verbal or emotional abuse. I deal wisely with offences that might otherwise result in abusing the offender. I am in control of my own spirit. I am not someone who criticizes or attacks another person, family, business, or ministry either verbally or physically in any way. I am under control. I do not lose control to the point that I scream at another or strike another or cause harm to another person or their property. I do not resort to verbal, physical, emotional, intellectual, or spiritual abuse or violence. I do not engage in gossip or defame another person's character.

1......2 ......3 ......4 ......5 ......6 ......7 ......8 .......9

weak

2. I am the husband of one wife (1 Tim. 3:2): If married, I am a committed spouse to my partner. I am not flirtatious. I am commit-

10. I am gentle (1 Tim. 3:3): Others regard me as mild-mannered, characterized by meekness, forbearance and a servant's heart. I act and speak gently so that people are actually relaxed in my presence. I listen more than I speak. I am able to resolve problems without losing control of my emotions. I am not viewed as being authoritarian. I never retaliate when wronged. I have such a high view of other people that I would never abuse or take advantage of others. I am solution-oriented rather than problem-oriented. I am a kind, modest, patient person who does not insist on my rights. I am not someone who resorts to any form of violence (verbal, physical, emotional, spiritual).
weak 123456789 strong
11. I am not quarrelsome (1 Tim. 3:3): I do not do or say anything that would destroy unity. I am more interested in achieving consensus than forcing my own way. I am not threatened by competition. I am willing to bend and compromise when necessary. I lead with a servant's heart and do not resort to an authoritarian style of leadership. I am not stubborn insisting on my own point of view at all costs. I am not argumentative. I am not divisive. A spirit of competition does not drive me. I am someone who upholds peace.
weak 1234569 strong
12. I am not a lover of money (1 Tim. 3:3): I am free from the love of money; my priorities are straight. I seek first God's kingdom and I see things as gifts from God. I am not devastated by the loss of things. I hold everything loosely and live by heavenly values. I have learned the meaning of contentment for, like Paul, I know how to be content in every circumstance. My happiness is not the result of material possessions. I am not allured by money. I have achieved a balance between excessive frugality and excessive spending. I do not see money as a status symbol. I do not find my security in money. I do not measure other people by material things or by external measurements; like God, I look at the heart. I am not lazy but a diligent worker realizing that even my employment is a gift from God. I believe God owns everything and that I am simply a manager of His resources. I do not try and keep "up with the Joneses"; my life-style is simple. There is no evidence of undue affluence in my life. I am not money-hungry. I do not hoard up money. I do not spend an inordinate amount of time and resource attempting to make a lot of money. I am not attracted to get-rich-quick schemes. I fully believe that God is my provider. I have no problem disclosing my finances with more spiritually mature believers. Others recognize me as a giver.
weak 1234569 strong
13. I manage my family well (1 Tim. 3:4): All the members of my family have a mutual respect and love for each other. My home is an expression of God's love and peace. Because I understand that this text assumes that my children are still at home, it is not to be applied to my children who have launched out on their own. I understand that because each child has a will to choose my values or not, the real evidence is how these times are managed. I have created an environment of peace in my home. It is a place where life's lessons are learned and the big decisions are made in the context of love. I fully understand that my children's experience with me at home determines their view of God. Therefore my home reflects the character of God. I understand that this does not suggest that a spiritually mature person must have a family in order to qualify as a leader, but that it simply refers to how my household is managed under God. If married and with children at home, I have a well-managed family and home. My children are obedient and courteous in their responses, learning how to address life. I am a parent who does not avoid family problems, but I gently, lovingly address my family concerns. I do not run from problems or refuse to face them. I learn how to deal with problems, and discover how to work things out in love and grace. If single, my home is well managed, I address problems head-on, I am a good steward of God's resources.
weak 1234569 strong
14. I am not a recent convert (1 Tim. 3:6): I have learned the full effect of pride and other sins of the heart and how to cope with them. I understand that pride includes a thirst for attention and recognition and that immature believers are more susceptible to this, especially in positions of leadership. I have been tested and proven morally and ethically by my life-style and the handling of relationships. I understand that learning and applying Biblical principles and heavenly wisdom takes time. I understand that some will do it more quickly than others. I do not depend upon my strength to bring forth success. I do not control others to get my way. I do not manipulate, intimidate, or dominate others in any way. I do not count upon my personality, my magnetism, my education, my finances or my intelligence to achieve what I think God wants. I have learned that God works with people of a humble and a contrite heart, who have learned not to exalt themselves. I am a servant to all, trusting in Christ.
weak 1234569 strong
15. I have a good reputation (1 Tim. 3:7): I have a good reputation with outsiders and within my community. My neighbors, coworkers, acquaintances outside the church, business owners - though perhaps lost people who may not agree with my spiritual convictions - still respect me as a person.
weak 1234569 strong
16. I am not overbearing (Titus 1:7): I am not self-willed and I easily submit to legitimate authorities in my life. I am recognized as a team player. I readily admit when I am wrong, gladly forgive and hold other people in high esteem. I am more oriented toward others than myself. I practice an honest piety rather than a pretentious self-righteousness. I am secure in myself and do not have to continually validate or justify myself in the eyes of others. I am not stubborn, or arrogant. I am not domineering nor controlling. Others find it easy to discuss their opinions and seek my counsel because they realize I attempt to be impartial and fair.
weak 1234569 strong
17. I am not quick tempered (Titus 1:7): I understand that anger can never achieve the righteousness of God. I am not a person easily threatened (hence insecure). I am not quick to retaliate, and never use anger to intimidate and control others (physically, verbally, emotionally, financially, etc.). I do not hold grudges against others and do not have a bitter spirit toward any person. I have learned to release to God feelings that cause anger. I choose not to be offended when wronged, and never seek revenge. I am not inclined toward anger (an angry person), and I do not easily lose my temper. I do not have sudden outbursts of anger when something does not go my way. Others in my home, work, business, or church would say that I am not given to sudden outbursts of anger.
weak 123456789 strong

18. I am not pursuing dishonest gain (Titus 1:7): I do not earn my living by producing, distributing, or selling anything that clearly violates God's Word, His character, or will or legal authority. I am neither fond of nor involved in any wrongful practices that could result in fraudulent gain.	
weak 123456789 strong	"Spiritual parents are those
19. I love what is good (Titus 1:8): Because I love God passionately and because God is good, I love what is good. I love the beauty of what God has made and what God has done. I enjoy His creation and am in awe of His plan of salvation. Because I love what is good I beautify my environment and am committed to making beautiful the inner person. I focus my every day on what is good. I love the things that honor God; I hate what God hates. I entirely agree with God's Word.	"Spiritual parents are those whose lives are characterized by love, grace, mercy, and truth."
weak 12345678 strong	
20. I am upright (Titus 1:8): I am known as being fair in my dealings with people and am always concerned that others perceive me as fair. I am concerned about giving a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. I am concerned that each transaction in my life is fair to all concerned. I am respected and capable of making wise judgments and regarded as spiritually mature by those in my community.	
weak 12345679 strong	
21. I am holy (Titus 1:8): I go through life with a moment-by-moment awareness of the presence of God. My life is marked by a love for God that embraces each activity in life through Kingdom lenses. I am always sensitive to sin and avoid unholy behavior, while at the same time I enjoy being salt and light in the world. I know that it is possible to be in the world without being part of it. I carefully abstain from any and all things that could cause harm to my body, mind, or spirit. I fully believe and practice moderation in all things knowing that my life and body are not mine, but belong to God. I live a disciplined life. I am a devout person. My life is generally pleasing to God. I walk in the Spirit with the demonstrated evidence that my life is servant-like and selfless (John 13:34, 35). The degree to which I've allowed the Holy Spirit to control my life is measurable by an everincreasing depth of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22, 23).	
weak 123456789 strong	
22. I hold firmly to the faith (Titus 1:9): I understand, hold to, and attempt to conserve God's truth. I also encourage others while refuting those who oppose the truth. Because I know God's love (vertical), I express that love to others (horizontal). My commitment is to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. I know that the pattern for the preservation and the transmission of the Gospel is to make disciples. I am either being discipled or I am discipling others, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded, until Christ is fully formed in them.	Notes:
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### **Your Personal Inventory**

Now that you've completed your spiritual assessment and have received at least two other evaluations from those who know you best, tally each assessment and take the average of all three.

Notes:	tany each assessment and take the average of an three.
	1. Assessment rating: + + = / 3 = Overall Average Assessment Rating.
	2. Use the following assessment rating to discover which spiritual stage you are in:
	(22 - 87: Child in the faith - the key areas of growth needed are in the areas of understanding your position in Christ (chosen, blame-
	to be strong and defeat the enemy; you have learned that God is in control and have relinquished control to Him; walking more in the
	(154 - 198: Adult in the faith - you sincerely desire to be like Jesus; to do what Jesus did; daily, you are being conformed to His likeness; He is your focus and your bread for life; mostly walking in the Spirit; you are reproducing the life of Christ in others).
	As said, the Christian faith is a journey and we all are in a continuous
	With this understanding, let's review each of these three stages of spiritual maturity.
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### I. Childhood (assessment 22-87)

"I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name." (1 John 2:12)



# A. The Stage In Which Christians Are Spiritual "Boys and Girls"

- 1. Those who are new Christians, or immature Christians, are often times referred to as "babes in Christ". This is not a negative term for EVERY Christian has been in this stage. The point is that no Christian should remain in this stage. Regardless of chronological age, these "boys and girls" in the faith are learning about Christ and are just beginning their spiritual journey. As spiritual children learn about Christ, they grow in their ability to win battles with temptation.
- 2. This can be a difficult time for both you and your mentor because: a. Though saved, a "child" in the faith lives much like an unregenerate person, is childish, and is evidenced by a selfish, jealous and divisive spirit. Newborns are very much "worldly," controlled by their own desires:

"Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ." (1 Cor. 3:1)

Spiritual children are not yet spiritually healthy and mature. The evidence of infancy is:

- Quarrelsome, divisive, competitive, self-centered;
- Worldly attitudes, words, or behavior (controlled by their own desires);
- Not in tune with God's desires;
- Led by natural response (subjective feelings) more than the Holy Spirit.
- b. Can be a source of anxiety for those trying to lead them along:

"My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you," (Gal. 4:19)

The apostle Paul led many people to Christ and helped them mature spiritually. Perhaps one reason for his success as a spiritual father was the deep concern he felt for his spiritual children; he compared his pain over their faithlessness to the pain of childbirth. We should have the same intense care for those to whom we are spiritual parents. Just as is true in the birth, growth and release of natural children, spiritual dads and moms are to stand by their spiritual children throughout life until Christ Jesus is fully formed in them.

"The Word of God gives substance to our faith; it stabilizes; it enables; it equips; it brings confidence; and brings assurance in times of trouble and fear. The Word of God is at the top of the list"

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Notes:	<ul> <li>Walks in the flesh; does not know the difference between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit;</li> <li>Few works of faith, i.e., no evidence of being filled with God's love to serve others, giving, etc.;</li> <li>Easily swayed or deceived by false doctrines;</li> <li>Stuck in the basics - no growth;</li> <li>Limited desire for fellowship with other believers; would rather pursue "worldly" activities;</li> <li>Strong desire for worldly possessions; selfish ambitions; spirit of competition;</li> <li>Difficulty in repenting/forgiving others;</li> <li>Lacking compassion for the lost;</li> <li>Not actively assisting in the spiritual development of others;</li> <li>Limited sense of God, His character or His will;</li> <li>Life filled with fear, anxiety, absence of peace;</li> <li>Often covetous, boastful, prideful, manipulative, etc.;</li> <li>Ongoing financial difficulties; living far beyond means; out of balance debt;</li> <li>Seekers of pleasure;</li> <li>Lives marked by lack of discipline (physically, mentally, and spiritually);</li> <li>Partial victory over sin;</li> <li>Nonexistent or lackluster prayer life;</li> <li>Little or no time or sincere interest in worship;</li> <li>Not accountable to anyone for anything;</li> <li>Small degree of grace and mercy toward others or self.</li> <li>d. Needs to focus on the "milk" of the Word:</li> <li>"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness." (Hebrews 5:12, 13)</li> </ul>
	In order to grow from infant Christians to mature Christians, we must learn discernment. We must train our consciences, our senses, our minds, and our bodies to distinguish good from evil. The most important lesson at this point in your spiritual development is to understand your position in Christ - you are forgiven. Mentors, you should be teaching your student how they can begin to recognize temptation before it entraps them as well as being able to discern between a correct use of Scripture and a false one.
	B. Nurturing & Encouragement:
	<ul><li>1. Because their sins have been forgiven in Christ.</li></ul>
	"I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name." (1 John 2:12)
	<ul> <li>a. Forgiveness is not based upon maturity or perfection.</li> <li>b. Forgiveness is based upon the blood of Jesus, and upon our willingness as Christians to confess our sins:</li> </ul>
	"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)  Confession frees us to enjoy fellowship with Christ. It eases our

c. Characteristics of those in spiritual childhood.

consciences and lightens our cares. Most Christians at this stage have not learned how this works. They feel so "guilty" that they confess the same sins over and over; then they wonder if they might have forgotten something. Other new Christians believe that God forgives them when they confess, but if they died with unconfessed sins, they would be forever lost. These new believers do not understand that God wants to forgive us. He allowed Jesus to die just so He could offer us pardon. They must be instructed that when we come to Christ, He forgives all the sins we have committed or will ever commit. They must understand that we don't need to confess the sins of the past all over again, and we don't need to fear that God will reject us if we don't keep our "slate" perfectly clean. They must be assured that we should continue to confess our sins, but not because failure to do so will make us lose our salvation. They must fully realize that their relationship with Christ is secure. These should know that confession provides for maximum fellowship and joy with God and man.

"It is through God's Word and by His Holy Spirit that we can overcome this world."

True confession also involves a commitment not to continue in sin. We wouldn't be genuinely confessing our sins to God if we planned to commit them again and just wanted temporary forgiveness. We should also pray for strength to defeat temptation the next time we face it.

If God has forgiven us for our sins because of Christ's death, why must we confess our sins? In admitting our sins and receiving Christ's cleansing, we are:

- 1) Coming into agreement with God that our sin truly is sin and that we are willing to turn from it;
- 2) Making sure that we don't conceal our sins from Him and consequently from ourselves, and;
- 3) Recognizing that our tendency is to sin that we are truly dependent upon God and His power to overcome it.
- 2. Because they have "known the Father"
  - "...I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father." (1 John 2:13)
  - a. They have fellowship with the Father, which is John's definition of "eternal life":

"For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:2,3)

- Knowing God the Father Himself is realized through a living relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Eternal life requires entering into a personal relationship with


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God in Jesus Christ.

• Christ's love lives in us by the Holy Spirit.

b. They may be "babes", but they have "eternal life" in C	hrist:
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"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 John 5:11,12)

- Whoever believes in God's Son has eternal life.
- Eternal life is not something to wait for; it begins the moment you believe.
- Don't work for eternal life, it is already received.
- Don't fret and worry about your salvation; you have been given eternal life by God Himself it is guaranteed.
- c. John wants "children" in the faith to continue to believe:

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)

It is in this stage that a "babe in Christ" should receive from a more spiritually mature father or mother in the faith:

- Instructional nurturing/feeding upon the milk of the Word;
- An understanding and use of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ;
- Remaining in fellowship with the Father and sharing in "eternal life".

### Life application:

It is necessary that believers in this stage be taught and become thoroughly grounded in sound Biblical doctrine and that they learn that all teaching must be tested by God's inerrant, infallible Word. It must be understand that a person's character, behavior and future are all shaped by what a person believes to be truth (review Acts 2:42; 5:28; 13:12; 17:19). They must understand that they have been forgiven and are accepted by God.

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### II. Adulthood (assessment 88-153)

"...I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father." (1 John 2:13)



A. The stage in which Christians are spiritual "young adults"

1. This refers to all, male or female, young or old chronologically, who are "strong in the Lord"

2. These are those "who have overcome the wicked one"

"...I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father...I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one." (1 John 2:13, 14)

a. They are not perfect (not without sin), but are moving toward more Christ-likeness:

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)

- Must be instructed that people have a natural tendency to sin, that we all are capable of sinning, that we do sin, and that God has provided a process of ongoing forgiveness;
- Sin must be taken very seriously;
- Confession and repentance is an ongoing process;
- What took place at Calvary is embraced and everything is evaluated through the Cross:
- Spiritual warfare the reality of warfare (the tactics of our enemy regardless of origin: manipulation, intimidation, domination and learning to recognize each and not yielding to these);
- Spiritual armor, an understanding, availability and daily application;
- All people are sinners by nature and by practice;
- Process of conversion all our sins are forgiven past, present, and future;
- Understanding that even after we become Christians, we still sin and still need to confess;
- This kind of confession is not offered to gain God's acceptance, but to remove the barrier to fellowship that our sin has put between us and God;
- It is difficult, however, for many people to admit their faults and shortcomings, even to God. It takes humility and honesty to recognize our weaknesses, and most of us would rather pretend that we are strong. But we need not fear revealing our sins to God He knows them already;
- God will not push us away, no matter what we've done. Instead He will draw us to Himself.

b. Their faith has had time to be tested, and they have demonstrated that they are truly "born of God"

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) "Spiritual transformation requires a more extensive investment in one's ability to interpret all life situations in spiritual terms."

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Notes:	<ul> <li>The victory is won by sacrifice - Christ's death in our place to pay the penalty for our sin, and the sacrifices we make because of our faith in Him. As we face the battle with Satan, we should not fear it or try to escape from it, but we should loyally serve Christ, who alone brings victory (see Romans 8:34-39). It is through God's Word and by His Holy Spirit that we can overcome this world.</li> </ul>
	"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (Rev. 12:11)
	"for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (1 John 5:4, 5)
	<ul> <li>Obedience: Jesus never promised that obeying Him would be easy. But the hard work and self-discipline of serving Christ is no burden to those who love Him.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Spiritual Stress Testing/Loadbearing: learning the rhythms of God's grace, His assignments, and realizing the difference between a Saul-type ministry and a David-type ministry:</li> </ul>
	"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)
	<ul> <li>These are those who have struggled with Satan's temptations and have won; they are becoming seasoned young warriors.</li> </ul>
	• As young adults move from victory to victory, they grow in their relationship with Christ as characterized by:
	- Deepening desire for God's Word (reading their Bible daily is desirable as food for the body);  - Walks in the Spirit - from time to time in the flesh; but knows the difference between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit and desires the Spirit;  - Active in serving others, giving, etc.;  - Not easily swayed or deceived by false doctrines;  - Grounded in the basics - growth evident by the fruit of the Holy Spirit;  - Increasing desire for fellowship with other believers;  - Lessened desire for worldly possessions; selfless ambitions; spirit of competition greatly reduced;  - No difficulty in repenting/forgiving others;  - Increasing compassion for the lost;  - Actively assisting in the spiritual development of others;  - Growing sense of God, His character and His will;

God is stronger than evil.

• Though wickedness is all about us and life problems are overwhelming, we learn that evil is stronger than we are, but that

- Life not filled with fear, anxiety, growing in continuous peace;

- Seldom covetous, boastful, prideful, manipulative, etc.;
- Seldom financial difficulties (living within means...limited debt);
- Seldom desires pleasure; sensational, roller-coaster type life;
- Life marked by growing disciplines (physically, mentally, and spiritually);
- Growing victory over sin;
- Growing, powerful prayer life;
- Sincere interest in worship;
- Accountable to leadership;
- Overall, balance life-style;
- Growing degree of grace and mercy toward others and self.

"Only as the Word of God "abides" (remains) in them are they strong"

### B. The source of their strength is the Word of God:

- 1. Only as the Word of God "abides" (remains) in them are they strong:
  - "...I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one." (1 John 2:14)
  - "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4)
- 2. Even as David saw the value of letting the Word of God abide in his heart:
  - "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)
  - Hiding (keeping) God's Word in our hearts is a deterrent to sin. This alone should inspire us to memorize Scripture. But memorization alone will not keep us from sin; we must also put God's Word to work in our lives, making it a vital guide for everything we do.
- 3. For this reason, then, we need to heed the admonition of Peter:

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:1-3)

Evidences of healthy growth include:

- Less influenced by selfish desires and places an ever increasing measure of value in the well being of others; "I" and "Me" are increasingly being replaced with "You" and "Us";
- More desirous of allowing God's plans to be realized than self goals;
- Becoming more controlled by the Holy Spirit as opposed to fleshly desires.

### Teaching:

It is necessary that believers in this stage continue in the basic disci-

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plines of the faith; they must be taught and be thoroughly grounded in sound Biblical doctrine and that they learn that all teaching must be tested by God's inerrant, infallible Word. It must be understood that a person's character, behavior and future are all shaped by what a person believes to be truth (see Acts 2:42; 5:28; 13:12; 17:19). The following serves as an overview of material that must be taught and lived out by the disciple.

- 1. God's Word: the source of your strength;
- 2. The Source of Power: the Holy Spirit filled life;
- 3. The Enemy: we're not alone;
- 4. God's righteousness (the Book of Romans);
- 5. Promises Of God To Be Victorious: understanding Satan's tactics and your weapons to overcome him;
- 6. The Disciplines of Our Faith: basic toolset;
- 7. Applied Kingdom Stewardship: fully understanding that we are managers, not owners.

It is only as young warriors have demonstrated time and again as reviewed by another more spiritually mature believer who can confirm that the disciple is in fact growing strong in the Lord that they then progress to the final stage of the Christian life...

### III. Parenthood (assessment 154+)

"I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning." (1 John 2:13, 14)



### A. The stage in which Christians are "fathers" or "mothers" in the faith:

- 1. The term "father" is used figuratively.
- 2. It refers in this passage to Christians, male and female, who have reached the highest stage of the Christian life.
- 3. The term "fathers" suggests:
  - a. They have had experience, having progressed through earlier stages of the Christian life (infancy, strength).
  - b. They have produced spiritual offspring (disciples):

"I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children. Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel." (1 Corinthians 4:14, 15)

- The older men or women ("fathers") are mature in the faith and have a long-standing relationship with Christ.
- Older adults, having known Christ for years, have developed the wisdom needed to teach young people and repeat the process (success being defined as having produced "successive" kind; again, having discipled others).

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"Older adults, having known

Christ for years, have devel-

oped the wisdom needed to

teach young people and re-

peat the process..."

### B. They have "known Him who is from the beginning"

1. Referencing Jesus, who "was from the beginning":

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life." (1 John 1:1)

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1, 2)

"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30, 31).

	•	

"Little children" have known "the Father" (1 John 2:13). "Fathers" have known "the Son" who was from the beginning (1 hn 2:13, 14).
nis can be distinguished: As babes in Christ, it can be said that even in our infancy we can now" the Father - to have an intimate relationship with Him and perience the eternal life which He gives.
It is only with time, and with opportunity to "walk just as He alked" (1 John 2:6), can it be said that a Christian has truly come "know" Jesus:
) Therefore the admonition of Peter is:
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus nrist. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. " (2 Peter 3:18)
ese are those who have grown in:
. Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - whose lives are filled with grace and mercy;
. Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - whose lives re characterized by the virtues of our faith; whose knowledge omes only as they have developed the Christ-like graces found in Peter 1:5-8:
For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to elf-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep ou from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of ir Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-8)
These are those who know God; These are those who know that they have eternal life; These are those who know the reality of God in their life through aith in Christ; These are those who assure others that they have eternal life, and encourages them to remain in fellowship with God who is ght and love; These are those who are overwhelmed by God's love, and because f their confidence, pass on His love to others; These are those whose lives are characterized by love, grace, hercy, and truth (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:13).

2. There is a distinction being made by John:

# Life application: 1. Thinking about discipleship, what does it mean "like father, like son"? Why is it important to have a seasoned, mature "father or mother" in the faith discipling others? Explain: 2. Are you submitting to the control of the Holy Spirit in your daily walk with Jesus? Why or why not? Give some examples where you are failing to walk in the Spirit: 3. What does it mean that true spiritual authority comes only as we obey? Are you walking in obedience to the Word of God? Are there areas where you simply refuse to obey God's Word? What does this say about your walk? Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What are the three levels of spiritual maturity according to the apostle John? Where would you say you are based on those levels? Explain your answer: 5. All of us have heard it said, "Do what I say, not what I do." Likewise, how has this negatively impacted your life as a Christian? In other words, have you been told that you must do certain things as a Christian, but have not seen others willing to actually put into practice what they are teaching? How has this impacted your walk? What is God's answer?

Now let's discover ways we can improve our serve...

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
_
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

### **CORE** Guide

### **Lesson 5: How To Improve Your Serve**

Date:		

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the Core Group Manual (pages 66-69); read James 1 (3x); suggest			
reading "Chrysalis: Believer's Guide (CoreDiscipleship.com)			
Bible Study			
Prayerfully consider the material and be prepared to review in			
your meeting time.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Proverbs 10:19; James 1:19			

Why is interpersonal communication so vital to the CORE?
How do you "show" others that you really love them?
When we talk too much and listen too little what are we saying to those in the CORE?
When does miscommunication most often take place?
Why is it that CORE needs to maintain a dialogue and not a monologue?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying thatwill become a disciple.

### **Lesson 5: How To Improve Your Serve**

CORE Groups are up-close and personal. Let's brush up on a few communication skills that will help you develop and maintain godly relationships.

Notes:	relationships.
	Effective interpersonal communication is vital to our personal, family, ministry, and professional success. Communication means expressing your thoughts and ideas effectively. It also includes much more than words. Communication includes your tone of voice, facial expressions, posture, gestures, eye contact, listening skills and what and how you communicate. Regardless of your position, title, or prominence Jesus tells each of us:
	"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)
	How do we "show" we really love others? We can show love in many ways: by accepting people, by really listening, helping, giving, serving, and refusing to judge. Knowing God's command is not enough. We must put it into practice, walking "in obedience to his commands." (See also Matthew 22:37-39 and 1 John 2:7, 8.)
	James, the brother of Jesus, exhorts us to be selfless and to be considerate of others:
	"everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak" (James 1:19)
	No Christian should ever think that he or she is totally independent and doesn't need help from others, and no one should feel excused from the responsibility of helping others. The body of Christ - the church - functions only when the members of the church work together for the common good. All of us need help from time-to-time; words of correction and encouragement should always be presented in humility and with gentleness.
	"Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10)
	"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise." (Proverbs 10:19)
	When we talk too much and listen too little, we communicate to others that we think our ideas are much more important than theirs. God tells us to reverse this process. One practical way of learning to become a better communicator is to put a mental stopwatch on your conversation and keep track of how much you talk and how much you listen. If you ever find yourself talking more than you're listening and

receiving, you are "lording over" those in your group. The question we should always ask ourselves is, "When people talk with me, do they feel that their viewpoints and ideas have value?"

It is good to say little, because those who speak much miss much; miscommunication almost always takes place when one person dominates the conversation. It is always important to check what we are about to say before we say it, suppressing thoughts and taking them captive if need be especially if they are not in agreement with God's Word, negative, demeaning, critical or if they do not bring clarity to the issue at hand. We must always be aware that we are to model our lives after Lord Jesus; wherever He went and to whomever He spoke, people's lives were always better off than before He arrived.

"It is good to say little, because those who speak much miss much; miscommunication almost always takes place when one person dominates the conversation."

A few modern-day writers suggest:

"Many attempts to communicate are nullified by saying too much."
-Robert Greenleaf

"Seek first to understand, then to be understood" -Stephen Covey

Many Christians "miss" God's choicest blessings of greater grace (Eph. 1:6) and greater degrees of spiritual maturity and authority (Eph. 3:20) because they've never first accepted the disciplines of unity (Eph. 4:1-16), purity (Eph. 4:17-31), forgiveness (Eph. 4:32), and walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:1-21). Though a person may think that it is unimportant what others think about them, or that interpersonal relationships are of little value, the Bible says much about relationships and that they must FIRST be in order before true spiritual authority is given by God (Eph. 5:22-6:9).

True spiritual authority and power flows from true obedience to God's order of relationships and our personal conduct. Our relationship with others (horizontal) is directly proportional to our relationship with God (vertical) and reveals our heart in a real and practical way.

As said, communication is an integral part of any relationship, whether family, friendship, business or romance. In fact, an absence or breakdown of communication can put even the best relationships in serious jeopardy. Poor communication often leads to feelings of betrayal, growing distrust, misunderstandings, and even social isolation. Effective communication takes place when one person "sends" a message and another person "receives" the message as intended. To be effective, communication must be a dialogue, never a monologue. Anytime one person dominates the communication channel, others see this as being


Notes:

controlling, insensitive, overbearing, presumptive, etc.

Notes:	Contrary to popular belief, the foundation of solid communication is not making yourself be heard or expressing yourself clearly. While these are elements of good communication, the real core of communication is understanding where the other person is coming from. Productive communication simply can't exist without both parties expressing ideas and making efforts towards genuine listening. Though this may seem paradoxical, the key to communication is more about listening to the other than flooding him or her with information about who you are, what you want, and how you feel. Remember, disappointing or not, the ultimate goal of communication is most often compromise where both parties come away sensing an increased degree of respect, honor, wholeness, and wellness – it is a "win-win" situation.
	Communicating effectively or opening the lines of communication does not need to feel forced or incredibly unnatural - even the most hesitant communicators can improve with a bit of effort and attention to detail. The first step in becoming an admirable communicator is to pay attention to what makes a good communicator. When, for example, do you hit walls in your own dealings with other people? Replay your conversations in your mind, asking yourself what might have gone wrong - or right. For the sake of improving your own proficiency, observe the subtle habits of excellent communicators; people who make themselves understood and seem to understand the needs, experiences, and feelings of those around them. Most of all, never forget, even in moments of frustration, that you can get better at communicating. Practice makes perfect!
	Poor communication skills are at the core of many relationship prob- lems; if you're not already having difficulties in your personal, min- isterial, or work life, they are bound to pop up in the future. That is unless, of course, you set out to improve your communication skills right now.
	Adapted from "About Communication Skills." Online Posting. 26 July 2001 (http://www.queendom.com).
	Practical Application:
	1. How well would others say you are at communicating your thoughts?
	2. In what area(s) do you find yourself becoming frustrated as you attempt to communicate your ideas to others?

3. What does it mean that "in the multitude of words sin is not lacking?" Explain:	
4. In general, would you say that when you are gathered with two or more people that you dominate the conversation? Would others around you support your opinion? Explain:	"We must understand that it is only through God's Word and by His Holy Spirit that lives are changed (Word and Spirit)."
5. Would others around you say of you, "I feel that my viewpoints and ideas are appreciated, welcomed, and are of value?" Why or why not?	
6. Would others say that I am an encourager or that I am critical? Explain:	
7. How can you learn to "first understand and then be understood?":	Notes:
8. Is it important what others think about you? Why or why not?	
9. How does true spiritual authority and power flow from true obedience to God's order of relationships and your personal conduct?	
10. Explain why your tone of voice, facial expressions, posture, gestures, eye contact, and listening skills all have impact on how we are received or dismissed as God's children:	

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

### **CORE Guide - The Handshake of CORE Discipleship**

### Lesson 6: The Great Commandment (Mth. 22:37-40)

Date:
Date:

Assignments	Completed?	
	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Matthew 22 (3x this week)		
* Suggest reading "Practicing His Presence" (parable.com)		
Bible Study		
Read Matthew 22 three times before you meet together		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
<ul> <li>Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.</li> </ul>		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize Matthew 22:37-40		

All the law is fulfilled in what one word? How are you fulfilling this word?
Why is devotion a matter of the heart?
Do you allow your ministry or other good works to distract from devotion to God? Why?
Do you display any form of religion for the sake of other's approval?
If you say you love God, but are not loving toward others, what does this suggest?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying that
will become a disciple.

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
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My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

### **Discipleship Reading:**

- Matthew Chapters 5, 6, 7: Read these chapters slowly and prayerfully consider the warnings Jesus provides about the temptations you will face as His disciple. Be prepared to discuss these chapters in your CORE Group.
- Luke 14:26, 27, 33: Three times Jesus issues a stern warning in these scriptures. Prayerfully consider each of these scriptures and be prepared to discuss in your CORE Group.
- John 8:31, 32; 13:34,35; 15:8: Three times Jesus proclaims what true discipleship embraces. As you consider these scriptures, be prepared to discuss each in your CORE Group.

### Lesson 7: The Great Commission (Mth. 28:19-20)

Date:

Acciennosado	Completed?	
Assignments		No
Lesson Notes		
Read Matthew 28 (3x this week); review Discipleship Reading (pg.		
74); Suggest that you finish reading "Practicing His Presence"		
Bible Study		
Read Matthew 28 three times before you meet together		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Matthew 28:19, 20		

Why is it important to know that "all authority has been given to Jesus"?
Why is it important to understand that "Jesus is with you always"?
Have you been discipled or being discipled? Are you making disciples? Why or why not?
What does it mean to "make disciples"?
Who is responsible for making disciples?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying that
will become a disciple.

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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My commitment to Fersonal winnstry - this week, riselved in a ministry outside the church My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to Cody Gewardship - this week, my life, talents, girls, and money were used for Cod's Kingdom My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
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### **Lesson 8: Four Keys of Core Groups**

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?	
	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Acts 1-4 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Read Acts 1-4 three times before you meet together; focus on		
chapter 2, especially 2:42-47.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Acts 2:42		

Have you repented, been baptized, and received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
Are you walking in the active presence of the Holy Spirit? If not, is what you're doing pleasing God?
How can you incorporate all four of these elements in your training?
Are you someone who delegates or hoards ministry?
Are you considered a prayer warrior?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying that will become a disciple.

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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### Lesson 9: The Work Of Ministry (Eph. 4:11-13)

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?	
	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Eph. 4 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Read Eph. 4:11-13 three times before you meet together		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Eph. 4:11-13		

Are you endeavoring to keep unity in all your relationships? Why or why not?
Whose job is ministry? Explain:
Are you a person known for your stability and integrity?
How can you speak the truth in love?
How can you put off the old man?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying that
will become a disciple.

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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### Lesson 10: The Pattern Of Discipleship (2 Tim. 2:2)

Date:
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Accimonocato	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read 2 Tim. 2 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Read 2 Tim. 2:2 three times before you meet together		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize 2 Tim. 2:2		

Identify the four generations spoken of in this 2 Tim. 2:2:
Why is this "fourth generation" principle important?
Why should you look for a faithful believer as your student?
What takes place if you invest your life into someone who is able, but proves to be unfaithful?
Are you communicating the truth exactly as you've learned? How will you train others?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
I am praying that
will become a disciple.

# Now that we've learned the CORE Process and before we begin the Bible study section of the CORE Manual, let's review some critical practices of our faith.

#### **Being Spirit-Led:**

To live the Christian life, we must continue under the control of the Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:6).

We discover that we become a Christian because we "receive Christ Jesus the Lord." We become empowered and filled with the Holy Spirit as we "walk in Him."

It is possible for a person to receive Christ, be converted, and not be controlled by the Holy Spirit. To live in the spiritual plane, we must see each moment from the spiritual viewpoint. Nothing we do is coincidental, or accidental, or from luck. God is God and He is in control whether we realize, accept, or reject this truth (Proverbs 16:9).

It is important to note here that if you have received Christ Jesus as your Lord, Master and Savior, you have the Holy Spirit. Don't let anyone try and convince you that you need more of the Holy Spirit. Don't pray, "Come, Holy Spirit." He's already present within you. You simply need to surrender to God's will. If you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit. If you are not a Christian, you do not have the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean to be "filled with the Holy Spirit?"

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18)

We are commanded as Christians to "be filled with the Spirit." A Spirit-filled believer is one who is controlled by the Holy Spirit and not by any other kind of spirit.

The Greek verb translated "be filled" is worthy of our study and will amplify our understanding. "Be filled" is:

- 1. In the present tense: it is something we can experience and enjoy now.
- 2. In the imperative mood (a command): this is not optional.
- 3. In the passive voice: being filled is not something a believer achieves through his or her own strength, will, or desire, but that it is done for a believer by the Holy Spirit as the believer submits to His control.
- 4. In the plural form: in other words, being filled is not reserved for some particular group or denomination, but is for the universal body of Christians and for you today.

As Spirit-filled believers serve the Lord in their moment-by-moment lives, there is a tendency to become "self-led" - relying more on our fleshly desires than the Holy Spirit's presence and power. It becomes important to ask for a refueling by the Holy Spirit in order that His power may be replenished. As said, the command in Ephesians 5:18 is literally, "Keep on being filled with the Spirit." Herein lies the key to Spirit-filled living. The Spirit-filled life is a continuous process of receiving and giving, of being filled and sharing with others, of receiving power from God and spending it in His service.

#### **Studying God's Word:**

The Bible is absolutely necessary for spiritual growth. In determining scriptural conduct for the Church, we use hermeneutics, or scriptural interpretation, as our guide. If something was taught by Christ, practiced in Acts, and taught in the epistles, then it can be properly practiced by the Church. God promises great blessings to those who read and obey His Word including: Successful living (Joshua 1:8); healing and deliverance (Psalm 107:20); direction and guidance (Psalm 119:105); victory over sin (Psalm 119:11); abundant peace (Psalm 119:165); overflowing joy (Jeremiah 15:16); abundant life (John 10:10); freedom from bondage (John 8:31, 32); growth in faith (Romans 10:17); and preparation to serve (2 Timothy 3:17). These blessings are given so that we can grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

The Bible is made up of 66 books written over 1,500 years in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek inspired by the Holy Spirit through 35 different authors all from various backgrounds. The Bible is divided into two parts called Testaments or Covenants. The Old Testament (39 books) covers history from the creation of the world to 400 years before the birth of Jesus. The New Testament (27 books) covers history from Christ's birth through the Apostolic Age (AD 96) and predicts future events into eternity with Christ at His Second Coming.

It was the custom of the Hebrew people to keep written records of God's words and works (Exodus 40:26). The Old Testament was canonized or "sanctioned by Church authority" completely before the time of Christ.

For 20 years after Christ's ascension the gospel was preserved by oral testimony. The early church accepted the 39 Old Testament books and later added the apostolic writings. The 27 New Testament books were canonized around AD 400. The foundation of the church rests on the teachings of the prophets, Christ Jesus, and the Apostles (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

John Wycliffe translated the first English Bible in 1384, followed by the works of William Tyndale (1484-1536) and a group of scholars commissioned by King James (1604). The credibility of the Old Testament rests on Jesus' recognition and endorsement of it as inspired.

Christians regard the Bible as the only inspired, error free, and authoritative revelation from God in written form (2 Peter 1:20, 21).

We need to read, study and apply the Bible properly. There are five basic guidelines you should remember as you study God's Word:

- 1. Study the original meaning of the individual words of a passage noted in the original language. A Bible dictionary or commentary helps.
- 2. Observe the grammatical structure.
- 3. Consider the wide passage from which the text is drawn.
- 4. Answer important questions about a biblical book such as, "Who wrote it?" and "When was it written?" and "Why was it written?" and "To whom was it written?" and "What was their situation and the timing?"
- 5. Compare other Scriptures that relate to a specific passage being considered. Always, Scripture must interpret Scripture.

In time, you might find it helpful to have:

- A Bible Concordance;
- A Bible Dictionary;
- A Bible Atlas:
- Bible Commentaries.

There are three principles we should always adhere to when studying the Bible:

- a. Read the word reverently.
- b. Interpret the Word accurately.
- c. Obey the Word joyfully.

#### Praying:

God created us to have fellowship with Him (Genesis 3:8) and to appoint us to rule over the Earth (Genesis 1:28). He desires that we share in His Kingdom through prayer. Prayer is the pathway for fellowship with God and releasing spiritual authority.

Samuel Chadwick wrote, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

Prayer is simply your talking with and listening to God. It is a dialogue; you talk, God listens – God talks, you listen. Prayer can take many forms such as:

- Thanksgiving (Psalm 100);
- Confession (Psalm 51);
- Intercession (John 17);
- Petition (Colossians 1:9-14);
- Communion (Psalm 139).

God has given His church the authority to bind the deceptive forces of Satan to release people from satanic bondage (Matthew 16:18, 19; 18:18-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 7; Ephesians 1:15-22).

In prayer, submission is the gateway to receiving God's fullest blessings. Jesus said, "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24). Jesus placed a priority on prayer.

Jesus teaches that prayer is focused. Although Jesus says we are actually to say this prayer, He does not suggest that this become a rigid ritual, but that it be used as a guide as we pray:

"This then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9-13).

a. Our Father: to begin, we must silence the activity of our noisy environment and soul, thinking about Who God is and who we are in relationship to Him – we are His children, He is our Father.

- b. Hallowed be Your Name: enter His presence through praise and worship; as you think about Him, speak to Him of His goodness and virtue.
- c. Your kingdom come: ask for the establishment of God's rule today in the lives and circumstances of those in authority (government at all levels, those in places of leadership, the church), your family, loved ones, those in need of prayer as you remember them in meditation, as well as yourself.
- d. Give us: pray daily asking for God's provision as He sees fit learn to be content with whatever He provides; invite the Holy Spirit daily, moment-by-moment, to empower you for worship, witness, and warfare (Galatians 5:16).
- e. And forgive us: ask God to forgive you knowing that God will only forgive our sins as we forgive others who have sinned against us; if you have something you've been holding against another brother or sister in Christ, it is imperative that you go to that person and mend the relationship, asking God to forgive. Regardless of the outcome be at peace knowing that you've done all you can to bring healing and restoration to the relationship.
- f. And do not lead us: ask for God's strength to stand in His might; put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20); pray for a hedge of protection about yourself and your loved ones.
- g. For Yours is the kingdom: thank God for sharing His kingdom, power and glory with you.

End by say, "In the name of Jesus Christ, AMEN" (John 14:13, 14). We must remember that our asking must be in Jesus' name – Jesus Christ – and according to God's character and will. God will not grant requests contrary to His nature or His will, and we cannot use His name as a magic formula to fulfill our selfish desires. If we are sincerely following God and seeking to do His will, then our requests will be in line with what He desires, and He will grant them in His time (John 15:16; 16:23).

Now, let's visit the Book of Ephesians.

Ephesians could be divided into two sections. Chapters 1-3 are all about your position in Christ. Chapters 4-6 are all about putting what you've learned into practice.

There are seven keys in chapter one: adopted (1:5,6), accepted (1:5,6), blameless (1:4), chosen (1:4), forgiven (1:7), predestined (1:11), and sealed (1:13). Ask yourself if you really believe these are true and if you are walking in each.

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to my Eocal Charlet & Charlet Addronty - this week I served a ministry within my charlet water My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Fersonal winnstry - this week, riselved in a ministry outside the church My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to Cody Gewardship - this week, my life, talents, girls, and money were used for Cod's Kingdom My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# Lesson II: Ephesians I - Your Position In Christ

Date:

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the entire Book of Ephesians through this week in one setting;			
focus on Chapter 1.			
Bible Study			
As you read in chap. 1, be ready to discuss the terms: accepted, ad-			
opted, blameless, chosen, forgiven, predestined, and sealed.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Eph. 1:7			

What does it mean to be accepted by Christ?
What does it mean that you are adopted?
Do you believe you are blameless? Can a Christian be blameless?
What does it mean to be chosen?
Do you truly believe you are forgiven? Predestined? Sealed?
I am praying for these two to come to Christ:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to my Eocal Charlet & Charlet Addronty - this week I served a ministry within my charlet water My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Fersonal winnstry - this week, riselved in a ministry outside the church My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to Cody Gewardship - this week, my life, talents, girls, and money were used for Cod's Kingdom My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# Lesson 12: Ephesians 2 - Your Position In Christ

Date:
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Acciennante	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 2 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Eph. 2:8			

What does it mean that we were dead in our trespasses?
Are good works a real possibility for the believer? Explain:
What is a Gentile? What do the words covenant relationship mean?
What is the essence of peace? Are you at peace with God and in God?
Where does the Holy Spirit dwell?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
JSING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
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My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to my zeech endron's distributionly also week received a ministry within my characteristic.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# **Lesson 13: Ephesians 3- Your Position In Christ**

Date:
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Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 3 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 3: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Eph. 3:14-19 as your personal prayer for			
those you disciple			

What is the mystery Paul refers to?
Who is responsible for spreading the Good News?
What is the eternal purpose revealed in Christ Jesus?
How is a believer strengthened with might?
What is the greatest fullness a Christian can experience?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
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My commitment to Cody Gewardship - this week, my life, talents, girls, and money were used for Cod's Kingdom My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# **Lesson 14: Ephesians 4 - Your Practice In Christ**

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read chapter 4 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Eph. 4:11-13			
		1 .	

Why would Paul call himself a prisoner of the Lord?
Do you consider yourself worthy? What is the basis of your worth?
Who is responsible for maintaining unity?
What are the five gifts listed by apostle Paul?
Review this gift list and see also Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11. What is your gift?
In what practical way can you show God's love for the two you're praying for?
What future date are you going to begin discipling another?

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# **Lesson 15: Ephesians 5 - Your Practice In Christ**

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 5 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 5: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Eph. 5:18-20			

What is the sweet-smelling aroma?
What does it mean to walk circumspectly?
Study the words "be filled" and be prepared to discuss your findings:
Does the Bible suggest submission as a requirement? Why or why not?
What is the correct biblical account for godly leadership?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# Lesson 16: Ephesians 6 - Your Practice In Christ

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 6 (3x this week) - congratulationsyou've just finished			
reading the book of Ephesians through three times!			
Bible Study			
Chapter 6: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Eph. 6:11-13			

Describe the guidelines for a family in the Lord:
How is a believer to act if he/she works for an unbeliever?
What is the believer's and church's resource against the works of hell?
Whose responsibility is it to raise godly children?
Are you taking seriously and engaged in the war raging all around you?
What is the ultimate goal of spiritual warfare?
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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# **Lesson 17: Your Testimony**

Datas		
Date:		

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the following overview on pages 99-103; complete each section			
Bible Study			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Heb. 4:12			

Why is your testimony important?
What should others "see" when they hear your story?
How can your testimony become more powerful?
When have you led others to Christ?
Where can you give your testimony?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
When is your projected start date to disciple your new student?

#### **Lesson 16: The Power Of Your Testimony** Most Christians don't know how to tell the story of their own testimony well. Your testimony is the single most powerful story you can tell because no one knows it better than you, you don't have to have Notes: to be a seminary graduate to tell it, and no one can disprove it! It's your story and everyone likes to hear a good story. "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11) We overcome the enemy through the authority of Christ's victory by the blood of the Lamb and our steadfastness to the promise and authority of God's Word in our lives. **Writing Your Testimony:** This study will help you introduce your friends and neighbors to Jesus Christ beginning with your CORE Group. You will learn to share God's message of love in a clear, simple way. 1. Write your testimony; 2. Learn how to share your testimony in a way that will help you see results. **Guidelines for Writing Your Testimony** • Begin by asking God to give you wisdom and guidance; • Be real, don't exaggerate; • Write to just one person, your best friend; • Empathize with the listener's viewpoint; • Share things about yourself, good and not so good, that others can identify with; • Be honest, transparent and provide enough information that the listener gets to know you on a real level; • Use real-life details and facts so the listener can "see" the events as they really happened; • Don't use "churchy" words like "justified" or "glorified" • Don't sound preachy or "I'm-better-than-you" • Don't write or say anything negative about any person or church; • Don't mention denominations or church names; • Tell your story as if the listener doesn't know a thing about Christianity; • Paint a picture - one that doesn't look like your life is perfect and that you don't have problems; • Show that being a Christian is a journey and is based on a real live, moment-by-moment relationship with God; • Review, revise, and rewrite and present your story to your CORE Group. Take their counsel. Review, revise and commit to long-term

memory! Practice! When you have an opportunity, ask the Holy Spirit to help you and just go for it...you'll be surprised at how the

Lord can use you if you make yourself available.

#### **Writing Style:**

- Use the "sandwich" approach: begin with a "slice-of-life" attention-getting sentence or incident, put the "meat" of your testimony in the middle, and finish off with a slice from where you are today;
- Keep your testimony to 3-5 minute's in length use a "Reader's Digest" short-story style;
- Aim at a 9th grade reading level;
- Be positive, accurate and specific details arouse interest;
- Use Bible verses directly related to your experience. Don't say, "1 Corinthians 2:5 says..." Instead, say, "The Bible says...";
- Write a logical conclusion.

write a logical conclusion.

#### Sample Testimony

My earliest childhood memories are of church and Sunday School each Sunday morning. But as the years went by, I realized that the life I was living during the week fell far short of what the church had taught me and what I knew was right. By the age of 14, I had stopped going to church altogether and had begun to run around with some teenagers who, like I, had no time for God. I began to drink and developed a serious problem with alcohol that progressed from bad to worse as I grew older. By 17, alcohol had put me in jail for the first time. At 18, a group of friends wanted to commit me to an institution for alcoholics. At 19, I was back in jail for the second time as the result of alcohol. Although I had graduated from high school and joined the Air Force, the military discipline had not helped my problems at all. In fact, they seemed to have become worse. I drank because I desperately wanted to anesthetize myself from the loneliness and lack of purpose that filled my heart. Each time I left a party, I would go home dreading the loneliness I knew was waiting for me. Those were the worst moments of my life. I could see no meaning at all to existence and felt that if I could find no answer, perhaps the best thing would be to end my own life.

In this state of loneliness and depression, I began to pray—asking God to help me find Him if He really existed. Then one day I picked up the base newspaper and read an interesting advertisement. It told of a minister who was coming to speak at our military chapel. Somehow I felt that this might be the answer to my prayer. The next Sunday morning I was sitting in the front row listening to him tell an amazing story.

He told how as a young man he had searched for the same meaning and direction in life that I was so desperately searching for now. He opened the Bible and explained that because of sin, man was separated from God and could never have purpose and happiness in life apart from Him. He said, however, that God still loved man and had sent His own Son, Jesus, to die and pay the penalty of man's sin so that man could again be reunited with God. He shared one verse in John 1:12 which said that, "To as many as received Him

"Your testimony is the single most powerful story you can tell because no one knows it better than you, you don't have to have to be a seminary graduate to tell it, and no one can disprove it! It's your story and everyone likes to hear a good story."


Notes:

Notes:	into his life—to receive Him—and Christ would come in and give direction and power and purpose. That day as the pastor closed in prayer, I silently prayed something like this:
	Oh God, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me and come into my heart. Make me the kind of man you want me to be. Thank you. Amen.
	When I prayed that prayer, nothing spectacular seemed to happen. There were no flashes of lightning nor angels rocketing off the walls. I had no strange feelings or sensations. Within the next few weeks, however, I realized that something was indeed different. For the first time in my life I had a sense of peace and purpose and meaning. As I began to read the Bible, I discovered that God had a wonderful, unique plan for each person's life and that Christ was alive and real and leading me into that plan—day by day. My loneliness and emptiness were replaced by quiet joy. I still had problems and bad days, but now I knew God was with me in each situation helping me through. My drinking problem was solved because now there was no need to escape from reality as I had tried to do before through alcohol. I guess 2 Corinthians 5:17 best sums up what happened to me when it says: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creatureOld things are passed away. Behold, all things are become new." I can honestly say that I would not trade one hour of my new life with Christ for all the years I spent without Him. He has truly met the deepest needs of my heartDave Dawson (ETS Ministries)
	I. Before You Received Christ
	As you read in the sample testimony, preparing your personal testimony begins with telling the story of what your life was like before you received Jesus Christ. It's not necessary to go into extreme detail. Be clear, brief and to the point. Your spoken testimony should be from 3 to 4 minutes.
	For each of the following sections, write out your response(s) to the ideas in the provided space.
	As you begin writing your testimony, write things just as you would say it to someone in person. Such as, "Before I received Christ as my savior, my attitude was," or "My life was filled with problems I could not solve"

(Jesus) He gave the power to become sons of God." He explained that this verse meant that all one needed to do was to ask Christ

a. Your attitudes, needs, and problems before you received Christ:	
	"Keep your testimony to 3-5 minute's in length - use a "Reader's Digest" short-story style"
b. What did your life revolve around, and what did you use to gain happiness and security from? (Include an example from your personal story. For example, did your security come from relationships, your job, money, home, children, etc.? Keep it real!):	
c. Did any of those things bring real joy, peace, or happiness? Were they disappointing? How?	Notes:
d. How did you come to know that all those things were unfulfilling?  What were you struggling with before you came to Jesus?	

#### 2. How You Received Christ

This part of your story is where you came to a transition in your life, where God's work began to become evident to you. Follow the same guidelines as before.

a. When and how did you first hear about Christ?
b. What were your struggles just before you received Christ?
c. What happened when you received Christ and how did you attitude begin to change, and why?
3. Since You Received Christ
Many people focus their personal testimony around a sin they had be- fore they received Christ. Instead, focus on what God did in your life.
a. What happened after you received Christ?

Notes:

b. How has your life changed, and when did you notice that change?	
	"Many people focus their personal testimony around a sin they had before they received Christ. Instead, focus on what God did in your life."
c. How are you motivated differently now?	
4. Final Review	
• Review your work.	
Go through everything you've written so far and make sure all the sentences and phrases work together. As you make your review, ask yourself:	Notes:
<ul> <li>Does this sound like a story?</li> <li>Does this make sense?</li> <li>How long did it take for you to read your story (3-4 minutes)?</li> <li>Is it honest, transparent, and truthful?</li> <li>Is Jesus on center stage or are you?</li> </ul>	
Once you finish your edits, it's time to take what you've written and create your finished story (you can use page 104).	
Take time to review and memorize your testimony, and begin sharing it with your CORE Group and with others!	

Finished Story:	

Journal & Notes:	
	-
	-

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# **CORE Guide - By Grace Alone**

#### Lesson 18: Galatians 1

Date:
Date:

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the entire Book of Galatians through this week in one setting;			
focus on Chapter 1.			
Bible Study			
Chapter 1: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Gal. 1:3, 4			

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These guestions of each other during your time together and during the week
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#### Lesson 19: Galatians 2

Date:

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 2 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Gal. 2:20			

Why did Paul not agree to having Titus circumcised?
What is the requirement for salvation?
What is the truth of the Gospel?
Why did Peter back-down from Paul?
Is there a distinction for Jews and Gentiles?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 20: Galatians 3

Date:
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Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 3 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 3: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Gal. 3:26			

How did your Christian faith begin?
Who are the heirs of the blessing?
Can or do you attempt to keep the Law?
What is the fourfold purpose of the Law (v. 19-24)?
What is the new position of those in Christ?
Does race, rank, or gender grant favor with God?
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:	
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ACCOLINITABILITY: Ask These guestions of each other during your time together and during the week	
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#### Lesson 21: Galatians 4

Date:
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<b>6</b>	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 4 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Gal. 4:19			

What does it mean the "elements of the world"?
What was God's purpose in sending Christ?
Why did Paul say "until Christ is formed in you"?
Who does Isaac and Ishmael represent?
Should true believers expect persecution?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 22: Galatians 5

Date:
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Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 5 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 5: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Gal. 5:16			

What is the practical use of Christian liberty?
Do you still have to daily choose between law and grace?
What does it mean to "have fallen from grace"?
As a Christian, you are free to do what?
How can you overcome the lust of the flesh?
Describe the battle between the Spirit and the flesh:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 23: Galatians 6

Date:

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 6 (3x this week) - congratulationsyou've just finished			
reading the book of Galatians three times!			
Bible Study			
Chapter 6: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Gal. 6:7-9			

What is the meaning of the word "restore"?
What is the law of Christ?
Will all people be accountable on Judgment Day?
What are you supposed to do during the growing time of the seed you've sown?
What is the law of sowing and reaping?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
When is your projected start date to disciple your new student?
When is your projected start date to disciple your new student?

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### **CORE** Guide

### **Lesson 24: Sharing The Good News**

Date:		

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the following study on pages 120-125; draw your own bridge			
diagram and stick figures based on the story			
Bible Study			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Romans 1:16,17			

What is the Good News?
Whose job is it to bring someone to Christ?
Should we ever pressure anyone into coming to Jesus?
Why is it important to carry a Bible with you?
What is the most convincing evidence of your being a Christian to unbelievers?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
When is your projected start date to disciple your new student?

### **Lesson 23: Sharing The Good News**

The Gospel is the good news of God and is the "power of God to salvation" (Romans 1:16).

Notes:	
	We must remember that the greatest thing about preaching the Gospel is the Gospel, not us!
	A clear presentation of the Gospel is not only powerful, but it also gets people off to a well-grounded start in their Christian walk.
	We must never manipulate or pressure people into a profession of faith and we must never use gimmicks or shortcuts in our presentation. Jesus tells us to "count the cost" and the presentation of a "watered-down" version of the Gospel is simply not in God's Word.
	Practical Guidelines:  1. Be honest: Do you like it when you've been deceived? No one else does either. We should never try and trick anyone into hearing or responding to the Gospel using manipulative, intimidating, or dominating techniques. Remember, it is God who draws men to Himself; be Spirit-led and wait on God's timing.
	2. Based in relationship: The old saying, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care" is so true. Often times in our desire to "save the lost" we sidestep personal relationships and miss God-given opportunities to meet people at their need. Build relationships. Present Christ first through your life. Present Christ according to God's Word and what Christ has done for you (your testimony).
	3. False advertising: As a Christian, you know that since you received Christ that your life has not been a fairy-tale; don't promise others that their lives will be either. No one will ever live a trouble-free life here on this planet. We can, however, demonstrate and tell others of our problems, how we honestly struggled with them, how we took them to God, and how He walked us through our difficult times. God never promises us a trouble-free life; He does promise us to be with us and show us how to walk through our troubles with Him.
	4. Appeals to the flesh: Anyone can manipulate another's emotions. Don't appeal to people's soul nature; God is Spirit and it is the Word and Spirit that draw people to Christ. Prosperity and physical healing are in the Bible, but these should never be used as "bait" to lure people to Christ.
	5. Bounty hunters: Offering Christians rewards for bringing others to

the Church or to Christ may seem innocent, but this actually compromises God's Word. Trust God's Word – it is powerful.

"so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

"We must remember that the greatest thing about preaching the Gospel is the Gospel, not us!"

The following Four-Step process needs to be read, absorbed, and will have no impact unless you can illustrate each step on your own. You might want to consider using "stick" figures and draw out each step. I would also recommend that you always carry a small Bible with you (slim-line Bibles are about the size of a checkbook and are easy to carry) and that you mark your Bible with a "road-map" for salvation. In my Bible, I have written all these 15 key scriptures in the back of my Bible like this:

Peace w/God: (Rom. 5:1; John 3:16, 10:10)

Sin: (Rom. 3:23; 6:23)

Our way: (Prov. 14:12; Is. 59:2)

God's Way: (1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 5:8) Trusting God: (Rev. 3:20; John 1:12; Rom. 10:9)

How: (Rom. 10:13; Eph. 2:8,9)

I then go to each scripture and in the margin, write out the next scripture in the series. In this way, I'm always prepared to take someone through God's Word! Here's the process. Try and memorize the steps.

# Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Step One**

When God created you, He intended there to be fellowship between Him and you.

Every person longs to be esteemed; to be valued and honored. And though the world makes grand promises of providing joy, peace, and happiness, it always fails.

God never fails. He made you and wants to be in relationship with you. That's the void we have all tried to fill with the world's empty promises. We try and fill our deep spiritual hunger with worldly things, but nothing satisfies except God.

If you think about it, that's how you most likely came to Christ. You tried things the world's way, but you were never satisfied because regardless how hard you tried or how much you made or how many relationships you were in, nothing filled that emptiness deep down inside. That's something common to all people...this is the basis of your presenting the Gospel - you're touching an area right where all people have need.


The Bible says ... Notes: \_\_\_\_\_ "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). The problem is that most people don't have peace with God and though they may think their lives are OK from all outward appearances, their lives are not because they are not at peace with God; the One who made them and wants to be in a real relationship with them. Step Two The real problem is that we have all been separated from God. You see, God created you in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make you like some kind of robot to automatically love and obey Him. He gave you the ability to choose and the freedom to exercise that free will; you have a choice. Starting with Adam and Eve and every person since them, we choose to disobey God and do things our own way. When we disobey God's way, this separates us from Him because He is holy and pure. A good way of looking at this would be like you putting on a clean, white shirt and suddenly dumping a really big container of black ink on the shirt. Though you're wearing the shirt, the big, black ink spot would overwhelm the shirt. So it is with sin. We are all born with a really big, black ink spot called sin that separates us from a holy God. The Bible says ... "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Who have sinned? All have sinned. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in

Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The basis of the Gospel is that God loves you and wants you to experi-

ence peace and life - abundant and eternal.

Because we've all sinned, the payment for sin is death.

#### We Try and Reach God Through All Kinds of Things

Our sin separates us from God. There's this chasm or bridge between us and Him.

So in our efforts to bridge the gap, we try and construct all kinds of ladders, tools, and clever ideas to get to God. It would be like your trying to jump up and grab the moon. Though at times it might seem close enough to touch, you simply can't jump high enough, and there's not a ladder tall enough to get you there.

"When Jesus died on the Cross, it was to pay the price for the sin that had destroyed your relationship with God. That includes all of your sin past, present, and future."

The Bible says ...

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Proverbs 14:12).

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).

Nothing we do can bridge the gap between God and us.

So how do we cross the divide?

#### **Step Three**

The only bridge is the Cross.

God's plan to bridge the gap between Himself and you required His own Son, Jesus Christ, to be a sinless sacrifice. Since there are no sinless human beings, God had to provide you with His own Son who is truly man and truly God.

The Bible says, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19). Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word who "was with God" and "was God," becoming flesh in the virgin's womb by the Holy Spirit (read John 1:1-14 and Luke 1:35). That is why only Jesus can provide us with salvation.

When Jesus died on the Cross, it was to pay the price for the sin that had destroyed your relationship with God. That includes all of your sin - past, present, and future. No one else in all of history was able to do that because no one else was perfect. And Jesus was perfect because He was the Son of God and never sinned.

Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people and

Notes:	 	 	
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that includes you!

	The Bible says
Notes:	"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ" (1 Timothy 2:5).
	"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).
	"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).
	God has provided the only way. Because God loves you and because love is never controlling, each person must make a choice.
	You can now either choose to receive God's gift of eternal and abundant life or you can reject Him and continue to live a life apart from Him. It you reject Him, you will one day be judged by Him and because you cannot pay the price for sin, will be condemned to hell for all eternity a place where "lost souls" will be fully awake and in torment, and will
	You must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personally inviting Him to be God of your life.
	ml Pill
	"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).
	"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'

#### The Question Is, "What is YOUR choice?"

Will you receive Jesus Christ right now?

Here is how you can 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).

"You must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personally inviting Him to be God of your life."

#### **Pray This Prayer**

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### If you prayed this prayer,

The Bible says ...

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Did you sincerely ask Jesus Christ to come into your life? Where is He right now? What has He given you?

"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).

With your relationship with God now restored, you've become a child of God, and His Holy Spirit has come into your heart to help you now. You now have the full power of God to help you desire and do His will.

Welcome to the family of God! This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this new relationship you should:

- 1. Read your Bible everyday to know Christ better.
- 2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
- 3. Tell others about Christ and what you've experienced.
- 4. Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.
- 5. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.
- 6. Be discipled by another more spiritually mature believer.

notes:	 	 	

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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### Lesson 25: Philippians I

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?		Completed	
Assignments		No		
Lesson Notes				
Read the entire Book of Philippians through this week in one setting;				
focus on Chapter 1.				
Bible Study				
Chapter 1: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what				
key principles you discovered.				
*Optional Reading				
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date				
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest				
Outreach				
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train				
to win another.				
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.				
Scripture Memory				
• Memorize Phil. 1:6				

What does it mean that "He who has begun a good thingwill complete it"?
Is it true that those who observe a godly life see what God is like? Explain:
Is there anything in your life bringing disunity or division in the church?
Are you living your life as the Gospel for others to see?
Would others say you are selfish? Ambitious? Conceited?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

# Lesson 26: Philippians 2

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments		No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapter 2 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Chapter 2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Phil. 2:12,13		

How can you have the same mind of Christ?
What does it mean that Christ made Himself of no reputation?
Is Jesus truly Lord of your life?
Should your salvation be evident in character and obedience?
Is the process a partnership between God and man?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
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# Lesson 27: Philippians 3

Datas		
Date:		

Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapter 3 (3x this week)		
Dible Charles		
Bible Study		
Chapter 3: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
• Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Phil. 3:10		

Is the observance of the Law necessary for salvation?
What are the 3 signs of a right relationship with God (v. 3):
Why is Paul's testimony so powerful (v. 4-16)? What can you learn from his presentation?
What can you learn from Paul's example of laying down all human achievements?
What does it mean to share in Christ's sufferings?
Are you sincerely "reaching forward" with all your might to run toward the goal?
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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### Lesson 28: Philippians 4

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapter 4 (3x this week) - Congratulationsyou've just finished		
reading Philippians three times!		
Bible Study		
Chapter 4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Phil. 4:8		

If you are not in agreement with someone in the church, is reconciliation important?
Are we commanded to rejoice under all circumstances? How is obedience achieved?
How can you transfer the burden of your soul to God?
Where does character and conduct begin?
Do you trust in your riches?
Why does the Bible say "supply all your NEED" and not "needs"?
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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#### Lesson 29: Colossians I

Date:
Date:

Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments		No
Lesson Notes		
Read the entire Book of Colossians through this week in one setting;		
focus on Chapter 1.		
Bible Study		
Chapter 1: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Col. 1:28		

Read and make 1:9-12 your own prayer. Observations:
Why is this prayer important?
Why is the blood of Christ so important? What did His blood accomplish?
What does it mean to live a life wholly devoted to God? Are you living that way?
Are you diligent in your Bible study, scripture memorization, and meditation?
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### **Lesson 30: Colossians 2**

Date:
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Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 2 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Col. 2:8			

How do we progress in faith (v. 6-10)?
Is there anything in your life which is legalistic (v. 11-13; Rom. 2:25-29; 3:27-31; 10:4)?
Do you truly believe that Christ has freed you from the bondage of legalism?
Jesus' suffering, shed blood, sacrificial death and resurrection provide for what? (see also Eph. 2:13-16; Gal. 3:13,14; 2 Cor. 5:14-17; Rom. 5:6-15; Rev. 12:10,11)
Are you still abiding by rules and regulations as cleansing your spirit?
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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#### Lesson 31: Colossians 3

Date:
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Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 3 (3x this week)			
Riblo Study			
Bible Study			
Chapter 3: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize Col. 3:15,16			

Would others say that your life is a testimony of the life-changing power of the Gospel? Why or who not?
Are there vices in your life that deny God's power? Are there virtues that confirm His power?
Do you choose peace to govern all your relationships? Would others agree?
How can you allow the word of Christ to dwell in you richly?
What should a Christian home look like (3:18-25)?
Would others say you are harsh, nagging, discouraging? If yes, what should you do?
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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#### **Lesson 32: Colossians 4**

Date:
Date:

Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapter 4 (3x this week) - Congratulationsyou've just finished		
reading Colossians three times!		
Bible Study		
Chapter 4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize Col. 4:6		

What 3 characteristics should you maintain toward nonbelievers (4:2-6):
Are you allowing the Word of God to change your heart?
Would others say that you are someone who has a "song of praise" on your lips?
Would you say that your words and actions agree with who Jesus is? Why or why not?
Are you known as a person of prayer? If not repent and ask God to help you right now:
Give a brief status of the two you're praying for:
Give a brief status of the disciple you're praying for:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY, Ask These guestions of each other during your time to get her and during the year.
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### **CORE Guide - Life In Jesus' Name**

### Lesson 33: John 1-2

Date:
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Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapters 1-2 (3x this week)			
Diblo Study			
Bible Study  Charter 1 2 the surround to used and discount the autim shoutons and			
Chapter 1-2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and			
what key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize John 1:1-3			

Jesus was the Word. Are you becoming the Word, too?
New Birth comes only through what means?
Did Jesus know of His mission from the beginning? What does this mean to you?
Jesus called His first disciples from those who followed John. What can you learn from Jesus?
Jesus cleansed the Temple twice. Why?
Jesus "did not commit Himself to them." What can you learn from this?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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#### Lesson 34: John 3-4

Date	

Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapters 3-4 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Chapter 3-4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and		
what key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize John 3:5		

As a disciple of Christ, do you come at "night" like Nicodemus? Explain:
Is "new birth" the same as being "saved"? Explain:
Describe God's love:
God gave first, His best and expected a return. How does this compare to you?
Are you walking in the same fullness of the Holy Spirit as Jesus (v. 3:32-36)?
Does it matter where a person worships? What is true worship?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 35: John 5-6

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments Yes		No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapters 5-6 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Chapter 5-6: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and		
what key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize John 6:47		

Do you want to be made well? What must you do?
Why do those who practice religion hate Jesus' way of life?
Jesus only did what God directed. Are you learning to do the same?
Are you loving your enemies just as Christ (5:24-47)?
Apart from the Resurrection, the feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all 4 Gospels. Why?
Communion (John 6:22-71). Review and write out your understanding of what communion is:
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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#### Lesson 36: John 7-8

Date:
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Assignments	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapters 7-8 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Chapter 7-8: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and		
what key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize John 8:31,32		

Do you accept the entire teachings and claims of Jesus? Why or why not?
Have you discovered that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that was foretold in the OT?
Jesus constantly allowed the Father's presence in His life. Do you?
What makes a person acceptable to God?
Has the work of Christ diminished in any way?
Do others see so much of Christ in you that they, too, are bothered by your presence?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### **Lesson 37: John 9-10**

Date:
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Assignments	Comp	Completed?		npleted?	
Assignments	Yes	No			
Lesson Notes					
Read Chapter 9-10 (3x this week)					
Bible Study					
Chapter 9-10: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and					
what key principles you discovered.					
*Optional Reading					
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date					
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest					
Outreach					
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train					
to win another.					
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.					
Scripture Memory					
• Memorize John 10:10					

Should we assume that all sickness is from sin?
What does it mean to be spiritually blind?
Bible-based prosperity includes the entire person. Explain:
Is biblical prosperity possible apart from total surrender to God?
Are Christians called to reduce poverty, disease, hunger, and injustice?
What is a "hireling"?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:	
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ACCOLINITABILITY: Ask These guestions of each other during your time together and during the week	
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My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.	
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.	

#### Lesson 38: John 11-12

Date:

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 11-12 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 11-12: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and			
what key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize John 12:24-26			

Do you truly believe God is sovereign? Do your actions agree?
What determined Jesus' every action?
John 11:55 is at least the third Passover mentioned. Jesus' ministry covered at least 3 years. How does this compare to today's discipleship processes?
Are you learning to see things as God sees them? What is your standard?
How can you exalt Jesus?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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## Lesson 39: John 13-14

Date:

Assignments	Comp	Completed?		Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No			
Lesson Notes					
Read Chapter 13-14 (3x this week)					
Bible Study					
Chapter 13-14: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters					
and what key principles you discovered.					
*Optional Reading					
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date					
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest					
Outreach					
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train					
to win another.					
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.					
Scripture Memory					
• Memorize John 13:35					

What is the significance of Jesus' washing the disciple's feet?
Why is this principle important?
Is there anything you think of as being beneath your dignity?
Who are those behind the Crucifixion (13:27; 2 Cor. 5:18,19)?
Define Christ-like love:
What does it mean that Jesus' disciples will perform works?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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## Lesson 40: John 15-16

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Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapters 15-16 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 15-16: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters			
and what key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize John 15:7,8			

What is the fruit that God looks for in His people?
What is a "fruitless branch" and what does Jesus say about it (Mth. 15:13)?
What does it mean to abide in Christ?
What does it mean to be a "friend" of Christ Jesus?
What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to unbelievers?
How does the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
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My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

## Lesson 41: John 17-18

Date:		

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 17-18 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 17-18: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters			
and what key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize John 17:3			

What does it mean to "glorify" God?
Are you praying that the disciples you are training are being set apart for the ministry?
Are you praying for the unity of believers and the church?
Why did the troops fall when Jesus said, "I am He."?
Do you depend on political means to bring about spiritual change?
Give a report about the two whom you've been praying for:
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 42: John 19-21

Date:

Acciente		Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapters 19-21 (3x this week) - Congratulationsyou've just			
finished reading John three times!			
Bible Study			
Chapter 19-21: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapters and			
what key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize John 20:21,22			

What can you learn from Jesus' priority of love to the very end of His life?
What does it mean to you "it is finished"?
Review the following prophecies regarding Jesus' death (Ps. 40:8; Num. 21:8,9; Is. 53:4-6; 53:12; Is. 53:9; Ps. 22:16; Is. 53:9):
How does the Resurrection separate Christianity from all other religions?
According to John 20:23, how are you to preach the way of salvation?
The demand of Christ to discipleship is clearly shown in John 21:20-23. Explain:
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 43: James I

Date:	
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Assignments	Completed	
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read the entire Book of James through this week in one setting; focus		
on Chapter 1.		
Bible Study		
Chapter 1: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize James 1:2-4		

Do you view adversity as a means for spiritual growth? Explain:
What purpose does testing provide?
Is a "double-minded" man someone whom you can trust? Are you trustworthy?
Is your salvation leading to service?
What are two characteristics of a "useless" religion (v. 26)?
How can you pursue purity of life?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 44: James 2

Date:

8 i		leted?
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapter 2 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Chapter 2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
• Memorize James 2:26		

Should there be favoritism in Christianity? Do you practice any form of favoritism?
What is the royal law?
Is favoritism a sin?
What is saving faith?
Do our works demonstrate the sincerity of our faith?
Rahab and Abraham were justified on what basis?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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My commitment to living in Holinges. I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to locus' name

#### Lesson 45: James 3

Date:		

A i		leted?
Assignments	Yes	No
Lesson Notes		
Read Chapter 3 (3x this week)		
Bible Study		
Chapter 3: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what		
key principles you discovered.		
*Optional Reading		
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date		
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest		
Outreach		
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train		
to win another.		
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.		
Scripture Memory		
Memorize James 3:17		
• Memorize James 5.17		

Will teachers be held accountable to those they influence?
Why is this principle important?
What does the Bible teach about the tongue?
Is presumption sin? Do you monitor every word you speak? Are you self-controlled? Do your words encourage or discourage?
Common sense produces interpersonal warfare; godly wisdom produces peace. Explain:  Are you motivated in any way by selfish ambition?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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#### Lesson 46: James 4

Date:
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Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 4 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize James 4:7,8			

Are you having a love affair with worldliness? Would your check book agree?
Does God forgive adultery in every form? How?
How can you develop humility (4:1,2,7,8,11)?
If someone claims to be a Christian, yet is arrogant, controlling and proud, what does this suggest?
Do you realize that making plans without consulting God is adultery?
Do you understand that failing to do what God wants you to do is sin?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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#### Lesson 47: James 5

Datas		
Date:		

Assignments		Completed?	
		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 5 (3x this week) - Congratulationsyou've just finished			
reading James three times!			
Bible Study			
Chapter 5: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize James 5:13,14			

Are you prepared today for the coming of the Lord? Why or why not?
Do you keep your word? Are you a person of integrity?
When sick or suffering do you follow God's prescription for healing (5:13-18)?
What does it mean to "confess your trespasses to one another"? (see also Mth. 5:23,24)
Is there any unforgiveness, unresolved conflict, or bitterness in your life? What does the Bible tell us to do?
Are you quick to confess your sin? Do you slander anyone? Do you discredit anyone?
How is your relationship developing with your new student:

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
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ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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## Lesson 48: 2 Timothy I

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Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments		No	
Lesson Notes			
Read the entire Book of 2 Timothy through this week in one setting;			
focus on Chapter 1.			
Bible Study			
Chapter 1: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize 2 Tim. 1:13			

Are you guarding the Gospel as a sacred deposit committed to you?
Are you practicing your spiritual gift(s)?
Are you depending upon the Holy Spirit or your own resolve for ministry?
Is your conscience clear before God and man?
Are you devoted to the study and application of God's Word?
Are you being persecuted for living a godly life? Why or why not?
Have you set a date to launch your CORE Group?

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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## Lesson 49: 2 Timothy 2

Date:
Date:

Assignments	Comp	Completed?			
Assignments	Yes	No			
Lesson Notes					
Read Chapter 2 (3x this week). Suggest reading "A Testament Of Devo-					
tion" (www.renovare.org)					
Bible Study					
Chapter 2: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what					
key principles you discovered.					
*Optional Reading					
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date					
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest					
Outreach					
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train					
to win another.					
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.					
Scripture Memory					
• Memorize 2 Tim. 2:15					

What is the pattern for the preservation and transmission of the Gospel?			
Have you realized that your Christian duty is like that of a soldier, an athlete, and a farmer? Explain			
How is suffering a condition of blessing (2:8-13)?			
Discuss what is presented in 2 Tim. 2:13 (Mth. 10:33):			
How can you learn to "rightly divide the Word"?			
Are you known as righteous in character and conduct?			
How is CORE Group launch coming?			

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
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My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

## Lesson 50: 2 Timothy 3

Date	

Assignments	Comp	Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 3 (3x this week)			
Bible Study			
Chapter 3: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize 2 Tim. 3:16,17			

Are you refusing to be drawn into theological quarreling?				
Are you learning to gently persuade others to godliness? How?				
Can you discern between religion and true spiritual power? How?				
Do you hold the absolute authority of the Bible as God's Word inspired by the Holy Spirit?				
Are you absolutely submitted to God's Word?				
Are you ministering your spiritual gift in boldness and in love?				
How is your CORE Group developing?				

Lesson Notes/Prayer Requests:
ACCOUNTABILITY: Ask These questions of each other during your time together and during the week.
USING A SCALE FROM 1-5 (1=VERY LITTLE, 5=VERY MUCH), THIS WEEK I HAVE PURPOSELY FOCUSED ON:
Being empowered by the Holy Spirit - daily, moment-by-moment, I'm learning to walk in the Spirit.
My commitment to the Great Commandment - I am blameless before God and there are no known offenses in my life.
My commitment to the Great Commission - I am bringing others to Christ and discipling others in Christ.
My commitment to Spiritual Disciplines: each day I am in God's Word, prayer, praise, confession, and meditation.
My commitment to my Local Church & Church Authority - this week I served a ministry within my church/tithed.
My commitment to Personal Ministry - this week, I served in a ministry outside the church.
My commitment to Godly Stewardship - this week, my life, talents, gifts, and money were used for God's Kingdom.
My commitment to living a Quiet Life - I am not caught up in the busyness of this world - I am at peace.
My commitment to living in Holiness - I have not been involved in anything that would bring harm to Jesus' name.

Congratulations! You've invested more than 80-hours together in your CORE Group, thoroughly read and digested seven books of the Bible, maintained a year-long journal, memorized over 50 key scriptures, written and used your testimony, learned to discern various levels of spiritually maturity, learned to effectively present the Gospel, read through the Book of Proverbs 12 times (optional), read through such devotionals as "Wild At Heart", "Practicing His Presence", "My Utmost For His Highest", and/or "A Testament Of Devotion" (as presented by the CORE leader and as an option), prayed for and evangelized two converts and began training your own student, developed life-long relationships, and have launched your own CORE Group with three more CORE Groups soon to follow. All in one year...now that's called the Power of One - Give God the glory!

At this point, I would love to hear from you and learn how this tool has helped you. Please write to me at: admin@coregroups.org or visit our web site at www.coregroups.org to subscribe to our newsletter, read about other CORE Group experiences, or to see other materials available for your CORE Group. Our Father bless you as you continue down this incredible adventure called the journey!

-Doug Morrell

#### Lesson 51: 2 Timothy 4

Date	

Accimonocoto		Completed?	
Assignments	Yes	No	
Lesson Notes			
Read Chapter 4 (3x this week) - Congratulationsyou've just finished			
reading 2 Timothy three times			
Bible Study			
Chapter 4: be prepared to read and discuss the entire chapter and what			
key principles you discovered.			
*Optional Reading			
* Read a Proverb each day corresponding with the day's date			
* Read today's devotional such as Utmost For His Highest			
Outreach			
• Pray for two people whom you can win to Christ and train			
to win another.			
Pray for one person whom you can begin discipling.			
Scripture Memory			
• Memorize 2 Tim. 4:2			

Do you recognize that ministry is service? Explain:					
Are you boldly and courageously sharing the Gospel?					
Are you holding firmly to the truth you have received?					
Are you training others to communicate truth exactly and accurately?					
Are you prepared at any moment to proclaim God's Word?					
How are the two converts you've been praying for coming along the journey?					
ine the the content you to been playing for coming the journey.					

Go, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...God is with you!

#### **CORE FORMS**

#### Covenant

A covenant is a promise made to another in the presence of God. Its purpose is to indicate your intention to make yourself available to one another for the fulfillment of the purposes of the CORE Group.

- 1. The purpose of our CORE Group is know God and make Him known.
- 2. Our goals will be to commit to God's Word, the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, fellowship, communion, prayer, one another, and to begin praying for two unsaved people and one person I can begin discipling.

_	O	-	C	
3.	We will meet for		weeks, a	after which we will commit to launching our own CORE Groups.
4.	We will meet from _		to	and we will strive to start on time and end on time.
5.	We will meet at			
(p	lace).			

- 6. I agree to the following ground rules for our CORE Group:
  - Priority: While I am in the CORE, I will give the Group meetings priority;
  - Participation: Everyone is encouraged to participate and no one dominates;
  - Respect: Everyone has the right to his or her own opinion, and all question will be encouraged and respected;
  - Confidentiality: Anything said in the meeting is never to be repeated outside the meeting without the expressed consent of the other person in advance;
  - Life Change: We will regularly assess our own life change goals and encourage one another in our pursuit of the Great Commandment, the Great Commission, and of Christ-likeness;
  - Evangelism: I am praying for two unsaved people and for one disciple;
  - Care & Support: Permission is given to call upon each other at any time especially in times of crisis. The CORE Group will provide for each CORE member;
  - Accountability: We agree to let the CORE Group hold us accountable to the commitments which each of make in whatever loving ways we decide upon;
  - Mission: We will do everything in our power to launch another CORE Group;
  - Ministry: The CORE Group will encourage one another to volunteer and serve in ministry, and to support the mission of our local church, our church leadership and authority, and to support the church with our tithes and offerings.

#### **CORE Group Leader Application**

Please answer the following questions about yourself:

Name: Address: Home Phone: Work Phone: What is your marital status: How long have you lived in the area? Are you a member of our church? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how long have you been a member? \_\_\_\_\_ Why did you become a member of our church? \_\_\_\_\_ What activities have you been involved in at our church?\_\_\_\_\_ Have you been in a small group, life group, cell group or CORE Group before? Explain your experi-Why do you want to be a CORE Group leader? Write a brief history of your relationship with Jesus Christ (your testimony):

## **CORE Group Leader Goals**

Write down your goals for your CORE Group. Later, your CORE Group Director or pastor will talk with you about how things went in your efforts to achieve these goals.

Name of group:
Date:
1. How many people do you have in your current CORE Group?
2. What is your target date for multiplying a new CORE Group?
3. Regarding outreach, how many new people are you planning on inviting to "come see" your
4. How are your CORE Group members doing with praying for two and discipling one?
5. What is your strategy for inviting new CORE Group members into your Group?
6. How many people do you envision bringing to faith in Christ Jesus through your CORE? 7. In what ways do you see your CORE Group benefitting the lives of the CORE Group members?
8. How will you know that you've produced disciples who can make disciples?
9. What is your plan for developing new leadership from within your CORE Group?
10. What are your long-term goals for your involvement in CORE Groups?

# **CORE Group Member Application**

Please answer the following questions about yourself:	
Name:	
Address:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell:	
What is your marital status:	
How long have you lived in the area?	
Are you a member of our church?	
If so, how long have you been a member?	
What activities have you been involved in at our church?	
Have you been in a small group, life group, cell group or CORE Groence:	oup before? Explain your experi
How did you hear about CORE Groups at our church? Write a brief history of your relationship with Jesus Christ (your tes	timony):

# **CORE Group Questionnaire**

Please answer the following questions about your CORE Group experience. By completing the questionnaire you will improve the CORE Group Process.

Your Name:	
	RE:
Date:	
1. As I see it	, the purpose and goal of our CORE Group was:
2. We achiev	ed our goals:
completely	almost completely somewhat we missed entirely
3. In my opin	nion:
Yes No	Our CORE members have become good friends.
Yes No	We have sufficient Bible study and discussion time.
Yes No	There is meaningful prayer time in our meeting.
Yes No	Our CORE has activities outside our meeting time.
Yes No	We invite others to "come see" our group.
Yes No	We have worked on a ministry project together.
4. The most	valuable thing about the CORE experience for me:
5. If I were to	o suggest one thing the CORE might change, it would be:
6. My CORE	experience has influenced my relationship with Jesus Christ in these areas:
7. Would you	recommend CORE to a friend? Why or why not?

# **CORE Group Report Form**

Name Of CO	DRE:	
1. Members:	:	
2. How ofter	n do you contact your members between meetings:	
Yes No	several times each week	
Yes No	weekly	
Yes No	twice a month	
Yes No	monthly	
3. What day	of the week does your CORE meet? When does your CO	RE meeting start and end?
4. How muc	th time are you spending on the following:	
• Bible		
• Fellowship	)	
	on	
• Outreach _		
5. What is ye	our CORE's ministry project?	
6. Is your CO	ORE ready to multiply? Why or why not?	
7. What effo	orts have you made to contact perspective CORE Group m	embers?
8. On a scale	e from 1 (horrible) to 10 (WOW!), rate your last CORE Gr	oup experience:
9. Write out	any praises, concerns, or prayer requests:	

# **Spirit Empowered Discipleship:**

The secret to imitating Christ - becoming His disciple - is found in Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the Spirit." Being filled with the Holy Spirit is both an initial experience and an ongoing experience of God that takes place as we yield our lives completely to His control, confessing and repenting of any conscious sin. We also open our lives to the Holy Spirit when we spend time with God, praying and reading His Word. As "being filled with the Spirit" becomes a normal, moment-by-moment part of our daily walk with God, gracious virtues known as "fruit of the Spirit" will be produced in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23).

Review each and discuss how you are growing in each area:

- Put off your old self (Eph. 4:22)
- Be made new in the attitude of your minds (Eph. 4:23)
- Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:24)
- Put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor (Eph. 4:25)
- In your anger do not sin (Eph. 4:26)
- Do not give the devil a foothold (Eph. 4:27)
- Steal no longer, work, do something useful with your own hands, that you might may have something to share with those in need (Eph. 4:28)
- Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Eph. 4:29)
- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30)
- Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice (Eph. 4:31)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you (Eph. 4:32)
- There must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people (Eph. 5:3)
- Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving (Eph. 5:4)
- Let no one deceive you with empty words (Eph. 5:6)
- Do not be partners with deceivers (Eph. 5:7)
- Find out what pleases the Lord (Eph. 5:10)
- Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them (Eph. 5:11)
- Be very careful how you live not as unwise but as wise (Eph. 5:15)
- Make the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16)
- Do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is (Eph. 5:17)
- Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord (Eph. 5:19)
- Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:20)
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Eph. 5:21)
- Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord (Eph. 5:22)
- As the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything (Eph. 5:24)
- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her (Eph. 5:25)
- Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband (Eph. 5:33)

- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right (Eph. 6:1)
- Honor your father and mother (Eph. 6:2)
- Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4)
- Servants, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ (Eph. 6:5)
- Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men (Eph. 6:7)
- Masters, treat your servants in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him (Eph. 6:9)
- Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (Eph. 6:10)
- Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6:11)
- Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand (Eph. 6:13)
- Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place (Eph. 6:14)
- Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Eph. 6:16)
- Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph. 6:17)
- Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests; be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Eph. 6:18)
- Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love (Eph. 6:24)

# Pastor's Addendum: Three Strand Church Strand One: The Sunday Corporate Gathering

Our corporate gatherings are similar to Jesus' teaching of the "multitudes." Most churches have done well with Sunday worship. Here are a few additional thoughts for consideration:

- Each corporate meeting aimed at the instruction, training, or worship of Christians together. Entire classes or Sunday schools should be designed to equip the saints, of all ages, to do the work of the ministry and to bring them into Christ-like maturity. The work of expounding and applying the Scriptures should begin with the pulpit and continue in every class, in every gathering, and in the homes of Christians. Emphasis should be laid upon confronting life as it is really lived in the trenches of life, so that the insights of Scripture can be applied to real situations, and so that believers can discover how to draw upon the resurrection power of an ever present Lord. Christians should be taught to welcome contact with those in the world but to live apart from the world.
- An enhanced Children's Church experience for grades Pre-K through grade 5. Noted Christian researcher George Barna recently reported, "What you believe by the time you are 13 is what you will die believing. Of course, there are many individuals who go through life-changing experiences in which their beliefs are altered, or instances in which a concentrated body of religious teaching changes one or more core beliefs. However, most people's minds are made up and they believe they know what they need to know spiritually by age 13. Much of their focus in absorbing religious teaching after that age is to gain reassurance and confirmation of their existing beliefs rather than to glean new insights that will redefine their foundations." We must understand that those individuals who will become the church's leaders two decades from now are probably already active in church programs today. For these reasons, it is critical to build upon existing and sound foundations, but it is also necessary to enhance/add a thorough discipleship/worship experience for this age group. This should happen simultaneously with the Sunday morning worship experience.
- Student discipleship ministry for middle schoolers and high schoolers. Continue to add to the work that has been well begun as a result of your youth group efforts. CORE Leader Teams can augment youth Bible study and fellowship opportunities to address the discipleship, fellowship, and service needs for students in middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12). The most obvious shift for most churches would be from a traditional Sunday School program, as the church has known it for the recent past, to a more purpose-driven discipleship process.
- Adults and teenagers should find their Bible study opportunities in the small groups and children should get their discipleship opportunity in the enhanced children's church.

#### **Strand Two: The Small Group Network**

For Jesus, this was the 12; Small Group Network (these are also called cells, focus, home, life, or discipleship groups)

• Each qualified/commissioned person (especially elders, pastors, and staff persons) should lead or co-lead a small group. These groups should either begin or augment already existing small groups to enable every adult connected with the church to have the opportunity to be in a small group setting. Small groups provide for a biblically centered fellowship and relationship development in a way that no other setting can provide. When Jesus wanted to model this process, He gathered 12 men around Him.

#### **Strand Three: CORE Discipleship Groups**

For Jesus, this was the "inner circle"; CORE Discipleship Groups

• This grassroots discipleship level is seen in the "inner group" of Christ (Peter, James and John) and produces the basis of successive leadership development. These one-on-one, one-on-two, or one-on-three CORE Groups represent the most powerful tool available to the church. This tool empowers and models Jesus' call to discipleship at a foundational level. These groups meet once each week for an hour or two, but because of the intense relationships, accountability, indepth study of God's Word, prayer, and transparency, those in CORE Groups spend more time in communication with each other throughout the week (a natural occurrence). These groups are gender specific. There is no "curriculum" per se; it is a "father or mother" in the faith who intentionally, relationally, and spiritually births/nurtures a "son or daughter" in the faith until Christ is formed in them. They, in turn, are equipped and released to repeat the process. The actual process involves the developing and maintaining of lifelong relationships, intense reading and application of God's Word, focused prayer, and mutual accountability.

#### **Topical Basic Training Lessons:**

#### **Bearing Real Fruit**

2 Peter 1:5-8

#### **Body Life**

1 Cor. 1:10; 3:1-4; 5:1-8; 12:12-27; 14:26-40 2 Tim. 1:8,13,14; 2:2,3-7,4:2 1 John 1:5-10; 2:18,19

#### Conversion:

Acts 2:38-41; 3:19,20; 4:12; 10:47,48; 22:16

#### Dealing With Sin

Rom. 6:11-14,16-23; 7:17,20 Galatians 5:13; 6:1,2

#### **Devotion:**

Mth. 6:5-8,9-13; 22:34-40; 26:26-29 Mark 12:28-34; 14:22-25 Luke 11:2-4; 10:25-28,38-42; 18:1-8; 22:15-20 John 4:21-24; 6:53-58; 12:2-8; 15:1-8 Rom. 10:17; 12:1,2; 15:4 1 Cor. 10:6-12; 11:20-29; 14:13-22 Phillippians 3:7-9,12-19 Col. 1:25-29; 3:16,17; 4:2-6 Heb. 2:1-4; 3:1; 9:11-15; 10:22,25; 11:6; 13:15 2 Peter 1:3,4; 3:1,2 Rev. 2:4; 3:15,19

#### Discernment

2 Peter 2:1-3,18-22 Jude 8-22

#### **Discipleship:**

Mth. 8:18-22; 10:17-20,34-36,37-39; 16:24-26; 28:18-20 Luke 9:23-25,57-62; 12:51-53; 14:26,27 Phillippians 2:2,5-13,20,21; 4:8,9 Heb. 5:12-14; 6:11,12; 12:1-11; 13:7

#### Faith

John 10:37,38; 11:40; 13:17; 14:6,7,12-14; 16:24 Acts 3:21; 14:3 Rom. 1:16; 4:17,18,20-25; 6:1-10; 15:1-3 1 Cor. 4:20; 15:58 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:7; 11:3,4 Galatians 1:6-9; 2:16,19-21; 3:1-11,23-29; 6:9 Phillippians 1:6,21-24,29; 4:4-7,11,13 1 Thess. 1:5; 2:13; 4:17 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:1,2 2 Tim. 3:16; 4:5 Hebrews 2:14-18; 3:6; 4:12-16; 10:23; 13:11-13 1 Peter 1:6,7,10-12; 4:1,2-16 2 Peter 1:4,16-21; 3:11-13 1 John 3:1,2,21-24; 4:4; 5:4,14,15 Rev. 1:3; 2:10,11,13; 2:13; 13:10; 14:12

#### **Godliness:**

Mth. 5:17-20,31,32; 19:4-6; 15:1-9 Mark 7:1-13; 10:6-12 Luke 12:47,48; 16:18 John 7:24; 12:32; 15:9-14; 17:20-23; 18:36 1 Cor. 3:17; 6:1-11; 7:10-16; 9:11-14; 13:1-8 2 Cor. 2:14-17; 5:10,15-17; 8:21 Galatians 3:26-29; 4:19,20; 5:1-6; 6:7-10 Ephesians 4:1; 5:1,2; 5:18-20; 6:18-20 Phillippians 1:27; 2:3,4 Col. 1:10,11 1 Thess. 1:3; 3:10; 4:1,11,12; 5:6,16-22 2 Thess. 1:4; 1:11; 3:6-15 1 Tim. 2:9,10; 3:14-16; 4:7,8,12 2 Tim. 1:3; 2:15; 3:12 Titus 2:11-15; 3:1,2,8,9-11 Philemon 6, 8-16, 22 1 Peter 2:12,21,23; 3:9,15; 4:9 2 Peter 2:9,19; 3:14-18 2 John 4-10 3 John 2, 4-11

#### God's Kingdom:

Mth. 11:12-14; 13:44-52; 18:1-5 Mark 9:33-37 Luke 9:46-48; 16:16; 17:20,21

#### **Growing In The Spirit**

John 3:3; 14:25,26; 16:8-15 Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8,13; 10:44,45; 13:9 Rom. 8:1-11,13-17 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 14:1-5 2 Cor. 3:2,3; 3:17,18; 10:3-5 Galatians 3:14; 5:16-26

#### **Holiness:**

Mth. 5:13-16; 6:24; 10:28; 22:15-22 Mark 9:50; 12:13-17 Luke 11:33; 12:4,5; 14:34,35; 16:13; 20:20-26 1 Cor. 1:25-29; 2:13-16; 7:29-31; 15:33 2 Cor. 1:12; 2:9; 6:14-18 Ephesians 4:17 Col. 2:16-23; 3:1-11 2 Thess. 2:13 1 Tim. 4:3-5 1 Peter 2:1,11; 4:2,7,8 1 John 2:9-11,15-17; 5:21 Rev. 3:16-18

#### **Humility:**

Mth. 5:38-48; 18:21-35 Luke 6:27-30,32-36; 14:7-11; 17:3,4; 18:9-14 2 Cor. 10:17,18; 12:7-10; 13:5,6 Galatians 6:3-5 James 4:1,2,7,8,11,13-17 Rev. 3:1-5

#### **Impartiality**

James 2:1-9

#### Leadership

Acts 2:42-47; 4:24-31; 6:1-6; 12:5; 13:1-3; 14:14-18; 16:1-5; 20:27-32 2 Cor. 1:28,29; 2:2,3,11-14; 3:5,6; 4:1-6,7-15 1 Thess. 2:5-9 1 Tim. 2:1-6; 3:1-13; 4:11,13; 5:3-16,19,22; 6:3-5,17-19 Titus 1:5-9,10-16; 2:1-10

#### **Obedience:**

Mth. 6:22,23; 13:1-23; 26:39 Mark 4:1-20; 14:36 Luke 1:38; 11:34-36; 8:4-15; 22:42 John 2:5; 5:16-23; 7:17; 12:47-50; 14:15-24 2 Thess. 3:14 Heb. 4:1-10; 5:8-10; 12:25; 13:17,18 1 Peter 1:2,14; 1:22; 2:3-6

#### **Patience**

James 1:1-5; 5:7,8

#### **Purity**

1 Thess. 4:3-8 Rev. 2:14,20; 14:4,5

#### **Relationships:**

Mth. 5:21,22,24,25; 6:14; 7:1-5 Mark 11:25 Luke 12:57,58; 6:37-42 Ephesians 4:25-27; 5:21-6:4; 6:5-8 Col. 3:5-15 1 Peter 3:1-7; 4:8

#### **Respecting Authority**

1 Thess. 5:12,13 1 Peter 2:13-18; 5:5-7

#### Serving God

James 1:22-25

#### **Sharing Christ**

1 John 1:3,4; 2:24,25; 3:7-15; 4:7-19

#### Speech

Ephesians 4:29; 5:3-7 James 3:1-2; 3:9-12

#### Stewardship:

Mth. 6:19-24; 19:21-26 Mark 10:21-27 Luke 12:33,34,13-15; 16:1-13; 18:22-27 Ephesians 4:28 James 1:10; 5:1-6

#### **Victory**

Ephesians 6:10-17 Rev. 12:11

#### Wisdom:

Mth. 7:13,14,15-20,21-23; 15:10-20; 20:20-28
Mark 7:14-23; 10:35-37
Luke 6:43-45,46; 13:23-30; 16:14,15; 22:24-27
Rom. 1:18-23; 2:24; 8:7,8; 13:8-10
Ephesians 5:15
Col. 2:8,18-23; 3:18-22
2 Thess. 2:9,10
1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12
2 Tim. 2:14,24-26; 3:5
1 John 2:29; 3:4-9,11-15,16-18; 4:1-6; 5:1-8,16,17
Rev. 2:7,9-11,17,29; 3:6,13,22

#### Worship:

Jude 24, 25

## Whatever It Takes

I am a part of the body committed to doing "whatever it takes."

I have Holy spirit power. The die has been cast. I've stepped over the line.

I am out of the comfort zone. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of Jesus. I won't look back, let up, slow down, or back away. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame vision, mundane talking, chincy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, and my mission clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, or burn up till I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up and stayed up for the cause of Jesus Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus.

I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops.

And when He comes to get His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me, because I have dedicated my life to be a part of the body committed to doing "whatever it takes."

-author unknown

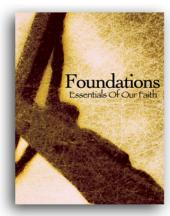
CORE Discipleship is a faith-based, Christian organization. Our mission is to help you make disciples of Jesus. We provide a simple and reproducible discipleship process based on Jesus'"inner circle" or "core" comprised of Peter;

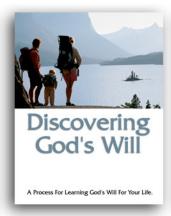
James, and John. We also provide discipleship training and discipleship resources available as free downloadable eBooks. CORE is a Biblical process that can help develop an unbelievable spiritual discipleship community where no one stands alone, struggles alone, develops alone or grows up alone.

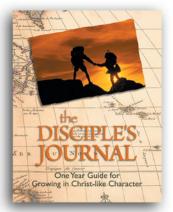
May God grant that we become His disciples by His grace,

Doug & Suzie Morrell CORE Discipleship

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