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# BASICS

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Book 1:  
Jesus the King



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Wholistic Discipleship for  
Brothers And sisters Christ's service

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**harvest**

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## BASICS

Wholistic Discipleship for Brothers And Sisters In Christ's Service  
Book I: Jesus the King

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the focus of BASICS I.

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who have created, translated, and used BASICS I.

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# Welcome to BASICS

Dear Disciplex:

Welcome to BASICS, a unique discipleship curriculum for followers of Jesus Christ—for Brothers And Sisters In Christ's Service! BASICS is a training tool for pastors and lay leaders to use as they guide new—or mature—believers in the practice of Jesus' commands in all areas of life.

BASICS is unique in several ways:

- BASICS is wholistic. It emphasizes the commands of Jesus for all areas of life, including the physical, spiritual, and social.

BASICS is communicated in small, informal groups and in personal relationships between "disciplers" and "disciples." BASICS helps you be a mentor—a living example of what you communicate.

BASICS is built on the teachings of Jesus. Other portions of Scripture are used to supplement Jesus' teachings. There is a strong emphasis on Jesus' teachings on the Kingdom of God, our relationship to it, and our responsibilities in it.

- BASICS is practical. You will encourage your disciples as they discover how they can apply the principles of Christian discipleship in all areas of their lives.
- BASICS provides a model and instructions, so that you can design additional lessons to help your disciples grow in Christian maturity.

In this book, you will find:

**BASICS I lessons:** Eleven discipleship lessons, complete and ready for use

**Discipler's Guide:** Materials to help you lead your disciples in discovery and application of biblical principles. This section includes:

Discovery Learning: Helpful suggestions for disciplers

BASICS Lesson Format: Directions for using each section of any BASICS lesson

- About BASICS: The history, methods, contents, and intended uses for this discipleship series

Harvest has many other training materials, including:

BASICS Book II—The Image of God

BASICS Book III—The Church

The Church as a Window: Seed Project Stories from Around the World  
(on VHS video or DVD)

Wholistic Ministry Training series

For information or to access downloadable training and discipleship materials, visit Harvest's web site at [www.harvestfoundation.org](http://www.harvestfoundation.org).

May the Lord bless you as you obey Him, making disciples and teaching them to obey all that He commands.

Your Brothers And Sisters In Christ's Service,

*The Staff of Harvest*



# Discipler's & Disciple's Edition

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If you are a DISCIPLER, read the Discipler's Guide, starting on page 93.

If disciples do not have their own copies of BASICS, make photocopies of the Study Guides, starting on page 113. Hand them out once you begin the Study section of each lesson. For large groups, you may want to make enlarged photocopies of the illustrations.

If disciples have their own copies of BASICS . . .

Ask them to open to the Study section of the lesson.

Avoid referring to Key Ideas during discussion times.

Key Ideas are for you as you prepare, lead discovery, and summarize. Encourage learning by discovery. Allow the disciples to discover biblical principles for themselves.

If you are a DISCIPLE, please use this book as directed by your DISCIPLER. This book will be a reference for you to go into deeper study of the BASICS lessons, in addition to serving as a study guide for the group lessons. Please keep in mind the following:

You will learn the most by using the book less when you first study a lesson.

Discover answers as you read Scripture, discuss, reflect, pray, and apply what you learn. You will remember and treasure what you discover and apply to action.

Do not refer to the Key Ideas section until all discussion is completed. Use your book to make notes, study between sessions, and, eventually, disciple others.



**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review mankind's need to be saved from sin and eternal death.
- Understand that salvation is available to all who trust in God's provision of Jesus as their Savior.
- See that saved people are changed people.
- Begin to respond with gratitude for this gift of salvation.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Prayer



## Introduction

## Lead Exercise

**Role Play:** Mark two lines (A&B) on the floor, representing the borders of a deep gulf. Make the lines so far apart that people cannot jump from one to the other. Place one person behind Line A and two or more people behind Line B. The person behind Line A invites the persons behind Line B to come over, to enjoy fellowship together. Persons behind Line B discuss among themselves and try different ways to reach Line A. They fail.



Role Play

## Illustrations

At this time, show disciples Figures 1.1 and 1.2, provided at the end of this lesson.



## Suggested Discovery Questions

- What do you see in the role play and in Figure 1.1?
- Why can't the people cross over to the other side?

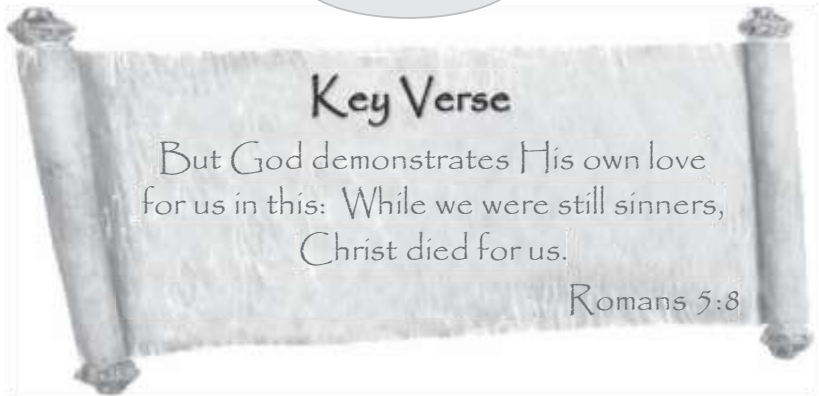
Role Play: The gulf is too large; there is no way across.

- Figure 1.1: A boy stands on one side of a large gulf. A father stands on the other side and invites the boy to join him, but there is no way for the boy to cross the large gulf.

## Bridge

The Bible teaches us that God loves us and wants us to be able to love and enjoy Him forever, but there is an impassable gulf that keeps us from coming to a holy God. In today's lesson we will review what that gulf is, what God has done about it, and how we can respond.

### Study



## Discovery Questions

- In this verse, who loves us? How was this love demonstrated?
- What did Christ do for us?
- How do you feel when you think about all this?

## Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Isaiah 59:1-2*

- What separates people from God?
- Is God able to save us?

*Romans 3:23*

*Romans 6:23*

- Who has sinned?
- “God’s glory,” referred to in Romans 3:23, expresses God’s perfect character. Do you know anyone who is as perfect as God? Do you know anyone who hasn’t sinned?
- What is the penalty or cost of sin?
- Think of the gulf in the picture and in the role play. How is it like sin?

*John 3:16*

- What did God do to keep us from the punishment of sin?
- Why did God do this for us?

*Romans 5:6-10*

- How did Jesus take away our sin?
- Why did Jesus do this for us? (Was it because of our good behavior?)

*Romans 10:9-11*

- What do we have to do to be saved?

*James 4:17*

*1 John 1:8,9*

- How does James 4:17 describe sin? What does this mean to you?
- If you are saved, are you able to commit sin?
- If you sin, what should you do?

*1 John 4:19*

*John 14:23*

- What is our response to God and Jesus for loving us?
- According to John 14:23, what will we do if we love Jesus?
- If we are saved, can we cross the gulf shown in the picture and role play? Can we have loving fellowship with God and Jesus?



## Reinforcement

### Exercises



- **Song:** Together, sing a song which illustrates salvation.
- **Role Play:** Have disciples re-enact the first role play. This time, the people behind Line (B) realize they need a bridge to cross the gulf. They find Christ as the bridge, and they each cross the gulf. Allow opportunity for creativity.



### Role Play



**Illustration:** Review Figure 1.2. (*Note: The setting is the same, but there is a bridge across the gulf. The bridge is the cross of Christ.*)

### Memorization

*Romans 5:8*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- God loves us and calls us into a relationship with Him through Christ.

Sin, like a deep gulf, separates people from God. It is impossible for them to cross the gulf on their own.

- Everyone has sinned. By ourselves, we cannot become righteous in God's sight.

Sin is not honoring or obeying God, turning away from His love and Word. It is falling short of His perfect character, not living as He made us to live.

The penalty for sin is death—including eternal death.

Jesus is God's Son. He died and shed His blood in our place to pay the penalty for our sin. This is a gift from God, because of His love and mercy. This gift is called "salvation." Now, instead of the death penalty, we can have eternal life.

- We have salvation by believing in Jesus, God's Son. Christ's death for us is like a bridge across the gulf. We can come to God and enjoy fellowship with Him.
- Our response to God's love is to love and obey Him.



### Review of Key Ideas





## Application

*Note: These questions are relevant to believers. If some of your learners are not yet followers of Christ, refer to the “Disciples” section on page 110.*

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses

- People are thankful when they are rescued from impossible situations! If we were rescued from danger, how could we thank our rescuers?
  - Express our thanks in words. Give them credit for rescuing us.
  - Help them if they ever needed us.
  
- If people are rescued from the bondage of sin and the penalty of sin (death), how can they thank their rescuer?
  - Thank Jesus by obedience, love, and service.
  - Tell others about their rescue, giving credit to Jesus.
  
- What is something specific and realistic that you will do this week to thank Christ, your rescuer?
  - Each day, reflect on how we have been rescued and what we have been rescued from.
  - Memorize and meditate daily on the Key Verse, thanking Him in prayer for what He has done.
  - Show our love for God this week through an act of obedience, doing something that we would not normally do (like forgiving someone who has hurt us).
  - Tell someone this week about our rescue and Rescuer.



## Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do and when

Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

## Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

## Bridge Question

- Some say that a person who has been saved has been “born again.” If someone is “born again,” does he get a “new life”? What is a Christian’s new life?



Prayer

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the next session.)**



# Application Plan

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*Figure 1.1*



*Figure 1.2*

# The Privileges of the New Life in Christ

LESSON

2

**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Understand that Christians are “born again,” have new life, and become new persons in Christ.
- Begin to understand and enjoy the new privileges of salvation—new life, new family, new nature, and new Spirit.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Prayer



**Review**

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.





## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

Silent role play (pantomime): Do not say what the lesson is about. Explain that no words will be used. Ask everyone to look for meaning and symbolism in the role play.

1) Assign roles:

- “Old Life” (OL) (*the same person also plays “New Life” - NL*)
- “Birth Certificate Giver” (BCG)

2) Prepare props:

- Short rope
- 2 empty chairs, facing the audience (*2 arms' lengths apart*)
- 1 empty paper or plastic bag (*on floor, by one chair*)
- 1 large, official-looking piece of paper for Birth Certificate (*See Figure 2.2 for sample.*)
- 4 full but closed paper or plastic bags (*on the floor, by the other chair.*) (*Note: Fill the four sacks with crumpled newspapers or anything else available, then close them up.*)

3) Act out the pantomime:

OL: Enters. Is tired and depressed. Hands are tied together with rope. Slumps into the chair by the empty sack. Searches sack, finds nothing. Sighs, stares at floor.

BCG: Enters. Carries important document. Convinces OL to take birth certificate. (*OL stands.*) Removes rope and moves OL to chair surrounded by full bags.

NL (*Same person as OL.*) Stands by the new chair. Is happy rope is gone. Sees full bags. BCG gives one bag at a time to NL. NL accepts each bag, keeps bags closed, expresses interest, appreciation, excitement, and thankfulness.



## Illustrations

At this time show the disciples Figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3, provided at the end of this lesson.



## Suggested Discovery Questions

- ❑ What do you see in the illustration and in the pantomime? What does each person symbolize? The rope? Empty bag? Birth certificate? Cross? Sunrise?

Figure 2-1: A man sitting down, chained, lost, dejected, empty bag at feet, symbolizing a person without Christ.

Figure 2-2: A cross, sunrise, and birth certificate, symbolizing salvation and new birth.

Figure 2-3: Same man standing with full bags, no chains, happy, saved, grateful, symbolizing a person with new life in Christ.

The pantomime is similar.

- ❑ What do you think could be in the full sacks?

## Bridge

- In John 3:3 Jesus says we must be born again. When Christians are born again, they receive new life and become new persons. In this lesson we will look at four of the many privileges God gives to new persons in Christ. The sacks represent these new privileges.



## Study

### Key Verse

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come

2 Corinthians 5:17

### Discovery Questions

- Put this verse into your own words.
- Can you think of examples of “new creation” from nature, where something changes its form or appearance?  
(*Possibilities: Caterpillars become butterflies; water freezes or becomes steam; babies grow up; seeds become grain.*)
- How do persons become new creations in Christ? In what ways will they change?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*John 10:9,11*

*Galatians 2:20*

- What kind of life does Jesus give?
- Who lives through us? How?
- Think of the first full sack as God’s gift of new life. How do you feel when you think about having this new life in Christ?  
(*Suggestion: List answers given.*)

*John 1:12*

- How are Christians related to God? Why?
- How are Christians related to each other?
- Think of the second full sack as God’s gift of a new family. How do you feel when you consider that you are a child of God?  
(*Suggestion: List responses.*)



- *Ephesians 2:1-3*
  - *2 Peter 1:2-4*
- According to Ephesians 2:3, what was our nature before we were saved?
  - According to 2 Peter 1:4, what is our nature after we were saved? (*Note* The “divine nature” is God’s nature.)
  - Think of the third full sack as God’s gift of a new nature. How do you feel when you think that God has given you His new nature? (*Suggestion: List responses.*)

*John 14:16,17*

*Galatians 5:22,23*

- Jesus promised His disciples “another Helper.” Who is the Helper?
- Where does the Holy Spirit live (“abide”)?
- According to Galatians 5:22 and 23, what does the Spirit offer God’s children?
- Think of the fourth full sack as God’s gift of a new Spirit. How do you feel when you consider that the Holy Spirit is given to you? (*Suggestion: List responses.*)

## Reinforcement

### Exercise

Song: Sing a song from 2 Corinthians 5:17 (like “I’m a New Creation”) or Galatians 2:20 (like “I’ve Been Crucified with Christ” or “It’s No Longer I That Liveth”).



Song

### Memorization

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- Because we are born again in Christ, we actually receive a new life in Christ. We become new persons and join a new family. We receive a new nature and a new Spirit. We need to understand our new-birth privileges in Christ, so that we can use these privileges to the fullest, for His glory.



Review  
of Key  
Ideas





## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses



#### Group Exploration

- Review the words we used as we described our feelings about these four privileges God gave us when we accepted His gift of salvation. What could we do about these thoughts and feelings?
  - Thank the Lord for new life in Christ and everything it means.
  - Talk to God everyday, thinking of Him as a loving, caring Father.
  
- What could we as Christians do when we start to think of ourselves as nothing—as unloved, worthless sinners?
  - We could remind ourselves what God says. We could meditate on who we are in Christ, give thanks, and tell God we want to live as He sees us.
  - Memorize and meditate on the Key Verse each day this week.
  
- How can we help other Christians understand their new life in Christ?
  - Pray that other Christians understand their new life in Christ.
  - Tell them what we are learning.

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do and when

Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.





## Bridge Question

- ❑ It has been said that “Christ gave His life for us—so that He could give His life to us—so that He can live His life through us!” We have seen that Christ has given us new life, a new family, a new nature, and a new Spirit as we join His family. Do you think He gave us any responsibilities?

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.



Prayer

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session,  
there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**  
(Remind disciples to be ready to report at  
the beginning of the next session.)

# Application Plan

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Figure 2.1



Figure 2.2



Figure 2.3

# The Responsibilities of New Life In Christ

LESSON

3

**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Understand that love is a characteristic of the new nature, essential for ministry or good works.
- Conclude that they were saved in order to know and serve God and others.
- Begin discovering the good works God has given them to do.

## Opening Prayer

- Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Prayer



Review

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

- Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.





## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

Role Play: Act out Matthew 25:34-40, while Narrator reads.

Characters: King Jesus, 1 or more needy persons, 1 or more people who serve, and Narrator

### Illustrations



- At this time, show the disciples Figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What did you see in the role play?
- Describe various ways people are hungry, thirsty, sick, strangers, and in prison.
- What do you think could be some of the responsibilities of a person who has received new life in Christ?
- What do you see in the illustrations?

Figure 3-1: God is sculpting a person.

- Figure 3-2: God is sculpting one of the “good works” scenes from Matthew 25.

Figure 3-3: A person whom God created walks on a path toward the good works that God created for him.

### Bridge

- We have seen that we have new life in Christ. Last lesson, we learned a few of the privileges of our new life. In this lesson we will learn that Christians also have *responsibilities*. We will look at love as an essential characteristic of our new nature. We will talk about the importance of having a close relationship with Christ. Finally, we will see that God has prepared good works for us to do that serve others and bring Him glory.



## Study

### Key Verse

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- Do you think that good works are important to God? Explain.
- What are we “created in Christ” (saved) to do?
- How are we to accomplish the good works?

### Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

*Romans 5:5*

- What characteristic must we have as we carry out good works? Why?
- Where does love come from?

*1 Peter 2:2*

*Philippians 4:6,7*

- When we want to have close relationships with people, we spend time with them. How do you think we can get to know God more closely?
- In 1 Peter 2, what do you think is meant by “the word”? How could becoming familiar with God's Word help us to know Him and what He wants us to do?
- What things should we pray about, according to Philippians 4:6? How will praying bring us in closer relationship to God?

*James 1:22*

*Matthew 5:16*

- What does James say about us if we hear what God wants us to do—but don't do it?
- Look again at the Key Verse (Ephesians 2:10). Who has created the good works for us to do? How could we discover them?



- ❑ What are examples of good works from the role play?
- ❑ Can you think of other examples of good works?  
(*Note: We are asked to serve not only the needy but also our families, church members, unbelievers, etc.*)
- ❑ According to Matthew 5:16, who should people praise when they see the good works we do? Should our good works draw attention to us?

## Reinforcement

### Exercises



#### Song

Song: 1 John 4:7-8 (“Beloved, Let Us Love One Another”)

- Activity: Disciples get in groups of two or three people. Small groups search quickly indoors or outdoors to find objects they could use in a “sculpture” to depict one of their responsibilities. Spend a few minutes putting a sculpture together, arranging it on the floor, table, or paper. Each group then explains its work.

### Memorization

*Ephesians 2:10*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- New life in Christ brings with it certain privileges and certain responsibilities.  
Love is basic to our new nature. The responsibilities of our new life in Christ must be carried out with love. Praying and learning God’s Word are necessary ingredients of our new life in Christ. When we spend time with Him, we learn to know Him and what He wants us to do
- God has prepared good works for us to do. When we do them, we serve Christ. Our good works bring honor to God, not to ourselves.
- God has prepared many kinds of good works. In this lesson, we looked at good works that serve the needy. In future lessons, we will see that our good works also serve God, fellow-believers, family members, neighbors, and enemies.



#### Review of Key Ideas





## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses

- What are some ways we could begin to apply this lesson?
  - Look around us. Identify various kinds of good or righteous works.
  - Study more about good works in the Old and New Testaments.
  - Look for opportunities to love others.
  - Come back next time with a list of good works we could do—among the needy; in our neighborhood, family, church; or alone with God. (*Examples: Be patient with my children; pray daily; help a friend who is sick; etc.*)
  - Memorize and meditate on the Key Verse each day.
- Where can we find the good works we are to do?
  - At home, school, work, church, neighborhood, or anywhere God brings to mind.
  - Through prayer, His Word, and the enjoyment He gives us for certain good works, God will show us the good deeds He has prepared for us.



Group  
Exploration

### Individual Reflection & Decision

- Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they—individually—could apply the lesson in the coming days.
- Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:
  - What they will do—and when
  - Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.



## Bridge Question

- ❑ As believers, we have new life privileges and responsibilities. But we are not left alone to figure out how to live! Jesus Christ calls us to follow Him all day, every day, for the rest of our lives. What does this mean? How could we do this?



Prayer

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the beginning of the next session.)**

# Application Plan

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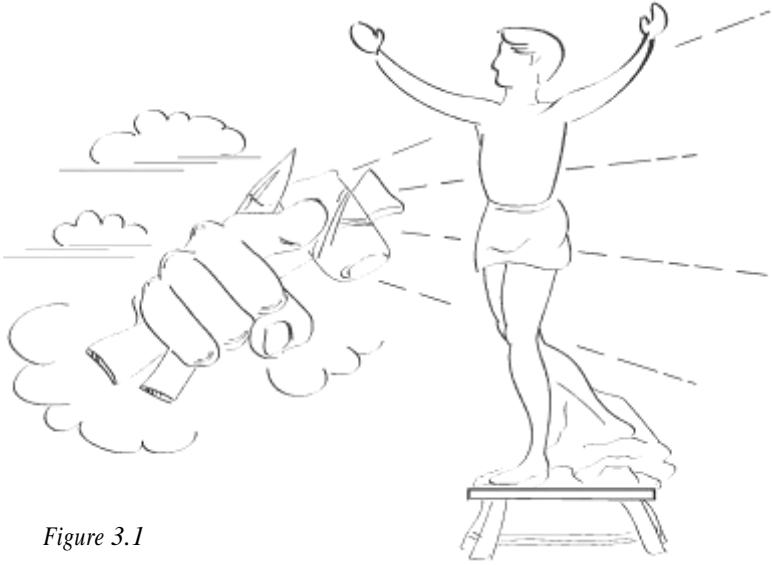


Figure 3.1

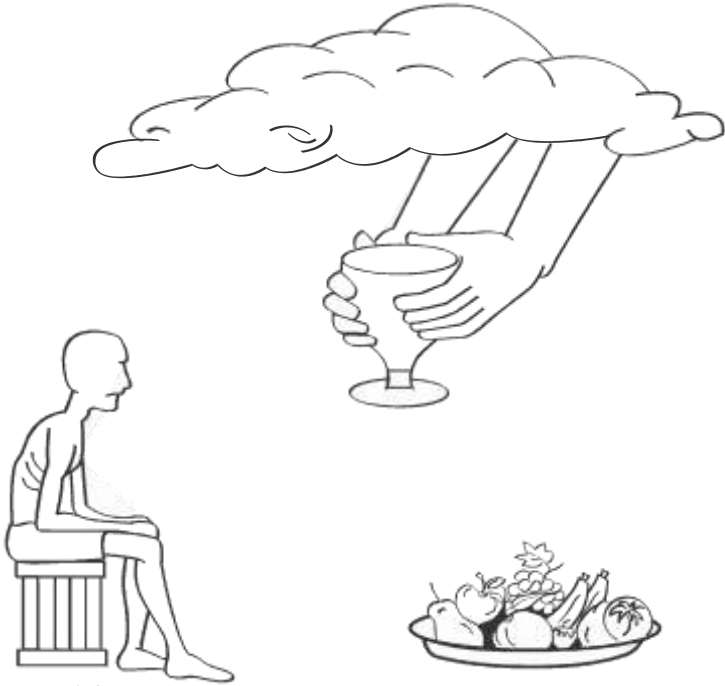
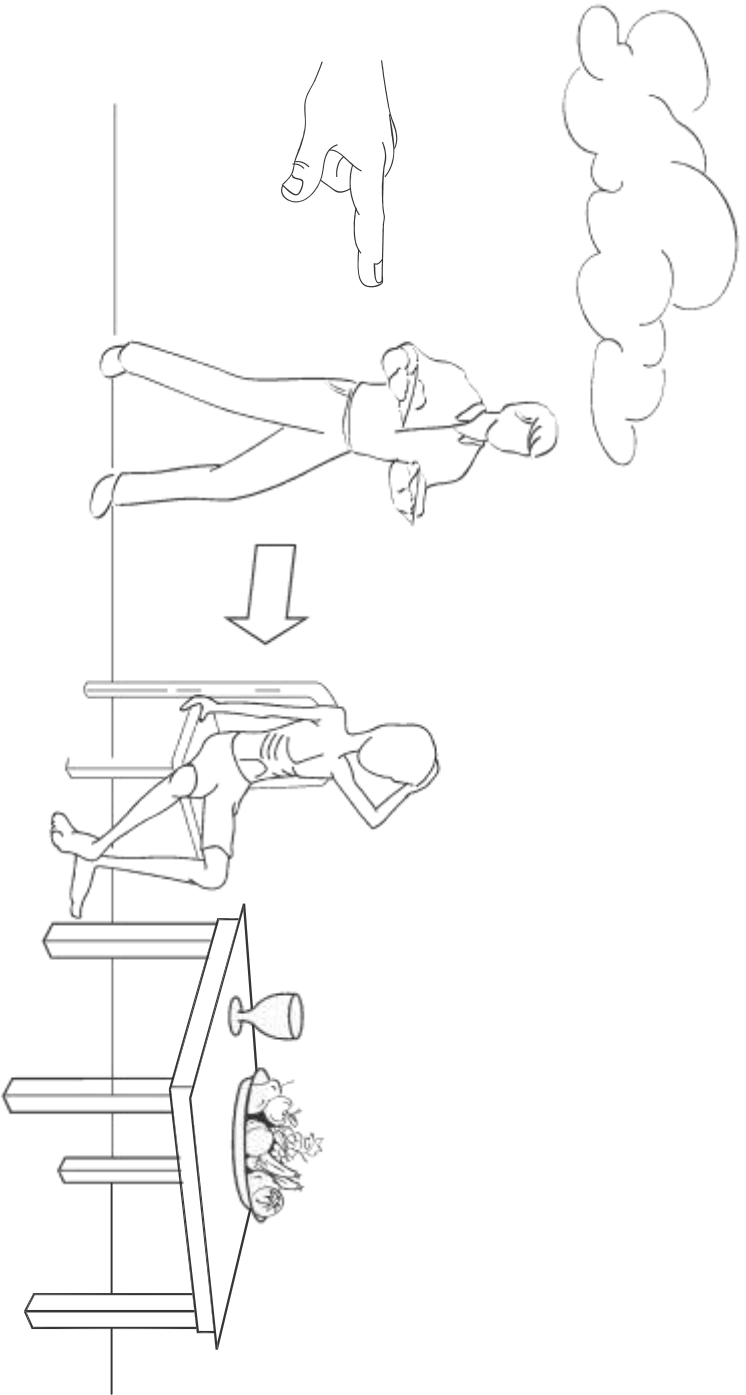


Figure 3.2





# The Meaning of Discipleship

LESSON

4

**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Discover that being a disciple of Jesus means obeying Jesus, which is both costly and rewarding.
- Begin to follow and obey Jesus in new ways.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Prayer



**Review**

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.







## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



Illustrations: At this time, show the disciples Figures 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- ❑ Describe what you see in these pictures. What do you think they represent?

Figure 4.1: A little boy, trying to step in footprints of his father.

Figure 4.2: A lady placing “valuables” at foot of cross.

Figure 4.3: A man holding a Bible, trying to board a full bus, shouting angrily at people who are crowding him off the bus.

Figure 4.4: A family standing together peacefully, with sunlight shining down on them.

### Bridge

- Jesus called those who followed Him “disciples.” In Figure 4.1 we see a child imitating his father. *Imitation* is a part of discipleship.

In Figure 4.2 we see a lady who loves Jesus more than anything. She is giving Jesus everything that is valuable to her by placing them at the cross. *Cost sacrifice* is part of discipleship.

In Figure 4.3 we see a man who appears to be a Christian, but he is responding in anger when shoved off a bus. He appears to be disobeying Jesus’ command to love our neighbors. *Obedience* is part of discipleship.

In Figure 4.4 we see a group, perhaps a family, standing in sunlight. This light represents the *benefits* of discipleship. In this lesson we will begin to learn about these and other aspects of discipleship.



## Study

### Key Verse

And anyone who does not carry his cross  
and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27

### Discovery Questions

- How would you say the same thing in your own words?
- What is the purpose of a cross? In Jesus' time, when did a person carry a cross? What could it mean for us to carry a cross?
- What do you think it means to be a disciple?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Matthew 4:18-20*

*Acts 4:13*

- Why do you think that Jesus wanted followers?
- What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John do when Jesus challenged them to follow Him? See Matthew 4.
- What do you think might be involved if we follow Jesus?
- A few years later, what did people recognize about Peter and John? What do you think they saw or heard? (Do we become like the people we follow?)

*Luke 14:26,33*

- What does Jesus mean by these statements?  
(*Note: We must treasure Jesus more than anything or anybody, but we are not to dishonor our families or throw away things for which God makes us responsible.*)
- What do you think about these requirements of discipleship?
- How costly is it to be a disciple of Jesus?
- Is this too much for Jesus to ask of a person who wants to follow Him?



• *Luke 6:46*

*John 14:15*

- What do you think “Lord” means? Can we call Jesus “Lord” without obeying Him?
- Why would a disciple obey Jesus?
- What would you think about a person who claims to follow Jesus as Lord, but shows little interest in doing what He says?

• *John 8:12*

• *John 12:26*

- What are some of the benefits of following Jesus?
- What do you think it means to walk in light? In darkness?
- What do you think it means to be honored by the Father?

## Reinforcement

### Exercise



#### Role Play

Role Play Act out Luke 18:18-30, while Narrator reads.

Characters: Rich Young Ruler, Jesus, Listener, Peter, and Narrator

### Memorization

*Luke 14:27*

### Summary



#### Review of Key Ideas

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- Disciples “carry crosses.” They die to being “lords” of their own lives. Instead, they follow and obey Jesus, allowing Him to be their Lord.
- A disciple is a follower. A disciple imitates the person he or she follows. A Christian, at personal cost, is a follower of Jesus. Tell the story of the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-30). The rich young ruler was a very religious man, but he wasn’t willing to pay the cost of following Jesus, so he wasn’t a disciple. Peter and the other disciples were willing to pay the cost and leave everything to follow Jesus.





There is a difference between real disciples and those who only claim to be believers. In Figure 4.3, the man trying to get on the bus appeared to be Christian. He carried a Bible, but when he was crowded off the bus, he didn't follow Jesus' example. Instead of loving others, he was abusive and disrespectful to others.

There are benefits to following Jesus. Two of those benefits are that (1) we can live in the light of God's truth instead of the darkness of sin; and (2) God honors those who follow Jesus.

To follow Jesus means:

- to die to ourselves (to carry our own cross)
- to become like Jesus
- to follow and value Jesus above everything else, even family and one's own life
- to obey Jesus' commands, love Him, and allow Him to be Lord
- to receive the benefits of living in truth, being honored by God



## Application

### Sample Questions . . .

### . . .and Possible Responses

- What are some of the ways we could apply what we have learned this week?
  - Put Jesus above all else, even our own families and lives.
  - Memorize and meditate on the Key Verse each day this week.
  - Think about what it means to "carry our cross" for Jesus.
  - Learn one of Jesus' commands and then do it.



### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

- What they will do and when
- Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)



## Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

## Bridge Question

- Does being a disciple of Jesus change our citizenship?



Prayer

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the beginning of the next session.)**

# Application Plan

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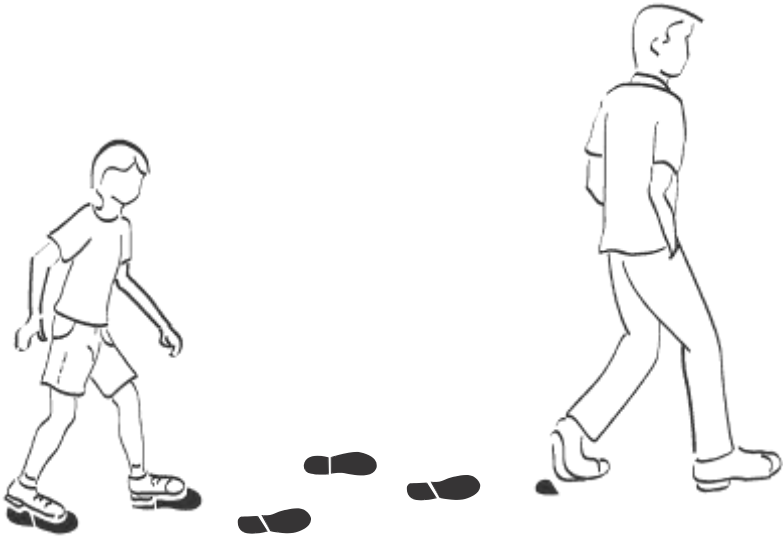


Figure 4.1

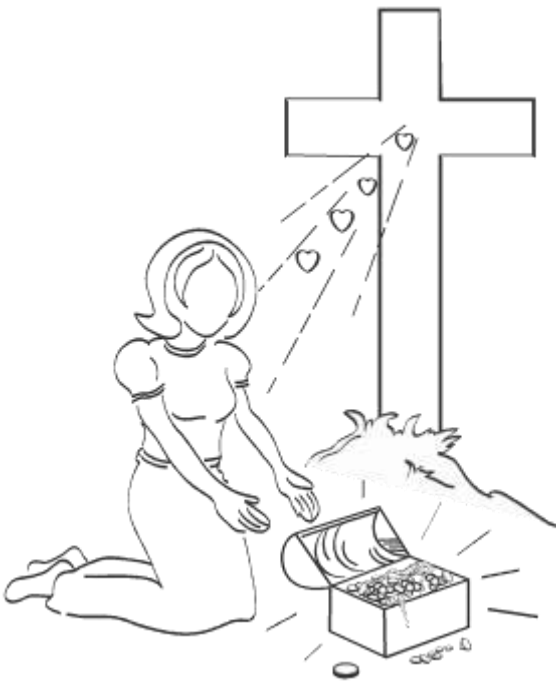


Figure 4.2

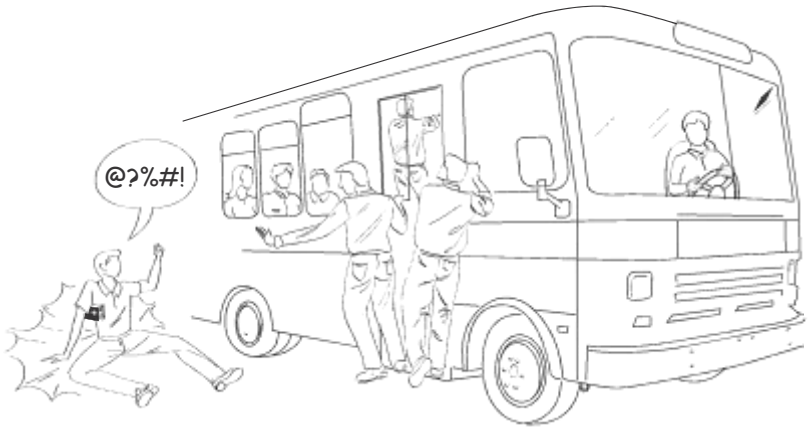


Figure 4.3

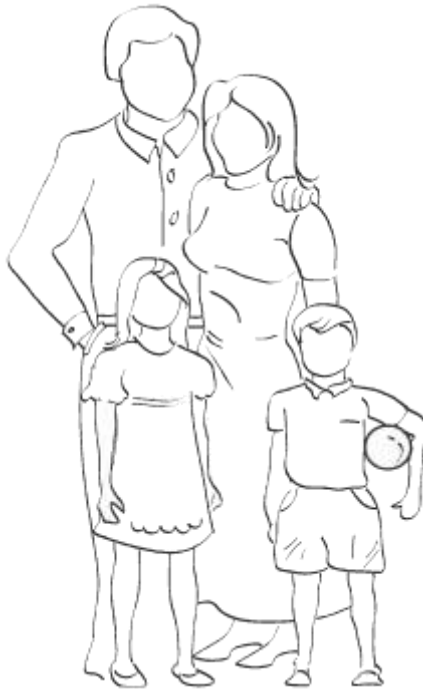


Figure 4.4

**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Learn that followers of Jesus are part of a new government called the Kingdom of God.
- Understand the nature of the Kingdom and what it means to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God.
- Begin to act on that understanding.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Prayer



## Review

### Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

### Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

### Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.





## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

**Role Play:** Select two participants for the roles of Kingdom Citizen (KC) and Unhappy Stranger (US).

**KC:** *(Enters, whistling and appearing happy. Closes eyes.)* I love you, Lord. *(Stops. Looks up.)*

**US:** *(Enters. Grumbles, bumps into KC. Grumbles more.)*

**KC:** I'm sorry. I was distracted, thinking about the Kingdom I am going to inherit.

**US:** Are you a prince (princess)? What kingdom are you talking about? You must be rich!

**KC:** No, my riches are in faith. But, some of the Kingdom is already here.

**US:** *(Scratching head.)* I'm confused.

**KC:** The Kingdom brings its people love, purpose, joy, and peace. It's a wonderful government available to all people.

**US:** *(Puzzled.)* What???

**KC:** Do you want to know more about the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_

**US:** Well, okay.

**KC & US:** *(Walk off together, talking about the Kingdom . . .)*

### Illustration



At this time show the disciples Figure 5.1 provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What did you see in the role play? What do you see in Figure 5.1?  
     **Figure 5.1:** The Kingdom of God. Its citizens are greeted with a welcome sign that describes some of the attributes of the Kingdom. *(Note: These are described in Revelation 21:34.)*
- What do you think of when you hear the words "Kingdom of God"?
- What do you think the Kingdom of God might be like?



## Bridge

- In our last lesson, we learned what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Now, we will see that disciples have received citizenship in the Kingdom of God. We'll learn what the Kingdom of God is, where it is, and how we can be loyal and active citizens of it.

### Study

#### Key Verse

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

James 2:5

### Discovery Questions

- Who promised the Kingdom? To whom is it promised?
- To inherit the Kingdom, what must we be? Who must we love?
- What does this mean to you?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

- *Matthew 13:44,45*
  - *Matthew 6:25,33*
- (*Note: "The Kingdom of Heaven" is the term Matthew used for the Kingdom of God.*)
- To what does Jesus compare the Kingdom? Why did He use these comparisons?
  - What do the people in Matthew 13 seem to think about the price of the Kingdom?
  - According to Matthew 6, how important is it to seek the Kingdom of God? What else are we to seek? How do you think we could do this?



• *John 3:3,5*

• *Mark 10:14,15*

- According to John 3, who are the citizens of the Kingdom of God?
- Jesus said that the Kingdom belongs to those who receive it like a little child. What characteristics do little children have?

*Matthew 7:21*

*Matthew 6:10*

- Who can enter the Kingdom of God?
- Whose will is done in the Kingdom?

*Luke 17:20,21*

*John 18:36*

- According to these passages, where and when do we find the Kingdom of God? (*Note: It is among us and not of this world; it is both present and coming.*)

## Reinforcement



Song

### Exercise

Song: “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God.” (Matthew 6:33)

### Memorization

*James 2:5*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- The Kingdom of God (the Kingdom of Heaven) belongs to those who are rich in faith and love Jesus. They have been born again. They love God and Jesus in the same way that a child loves and obeys a loving father or mother. Kingdom citizens seek to live righteously. They willingly do the things God requires. They value the Kingdom above all else.

The Kingdom of God is a government. It doesn't have geographic borders. It exists, instead, where God's will, ways, and laws are obeyed. It is here, now, within the hearts of those who follow



Review  
of Key  
Ideas





and obey Jesus. It is also in Heaven, where God's will is always done. God's will is the code of law for the Kingdom. Those who willfully, unrepentantly disobey God have no part in His Kingdom. (*Note: In the next lesson we will see that Jesus is the limitless King of Kings. He can do anything He wishes. Yet, He allows people to limit the current work of His Kingdom on earth when they refuse to follow Him.*)

- There is no other kingdom, government, or social system that cares or does more for mankind than God's Kingdom. It is the greatest "cause" that a person can live or die for. As we will see in the next lesson, the Kingdom of God will forever, ultimately, rule over all other kingdoms.
- The Kingdom of God belongs to people who:
  - love God and have been born again
  - accept the Kingdom with child-like faith
  - seek the Kingdom and God's righteousness as a first priority
  - do the will of God (*The Kingdom is not inherited by those who willfully disobey.*)

The Kingdom of God is a government which:

exists within the hearts of disciples  
is governed by God's laws and commands

The Kingdom of God is a kingdom which:

is found where God's will is done  
is man's greatest hope  
will ultimately be victorious over all other kingdoms





## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses



Group  
Exploration

- As citizens of the Kingdom of God, what could we do this week as active and loyal citizens? What can we do for the King? What can we do for fellow-citizens? What can we do for the Kingdom?
- Recall daily that we are citizens of the Kingdom of God (and of our own countries).
- Thank the King every day that we are in His Kingdom. Pray for our countries, too.
- Ask the King how we can serve others.
- Ask the King how we can invite other people into the Kingdom.
- Review the verses we have memorized and pray to obey them.
- Memorize and meditate on the Key Verse each day.

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

- What they will do and when
- Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

### Bridge Question

- We just learned about our citizenship in the Kingdom of God. A kingdom has a king. Who is our King?



**Closing**

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.



**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the beginning of the next session.)**

## **Application Plan**

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**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Understand that Jesus is God and King.
- See Jesus' character as Servant-King.
- See that Jesus calls and commissions His followers to be His ambassadors.
- Desire to honor Jesus as King in word, thought, and action

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Review

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.







## Introduction

### Lead Exercise

**Reflection** Imagine that the country we live in is ruled by a great and mighty king. Our king is the greatest ever, yet he serves those in his kingdom. Imagine too, that this king knows you well and gives you the privilege of knowing him and serving as his ambassador. Because of your relationship with him, you know the secrets of his kingdom. You even have privileges that he offers to all his followers. Our king is an amazing king!

### Illustration



- At this time, show the disciples Figures 6.1, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What do you see in the illustration? What does the picture seem to say about the activities of the King's ambassadors?

**Figure 6-1:** Jesus and two of His ambassadors, who worship Him. This suggests that worship of the King is both a matter of spiritual discipline (woman reading her Bible) and service (man with wash basin and towel).

- Think for a moment. How would you feel if you could know and represent a king?

### Bridge

Long ago there was a King who walked on the earth. He was the King of the Jews. Prophets in the Old Testament prophesied that He would come as a great ruler and savior. He did come, was crucified for the sins of the world, and rose from the dead. This same King lives today, and someday He will return to the earth to receive those who love Him and accept His authority in their lives. The amazing thing is that, today, you and I can have a personal relationship with Him. He wants us to serve as His ambassadors until He returns! In this lesson we're going to learn more about our Lord Jesus the great King, the God of all creation. We'll learn about His character and how we can be ambassadors for Him.





## Study

### Key Verse

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."  
John 18:37

### Discovery Questions

- How did Jesus describe Himself?
- Why was Jesus born?
- What did He come to do?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Psalm 95:1-8*

- What does this tell us about our God as King? Why is He worthy to be King?
- What are some ways that we can honor God as our King?

*Matthew 28:18*

*Hebrews 1:1-3,8*

- Did God give Jesus all authority? Where?
- Does Jesus have all the Kingly attributes of His Father?

*Revelation 11:15*

- How long will Jesus reign as King?

*Mark 10:42-45*

- As King of Kings, how does the Lord rule? Is this like other kings?



- ❑ What characteristic does this King have? Can you give some examples of Jesus as a Servant-King?

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

- ❑ According to 2 Corinthians 5, what are our roles in the Kingdom of God?
- ❑ What is “reconciliation with God”?
- ❑ What do you think ambassadors do? Where do ambassadors go? Whom do they represent? Give some examples.
- ❑ As ambassadors for Christ, whose message do we carry? Who sends us? What is the message? Where do we take it?

## Reinforcement

### Exercise



Song

- Song: Choose an appropriate song, such as one of the following:
  - 1) “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”
  - 2) “In the Morning I Will Sing to David’s King”
  - 3) “Majesty”

### Memorization

- *John 18:37*

### Summary



Review  
of Key  
Ideas

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- Jesus is our God and King forever. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has authority over heaven and earth.

As King, He is not like other kings who rule with pride and force. Instead, He rules with humility and a servant spirit.

- He has called us as ambassadors to serve others and carry His message of reconciliation wherever He sends us.





## Application

### Sample Questions . . .

### . . . and Possible Responses

- What did we learn about Jesus? What did we learn about ourselves?
  - Jesus is King. We are His ambassadors.
- How can we serve with a Christ-like attitude?
  - Pray to serve with Christ's heart.
  - Ask God to let us see other people as He sees them.
- How could we get rid of old attitudes that don't honor Christ?
  - Confess our haughty attitudes and ask God to change us.
- What could you do this week as an ambassador of Christ?
  - Think of myself as an ambassador every day.
  - Pray, "God, who are you sending me to, today?" Serve those people. Help them or tell them about reconciling with God and following Jesus.
  - Every day, memorize and meditate on the Key Verse.



Group  
Exploration

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do—and when  
Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.



## Bridge Question

- ❑ In this lesson, we have learned about our King of Kings. Governments have laws, or commands. Next lesson, we'll look at the commands of our King.



Prayer

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the next session.)**

# Application Plan

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**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should...

- Review the teaching and application of the last lesson.
- Understand that Jesus' instructions to His disciples are not optional.
- Understand that loving Jesus is the main motivation for obeying Him.
- See that the indwelling love of Christ provide the strength to obey.
- See that obeying Jesus is joyful for a true disciple.
- Begin to joyfully obey Jesus' commands.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



## Review

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.



## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

Role-play: Act out Matthew 21:28-30, while Narrator reads.

Characters: Father, Son #1, Son #2, and Narrator

### Illustrations



At this time show the disciples Figures 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What did you see in the role play? What was the problem?
- What do you see in the illustrations? What is the problem?
  - Figure 7-1: A father tells his son to work. The son refuses.
  - Figure 7-2: The son changes his mind and goes to work.
  - Figure 7-3: Another father tells his son to work. The son agrees.
  - Figure 7-4: The son does not go to work, but instead relaxes with friends.
- How do you know which of the two sons showed real love and respect for his father?

### Bridge

If you love and respect people, you will honor them. If people truly love Jesus, they will do what He asks. In this lesson, we will learn about the most important commands that Jesus gives to all of His disciples.





## Study

### Key Verse

We know that we have come to know him if  
we obey his commands.

1 John 2:3

### Discovery Questions

- In your own words, what does this verse say?
- What are some ways that a follower of Jesus can apply this verse?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

- *Matthew 22:36-40*
  - What three teachings of Jesus are described in these verses?
  - What do you think the Matthew 22 passage means? The Matthew 28 passage? John 13?
  - How could we apply Matthew 22 to our daily lives?
  - How could we apply the passage from John 13?
  - Can we apply Matthew 28:19, 20 to our daily lives?
- *Matthew 28:19,20*
  - (Note: We will study each one of these commands in future lessons.)*
- *John 15:5*
  - How does a disciple have the ability and strength to obey Jesus?
  - What does Jesus mean by “apart from me you can do nothing”?
- *John 15:10-12*
  - What are several things that happen when we keep Jesus’ commandments?
  - Which commandment does Jesus give again in this passage?
- *1 John 2:4-6*
  - What is the difference between true and false disciples of Jesus?
  - What are some of ways we can know that we are true disciples?



## Reinforcement

### Exercise

Explain that the commands to love God and our neighbor are known as the Great Commandment. These two commandments are known as the Summary of the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament.

Explain that the command to love each other (to love other followers of Jesus) is known as the New Commandment and that the command to go into all the world and to teach others to obey Jesus' commands is known as the Great Commission.

Explain that these are titles for the principal teachings of Jesus and that all of the rest of Jesus' teachings are a development of these four commands.

Review: One by one, say each commandment's title. Ask disciples to explain the commandment and to give an example of how it could be obeyed.

### Memorization

- *1 John 2:3*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- Jesus' principle commands:
  - Love God with all of our heart, soul, and mind.
  - Love our neighbor as ourselves.
  - Love other followers of Jesus.
  - Make disciples of all nations; help other people follow Jesus and obey His commands.

The commands of Jesus are not suggestions. He is King. If we truly love and follow Jesus, we will obey what He has commanded.

- We are lying if we say we are disciples, but refuse to obey Him. When we recognize our disobedience, we should immediately repent and correct our action, like the obedient son in the role play and illustration.



### Review of Key Ideas



We obey His commands because we love Him, and it is a joyful thing for us to do. Because He lives in us and we live in Him, we have the strength to do what He commands.



## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses

- What are the titles of these four commands of the King? What could we do to remember them?
  - Recall the four commands each day.
  - Ask God to show us more about what they mean for us.
- What are some things we could do this week to obey the commands?
  - Pray each day and ask God how we can obey Him.
  - Think of things we could do to show our love for Jesus.
  - Begin to do one or more of these.
  - Each day, memorize and meditate on the Key Verse.



Group  
Exploration

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do—and when

Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.



## Bridge Question

- As disciples who love Jesus, we want to obey Him joyfully. What is the first commandment that Jesus gives His followers?



## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be...**

- **Between-Session mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the beginning of the next session.)**

# Application Plan

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Figure 7.1

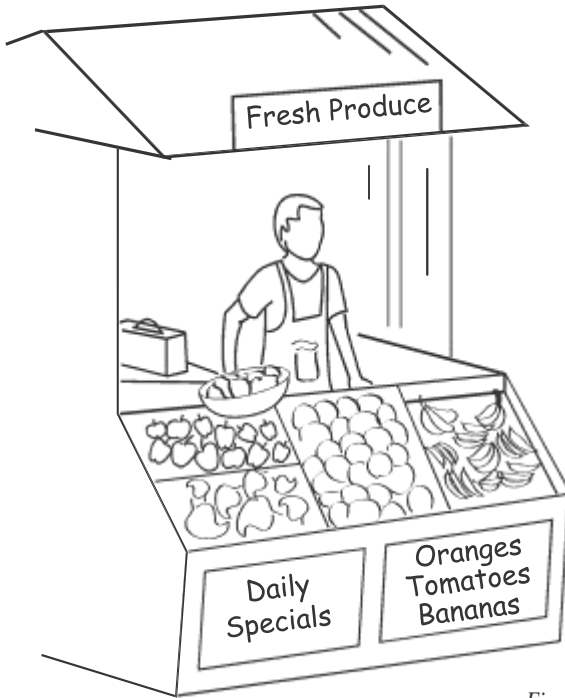


Figure 7.2



Figure 7.3



Figure 7.4

**OUTCOMES: In this lesson, disciples should...**

- **Review the teachings and application of the last lesson.**
- **Gain a deeper sense of God's love for us.**
- **Begin to express love to God in return.**

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



**Review**

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.





## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

**Role Play:** Select one character, “Christian.”

**Christian** (*Alone, reflecting and praying*) “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have ever lasting life.” Hmmm . . . That’s a verse we studied a few lessons ago. Father, I understand a little better now how You have shown Your love to me and to the whole world. You sent Your only Son to die for our sins. Thank You for Your love. I know I love You too, God. You’ve done so much for me. I know it’s not enough just to say, “I love You.” How can I really show my love?

### Illustration



- At this time, show the disciples Figure 8.1, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What did you see in the role play? What was this person’s concern?
- What do you see in the illustration?
  - **Figure 8-1:** A man is praying, telling God of his love. As he prays, he joyfully considers many ways of expressing love to God—praying and praising Him, learning from the Bible, discipling other people, and helping those in need.
- How does this illustration relate to the role play?
- Have you ever wondered how you can love God, especially since you can’t see Him?

### Bridge

In this lesson, we’re going to learn what God’s Word, the Bible, tells us about loving God.





## Study

### Key Verse

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37,38

### Discovery Questions

- How does this verse tell us to love God?
- What does it mean to love God with all our *heart*? All our *soul*? All *mind*?
- How important is this commandment?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*1 John 4:16,19*

- What do we see about God's love for us?
- Who initiated love? What is our response?

*Psalms 18:1-3*

- The Psalmist David expresses his love to God. Who does he recognize God to be in his life?
- How does David respond? What does he do to show his love to God?

*John 14:21,23*

*1 John 5:3-5*

- According to these verses, how can we express our love for God?
- What does it mean to "keep His word"? How might we discover or learn this word?
- Has God given us commands that are impossible to obey? Why or why not?



- *Luke 10:27*

- What do you notice about loving God and our neighbors?
- Who are some of our neighbors? Name some ways we could love them. (*Note: See the lesson “Loving Our Neighbor” for more information.*)

*1 John 4: 20,21*

*Hebrews 6:10*

(*Note: “Brothers” and “saints” are other names for Christians.*)

- According to 1 John 4, can we love God and not love our brother? Why or why not?
- What is one way to show our love for God, as mentioned in Hebrews 6?
- Name some ways we can love our fellow-believers.  
(*Note: See the lesson “Loving Other Disciples” for more information.*)

## Reinforcement

### Exercise



Role Play

- Role Play: Act out John 21:15-17, while Narrator reads.  
Characters: Jesus, Peter, and Narrator
- Discuss: Because of Peter’s love for Jesus, what did Jesus direct him to do? Although this was an important conversation between the Lord and Peter, what can we apply to our lives? How do you think Jesus would respond when we tell Him we love Him?

### Memorization

- *Matthew 22:37,38*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- God has great love for us. Because God first loved us, we can love.

The greatest commandment is to love God.



We can express our love to God in several ways:

By allowing Him to have first place in our lives, when we love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind

By recognizing His greatness in our lives, by praising Him, by trusting Him, and by calling on His name

By willfully learning and obeying His Word

By loving our neighbor and our fellow-Christians



## Application

Sample Questions . . .

. . . and Possible Responses

- Who is our God? Is He our rock, fortress, deliverer, strength? Like David in the Psalms, how can we express our love to Him?
  - Pray each morning. Concentrate on His love and His care for us. Thank Him.
- This week, how could we show God our love by loving Him with all our hearts? With all our souls? With all our minds? How could we make sure He has first place in our lives?
  - Each morning, tell Him we love Him and want to obey Him this day.
  - Each evening, consider if God had first place in our lives that day. Ask ourselves if we loved others because of Him. Pray about
- How can we learn His commands, or His word, this week?
  - Each day, thank God for His word to us.
  - Each day, memorize and meditate on the Key Verse.
- This week, could we express our love to God by showing an act of kindness and love to someone? Perhaps a friend, a family member, a church member, or someone in trouble?
  - Because we love God and He loves us, share His love with someone today. *(This could be a small work of encouragement or a larger effort.)*



Group  
Exploration



- What is one thing we learned this week about loving God?
- God Himself says that loving Him includes loving other people.

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

- What they will do—and when
- Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

### Bridge Question

- We have seen that loving God is of primary importance, and we have learned several ways to express that love. One of these is by loving our neighbors. But who does that mean? And how to we do it?



Prayer

### Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

#### **FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, do...**

- Between-Session mentoring
- Between-Session Application Experiences

(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the next session)



# Application Plan

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Figure 8.1

**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should...

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Understand the significance of loving our neighbor.
- Discover who our neighbor is.
- Discover how to love our neighbor.
- Grow in obedience to the command to love our neighbor.
- Begin to respond with gratitude for this gift of salvation.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



## Review

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.



## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

Role Play: Narrator reads Luke 10:25-37. Actors begin at verse 30.

Characters: Victim, Robber(s), Priest, Levite, Samaritan, and Narrator

### Illustrations



- At this time, show the disciples Figures 9.1 and 9.2, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What did you see or hear in the role play? What do you see in the illustrations?
  - Figure 9.1: A Christian ignores an injured man on the street.
  - Figure 9.2: A man dressed like a gang member stops to help the injured man.
- What do you imagine that the priest or Levite thought when he first saw the man who needed help? What do you imagine that the Samaritan thought? What are some thoughts that people might have today when they first see someone in need?
- How does “The Good Samaritan” apply to us?

### Bridge

There are many important points in the role play and the illustrations. For example:

- The Levite and priest saw a man in need, but passed him by.
- Samaritans were despised by the Jews, but the Samaritan stopped and used his available resources to help the injured man, who was probably Jewish. He didn't ignore him.
- The Samaritan used what he had to bandage the man, took him to a safe place, and paid for all his care. He stopped his own plans to care for another person.





We often think of our neighbors as people who live near us. However, Jesus called the Samaritan a “neighbor” to the needy man—though he didn’t live near him—because he treated him with mercy. Jesus then told his listener, “Go and do the same.”

Through this parable, Jesus tells us how to be a neighbor and how to love our neighbor. In this lesson we will see that loving our neighbor is more than doing something nice for those who live near us. We will learn that loving our neighbor is not optional. We will learn who our neighbors are and how to love them with the kind of love that God commands.

## Study

### Key Verse

And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matthew 22:39

### Discovery Questions

- How could you “love your neighbor as yourself”?
- How does loving your neighbor relate to loving God? (See verses 37-38.)
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that all the teachings of the Law and the Prophets depended on two commandments? (See Matthew 22:40.)

### Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions

*Leviticus 19:9-18,33-34*

- Jesus was quoting Old Testament law when He told us to love our neighbor. In this passage, who are neighbors? (*Examples: the hungry, the stranger, etc.*)



- Which commandments in Leviticus 19 tell us, generally, how to love any person? (*Examples: Don't steal. Don't lie.*)
- Because there are general commandments that seem to tell us how to treat *any* person, do you think we are commanded to love *all* people as our neighbors? If so, why does Leviticus 19 mention specific neighbors who are needy?

*Isaiah 58:6,7*

*Matthew 5:43-48*

- The verses in Isaiah 58 list some ways God wants us to show love to our needy neighbor. How could we do this in our community?
- In Matthew 5, Jesus calls His disciples to a different kind of love. Who receives this love? Do you think this is a difficult kind of love?

*Romans 12:10*

*Colossians 3:18-21*

- Romans 12 tells us to love another category of people. Who are they? (*Note: "Brothers" are fellow-Christians.*)
- Do you think that loving our neighbor as ourselves applies to family members? How can we love our family?
- In the lesson titled "The Meaning of Discipleship," we studied Luke 14:26. Look at the passage again, along with Colossians 3. Are we to love our families? Explain.

• *1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13*

- According to verses 1-3 and 13, what should motivate everything we do? Why?
- What are the characteristics of love, according to verses 4-8? What are not characteristics of love?
- What does this teach us about how we should treat all our neighbors?
- What could you do if you don't feel love for a neighbor? Are you still commanded to love? How could your love become more like verses 4-8?

*Matthew 7:12*

- Put Matthew 7:12 in your own words. What question could we ask ourselves when we see our neighbor?



## Reinforcement

### Exercise

- Song (a round): Sing “Love, Love.”  
*Love, love, love, love.*  
*The Gospel in a word is ‘love.’*  
*Love your neighbor as yourself, for God is Love.*



Song

### Memorization

*Matthew 22:39*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- Loving our neighbor is one of the two most important commands of Jesus.

Loving our neighbor is related to loving God. We are to love God first, completely, with all our being, holding nothing back.

We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Together, the commands to love God and neighbor summarize all the commands and teachings of the Old Testament Law and Prophets.

Our neighbors include:

All people (Leviticus 19 & 1 Corinthians 13)

The needy, strangers, workers, countrymen, aliens (Leviticus 19)

- The oppressed, hungry, homeless, poor, naked (Isaiah 58:6)
- The needy persons God brings across our path (Luke 10)
- Persons who shows mercy and compassion (Luke 10)
- Our enemies (Matthew 5:44)
- Our fellow-Christians (Romans 12:10)
- Our family members (Colossians 3:18-21)



Review  
of Key  
Ideas



- Some practical ways to love our neighbor, according to Isaiah 58
  - Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, help those who are oppressed, and provide shelter for the homeless

According to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8\_

Love is:

- Patient
- Kind
- Truthful
- Endures
- Faithful
- Hopeful

Love is not:

- Jealous
- Boastful
- Proud in ourselves
- Easily provoked
- Harboring evil
- Glad when wrong is done

Some other general principles about loving our neighbor:

We must love others as we want them to love us.

(*Matthew 7:12*)

- We must act—but with a heart motivated by love.
- Love is central. Without it, everything is useless.  
(*1 Corinthians 13*)

We must show practical love and mercy to the needy, whether or not they can show us love in return. We use the resources available to us. (*Luke 10*)

- Other important discoveries:
  - God's love is poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. As God pours His love *into* us, it overflows to others *through* us. When we love our neighbor, we take *God's* love to another person. (*Romans 5:5*)
  - When we show practical, merciful love to our needy neighbor, we give love to Christ Himself. (*Matthew 25:35-40*)
  - If we don't love our neighbor, we don't really love God.  
(*1 John 4:20,21*)



## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses

- This week, what could you do to follow Jesus' command to love your neighbor?
  - Show mercy to people we see every day—family, co-workers, people at church, and others. Think how we would want to be treated. As God gives ideas, begin to show love for them in new ways
  - Pray for our enemies. Do something kind for them.
- This week, what could we do to increase our own desire and ability to love our neighbor?
  - Each day, memorize and mediate on this lesson's Key Verse.
  - Each day, pray to give the kind of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
- This week, how could we apply what we have learned when we encounter people who are sick, drunk, hungry, homeless, or depressed? Or when we encounter unbelievers?
  - Stop and see what they need. Pray about how to help. Offer and give help.



Group  
Exploration

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do—and when  
Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.



## Bridge Question

- Does being a disciple of Jesus change our citizenship?



Prayer

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

**FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:**

- **Between-Session Mentoring**
- **Between-Session Application Experiences**

**(Remind disciples to be ready to report at the beginning of the next session.)**



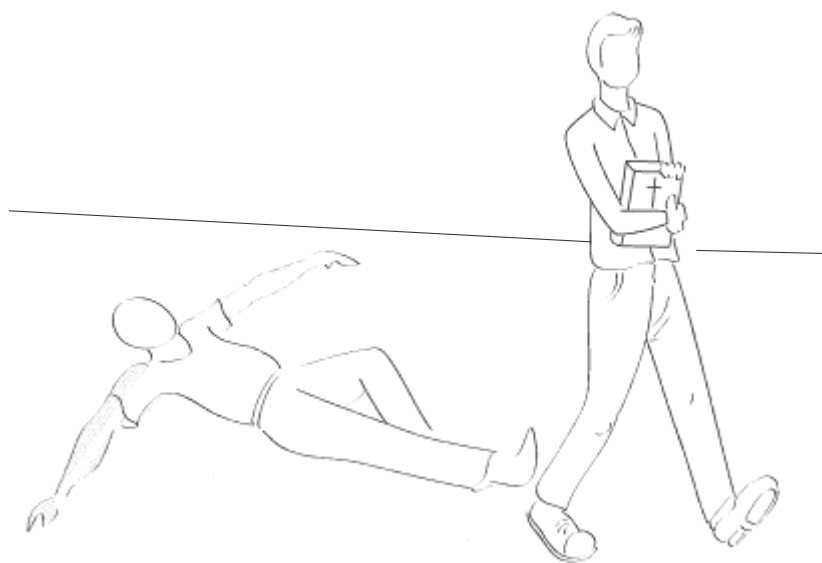


Figure 9.1

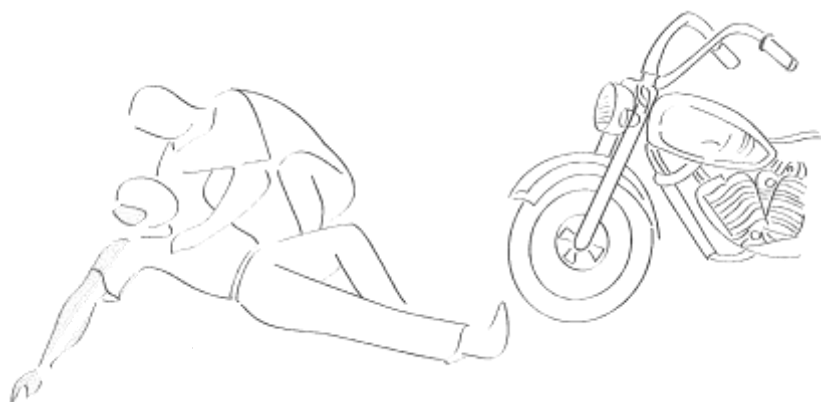


Figure 9.2



# Loving Other Disciples

## LESSON 10

**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Understand that loving other disciples is an essential part of following Jesus.
- Learn what it means to love other disciples.
- Begin the process of “loving one another.”

### Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



Prayer



**Review**

### Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

### Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

### Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.



## Introduction

### Lead Exercise

**Demonstration:** When disciples arrive, have a small wood or charcoal fire going (heating up some water or coffee). When everyone is watching, take one of the coals or sticks out of the fire and set it away from the fire in a safe place. Then, with the disciples gathered around the fire, discuss it with them. Ask them some of the following questions.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- How many coals does it take to make a fire?
- What happened to the coal that was removed and left out on its own?
- What are the benefits of the fire to those of us who are gathered around it?
- How could this fire illustrate our relationship with each other as fellow-disciples?

### Illustrations



- At this time, show disciples Figures 10.1 and 10.2, provided at the end of this lesson.

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What do you see in these two pictures?
  - **Figure 10.1:** A glowing fire, with individual coals and sticks clearly illustrated.
  - **Figure 10.2:** People side-by-side, with their arms around each others' shoulders. Above the picture are the words "Love One Another."

### Bridge

Jesus called us to follow Him—individually and together. We are to love other followers, in spite of our differences. As we love one another, other people will be drawn to Jesus.



## Study

### Key Verse

A new command I give to you:  
Love one another. As I have loved you,  
so you must love one another.

John 13:34

### Discovery Questions

- Who is the “one another”? What does it mean to “love one another”?
- Whose pattern does Jesus tell us to follow? How did Jesus love his disciples?
- How does this command differ from the command to love our neighbor?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized this as such an important command?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*John 13:35*

- What is the proof to the watching world that we are truly Jesus’ followers?
- In what ways would an outsider notice Christians loving each other?
- How would we respond to this if it were only a suggestion, not a command?

*Philippians 2:2-4*

*Romans 15:5,7*

- How are disciples to *think* about one another?
- What should be our attitudes toward one another?
- What do you think it means to “be of the same mind”?
- What would hinder us from doing this?



• Ephesians 4:29,32

• 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- How are disciples to speak to one another? What does this mean?
- What are some other words which describe how we are to relate to other disciples? Have you seen Christians do this? Give some examples.
- How do you feel when people speak to you in these ways?
- What do you think about these commands? Are they easy to obey?

Galatians 6:2

1 John 3:17,18

- What are disciples to *do* for one another?
- What are several ways you could “bear one another’s burdens”?
- What do you think people outside the church will say if we do this?

## Reinforcement

### Exercise



### Song

**Song:** Choose a song from John 13:35, such as “My Commandment,” “New Commandment,” or another.

*This is My Commandment that you love one another,  
that your joy may be full. (repeat)*

*That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.  
This is my commandment that you love one another,  
That your joy may be full.*

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*A New Commandment I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you. (repeat line)  
By this shall all men know you are my disciples,  
If you have love one for another. (repeat last 2 lines)*

### Memorization

- John 13:34

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- Jesus has called each of us to follow Him. We are not alone in following Him. We need one another, and we need good relationships with our fellow-disciples.

Jesus tells us to love one another—in our thoughts, words, character, and actions. We must love His other followers as He loves us. This includes being kind, compassionate, forgiving, and putting their interests above our own. If we do this, nonbelievers who are watching will know that our faith in Christ is genuine. They will be attracted to Jesus, also.



Review  
of Key  
Ideas



## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses

- What actions could we take to show love to others who are here today?
  - Tell each other about our needs. Pray for one another's needs and see if someone here could meet those needs.
  - Tell each other of our love, concern, gratitude, commitment, etc.
- How could we show love to followers of Jesus who belong to other churches?
  - Visit a pastor of another church. Ask if he would permit us to minister to a few needy persons from his church. Explain our reasons. Arrange to begin.
- What characteristics do we find hard to love in other people? How can we show love to fellow-Christians who have these characteristics? (*Note: Mention characteristics of people, not their names. Focus on our own difficulty in loving.*)
  - List characteristics we find hard to love in others, such as arrogance, dishonesty, gossip, vanity, or negative criticism.
  - Pray to love other disciples who, in our eyes, have these faults.
  - Think of sins. Confess our pride, lack of love, and judgment.
  - Be kind and forgiving toward those we have had trouble loving.



Group  
Exploration



- This week, what else could we do to show love for other followers of Christ?
- Think about all fellow-Christians as people to love. Daily, ask God how to love each one. Say and do as He leads.
- Each day, memorize and meditate on the Key Verse.

### Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do and when

Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

### Bridge Question

- We have learned about loving God, our neighbor, and other disciples. If we spend our time doing this, how can we ever tell unbelievers about Christ?

### Closing



Prayer

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:

- Between-Session Mentoring
- Between-Session Application Experiences

(Remind disciples to be ready to give reports at the next session.)







*Figure 10.1*



*Figure 10.2*





**OUTCOMES:** In this lesson, disciples should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson.
- Examine another of Jesus' commandments—the Great Commission.
- Understand that God has a plan to extend His kingdom to all nations.
- See that God's plan involves us.
- Begin to fulfill the Great Commission.

## Opening Prayer

Ask one of the disciples to open the session in prayer.



**Review**

## Lesson Review

Review the major points of the previous lesson.

## Application Experiences

Have one or two disciples report their application experiences.

## Discipler Observations

Share your observations and insights with the disciples.





## Introduction

### Lead Exercise



#### Role Play

- **Role Play:** Select two characters, Disciple and Mentor.

**Disciple** (*Enters, carrying bags, Bible, and maps. Rushes around frantically.*) Jesus said to go to all nations and make disciples! I need to go somewhere far away right now and do it! Where should I start? What do I say when I get there? Oh, no!

**Mentor** (*Finally gets Disciple's attention.*) Jesus' way is better. Do you want to hear it?

**Disciple** Will I still be able to get to all the nations if I stop to listen?

**Mentor** Learning about making disciples of all nations is exactly what you need! (*They sit together and begin to study...*)

### Illustration



At this time, show the disciples Figure 11.1, provided at the end of this lesson.

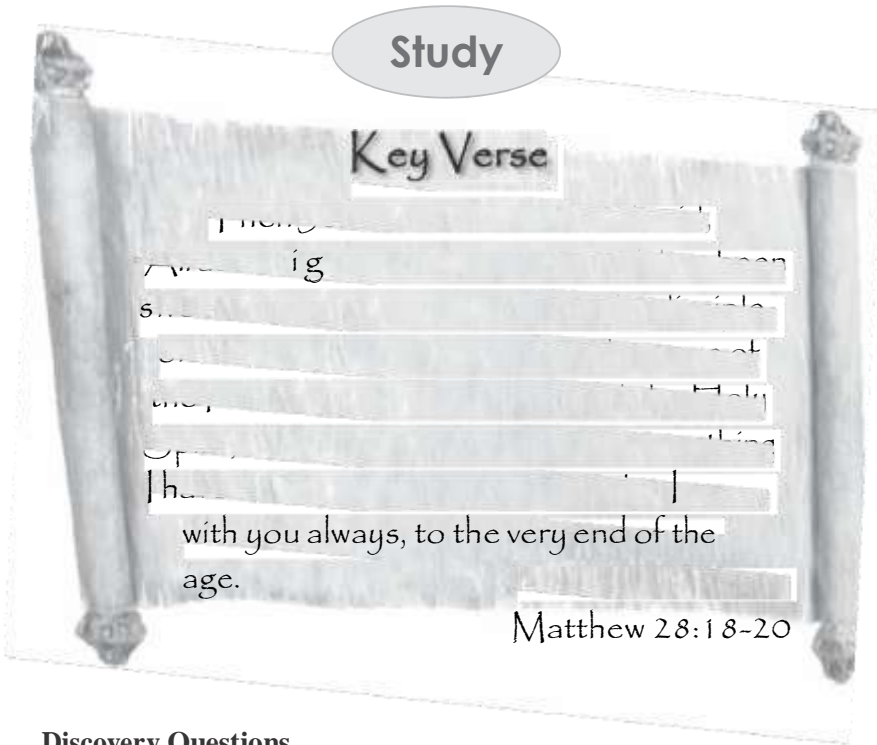
### Suggested Discovery Questions

- What did you see in the role play? How do you think one person could “go and make disciples of all nations”?
- What do you see in the illustration?
  - **Figure 11.1:** One disciple is telling someone about following Jesus. That person becomes a disciple. Each person obeys the command to “Go... Make... Teach...” In this way, all nations are disciplined. A dove symbolizes that the Holy Spirit has not left disciples alone in this task.
- How can one person make a difference in the world?



## Bridge

We have examined the key commandments of Jesus. First, we looked at the Great Commandment to love God and our neighbor. Next, we looked at Jesus' commandment to love one another. Now, we will look at the commandment which is often called the Great Commission. We will learn how Jesus wants His followers to extend His Kingdom. With His help, we will obey Him and be an active part of His plan.



## Discovery Questions

- To whom was Jesus speaking? What tasks did He assign? How could a few people go to all nations? For how long did He promise to be with them?
- Why did Jesus tell them to “make disciples”? Why didn’t He say to “make Christians”?
- Do you think this commandment is for Jesus’ disciples today?



How do you feel about making disciples?



## Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Luke 14:27*

*John 8:31*

- As a review, what is a disciple of Jesus?

*Matthew 4:18-22*

- How did Jesus begin to disciple Peter, Andrew, James, and John?
- How could we invite or challenge people to be followers of Jesus?

*Mark 4:33-41*

*John 13:5,14,15*

- In Mark 4:34, what methods did Jesus use to teach His disciples? (Note: He used parables with crowds, but explained them to His disciples.)
  - Then, in Mark 4:35-41, what methods did Jesus use to teach His disciples? (Note: Jesus used an event they experienced together as an opportunity to teach. He showed them His power, then He exhorted them to grow in faith.)
  - In John 13, what method did He use to teach His disciples? (Note: Jesus again used an experience as His “classroom.” He explained what He was doing and gave His own example for them to imitate.)
  - What are some methods we could use to make disciples as Jesus did?
- *1 Corinthians 11:1*
  - *2 Timothy 2:2*
- In 1 Corinthians 11 and 2 Timothy 2, how did Paul make disciples for Jesus?
  - How could Christians today make disciples who are able to make other disciples?
  - Why do you think we should not only tell people about Christ, but “make disciples”? (Note: Disciples live what they believe and disciple others.)
- *Acts 1:4-8*
- As Jesus prepared to return to Heaven, He told His disciples to wait. Why?
  - What would the Holy Spirit empower them to be?
  - What does it mean to “be a witness”? What is a “witness”? Why didn’t Jesus tell them to “do witnessing”?



- When Jesus spoke these words, His disciples were in Jerusalem, a city within the territory of Judea. Samaria was the next territory, just past Judea's borders. Where is our "Jerusalem"? Our "Judea"? Our "Samaria"? Will the Holy Spirit enable us, also, to be His witnesses to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?

*Note: Disciple-making is the key to fulfilling the Great Commission. Other key elements of the Great Commission include the Holy Spirit, baptism, the Church, discipling nations and the transformation of culture. They will be covered in future lessons in the BASICS series.*

## Reinforcement

- Exercise: "My Christian Heritage"

Purpose: Disciples draw their own Christian history

Supplies: Paper and pencil for each disciple

*Read these instructions to disciples while they are doing the exercise:*

- Look at Figure 11.1. Your project will resemble this illustration. Your artwork, though, will begin at the right of your new paper and move toward the left.
- Begin on the *right edge* of the empty paper, half-way down. Draw a small face or figure that represents you. Take a few moments to think about specific people who have influenced you for Christ at any time in your life.

To the *left* of the picture you drew of yourself, draw 1 or more faces or figures of specific people who have influenced you for Christ—your "parents" in the faith. Draw a line that connects you to each one of them. (See Figure 11.1.)

To the *left* of your "parents," draw pictures of the people who influenced *them* for Christ. Be as specific as you can. These are your "grandparents" in their faith. Draw lines between your "parents" and your grandparents."

To the *left* of your "grandparents," draw the people who influenced *them*. These are your "great-grandparents" in the faith!

## Reflection

Ask a few disciples to explain their Christian heritage using this exercise. Observe that many people have been a part of our

becoming disciples of Jesus. If we made a complete chart, it would go back to a small group of disciples in Jerusalem!

Ask disciples to place the picture of themselves next to the picture of the first person on Figure 11.1.

- What do you see when you put the picture of yourself next to the first person in Figure 11.1?
- When you think about all the people who influenced your Christian heritage, how do you feel?
- Who are the people you will influence to follow Christ?
- How can God multiply your discipleship efforts?

### Memorization

*Matthew 28:18-20*

### Summary

Ask disciples to identify the major concepts introduced in this lesson. After they have given their responses, refer to the following list to confirm that they have covered the major points.

- The Great Commission is one of Jesus' commandments. It expresses God's plan to extend His Kingdom by making disciples of all the nations.
- The commandment was given to Jesus' original disciples. With the Holy Spirit's power, they became witnesses for Jesus and taught others to obey Him in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the farthest parts of the earth. They made disciples by doing what they had seen Jesus do. They invited and challenged others to believe and serve Christ. They taught, explained their faith, and encouraged and corrected their disciples. They lived their faith in Christ and used their own lives as examples for others to follow.
- The Great Commission is also for those who obey and follow Jesus today. As imitators of Christ, we are to make disciples as He did. We are to invite, challenge, teach, explain, serve, obey, and give example with our lives. With the Holy Spirit's power, we are witnesses and disciple-makers. We are to make disciples, and we are to teach our disciples to make



### Review of Key Ideas



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who will make disciples, who will make disciples who will make disciples, who will . . . Together—and with Him—we are a part of extending the Kingdom of God!



## Application

### Sample Questions . . . . . . and Possible Responses

- How do you feel when you think about *all* the people who have contributed to your heritage as a disciple of Jesus?
  - Overwhelmed, amazed, humbled, loved.
- What could we do for our “parents” and “grandparents” in our Christian heritage?
  - Take time to recall their influence. Contact and thank them.
  - Pass along what they gave us to a new “generation.”
- How could we demonstrate more concern about discipling the nations of the world?
  - Learn about one or two other countries or groups of people. Pray for the people and their problems. Pray that they will follow Jesus. Pray for people who make disciples there.
  - Ask God what He wants us to do to disciple our own nation.
- This week, how could we be a part of the Great Commission?
  - Pray for the “next generation.” Ask God to use us.
  - Look to the Holy Spirit for power and courage.
  - Think of Jesus’ methods. Look for opportunities to influence others to become disciples. Invite people to learn of Jesus. Tell others about Him through common experiences.
  - Live in a way that people can learn about following Jesus by simply observing us.
  - Each day, memorize and meditate on the Key Verse.



Group  
Exploration



## Individual Reflection & Decision

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of this lesson:

What they will do and when

Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

## Intercession

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

## Bridge Question

In our past ten lessons, we have learned about salvation, new life in Christ, discipleship, the Kingdom of God, and the King. We have studied the commands Jesus gave us to love God, neighbor, and one another and to extend His Kingdom by making other disciples. We have not only learned about these things, but we have begun to obey them. What in these lessons has helped you follow Christ? What has been difficult? Where do you need more guidance, knowledge, growth? Where do we go from here?



Prayer

## Closing

Give all final instructions before asking one of the disciples to close the session in prayer.

### **FOLLOW-UP: After the session, there should be:**

- **After-Session Mentoring**
- **After-Session Application Experiences.**
- **Evaluation of disciples' progress.**
- **Encourage disciples to review all 11 Key Verses. They may use the Memory Verse cards on page 139.**

# Application Plan

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Figure 11.1

# DISCIPLER'S GUIDE



## Contents

**Discovery Learning  
Master Guide for BASICS  
About BASICS**





# Discovery Learning

## Suggestions for Small-Group Leadership

Arrange chairs in a circle to encourage greater participation.

Sit, do not stand, when you lead the group. Be a co-learner as well as a resource person and facilitator for the group.

Use group discussion of Scripture passages and related questions or issues

Have disciples share personal experiences which relate to the issues your group is discussing.

When brainstorming, list answers and conclusions on a flip chart, overhead, or equivalent.

When working on more detailed issues, divide up into small groups. Later, have small groups report their conclusions to the larger group.

Use pictures, diagrams, objects, stories, and parables to illustrate ideas.

Let learners discover answers, rather than simply giving your solutions.

Try to avoid lecturing. Limit your explanations. Instead, try to draw lesson concepts from the disciples themselves, as they read Scripture.

Be careful in correcting “wrong answers,” which can hinder the disciples’ openness and, consequently, group discussion.

Encourage disciples to make practical applications.

Be aware that the use of technology (PowerPoint, overheads, video, etc.) can hinder group dynamics.

## Questions

Ask open-ended questions to generate discussion. Avoid questions that can be answered “yes” or “no.”

Let your questions on each exercise or verse generally follow this order:

- What does the exercise or verse say?
- What does it mean?
- What do you think about it?
- How can it be applied?



## Discipler Qualities

Live what you teach.

Encourage others to discover truths themselves, rather than just giving them the answers.

Spend personal time between the formal sessions explaining, reinforcing, encouraging, and modeling the principles.

Be spiritually and mentally prepared to teach the lesson. Spend adequate time with God in study, meditation, and prayer.

Consciously impart what you know about following Christ.

Include your disciples in your life.

## The Teacher's Most Important Characteristic

One day, theologian Karl Barth was teaching his seminary students. He said he wanted to give them the secret of being a successful pastor. They all took out their notebooks to record this important truth. He told them to put their books away, since they wouldn't forget what he was about to say. He said this secret has three points. The first key to being a successful pastor was to "love the people." The second key to success was to "love the people." And the third was (*you guessed it!*) to "love the people." The key to successful discipleship is the same. No matter how good your teaching techniques or materials, if you don't love your disciples, you will not be successful.

As you disciple, remember that Jesus, the Master Discipler, loved His disciples so much that He laid down his life for them. How much do you love those Jesus has called you to disciple? Do you want to succeed in making disciples? "Love your disciples!"





# Master Guide for BASICS

LESSON

# #

The BASICS lesson structure is very intentional. Its design is based on adult learning theory. This relational learning format promotes discovery learning through group analysis of Scripture. Therefore, the leader is a facilitator, not a traditional teacher. The following pages explain what the facilitator, or discipler, needs to do in each section of the lesson.

**OUTCOMES: In this lesson, disciples should . . .**

- **Outcome 1**
- **Outcome 2**

Outcomes tell the discipler the goals of the lesson. These are the results that are anticipated in the disciples as a result of the lesson's teachings. Where applicable, the first outcome reads: "Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson." Other outcomes relate to knowledge and application of the current lesson. They summarize what disciples should understand (knowledge) and do (behavior) as a result of the lesson.

Outcomes help you, the discipler, understand what the lesson should achieve. You may share these goals with disciples if you wish, so they will know what your goals are. Evaluate a completed lesson by comparing results with outcomes.

## Opening Prayer

The Opening Prayer is a reminder to the you to open the session by inviting God's presence and guidance. You may lead, or ask one or more of the disciples to lead. In the prayer:



Worship God for the gift of His revealed truth

Petition the Holy Spirit to open hearts to truths and applications of the lesson

Thank the Lord for answers to prayer from the past week

Intercede for the needs of the participants





## Review

The Review helps you see how well the outcomes of the last lesson were achieved. The Review has three parts:

### **Lesson Review** **Application Experiences** **Discipler Observations**

#### **Lesson Review**

- Ask your disciples to summarize the last session's key points.
- Show the prior lesson's illustrations to aid review.
- Ask the group to recite the last lesson's Key Verse from memory.  
Optional: Give individual disciples the opportunity to recite the Key Verse.

#### **Individual Reports of Application Experiences**

- Ask individual disciples to give testimony of their application experiences. (*Time limit: 2 minutes each*)
- If the group is larger than six, divide into smaller groups of no more than six. Appoint leaders to guide the sharing in these smaller groups.
- Circulate to hear as many of the testimonies as you can. Do not make comments until the sharing is completed. Select one disciple to relate his or her experience to the larger group.

#### **Discipler Observations**

Affirm the efforts of the disciples to apply what they learned. Point out strengths. Provide gentle correction where needed. Be careful not to discourage.

Optional: Ask if anyone had difficulty in successfully applying the lesson. If so, ask the group to offer suggestions.





## Introduction

The Introduction of the lesson has four parts:

**Lead Exercise**

**Illustrations**

**Suggested Discovery Questions**

**Bridge**

### **Lead Exercise**

The Lead Exercise is a role play or other object lesson. It presents a problem that is addressed in the lesson. Instructions are given in each lesson.

This is a group dynamics tool and learning method. It introduces a topic, encourages participation, and enhances disciples' recall of the lesson.

Role plays may be difficult in some very small groups. Disciples may choose alternatives, or proceed to the Illustrations.

### **Illustrations**

At this point in each lesson, use the illustrations noted in the way that works best for group participants. For example:

Have disciples turn to the final pages of each lesson.

Show the illustrations so all can see them. (Hold up enlarged copies, pass them around, or use the PowerPoint presentation, available at: [www.harvestfoundation.org](http://www.harvestfoundation.org).)

### **Suggested Discovery Questions**

Suggested Discovery Questions are designed to encourage participation and discussion on the ideas introduced in the Lead Exercise and Illustrations.

Use these questions as guides. Feel free to ask other questions.

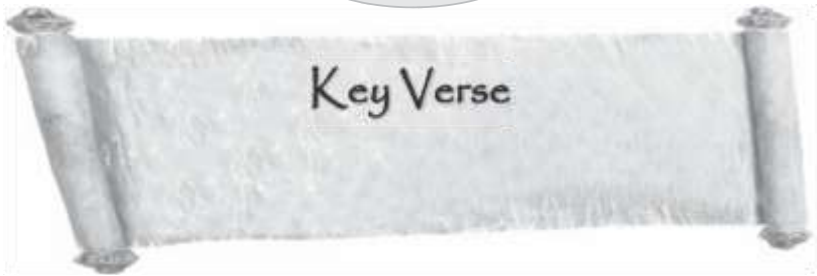
Ask questions that help your disciples understand the issue being raised in the Lead Exercise and Illustrations. Usually, the questions will ask what disciples observe, what they think is the problem being presented, and how they relate to it.

### **Bridge**

The Bridge is a statement that transitions the Introduction to the Study portion. Use it or something similar as you finish the Introduction.



## Study



The Study is the main part of the lesson. It is built on Scripture. It is designed to help your disciples discover the truths of discipleship from reading, discussion and reflection on what the Bible says.

If disciples have books, ask them to turn directly to the Study portion.

Note: If disciples do not have books, the Study section for each lesson may be photocopied from the Study Guide section, starting on page 113.

The Study has four principal parts:

- Key Verse and Discovery Questions**
- Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions**
- Key Ideas**
- Reinforcement**

### Key Verse

This is the verse that best captures the central theme of the lesson. It is the verse that your disciples should memorize.

- Ask your disciples to look at the Key Verse. Read it to them, or have one of them read it to the group. Follow the reading with a discussion of the Discovery Questions.
- Memory Verse cards for Key Verses are available, starting on page 137. You may want to photocopy the cards as an extra learning aid.

### Discovery Questions

These enable disciples to discuss the meaning of the verse and its applications.

- Guide a short discussion on these questions. Ask disciples for their opinions and insight. Do not look for one right answer. Ask others, "What do you think?" Do not teach the lesson yet.

## Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions

Supporting Verses expand on the Key Verse. They, too, have suggested Discovery Questions to help your disciples discuss the content, meaning, and application of the verses. You may want to present other verses if there are ideas or emphases that you want to strengthen or add.

Divide into groups of three to five persons. Have each group select a leader who will serve as group spokesperson.

- After the small groups have had time to read and discuss the verses, ask the leaders of the groups to share the groups' conclusions.

Optional: Write appropriate ideas that come from the small groups on a flipchart, overhead, or other place for all to see. This visual presentation of the ideas helps to reinforce the important concepts of the lesson.

Repeat the above steps for each section of Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions.

*Note: Avoid criticizing or correcting a disciple's response. Rather, ask if someone else has a different idea. In most cases you will find that the group will correct a conclusion that is not appropriate. At this point, you are a facilitator and encourager.*

## Reinforcement

This section helps disciples review and strengthen what they have learned from their discussion of the above verses. Reinforcement has three parts:

Exercise

Memorization

Summary

Exercise

- These exercises are learning tools, such as role plays, songs, or other object lessons that help to reinforce the teachings of the lesson.

Memorization

This is the opportunity for the group to practice committing the Key Verse to memory. Use the memory verse cards now, and encourage disciples to review them between sessions.



## Summary

This is an opportunity to review what has been learned from the verses, the discussion, and the exercises.

Ask various members of the discipleship group to summarize the findings of the study. Encourage them until they have identified most or all of the key points. If they miss some, then you can add the important points they missed. Use the Key Ideas section to assist you in your summary.



## Application

The Application portion of the lesson is ultimately the most important part of the lesson, even though you do not spend as much time on it during the group session. Application helps your disciples explore the implications of the study's principles for their own lives. They then choose one way to begin applying the lesson. The Application section contains five parts:

### **Sample Questions... and Possible Responses**

### **Individual Reflection & Decision**

### **Intercession**

### **Bridge Question**

### **Closing**

*Note: If you have nonbelievers who are coming to your discipleship sessions, be sensitive not to pressure them into applications for which they are not ready. After each lesson, offer to talk or pray with anyone who has questions about the lesson. Continue to show your love in a way that draws them to Christ.*

### **Sample Questions... ...and Possible Responses**



**Group  
Exploration**

This section is the time for group exploration. Think of these questions and responses as suggestions or examples of what might take place in your group discussion. The purpose of this discussion is to help disciples explore, as a group, what the lesson could mean in their individual lives.



Lead a discussion about the implications of this lesson—specifically, about possible personal applications of the lesson. If you wish, use the Sample Questions and Possible Responses to help you guide the discussion. Use your knowledge of the individuals or group to change or add questions.

### **Individual Reflection & Decision**

This provides an opportunity for disciples to think about how they can apply the lesson personally. It then gives them an opportunity to make a decision about what they will do.

Encourage disciples to reflect a few moments about how they individually could apply the lesson in the coming days.

Ask them to decide to complete one small action before the next session. Ask them to write the following information in the Application Plan at the end of the lesson:

What they will do and when

Who will be involved (neighbor, friend, etc.)

### **Intercession**

This gives your disciples a chance to share their application decision with one or two other disciples. They then pray for each other.

Divide disciples into groups of two or three people. Have them pray for one another, especially regarding their Application Plans.

### **Bridge Question**

This is a short question (not to be answered) that leads into the next lesson.

Ask the Bridge Question, but do not answer it or begin a discussion with the disciples. Tell them that next session's lesson will be about answers to this question.

### **Closing**

Give all final instructions before closing in prayer.

Encourage disciples to take time each day to read, meditate on, and pray about the Supporting Verses.

Suggest that their prayers should include asking God for wisdom, courage, and the will to apply the teaching during the week. Remind them to pray for the others in the group.



Remind them of the applications they are to do and that they will be asked to share the results of their applications at the beginning of the next session.



Lead in prayer, or ask one of the disciples to do so. Thank God for the guidance of His Spirit during the study. Thank Him for what was covered in this lesson. Ask Him for His assistance in the coming days as the disciples understand and apply what they learned from His Word.

FOLLOW-UP: Before the next session, there should be:

- Between-Session Mentoring
- Between-Session Application Experiences

(Remind disciples to be ready to give reports at the next session.)

### Follow-Up

Follow-up occurs between the formal discipleship sessions. It is your opportunity to invest personally in the lives of your disciples. This is the most important part of your discipling

- Ideally, make contact or visit at least once between sessions with each disciple. Encourage and help disciples with their lesson applications.
- Over the period of discipleship, work to build a personal relationship with all disciples, using the following kinds of activities: (1) Visit them at home, work, school, etc. (2) Get to know their families, peers, friends, and associates. (3) Invite them to accompany you on some aspect of your personal life or ministry. Let them observe you and participate with you. Soon, you can observe them as they minister (without your help). This is discipleship in action!

### Application Plan

Blank lines are included at the end of each lesson. Instruct disciples to write down their plan for what they have committed to do before the next session. Application Plans are included in the Study Guide section and





may be photocopied and distributed to disciples who do not have books.

# About BASICS

## *Wholistic Discipleship for Brothers And Sisters In Christ's Service*

### **Introduction**

This discipleship series is called BASICS. The term "BASICS" comes from an acronym for Brothers And Sisters In Christ's Service. BASICS is a *basic* discipleship program. In this study, we find the simple, underlying, *basic* principles of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary defines "disciple" as "one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another." The words "follower" and "scholar" are listed as synonyms. Together, these suggest that a disciple is one who:

- Is knowledgeable about the teachings of someone else
- Follows those teachings
- Encourages others to become disciples

A Christian is a follower, or disciple, of Jesus Christ. Consequently, it is most important that a Christian disciple (1) develop a relationship with Jesus—which includes learning and understanding what He taught; (2) live in a way that honors Jesus—which includes obeying His teachings; and (3) introduce others to Jesus and encourage them to follow Him—which includes living according to His teachings.

Followers of Jesus, it is clear, need to know and apply His teachings. In fact, a commitment to Jesus and His teachings is a disciple's first priority. The principal teachings of Jesus can be briefly summarized like this:

- Love God.
- Love our neighbor.
- Love other disciples.
- Make disciples.

### **Background**

A search of current evangelical discipleship programs reveals a strong emphasis on beginning and growing in a personal relationship with Christ, avoiding sin, and doing evangelism (often misnamed "making disciples"). Common topics are salvation, assurance, forgiveness of sins, prayer, Bible



study, worship, and evangelizing. These topics involve the *vertical* dimension of discipleship—loving, knowing, and serving God. Existing materials are weaker concerning the *horizontal* dimension of discipleship—the practical "working out" of God's love as believers relate to their neighbors and fellow-Christians.

In Harvest's work with evangelical and Pentecostal churches in the Two-Thirds World, we have seen that this imbalance can infect new believers with the notion that the vertical dimension of discipleship is for all Christians, but the horizontal dimension is optional. The result is disciples who are off-balance in their understanding and obedience to Christ's commands. They are, in a sense, "half-disciples." As they evangelize, they reproduce others who are similarly out of balance.

Christian churches of theologically liberal persuasions often reverse the imbalance. Here, the emphasis is strong on the social implications of the Gospel—the horizontal dimension of discipleship—but weak on personal, individual reconciliation with God through spiritual new birth and growth in the vertical relationship with Him.

Both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of discipleship are needed for a balanced understanding of Jesus' teachings and for making authentic disciples. Discipleship materials which contribute to producing complete, "whole" disciples balance the vertical and horizontal dimensions of Jesus' teachings. We call this balance "wholistic."

The *cost* of discipleship is often omitted from teaching materials of both evangelical and theologically liberal churches. To make Christianity marketable and attractive, such materials often underplay Jesus' clear emphasis that He (and obedience to Him) must be the first priority of a disciple's life. To be true to His teachings, discipleship programs must stress the cost involved in following Jesus.

BASICS was written to fill the need for material which addresses the cost of discipleship and balances the horizontal and vertical aspects of the Christian life. It is the writers' intent that these materials will help develop Christian disciples who have not only a mental understanding of Jesus' key teachings, but who also live out the vertical and horizontal teachings of their Master. It is our prayer that this tool will help leaders of local churches raise up believers who not only think and live as people who are "heaven-bound" . . . but who follow Jesus Christ in this life, as well.



## Assumptions

This curriculum was developed with the following assumptions:

The goal of discipleship is to develop people who honor the Lordship of Christ in every area of their lives.

Evangelism is not an end. It is only the early beginning of the process of discipleship. Evangelism without discipleship is not biblical.

The best way to have church members with a "whole" Christian witness (vertical and horizontal) is to train them wholistically—starting when they are new Christians. However, it is never too late for long-time believers to begin wholistic discipleship training.

For local churches to be balanced in their outreach, the members must reflect the same balance in their own lives.

The cost of discipleship should be clearly acknowledged throughout.

Discipleship is built on both the teaching of content and mentorship of the application. Mentorship requires time in real-life settings beyond the "classroom" environment.

The foundation of the content is Scripture, which has power to change lives.

The content, especially for a new disciple, should be based primarily on the teachings of Jesus.

The discipleship process best occurs in a small group of learners ("disciples") who are mentored by a more mature Christian (a "discipler").

Personal mentoring (a personal relationship between the discipler and disciple) is a more effective, long-term strategy for discipling than discipleship through non-personal means, such as home study or correspondence courses.

Discipleship is more "caught" than "taught." Disciplers reproduce themselves—whether they want to or not. Only disciplers who model what they teach verbally will produce disciples who both understand and live out what they are being told.

Christian discipleship is more than rigid obedience to Jesus' teachings. The strength and desire to obey Him comes from God's Spirit living within disciples and His love overflowing to others.

These lessons are meant to be an introduction to wholistic discipleship. As with any foundation, they are not complete. They are designed to be used in a context of ongoing mentorship.

## **The Context of Discipleship**

BASICS was originally designed as a tool for pastors and lay-leaders to disciple new believers in evangelical, urban barrio churches in the Two-Thirds World. However, BASICS can also be used for mature Christians who have never been disciplined; or who have not had training in the vertical and horizontal aspects of following Jesus; or who desire to be challenged with fresh, practical applications of their faith.

Since its first printing in 1992, it has been used in many different contexts where commitment to Jesus and His teaching are first priority. BASICS has been taught to both seminary students and to illiterate village Christians. Portions of BASICS have been translated into more than twenty languages.

BASICS is designed for small groups of five to ten people, though it can be adapted for smaller or larger groups. Ideally, the discipleship process starts when five to ten people are ready. When five to ten more people are ready, a separate new discipleship group is formed. Group discipleship sessions can be conducted anywhere a small group can meet with sufficient privacy and comfort to interact freely about the content and application of lessons. Possible settings include a church, a home, or an outdoor setting such as a park.

The following supplies are needed for group sessions:

Bibles

A copy of BASICS for each disciple. Otherwise, provide copies of the Study Guide found in the back of this book.

Other supplies for exercises or role plays, as explained in each lesson.

## **The Methodology: Discovery and Discipleship**

The discipleship group should meet at whatever interval fits naturally into the lives of the people being disciplined. In most contexts this will be once a week. The length of time between meetings should allow adequate time for the discipler to make individual contact with each disciple at least once before the next session.

The lessons are designed for adult learning. Disciplers are not traditional classroom teachers. They do little, if any, lecturing. Rather, they lead the group in the process of discovery, helping them draw conclusions based on discussion of Scriptures, role plays, music, and other experiences that illustrate and reinforce key ideas. The primary form of learning in the group setting is the reading of Scripture and the discussion of Discovery Questions. Questions are designed to encourage disciples to come to conclusions about



the meaning, implications, and applications of Scripture to their lives. Though suggested questions and answers are provided for each passage, disciplers are encouraged to use any questions that help the individuals in their particular group. The primary forms of learning between the group sessions are the times of reflecting on the lesson content, the mentoring, and the application of the lesson.

It is very important that disciplers keep their lecturing to a minimum. Many disciplers are pastors or lay-leaders who are accustomed to lecturing or preaching, but these are not the most effective methods for teaching life principles.

Each lesson gives disciples an opportunity to choose a way to apply what they have learned before the next session. If disciples have difficulty thinking of appropriate applications, disciplers may offer suggestions or refer to those provided in each lesson.

Follow-up is an integral part of BASICS. There are two aspects of follow-up:

First, disciplers are encouraged to make personal contact with each disciple at least once between each session to discuss the lesson and what the disciple thought; give encouragement or offer suggestions on the application; and, if appropriate, show the disciple how the application could be done by doing it together.

Second, during the early part of the next group meeting, disciplers ask the disciples to share their thoughts about the lesson and to share testimony about their individual experiences of the application. The discipler provides affirmation, suggestions and—as needed—correction. This is also an evaluation, showing disciplers how much of the BASICS content was retained and applied.

## Disciplers

It is essential that disciplers are practicing what they teach. Disciplers' teachings are only effective if they are consistent with disciplers' lives.

It is essential, too, that disciplers faithfully intercede for the people they are discipling and that they rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to bring fruit from their discipleship. Prayer and their own personal applications are just as important as preparing to share lesson content.

Mentoring is essential to good discipleship. Disciplers who get involved in the lives of their disciples will achieve far better results than those who simply meet with the disciples to discuss lesson content and application. There are at least two levels of involvement beyond the regular group teaching sessions. Both of these were methods Jesus used in mentoring His disciples.

The first teaching method is modeling. Disciplers model in at least two ways: (1) they demonstrate a consistency of lifestyle with what they teach and (2) they invite disciples to observe them as they put lesson principles into practice.

The second teaching method is involvement in disciples' lives as friends and encouragers. As friends, disciplers spend time with disciples, getting acquainted with their families, work, struggles, and joys. As encouragers, disciplers monitor the applications of each lesson. They offer encouragement, suggestions, help, and correction as needed. All of this takes time. The pattern of teaching a Sunday School class or leading a home Bible study—with no outside contacts—may produce students, but it is not the best way to produce disciples.

## Disciples

This curriculum assumes that disciples have a previous, basic understanding of the Gospel and that they have made a decision to follow Christ. However, the first three lessons provide a review and/or reinforcement of basic aspects of the Gospel. Advanced learners could begin with Lesson #4, "Discipleship," but they may not want to lose the benefit of reviewing their heritage in Christ in the first three lessons.

The writers suggest that people who are serious about learning what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, but who have not made a decision to follow Him, be invited to participate as members of a discipleship group. It is important for disciplers to show appreciation and respect for their search. Allow them to ask questions; spend time with them; trust the Holy Spirit to draw them and to guide you; do not embarrass them in front of the group.



As disciples learn and apply BASICS, disciplers should also watch for those who could become disciplers. These disciples should be more than good students or good communicators. They should exhibit all the qualities of disciplers listed above. They also need to have their own copy of BASICS.

The principles of modeling, mentoring, and follow-up that are used with disciples are also used to train new disciplers:

- 1) A discipler selects a person who has studied and applied BASICS.
- 2) A new small group begins.
- 3) The discipler-in-training observes while the mentoring discipler leads several BASICS sessions. They discuss and evaluate the lesson, participation, applications, and follow-up.
- 4) The disciple teaches all or part of several lessons and does the follow-up. The discipler observes and helps if necessary. They discuss and evaluate.
- 5) When ready, the disciple continues as the new discipler. The mentor observes, and gives helpful evaluation.
- 6) The new discipler begins a group. The mentoring discipler remains available for advice.
- 7) The new discipler follows the same pattern to select and mentor other disciplers.

## **The Content**

Each lesson is intentionally designed to bring out both the vertical and the horizontal aspects of discipleship. For example, in the very first lesson on salvation, the emphasis is on the vertical relationship between God and the believer. However, the final section asks: "What should be our response to God and Jesus for saving us?" Scripture passages point to the response that we are not only to love God, but to love one another. In other words, we are not only saved into a relationship with God, but an immediate implication of that relationship is that we are to express God's love—and our love—to others.

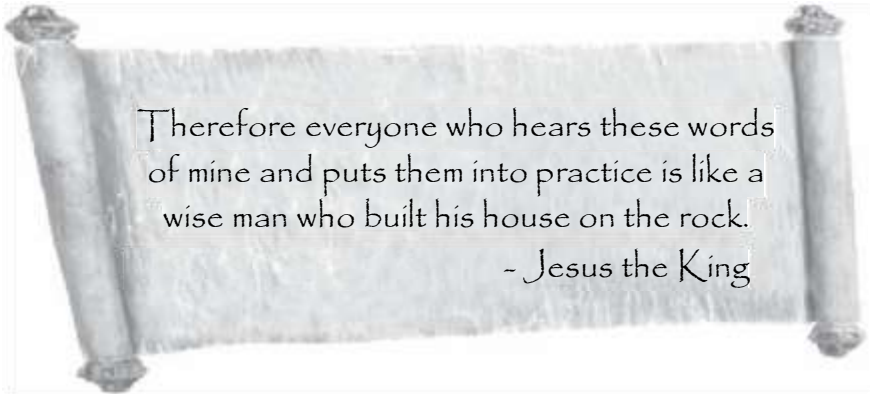
Harvest has attempted to design BASICS without reference or bias toward any church's theological or denominational distinctives. Disciplers can integrate these distinctives, if they wish. They can also cover their church's theological distinctives by designing new lessons using the BASICS format or by using materials produced by their denomination, alongside BASICS.





In fact, Harvest encourages disciples to use the BASICS lesson format to design and teach additional topics. In this way, BASICS not only helps disciples live out their faith in a wholistic manner, but it is also a tool that local church leaders can use as they prepare additional materials to help their people grow in Christ.

A word about the lesson illustrations. These illustrations are a prototype, an example of one style of cartooning which can be used to stimulate discussion and/or to help emphasize the theme of a particular lesson. Disciples may use these drawings, if they wish. They may change words, objects, or people to better depict their own setting, or they may find a local artist to develop illustrations which will speak more directly to their culture. Several versions of these illustrations have already been made. In fact, the ones used in this edition are a contextualized version from Brazil.





# STUDY GUIDE



## Contents

**Study Guides**

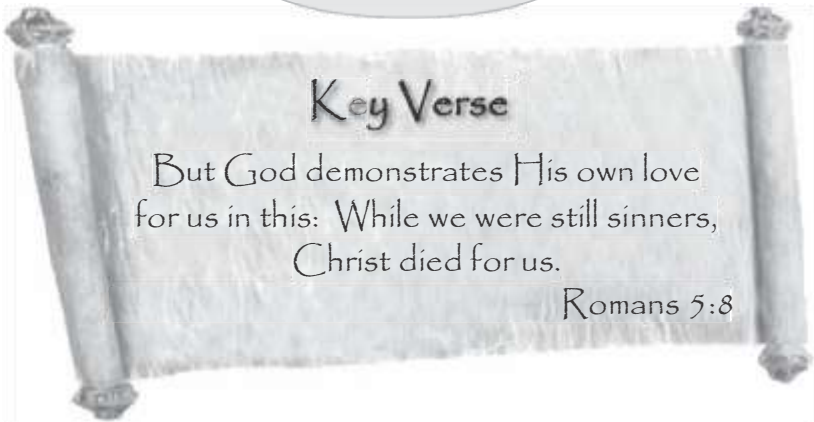
**Application Plans**

**Memory Verse Cards**



# Salvation

## Study Guide



### Discovery Questions

- In this verse, who loves us? How was this love demonstrated?
- What did Christ do for us?
- How do you feel when you think about all this?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

- *Isaiah 59:1-2*
  - What separates people from God?
  - Is God able to save us?
- *Romans 3:23*
  - Who has sinned?
  - “God’s glory,” referred to in Romans 3:23, expresses God’s perfect character. Do you know anyone who is as perfect as God? Do you know anyone who hasn’t sinned?
  - What is the penalty or cost of sin?
  - Think of the gulf in the picture and in the role play. How is it like sin?
- *Romans 6:23*



*John 3:16*

- What did God do to keep us from the punishment of sin?
- Why did God do this for us?

*Romans 5:6-10*

- How did Jesus take away our sin?
- Why did Jesus do this for us? (Was it because of our good behavior?)

*Romans 10:9-11*

- What do we have to do to be saved?

*James 4:17*

*1 John 1:8,9*

- How does James 4:17 describe sin? What does this mean to you?
- If you are saved, are you able to commit sin?
- If you sin, what should you do?

*1 John 4:19*

*John 14:23*

- What is our response to God and Jesus for loving us?
- According to John 14:23, what will we do if we love Jesus?
- If we are saved, can we cross the gulf shown in the picture and role play?  
Can we have loving fellowship with God and Jesus?



## Application Plan

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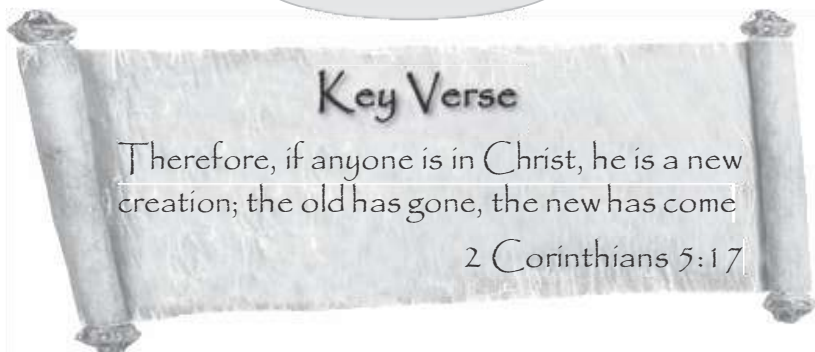
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# The Privileges of the New Life in Christ

## Study Guide



### Discovery Questions

- Put this verse into your own words.
- Can you think of examples of “new creation” from nature, where something changes its form or appearance?
- How do persons become new creations in Christ? In what ways will they change?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

- *John 10:9,11*
- *Galatians 2:20*
- What kind of life does Jesus give?
- Who lives through us? How?
- Think of the first sack as God’s gift of new life. How do you feel when you think about having this new life in Christ?

*John 1:12*

- How are Christians related to God? Why?
- How are Christians related to each other?
- Think of the second sack as God’s gift of a new family. How do you feel when you consider that you are a child of God?



*Ephesians 2:1-3*

*2 Peter 1:2-4*

- According to Ephesians 2:3, what was our nature before we were saved?
- According to 2 Peter 1:4, what is our nature after we were saved?
- Think of the third sack as God's gift of a new nature. How do you feel when you think that God has given you His new nature?

*John 14:16,17*

*Galatians 5:22,23*

- Jesus promised His disciples "another Helper." Who is the Helper?
- Where does the Holy Spirit live ("abide")?
- According to Galatians 5:22 and 23, what does the Spirit offer God's children?
- Think of the fourth sack as God's gift of a new Spirit. How do you feel when you consider that the Holy Spirit is given to you?



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# The Responsibilities of the New Life in Christ

## Study Guide

### Key Verse

For we are Gods workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10

### Suggested Discovery Questions

- Do you think that good works are important to God? Explain.
- What are we “created in Christ” (saved) to do?
- How are we to accomplish the good works?

### Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*

*Romans 5:5*

- What characteristic must we have as we carry out good works? Why?
- Where does love come from?

*1 Peter 2:2*

*Philippians 4:6,7*

- When we want to have close relationships with people, we spend time with them. How do you think we can get to know God more closely?
- In 1 Peter 2, what do you think is meant by “the word?” How could becoming familiar with God’s Word help us to know Him and what He wants us to do?
- What things should we pray about, according to Philippians 4:6? How will praying bring us in closer relationship to God?





- What does James say about us if we hear what God wants us to do—but don't do it?
- Look again at the Key Verse (Ephesians 2:10). Who has created the good works for us to do? How could we discover them?
- What are examples of good works from the role play (Matthew 25:34-40)?
- Can you think of other examples of good works?
- According to Matthew 5:16, who should people praise when they see the good works we do? Should our good works draw attention to us?



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# The Meaning of Discipleship

## Study Guide



### Discovery Questions

- How would you say the same thing in your own words?
- What is the purpose of a cross? In Jesus' time, when did a person carry a cross? What could it mean for us to carry a cross?
- What do you think it means to be a disciple?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Matthew 4:18-20*

*Acts 4:13*

- Why do you think that Jesus wanted followers?
- What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John do when Jesus challenged them to follow Him? See Matthew 4.
- What do you think might be involved if we follow Jesus?
- A few years later, what did people recognize about Peter and John? What do you think they saw or heard? (Do we become like the people we follow?)

*Luke 14:26,33*

- What does Jesus mean by these statements?



- What do you think about these requirements of discipleship?
- How costly is it to be a disciple of Jesus?
- Is this too much for Jesus to ask of a person who wants to follow Him?

*Luke 6:46*

*John 14:15*

- What do you think “Lord” means? Can we call Jesus “Lord” without obeying Him?
- Why would a disciple obey Jesus?
- What would you think about a person who claims to follow Jesus as Lord, but shows little interest in doing what He says?

*John 8:12*

*John 12:26*

- What are some of the benefits of following Jesus?
- What do you think it means to walk in light? In darkness?
- What do you think it means to be honored by the Father?



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# The Kingdom

## Study Guide

### Key Verse

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

James 2:5

### Discovery Questions

- Who promised the Kingdom? To whom is it promised?
- To inherit the Kingdom, what must we be? Who must we love?
- What does this mean to you?

### Supporting Verse & Discovery Questions

*Matthew 13:44,45*

*Matthew 6:25,33*

- To what does Jesus compare the Kingdom? Why did He use these comparisons?
- What do the people in Matthew 13 seem to think about the price of the Kingdom?
- According to Matthew 6, how important is it to seek the Kingdom of God? What else are we to seek? How do you think we could do this?

*John 3:3,5*

*Mark 10:14,15*

- According to John 3, who are the citizens of the Kingdom of God?



- Jesus said that the Kingdom belongs to those who receive it like a little child. What characteristics do little children have?

*Matthew 7:21*

*Matthew 6:10*

- Who can enter the Kingdom of God?
- Whose will is done in the Kingdom?

*Luke 17:20,21*

*John 18:36*

- According to these passages, where and when do we find the Kingdom of God?



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# The King

## Study Guide

### Key Verse

You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.

John 18:37

### Discovery Questions

- How did Jesus describe Himself?
- Why was Jesus born?
- What did He come to do?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Psalm 95:1-8*

- What does this tell us about our God as King? Why is He worthy to be King?
- What are some ways that we can honor God as our King?

*Matthew 28:18*

*Hebrews 1:1-3,8*

- Did God give Jesus all authority? Where?
- Does Jesus have all the Kingly attributes of His Father?

*Revelation 11:15*

- How long will Jesus reign as King?



*Mark 10:42-45*

- As King of Kings, how does the Lord rule? Is this like other kings?
- What characteristic does this King have? Can you give some examples of Jesus as a Servant-King?

*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

- According to 2 Corinthians 5, what are our roles in the Kingdom of God?
- What is “reconciliation with God”?
- What do you think ambassadors do? Where do ambassadors go? Whom do they represent? Give some examples.
- As ambassadors for Christ, whose message do we carry? Who sends us? What is the message? Where do we take it?



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## Study Guide



### Discovery Questions

- In your own words, what does this verse say?
- What are some ways that a follower of Jesus can apply this verse?

### Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

*Matthew 22:36-40*

*Matthew 28:19,20*

*John 13:34*

- What three teachings of Jesus are described in these verses?
- What do you think the Matthew 22 passage means? The Matthew 28 passage? John 13?
- How could we apply Matthew 22 to our daily lives?
- How could we apply the passage from John 13?
- Can we apply Matthew 28:19,20 to our daily lives?

*John 15:5*

*Philippians 4:13*

- How does a disciple have the ability and strength to obey Jesus?
- What does Jesus mean by “apart from me you can do nothing”?

*John 15:10-12*

- What are several things that happen when we keep Jesus' commandments?





Which commandment does Jesus give again in this passage?

*1 John 2:4-6*

What is the difference between true and false disciples of Jesus?

What are some of ways we can know that we are true disciples?



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## Study Guide

## Key Verse

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:37,38

## Discovery Questions

- How does this verse tell us to love God?
- What does it mean to love God with all our *heart*? All our *soul*? All our *mind*?
- How important is this commandment?

## Supporting Verses &amp; Discovery Questions

1 John 4:16,19

- What do we see about God's love for us?
- Who initiated love? What is our response?

Psalm 18:1-3

- The Psalmist David expresses his love to God. Who does he recognize God to be in his life?
- How does David respond? What does he do to show his love to God?



*John 14:21,23*

*1 John 5:3-5*

- According to these verses, how can we express our love for God?
- What does it mean to “keep His word”? How might we discover or learn this word?
- Has God given us commands that are impossible to obey? Why or why not?

*Luke 10:27*

- What do you notice about loving God and our neighbors?
- Who are some of our neighbors? Name some ways we could love them.

*1 John 4:20,21*

*Hebrews 6:10*

- According to 1 John 4, can we love God and not love our brother? Why or why not?
- What is one way to show our love for God, as mentioned in Hebrews 6?
- Name some ways we can love our fellow-believers.



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## Study Guide

## Key Verse

And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Matthew 22:39

## Discovery Questions

- How could you “love your neighbor as yourself”?
- How does loving your neighbor relate to loving God? (*See verses 37-38.*)
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said that all the teachings of the Law and the Prophets depended on two commandments? (*See Matthew 22:40.*)

## Supporting Verses and Discovery Questions

*Leviticus 19:9-18,33-34*

- Jesus was quoting Old Testament law when He told us to love our neighbor. In this passage, who are neighbors?
- Which commandments in Leviticus 19 tell us, generally, how to love any person?
- Because there are general commandments that seem to tell us how to *any* person, do you think we are commanded to love *all* people as our neighbors? If so, why does Leviticus 19 mention specific neighbors who are needy?

*Isaiah 58:6,7*

*Matthew 5:43-48*

- The verses in Isaiah 58 list some ways God wants us to show love to our needy neighbor. How could we do this in our community?



- In Matthew 5, Jesus calls His disciples to a different kind of love. Who receives this love? Do you think this is a difficult kind of love?

*Romans 12:10*

*Colossians 3:18-21*

- Romans 12 tells us to love another category of people. Who are they?
- Do you think that loving our neighbor as ourselves applies to family members? How can we love our family?
- In the lesson titled “The Meaning of Discipleship,” we studied Luke 14:26. Look at the passage again, along with Colossians 3. Are we to love our families? Explain.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-8,13*

- According to verses 1-3 and 13, what should motivate everything we do? Why?
- What are the characteristics of love, according to verses 4-8? What are not characteristics of love?
- What does this teach us about how we should treat all our neighbors?
- What could you do if you don't feel love for a neighbor? Are you still commanded to love? How could your love become more like verses 4-8?

*Matthew 7:12*

- Put Matthew 7:12 in your own words. What question could we ask ourselves when we see our neighbor?



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## Study Guide

## Key Verse

A new command I give to you:  
Love one another. As I have loved you,  
so you must love one another.

John 13:34

## Discovery Questions

- Who is the “one another”? What does it mean to “love one another”?
- Whose pattern does Jesus tell us to follow? How did Jesus love his disciples?
- How does this command differ from the command to love our neighbor?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasized this as such an important command?

## Supporting Verse &amp; Discovery Questions

*John 13:35*

- What is the proof to the watching world that we are truly Jesus’ followers?
- In what ways would an outsider notice Christians loving each other?
- How would we respond to this if it were only a suggestion, not a command?

*Philippians 2:2-4*

*Romans 15:5,7*

- How are disciples to *think* about one another?



- What should be our attitudes toward one another?
- What do you think it means to “be of the same mind”?
- What would hinder us from doing this?

*Ephesians 4:29,32*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

- How are disciples to speak to one another? What does this mean?
- What are some other words which describe how we are to relate to other disciples? Have you seen Christians do this? Give some examples.
- How do you feel when people speak to you in these ways?
- What do you think about these commands? Are they easy to obey?

*Galatians 6:2*

*1 John 3:17,18*

- What are disciples to *do* for one another?
- What are several ways you could “bear one another’s burdens”?
- What do you think people outside the church will say if we do this?
- What is the difference between true and false disciples of Jesus?
- What are some of ways we can know that we are true disciples?



**Application  
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## Study Guide

## Key Verse

I have chosen you  
 and sent you out  
 to be witnesses  
 to all nations.  
 And behold, I am  
 with you always,  
 to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20

## Discovery Questions

- Who is Jesus talking to? What tasks did He assign? How could a few people go to all nations? For how long did He promise to be with them?
- Why did Jesus tell them to “make disciples”? Why didn’t He say to “make Christians”?
- Do you think this commandment is for Jesus’ disciples today? How do you feel about making disciples?

## Supporting Verses &amp; Discovery Questions

Luke 14:27

John 8:31

- As a review, what is a disciple of Jesus?





*Matthew 4:18-22*

- How did Jesus begin to disciple Peter, Andrew, James, and John?
- How could we invite or challenge people to be followers of Jesus?

*Mark 4:33-41*

*John 13:5,14,15*

- In Mark 4:34, what methods did Jesus use to teach His disciples?
- What methods did Jesus later use to teach His disciples? (vs. 35-41)
- In John 13, what method did He use to teach His disciples?
- What are some methods we could use to make disciples as Jesus did?

*1 Corinthians 11:1*

*2 Timothy 2:2*

- How did Paul make disciples for Jesus?
- How could Christians today make disciples who are able to make other disciples?
- Why do you think we should not only tell people about Christ, but “make disciples”?

*Acts 1:4-8*

- Why did Jesus tell His disciples to wait?
- What would the Holy Spirit empower them to be?
- What does it mean to “be a witness”? What is a “witness”? Why didn’t Jesus tell them to “do witnessing”?
- When Jesus spoke these words, His disciples were in Jerusalem, a city within the territory of Judea. Samaria was the next territory, just past Judea’s borders. Where is our “Jerusalem”? Our “Judea”? Our “Samaria”? Will the Holy Spirit enable us, also, to be His witnesses to our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?







But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

