

Growing in Christ
Book Four

ORDER OF LESSONS

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INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Look up the passage as stated and answer the questions to the best of your ability.
2. At the end of each section briefly review the entire section of questions and try to state in a sentence or two the main idea or underlying principle that you have learned from this section. Then write your principle at the top of each section in the rectangular box.
3. If you have trouble coming up with the principle, first try your best to come up with something on your own. After this, feel free to check the answer key at the back of your book if you need help. (But don't cheat and look ahead!)
4. Please try to complete each lesson prior to the meeting when that lesson will be covered, so there will be more time for discussion.

Lesson 1

Evangelism (Part 1)

In **Book Two: Growing in Christ**, lesson one *Evangelism* emphasized three reasons why believers should be motivated to share the gospel with unbelievers. The reasons the lesson discussed were:

1. *People are eternally lost without Christ (Revelation 20:11-15)*
2. *People without Christ are like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:35-36).*
3. *Christ commands us to witness (Matthew 28:18-20).*

This lesson and the next will address the manner in which we should go about evangelizing rather than focus on the motivation behind evangelism. The purpose of these two lessons is to give you a clear and practical strategy, which you can begin to implement in your efforts to reach lost people for Christ.

The story is told of a city fellow who spotted an old New Englander fishing one day. "How many fish did you catch?" he asked.
"Well, sonny, I'll tell you," he said. "If I catch this one I'm after and two more, I'll have three."
Just as it was hard for the old man to admit that he hadn't caught any fish, so too, it is hard for us to admit if we haven't played a vital role in leading anyone to Christ in recent years. Nevertheless, Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, "Follow Me and I'll make you fishers of men."
Principle #1 introduces the first step that is necessary for us to take if we are going to win men and women to Christ.

- Read Luke 5:27-32

Principle #1

1. Notice that Jesus asked a tax collector to follow Him. How did fellow Jews feel about tax collectors? (Use a commentary or Bible dictionary if necessary.) What does Jesus' example with a tax collector have to say to us in regard to evangelism?
2. Take a few minutes and read the preceding context (Luke 4:31-37; 5:1-26). Do you think that when Jesus approached Levi as stated in verse 27, that Levi knew nothing of Christ at this point? If not, why not? What do you think prepared Levi's heart to be willing to leave his vocation and follow Jesus on the spot?
3. Based on your above answer, how important is it that we set a public example if we desire to reach unbelievers when we talk to them in private? Explain.
4. Notice that Levi held an evangelistic banquet in his home immediately after he began to follow Jesus. What kind of example does he set for us if we are to win our friends for Christ?
5. Once we become Christians it can be difficult to maintain those good friendships we had with unbelievers before we were saved. Why is this so? What can we do to not only maintain these friendships (without compromising), but also to bring those friends to Christ?
6. Is it possible for Christians to have the kind of response the Pharisees had in verse 30? If so, what might be the problem? How can believers gain contempt for unbelievers?

7. So far we've seen that it's necessary to lead by public example (Jesus) and personal example (Matthew), in order to win unbelievers. But what must be true of our hearts if we are truly to be successful? See verses 31-32

- Read Colossians 4:2-4

Principle #2

1. Believers often say that opportunities haven't come up for them to share the gospel. Why might that be so?
2. Notice how Paul says we should pray in verse two. If we are going to take advantage of opportunities God brings into our path, what must characterize our prayer life?
3. Notice in verse 4 that Paul also asks that the Colossian believers pray for him to have the ability to share the gospel clearly. Is it difficult for you to clearly share the gospel when opportunities arise? If so, why? What might help you at these unexpected times?

- Read Ephesians 6:19-20

4. If the truth were known, many times we don't pray for opportunities to share our faith because we're afraid God might answer our prayer. What can we do to help us with our fear?
5. Do these two verses in Ephesians comfort you at all? How? (Also, briefly look at 1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

6. What do you think of the statement from the Marines' commercial: "Courage is putting your fears aside and doing your job"? Is there truth to this statement, and if so, in what way?

7. Lewis Sperry Chafer makes this statement about prayer, in his book, True Evangelism:

"Fundamentally, then, the personal element in true soul-winning work is more a service of pleading FOR souls than a service of pleading WITH souls. It is talking with God about men from a clean heart and in the power of the Spirit, rather than talking to men about God."

What do you think of this statement?

No Christian is greater than his prayer life.

The church has many organizers, but few agonizers; many who pay, but few who pray; many resters, but few wrestlers; many who are enterprising, but few who are interceding. People who are not praying are playing.

Two prerequisites of dynamic Christian living are vision and passion, and both of these are generated in the prayer closet. The ministry of preaching is open to a few. The ministry of praying is open to every child of God. Don't mistake action for unction, commotion for creation, and rattles for revivals. The secret of praying is praying in secret. A worldly Christian will stop praying and a praying Christian will stop worldliness.

Tithes may build a church, but tears will give it life. That is the difference between the modern church and the early church. In the matter of effective praying, never have so many left so much to so few. Brethren, let us pray.

-Leonard Ravenhill

Application Point

Review the two principles discussed in this lesson. Ask yourself these questions, and honestly answer them below. Prepare to share with the group your answers to two of the questions in which you honestly need help to improve on.

1. Do I have any genuine friendships with unsaved people? If not, why not?
2. Am I involved in some way in my community where I can display a positive public example and share my light for Christ? If so, how, and if not, why not?
3. When was the last time I reached out to an unsaved friend or acquaintance by doing something social with them? (e.g. invite them over for dinner, go bowling, go to a ball game, invite them to a game night with Christian friends, etc.)
4. Do I have compassion for lost people? If not, why not?
5. Am I praying for God to give me opportunities to share my faith? If not, how can I begin to do this and what might prevent me from this?
6. Am I scared to death of evangelism? If so, what steps can I take to improve in this area?

Homework

1. Begin working on the two questions under the Application Point on which you most need to improve. Below, write down practical steps that you can begin to take this week.

I want to:

I want to:

*Be prepared to share at your next meeting at least one step you took in response to this assignment.

2. Read the appendix "Approaches to Use" and circle or check off one or two of the approaches, which appeal to you the most. Plan to take action on these steps between now and the time your group finishes Book IV: Ministering for Christ.

3. List the names of three unbelievers below whom you would like to see come to know Christ (at least one should be a non-relative and someone who lives in your community or who works with you). Also state the kind of relationship you have with this person (e.g., close friend, friend, casual friend, acquaintance). Based on this, do you need to work on developing the relationship (if acquaintance or casual friend), or do you need to make an effort to share the gospel with them?

Name	Type of Relationship	Strategy (works, lifestyle, or both)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Appendix 1

Approaches to Use

- **With Your Neighbors (Community):**

1. PRAYER is always the first place to start! (Individual and corporate)
2. Respond to a need (use your talents)
 - Lend your lawnmower
 - Shovel snow
 - Take a meal
 - Offer to babysit
 - Buy some shoes
3. Get involved in the community (join some kind of club of your interest). It's easiest to reach those who have similar interests (1 Corinthians 9:22)
 - Service organizations
 - Athletic group – health club – recreational or sporting activities
 - Hobby-centered group
 - Volunteer activities
 - Babysitting co-op
 - Political action group
 - School Board
4. Hold special parties and invite people over (1 Corinthians 5:9-11):
 - Super Bowl party
 - Picnics on holidays (Labor Day, Fourth of July, etc.)
 - Baby shower
 - Women's coffee or tea (with guest speaker)

**As you get to know them in groups, invite them over individually (lunch, supper) and don't compromise or your salt will lose its savor.*
5. Be on the lookout for new neighbors (i.e., be a personal welcome wagon)
6. Get your kids involved (a key to keeping them on your team):
 - Rocket Launch
 - Little League
 - Pizza Party/Ice Cream Social
 - Game Night
 - Film or video night and give a special gospel presentation tailored to kids
 - 5-Day Club (Good News Club)
7. As you get to know people and become involved in their lives, be alert to times and take the initiative to tell them about Christ – give books or

tapes – make an appointment for lunch with the primary purpose of sharing the gospel with them.

8. Don't watch the clock!! (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

- **With Your Co-workers:** Much of the previous applies

1. Join or start a group of your interest:
 - Bowling team
 - Softball team
 - Fishing club
2. Find 2-3 guys or girls you can do things with:
 - Racquetball
 - Auto repairs
 - Running
 - Cooking
 - Golfing
 - Knitting
 - Gardening
3. Begin a formal ministry at work:
 - Investigative Bible study (during lunch break)
 - Discipleship group
 - Bi-monthly evangelistic film or video

- **With Friends and Relatives**

1. Special get-togethers (yearly or every 2 or 5 years)
 - Show slides (if you have time) of the good old days
 - Have a cousins day
 - Grandkids day
 - Aunt and uncle evening out
 - Your own high school reunion
- o For relatives: At the end of the evening, share how important it is to you to be part of the family, but that it would be even better to know that you were all part of God's family because then you would all live together in heaven for eternity. However, do not be preachy!
- o For friends: At the end of the evening, share how great it is to have long-term friends, but that it would be even greater if you could be "friends forever" (share testimony and gospel).
2. Write letters (once a week, biweekly, monthly) and mark it on your calendar – tailor the content
3. Give Christian books, pamphlets or tapes that appeal to their interest
4. Be patient

Lesson 2

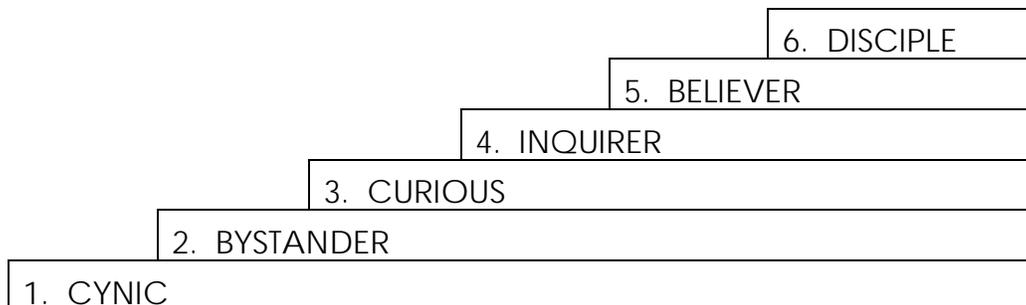
Evangelism (Part 2)

Lesson one emphasized the need to befriend unbelievers and pray for opportunities to share with them. This lesson will focus on three areas.

1. The importance of realizing the process in which unbelievers come to know Christ.
 2. The need for Christians to master a method, which they are comfortable with while they are sharing the gospel.
 3. The benefit of being able to clearly share our personal testimony.
- Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

Principle #1

1. What truths does this passage teach about evangelism?
2. Look at the diagram of steps. Do you think people usually come to Christ in jumps or one step at a time? Would you agree that evangelism is a process leading to an event (the event of the conversion)? Explain.



- **Cynic:** Negative toward spiritual matters. Possibly even hostile and not open to being influenced.
- **Bystander:** Looking on, but either not aware of spiritual matters or uninterested in spiritual matters at the moment.
- **Curious:** Interested in spiritual matters, but not taking the time needed to learn and find answers and make progress.
- **Inquirer:** Very interested in spiritual matters. Actively seeking for truth and for God. Wanting to discover the truth about God and Christ. Open to changing his life.
- **Believer:** Has more than just a belief in the existence of God and Christ. Has embraced that Jesus is the truth, the only way to God and by faith has taken Him as personal Savior. As a result, has seen the Lord make changes in his life and has assurance of eternal life after death.
- **Disciple:** Not only has taken Christ as personal Savior, but growing closer in his personal relationship with Christ. Also, actively serving the Lord and trying to tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ.

3. If "stair-stepping" is true, could it be unwise when sharing the gospel with an unbeliever to pressure for a decision? Explain.

4. Read the paragraph below and then answer the questions that follow:

When you stair-step people toward the gospel, it is not necessary to confront them with a "now-or-never" decision. If you do this and the prospects do not accept Christ, they may be left feeling that they have turned their backs on God. The door of opportunity begins to close and the unsaved are farther away from God than before they were pressed with the "now-or-never" decision. In stair stepping, you gently help people walk toward God in an inoffensive manner. Always leave an open door. Recognize that the gospel itself may be very offensive to those rejecting it. Your goal is not to let them reject it because of your presentation

a. Do you agree or disagree with this paragraph? Why?

b. How do you leave an open door?

5. Is it possible for some believers to be effective at influencing a person to climb the stair-steps toward Christ, yet not be very good at sharing the message and seeing that person trust Christ with them? If so, what do you suggest for them?

6. If a believer grasps this concept of "stair-stepping," do you think it will motivate him/her to become more enthusiastic about evangelism? If so, why?

Principle #2

As important as it is to develop a lifestyle of befriending unbelievers, this in itself is not enough. When God provides opportunities for us to share our faith, we need to know how to take advantage of them. This is only possible if we know the gospel well, can share it clearly, and can also clearly share our personal testimony.

- **SHARING THE GOSPEL CLEARLY: THE NEED TO MASTER A METHOD**

In Luke 24:47 Jesus says that repentance for sins needs to be proclaimed to all the nations. Clearly this verse teaches that we need to do more than live an upright lifestyle in front of unbelievers. We also need to proclaim the gospel! (See also Romans 10:14-17)

It is recommended that every believer know a method that is comfortable for him or her when presenting the gospel. A booklet such as "Life's Most Important Question" can help believers share their faith more effectively.

1. What advantages are there in using a booklet to share the gospel?

2. Take a few minutes to briefly look through "Life's Most Important Question." How do you think you could use this with one of your non-Christian friends?

• **SHARING OUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

Read Acts 26:1-23

1. There are three sections to Paul's testimony. What are they?
 - Section 1 (vv. 1-11) _____
 - Section 2 (vv. 12-18) _____
 - Section 3 (vv. 19-23) _____

2. What do you think is the benefit of sharing your testimony, whether you do so before groups or with an individual?

3. Although it is possible that Luke may have abbreviated Paul's testimony and did not include every word he said, do you think a testimony should be short or long? Explain your answer.

4. Not everyone has a dramatic testimony like Paul did. Should believers who were saved at a young age, and never went through a time of defiance or rebellion, feel that their testimony isn't important? Explain.

5. Is it possible for a believer to not know the day or week or month when they were saved? If so, how might this be possible? Should this hinder that person from feeling they don't have a testimony, which they can share with others?

Larry Gilbert addresses the possibility of a believer not knowing the exact time when he/she became a Christian.

"When a person gets saved, it is always an event, an event that has the angels in heaven rejoicing (Luke 15:10). But in most cases, this event is not quite as earthshaking for us below. When a person walks along a line on one side and crosses to the other side, it is an event. However, unlike the person who runs and jumps six feet to get over the line, many of us walk alongside that line for miles and miles. One day we just notice that we are on the other side. We are not positive of when we crossed over, it was such a small event, such a small step, that it was hard for us to recognize at that moment. I am not teaching progressive salvation. We must recognize that in many cases people go through a progressive acceptance or progressive awareness coming to the knowledge of their salvation experience."

Application Point

Review again the stair-stepping scale on page 18. Now think about the three unbelievers you decided to pray for as part of last time's homework. Try to determine which step your unsaved friend or relative is on, and the next step you need to take to help them move one step farther up the scale. Prepare to discuss your strategy at your group meeting.

Name	Current Stair Step See List from Prin. 1	My Next Move (Cultivating, Sowing, Harvesting)
1.		
2.		
3.		

Homework

Due next meeting:

1. Role-play: Share the gospel with a fellow believer using “Life’s Most Important Question.” Become thoroughly familiar with the booklet before you role-play. It is recommended that you get together with someone in your group so you can both take turns sharing the booklet.

2. Begin working on writing out your testimony, using the appendix as a guide. Try to finish Point 1: Life Before Christ.

Due by the fourth group meeting:

Take your next step toward reaching one of the three people on your list – use the stair-stepping scale as a guide. (Prepare to share your efforts with the group.)

Due by the last group meeting:

1. Share the gospel with an unbeliever, using the booklet of your choice. (This need not be with a person on your list, but it is recommended.)

Appendix 2

- **Use A Three-Point Outline**

1. *Life Before Christ:*

- Attitudes, struggles, fears?
- What did your life revolve around?
- How did you look for peace, happiness and fulfillment?

2. *Your Conversion – Factors That Led To Your Decision To Trust Christ*

- When did you first hear the gospel? How?
- When did you begin to get more interested in spiritual things?
- What was the turning point in your decision?
- How did you receive Christ?

3. *Life After Christ*

- When did you begin to notice changes?
- What changes did you see in your life? Be specific.

- **Practical Tips**

1. *Avoid:*

- Using Christian lingo/terms (e.g., "Praise God," "saved," "converted").
- Mentioning denominations. Don't criticize others.

2. *Include These:*

- Begin with an attention getting sentence or story.
- Be positive throughout.
- Be specific. Details arouse people's interest.
- Be accurate. Don't exaggerate or embellish.
- Use one or two Scripture verses where appropriate.
- Plan out a closing to your testimony.

Lesson 3

Discipleship

So far, *Book IV: Ministering for Christ* has placed a great deal of emphasis on evangelism. This is because many believers struggle with evangelism and are confused about how to do it. But even more Christians fail to realize that discipleship is the key to successful evangelism. That is, if as a church we want to produce committed converts, and then discipleship must be a priority. This is particularly true if we desire to see our future converts go on to lead their friends to Christ as well.

This lesson will address two questions related to the discipleship process: (1) What is discipleship? (2) How are we to do discipleship?

- Read Matthew 28:16-20 (*The Great Commission*)

Principle #1

Note: *Although the word "go" in verse 19 appears to be a command (imperative), it is actually a participle. "Go" would be better translated "as you are going" or "having gone." The only command (imperative) in verses 19-20 is "make disciples," and this is surrounded by three participles: (1) go, (2) baptizing, and (3) teaching.*

1. Based on the above note, what does Jesus say is involved in the process of making disciples?
 2. The main command in Matthew 28:18-20 is "make disciples." What do you think is the difference between "instructing" and "making" a disciple
- Read Luke 14:26-27.

3. What do these verses say must be true of a believer if he is to be counted as a mature disciple?

- Read Colossians 1:28

4. What was Paul's goal in disciple making?

It is clear from Luke 14:26-27 and Colossians 1:28 that Christ wants disciples who love Him more than anyone and who are mature. Yet, if the Great Commission is going to be fulfilled by the Church, there must be one aspect of disciple making that cannot afford to be left out. If the Church fails to give attention to this third aspect, the entire process of disciple making will be hindered.

- Read 2 Timothy 2:2.

5. Why do you think Paul tells Timothy to entrust what he's learned from him to faithful men? Why not any Christian, faithful or not?

6. Earlier in the lesson it was said that the first two aspects of disciple making were to:

- Make converts (i.e. disciples)
- Make mature disciples

- 2 Timothy 2:2 teaches the third aspect of disciple making. What do you think that is?

Note: The goal of Books 1 and 2 is to take new converts or young Christians and stabilize them in the faith.

The purpose of Book 3 is to make mature disciples who are actively pursuing a close walk with God, and who are fellowshiping biblically with believers.

If we stop here, however, the process of disciple making will be short-circuited. Therefore, Book 4 focuses on multiplication. The goal here is to train disciples to share their faith, use their spiritual gifts, and pursue a personal ministry of disciple making.

7. Evangelism without discipleship is merely "addition." Evangelism plus discipleship produces multiplication. Read Genesis 1:28. How is the command to make disciples similar to the command God gave in Genesis 1:28?

Many believers agree that the goal of discipleship is to make reproducers. The question that causes debate sometimes is how? How do we effectively carry out the task of discipleship? This is the concern of Principle #2.

- Read Matthew 28:20

Principle #2

1. The Greek word for "teaching" in verse 20 is "didasko". This word is used almost exclusively of public instruction. Although listening to sermons and attending Sunday school are important to the discipleship process, should these two ministries be considered the only or the primary means of discipling men? Why or why not?
2. According to verse 20, what is the purpose of teaching? Is public instruction enough to motivate people to obey Christ? Explain.

- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12.
3. How did Paul disciple the believers at Thessalonica? List some specific ways.

 4. Paul claims in verse 8 that he loved them dearly. Do you think it is important for a disciple to love and care deeply for those he is working with in order to have a maximum impact? Explain.

 5. Was Paul's disciple making effective? See 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8.

Note: As stated earlier in this lesson, the purpose of discipleship is *spiritual reproduction*. When a believer pours his life (as Paul did) and teaching into others, these believers imitate or model their discipler, and also the Lord.

Effective discipleship will only take place when disciplers model Christ before others. Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 11:1 "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." Teaching is important, but modeling is just as important, if not more so.

6. Why do you think Jesus only chose twelve to be His inner core of disciples? Why did He not choose more?

7. Why do you think Jesus wanted the twelve to follow Him wherever He went?

Note: One must not overlook that even while Jesus was ministering to others, the disciples were always there with Him. Whether He addressed the multitudes that pressed on Him, conversed with the Scribes and Pharisees

which sought to ensnare Him, or spoke to some lonely beggar along the road, the disciples were close at hand to observe and to listen. In this manner, Jesus' time was paying double dividends. Without neglecting His regular ministry to those in need, He maintained a constant ministry to His disciples by having them with Him. They were thus getting the benefit of everything He said and did to others plus their own personal explanation and counsel.

8. Do you think small group and personal interaction is necessary for effective discipleship to take place? List some benefits.

9. As stated earlier, Matthew 28:20 says we are to teach believers to obey Christ. Is accountability important, and if so, in what setting (large or small group) is it best achieved?

Application Point

Begin thinking through what you can do to reproduce your life into the lives of others. It may be that you should consider leading a discipleship group of your own in the near future, or doing one-on-one follow-up with a new or young Christian. This type of ministry may be with older adults, young adults, teens or even children. Just as a believer does not need the gift of evangelism to share his faith, a believer does not need the gift of teaching to disciple another person or persons.

In lessons five and six we will discuss spiritual gifts. It is true that believers are gifted differently and have different burdens. Nevertheless, discipleship must be kept at the forefront of any ministry we become involved in, because it is the primary ministry command that Jesus gave to the Church (Matthew 28).

State below in what way you feel God might be leading you to be a discipler of men, women or children in the near future. Plan to share this with the group.

- I'd like to be a reproducer (begin practicing spiritual multiplication) in this way:

- My biggest fear or hindrance is:

- To help me apply this lesson I need prayer for the following:

Homework

1. Finish writing out your testimony, using the appendix from lesson #2 as a guide.

2. Take your next more toward reaching one of the three non-Christians you listed under the Application Point in lesson #2. Use the stair-stepping scale as a guide and prepare to share your efforts with the group.

Lesson 4

Practical Evangelistic Ministry (Part 1)

Rather than meet for Bible study and prayer it is important that your group now engage in some form of evangelism. There are a number of things that your group can pursue. Below is a list of three ministries to choose from. The purpose of this meeting is to begin applying what you have learned about evangelism and to do it together with your leader. The ideas listed below are non-threatening projects that you can do together as a team.

Ideas: *Check One*

1. Servant evangelism: Light bulb giveaway plus Spiritual Opinion Poll
(See Appendix 1)
2. Servant evangelism: Free laundry service plus Spiritual Opinion Poll
(See Appendix 2)
3. Servant evangelism: Free car wash plus Spiritual Opinion Poll
(See Appendix 3)
4. Servant evangelism: Nursing Home/Hospital outreach (See Appendix 4)

Appendix 1

Servant Evangelism: Light bulb Giveaway plus Opinion Poll

- **Materials Needed:**

- Light Bulbs (60, 75 or 100 watts)
- Servant Evangelism light bulb cards (see Appendix 5)
- Spiritual Opinion Polls (see Appendix 6)

- **Instructions:**

1. Go door to door in your community and offer a free light bulb to those who are home and hand them a card. Tell them you are giving away free light bulbs to show God's love in a practical way.
2. Ask those who are home and who take a light bulb if they could also help you out by answering a brief opinion poll (See Appendix 6).

- **Purpose:**

1. Share your light (no pun intended) in your community (Matthew 5:14-16) by giving away something for nothing.
2. Find out about people's needs and spiritual interests. Learn to listen to people first, before speaking to them.
3. Gain boldness in talking to strangers.

Appendix 2

Servant Evangelism: Free Laundry Service plus Opinion

- **Materials Needed:**

- A bag of change (quarters)
- Servant Evangelism laundry service cards (see Appendix 5)
- Spiritual Opinion Polls (see Appendix 6)
- *Life's Most Important Question* Booklets

- **Instructions:**

1. Go to your local laundry service and offer to pay for people's laundry service for that day. Tell them you are doing this to show God's love in a practical way.
2. After you explain what you are doing, give them a card. Also, ask them if they would help you out by answering a brief opinion poll (See Appendix 6).

- **Purpose:**

1. Share your light in your community (Matthew 5:14-16) by giving away something for nothing.
2. Find out about people's needs and spiritual interests. Learn to listen to people first, before speaking to them.
3. Use the Spiritual Opinion Poll (especially question #8) as a springboard to share the gospel with them if they indicate an interest.
4. Gain boldness in talking to strangers.

Appendix 3

Servant Evangelism: Free Car Wash plus Opinion Poll

- **Materials Needed:**

- Brushes
- Sponges, squeegee
- Car wash soap (get the good stuff)
- Hoses, nozzles
- Buckets
- Servant Evangelism car wash cards (see Appendix 5)
- Large signs to advertise the car wash saying "Free Car Wash – No Kidding!"
- Spiritual Opinion Polls (see Appendix 6)

- **Instructions:**

1. Contact a local fast food restaurant or a gas station which is located at a busy intersection of town. Ask the manager if you can use their parking lot to set up a free car wash. Contact the manager two weeks in advance.
2. Pick a good time. A Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 is advised.
3. Set up two 1½ hour shifts for a three hour car wash or one shift if the car wash is two hours or less. Have at least 4-8 people per shift. You may want to ask another discipleship group to do this project with you so you have enough people.
4. Ask those in the car to fill out the Spiritual Opinion Poll (Appendix 6). In most cases, to preserve the purity of the free service it is best to simply say what church you are from and tell them you are doing this to show God's love in a practical way. Be prepared however to talk about spiritual things and the gospel if the opportunity arises (this is why it is important to designate a "talker" to take advantage of these opportunities).
5. Always hand your card to them before they drive off.
6. Do not accept money. People will try to pay you, but resist the temptation. You may respond to such an offer by saying, "Thank you, but the gospel of eternal life is a free gift and we'd like to wash your car as a free gift as well."

- **Purpose:**

1. Share your light in your community (Matthew 5:14-16) by giving away something for nothing.
2. Develop camaraderie among yourselves and gain boldness in talking to strangers.
3. Find out about people's needs and spiritual interests. Learn to listen to people first, before speaking to them.

Appendix 4

Servant Evangelism: Nursing Home Hospital Outreach

- **Materials Needed:**

- Handkerchief, comb for the men
- Flowers (silk) for the women
- Servant Evangelism Nursing Home/Hospital cards

- **Instructions:**

1. Ask permission from a nursing home or hospital for a time when you can visit the patients.
2. Visit the patients and give the ladies a flower and the men a handkerchief or comb. Tell them you are giving these gifts to show God's love in a practical way. Develop rapport with them. Show kindness and empathy.
3. Give them your card and point out John 3:16 on back of the card. Ask if they have ever heard this before. Take 2-3 minutes to share what John 3:16 means and what it means to you. If you sense an openness, ask if they are 100% sure that they have eternal life.
4. Offer to pray with them for their physical and spiritual needs.

Appendix 5

Servant Evangelism Cards

1. Light Bulb Giveaway (Front)

(Back for All cards)

<p><i>We're glad we had the chance to serve you! We hope that we've brought some light into your day today.</i></p> <p><i>It's a simple way of saying that GOD loves you –no strings attached. Let us know if we can be of more assistance.</i></p>	<p>"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 3:16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-Your Church Name, Address, Phone Number- Include: Sunday Service Times</p>
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2. Laundry Service (Front)

3. Car Wash (Front)

<p><i>We're glad to be able to help you with your laundry! We hope this small deed brings some light into your day.</i></p> <p><i>It's a simple way of saying that GOD loves you –no strings attached. Let us know if we can be of more assistance.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Your Church Name Here</p> </div>	<p><i>We're glad we had the chance to serve you! We hope that we've brought some light into your day.</i></p> <p><i>It's a simple way of saying that GOD loves you –no strings attached. Let us know if we can be of more assistance.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Your Church Name Here</p> </div>
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4. Nursing Home (women)

Nursing Home (men)

<p><i>We're glad we could give this flower to you! We hope this small gift brings some light into your day.</i></p> <p><i>It's a simple way of saying that GOD loves you –no strings attached. Let us know if we can be of more assistance.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Your Church Name Here</p> </div>	<p><i>We're glad we could give this comb to you! We hope this small gift brings some light into your day.</i></p> <p><i>It's a simple way of saying that GOD loves you –no strings attached. Let us know if we can be of more assistance.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Your Church Name Here</p> </div>
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Appendix 6
Spiritual Opinion Poll

1. Do you regularly attend a church in this area?

_____ Yes _____ No

Why do you think most people don't go to church today?

What would you look for in a church that would be of interest to you?

What advice would you give to our pastor and the leaders of our church, to help them relate better to the needs and interests of people?

What is the most pressing need in your life right now?

Could I/we pray about this need for you right now?

OPTIONAL: *Pursue questions 7 and 8 only if they have been very open and Friendly.*

Have you read the Bible and do you believe it is true?

Are you 100% sure you'll go to heaven when you die? If not, would you be interested in knowing how you could be 100% sure you'd go to heaven?

- a. If yes – share *Life's Most Important Question*.
- b. If no – ask if you could pray with them about the most pressing need in their life.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Lesson 5

Spiritual Gifts (Part 1)

Many believers not only do not know what their spiritual gifts are, but they understand very little about spiritual gifts. This lesson begins a two-part series which will address the temporary and permanent gifts, point out the purpose of spiritual gifts, and stress our need to know, develop and use our gifts for God's glory. Through study of Scripture as well as completion of assessment questionnaires, the believer will learn more about how God has gifted him/her and how these gifts can be best utilized.

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

<p>Principle #1</p>

1. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Paul says there are different gifts and different types of ministries. Does he say every believer possesses at least one spiritual gift, and if so, what is the purpose of a spiritual gift?

2. Do you think we have a say as to what spiritual gift God gives us? Are we commanded anywhere in this passage to seek for a spiritual gift from God? Read verse 11 in particular.

Some have said that 1 Corinthians 12:31, "*but eagerly desire the greater gifts*" teaches that believers are to seek for gifts from God (especially the gift of tongues), and that if a believer fervently prays and asks God for a certain gift, that God will bestow that gift upon them.

The problem with this interpretation is that the verb "eagerly desire" is a second person plural in the Greek, not singular. This means that Paul is commanding the believers as a church to desire to see the greater gifts (especially prophecy) exercised in the local assembly. He is not commanding individuals to seek after any gift. The problem was that the Corinthians were putting an undue emphasis on exercising the gift of tongues to the exclusion of prophecy. Paul's point in chapter 14 is that prophecy is a more beneficial gift than tongues (14:1, 3-5), and therefore the Corinthians should seek to exercise prophecy rather than tongues in the church. 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 14:1 aren't a command to individual believers to seek for a greater spiritual gift to benefit their personal life. Rather, it is a command for the whole church to exercise prophecy more than they have been doing.

3. Does this passage seem to indicate when believers receive their gifts from God? Do all believers receive their spiritual gifts at the moment of salvation? Explain your answer. Do you think God would give a believer a gift later on and perhaps take another gift away that was previously bestowed to that believer? Explain.

4. Does 1 Corinthians 12:14 imply that there is such a thing as a "lesser" spiritual gift? What kind of attitude should we have if we don't possess the up-front type gifts, such as pastor, teacher, evangelism, etc.?

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Principle #2

There are a number of spiritual gifts listed in the Bible. The best and easiest way to remember them is by placing them in categories. Three categories that are easy to remember are: (1) Flashy, (2) Foundational, and (3) Functional. Although your group leader will not spend much time discussing the flashy and foundational gifts in your group meeting, it is important that you take the time to study and think through all of the questions in the lesson because this is a controversial area.

❖ The Flashy Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 contains a list of nine spiritual gifts. Four of these gifts are what might be called the “flashy” gifts. These are miracles (verse 28), healing (verse 28), tongues (verse 28), and interpretation of tongues (verse 30). At this time these four gifts will be addressed.

1. *Miracles*

- In Acts 2:22, Peter is preaching to the Jews and claims that Jesus was a man accredited by God to them by miracles, wonders and signs which God did among them through Him. This verse states that miracles were a sign to verify that Jesus was from God, and was Himself God and the Messiah. For these to be a sign, they had to be extraordinary and supernatural acts. If you read the gospels, you’ll find out this was the case (e.g., turning water into wine, feeding the 5,000, etc.).
 - Miracles are listed as one of the gifts of the Spirit. Just as miracles accredited Jesus as the Messiah, so too, miracles accredited the apostles and verified them as true apostles (see 2 Corinthians 12:12). The miracles of the apostles were just as extraordinary as those of Jesus.
- Read Acts 19:11-16 and Acts 13:6-12
 - a) Acts 19:11 clearly state that God was performing extraordinary miracles through Paul. Could others duplicate Paul’s miracles in Acts 19? How would you define a miracle based on what you see in Acts 13:6-12?

- Read Acts 5:1-11

- b) In this passage we see Peter, another apostle, performing two miracles. Some people say some believers still have the gift of miracles, but do you see those kinds of miracles which you've read about (blinding another's eyes, healing through touching handkerchiefs, striking someone dead by the spoken word) occurring today? If not, what should this tell us about the biblical gift of miracles?

2. *Healing*

- Read Acts 3:1-10.
 - a) Some say that if an individual has enough faith that he/she will be healed. Also, when people don't get healed at a "healing service," it is said this is not because the man did not have the gift of healing, but because the sick person didn't have enough faith. Does this passage indicate in any way that faith must be present in order for healing to take place?
 - b) Most people who claim to have the gift of healing today perform their healings in a church or auditorium where emotions are high. What is different about the setting in Acts 3?
- See Appendix 1 at the back of this lesson for a study of all the passages in Acts where "healings" took place.

3. *Tongues*

- Read Acts 2:1-11
 - a) On the day of Pentecost the believers (or perhaps this is referring to the twelve apostles, cf. 1:26), began to speak in other tongues (2:4). What were those tongues? Was it ecstatic speech or something else?
 - b) What was the content of these tongues? What were these people proclaiming?

c) Based on the above two questions, what was the gift of tongues?
What did someone who had this gift have the ability to do?

d) Based on Acts 2:1-11, why might it be correct to say that the so-called
“tongues speaking” being practiced today by some Christians is not
what was practiced in the New Testament?

Note: For further information and as part of your homework, read Appendix 2,
“Reasons Why Speaking in Tongues Appears to Have Been a Temporary Gift.”

4. *Interpretation of Tongues*

- Read 1 Corinthians 14: 5, 13

a) What does verse 5 say is true about “uninterrupted tongues”?

b) What do you think the gift of interpretation of tongues was? Keep in
mind that biblical tongues were languages.

Conclusion: These four gifts seem to have been temporary gifts and are not
normative for today. Miracles and healings were the signs of an apostle. God
still heals today (in accordance with His will, 1 John 5:14-15; 1 Peter 4:19), but not
through the gift of healing. The tongues that we see practiced today by some
believers are not what is seen in Scripture.

❖ The Foundational Gifts

1. *Apostle*

- Read Acts 1:21-26; 1 Corinthians 9:1 and 15:7-9
 - a) Based on these three passages, what appears to be one requirement necessary for someone to be called an apostle?

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:12
 - b) What is another requirement of a true apostle? What must he have the ability to do?

 - c) An apostle not only had to meet these requirements, but he had to carry out his responsibilities. An easy way to remember what an apostle's responsibility was is by associating the letter "a" in apostle with another word that begins with the letter 'a". Turn to Matthew 10:1-2. In verse 2, Jesus sends out the twelve disciples and calls them apostles. What word in verse 1 beginning with an "a" describes the responsibility of an apostle? (see note on next page)

 - d) What did the apostles have authority over? Briefly read Acts 15:6-29 if necessary.

Note: The responsibility of an apostle was only needed while the New Testament was still incomplete. Once the Scriptures were finished being written, the apostles were no longer needed. This does not mean we do not need strong leaders today to teach the flock and to start new churches. We do need them. Most likely these people (e.g., missionaries) contain a variety of spiritual gifts and a certain temperament that enables them to establish new works. However to say that these people have the gift of apostleship would be stretching it. Apostles were marked by the ability to do signs and wonders.

At best, today's church planters and missionaries would have to be classified as "inferior apostles". No one is doing today what the first century apostles did.

2. *Prophecy*

- Read 1 Corinthians 14:29-33
 - a) Some claim that the gift of prophecy is really the ability to preach well and forcefully. However, does this passage indicate anywhere that prophecy is the same as preaching?

- Read Acts 11:27-28 and Acts 21:10-14, 27-33.
 - b) It is true that 1 Corinthians 14:31 asserts that prophets instructed and encouraged the body, but this was not all they did. Based on these passages, what special ability did someone with the gift of prophecy have in the New Testament?

 - c) What would you say uniquely characterizes a New Testament prophet and what was his purpose, according to these three passages you just studied? (1 Corinthians 14, Acts 11, Acts 27)

- Read Ephesians 2:20.
 - d) Once the foundation of a building has been laid, it's time to begin erecting the structure. Since the apostles and prophets laid the church's foundation, do you think there is still a need for them? Why or why not?

 - e) Why did the early church (1st century church) need apostles and prophets so badly?

Conclusion: The foundational gifts are no longer necessary because the Bible (the completed canon) is now our authority. The foundation has been laid and we are to build upon that. This is where the functional gifts are needed.

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Principle #3

There are twelve functional gifts:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Service | 7. Evangelism |
| 2. Giving | 8. Leadership |
| 3. Mercy | 9. Administration |
| 4. Exhortation | 10. Wisdom |
| 5. Teaching | 11. Knowledge |
| 6. Pastor | 12. Faith |

❖ **The Functional Gifts**

1. **Service**

- Read Romans 12:7-9.

Note: The Greek word often translated “serving” (diakonia) is the same Greek word for deacon in the New Testament. This makes sense, since the deacons are the servants (servant leaders) of the church. This does not mean that only the deacons in a church have the spiritual gift of service, or that those with the gift of service need to be deacons.

- Read Acts 6:1-7
 - a) What qualities must characterize good servants for the Lord according to these verses?

b) What was the purpose for selecting these men and what was the outcome of their ministry?

c) Based on verse 7, would you say that believers should see this gift as a consolation prize? Is it not as important as the gifts of teaching or evangelism?

d) In addition to what is said in Acts 6:3, what other qualities and desires do you think would characterize a believer who has the gift of service?

2. ***Giving (Romans 12:8)***

- The Scriptures don't specifically define the gift of giving. Nevertheless, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 and Matthew 6:2-4 state the manner in which we should give. Read these passages and then list what qualities you think would characterize a believer who has the spiritual gift of giving.

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

a) In what way does God say He will reward the giver and what purpose does the giver bring about through his giving?

3. ***Mercy (Romans 12:9)***

a) The Greek word translated "mercy" is "eleos". This word can be defined as compassion, kindness or empathy. It can imply a compassion that

withholds punishment, even when justice demands it. What do you think uniquely characterizes a believer with the gift of mercy?

b) Do you think "mercy-showers" are more likely to be "used" than others? If so, what advice can the church give them?

c) In what way can some "mercy-showers" really help out the ministry of the church, and in particular the pastor?

The gifts of service, giving, and mercy might be called the "serving gifts." The rest of the functional gifts (evangelism, teaching, exhortation, pastor, administration, leadership, wisdom, knowledge, faith) will be covered in lesson #7.

Appendix 1

Passages in Acts Where "Healings" Took Place:

Acts 3:1-10 a lame man walks and leaps

Acts 5:16 the sick or those afflicted with unclean spirits were all being healed

Acts 8:7 many who were paralyzed and lame were healed

Acts 9:32-34 a paralyzed man, bedridden for 8 years

Acts 9:36-42 a girl who had died was raised up

Acts 19:12 diseases left them, evil spirits went out

Acts 20:9-12 a young man fell from a third story and picked up dead...was raised alive

Acts 28:8 father of Publius in bed with fever and dysentery was healed

Note: In these accounts there is no record of failures, no requirements for the sick to exercise faith, and no meetings.

Appendix 2

Reasons Why Speaking in Tongues Appears to Have Been a Temporary Gift

A. Tongues Was A "Sign" Gift

1. It validated to the Jewish believers that Gentiles could be saved.
 - a. Acts 10 tells about a Gentile named Cornelius who believed in the Lord Jesus when Peter came and preached to him and his family. At this time Jews felt Gentiles were "unholy" since they were not God's chosen people. However, in 10:34 Peter realized God does not show partiality. When Cornelius and his relatives and friends embraced the gospel in Acts 10:44-48, it says that these new Gentile converts began to speak in tongues. The fact that these Gentiles spoke in tongues confirmed or validated to the Jewish believers that the Holy Spirit was being given to Gentiles as well and that Gentiles could be saved.
 - b. Once the church realized that Gentiles and Jews both made up the body of Christ (Ephesians 2:11-22) this sign of tongues as a validation became no longer necessary.
2. It validated to unbelievers that the gospel message was true and that these Christians were truly of God.
 - a. Acts 2:1-13 gives the first account of tongues speaking. On the day of Pentecost Jews who lived in other nations and spoke different dialects came to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. On this day the apostles (or possibly the 120) received the gift of tongues and proclaimed the mighty deeds of God (2:11). These unbelieving Jews and proselytes heard them speak in their own language.

This tongues speaking prepared the hearts of these Jews to then listen to Peter's message (2:14-42) and about 3000 were saved that day.
3. It served as a sign of judgment to unbelievers.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 14:22 says that tongues are a sign for unbelievers. Tongues was divine revelation from God, just as prophecy was. If a

tongue was spoken but not interpreted, then the message was missed because it could not be understood. When unbelievers heard tongues being spoken without interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:23) the message of that tongue was not understood and the unbeliever missed God's revelation to him. Missing God's revelation is a form of judgment, therefore these unintelligible tongues served as a sign of judgment for the unbelievers.

B. Tongues Had A Temporary Purpose

1. Their purpose appears to be over.
 - a. The church was in a state of transition during the writing of the New Testament and especially the book of Acts. We no longer need a sign to validate to us that the Gentiles are recipients of God's saving grace and the indwelling power of the Spirit.
 - b. Now that the entire Bible is finished and the "canon" is complete we have all of God's revelation (His Word) written down for us. A sign of judgment, which uninterrupted tongues, served as is no longer needed. When unbelievers today fail to read God's Word and heed His message to them they bring judgment upon themselves.
2. Tongues that are practiced today by Christians are not functioning according to the prescription the New Testament lays out for them.
 - a. Today's tongues aren't foreign languages-in many instances linguists have proven that it is gibberish. Many who speak in tongues don't demand that it be defined as the gift of unlearned languages. However, if tongues were just ecstatic speech, then tongues would not qualify as a miraculous gift.
 - b. Tongue speaking often is used wrongly (1 Corinthians 14:27) in public worship. Two, or at most three, should speak, one at a time. In most churches today where tongues speaking occurs, this is not the practice.
 - c. Tongues were not the primary means to be used in the assembly (1 Corinthians 14:19), because it was a sign to unbelievers.
 - d. Some who practice tongues speaking say that tongues are for everyone, which contradicts 1 Corinthians 12:29-30. Just as not everyone has the gift of teaching, so too not even in the New Testament did everyone have the gift of tongues.
 - e. Many who speak in tongues say they received this gift not at their time of conversion, but when they claim they received the "second blessing." The **Note:** *In 1 Peter 5:2, the Greek word for shepherd is "poimen". This is the same word that is problem here is there is no "second blessing" according*

to Scripture-everyone receives the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation (1 Corinthians 12:13).

- f. Missionaries are not being given the gift of tongues. If tongues were still around there would not be the same need for missionaries to study foreign languages. If someone claims to have the genuine gift of tongues, they should be asked to speak a given language that they do not know in the presence of native speakers of that language.
3. Hebrews 2:3-4 appears to indicate that certain miraculous gifts (of which tongues would be one) were confined to the first generation Christians. These verses show that the miraculous gifts confirmed the apostle's message.

Hebrews 2:3-4: "How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will."

Lesson 6

Spiritual Gifts (Part 2)

Lesson 5 ended with a discussion of the functional gifts, focusing on the "serving gifts." This lesson will finish a discussion of the functional gifts. After this you will discuss your Spiritual Gifts Inventory Questionnaire and think through how you can best minister for the Lord.

III. The Functional Gifts (continued)

A. Exhortation (Romans 12:8)

There is some confusion in regard to this gift. Some call it the gift of exhortation; others call it the gift of encouragement. This is partly because the NIV uses the word "encourage" in Romans 12:8, but the NASB and KJV use the word "exhort." The question is, "Which word is it?"

Actually, it is both. The Greek word penned by the apostle Paul is "*parakaleo*". This word is used in various ways in the New Testament. At this time we'll look briefly at some Scriptures where "*parakaleo*" is used and see how it is translated based on the context.

- Read Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 10:1; 12:18.
 1. The Greek word, *parakaleo*, is used as a verb in all three of these verses. What English word did the translators use for *parakaleo* in these verses?

- Read Philippians 4:2.
 2. *Parakaleo* is also used in this verse. What English word do you think it is?

- 3. Based on the above usage of *parakaleo*, if a believer possesses this spiritual gift, what would be one area he/she would be good at in ministering to others?

- Read 2 Corinthians 7:6, 7, 13.
 4. *Parakaleo* is also used in each of these three verses. Which English word has been used to translate it?

- 5. Based on the usage of *parakaleo* in 2 Corinthians 7, if a believer possesses this spiritual gift, what area would he/she be good at in ministering to others?

6. Based on the usage of *parakaleo* in the New Testament, the gift of exhortation has three aspects to it: (1) that of urging believers and admonishing believers to obey the Lord, (2) that of encouraging believers, and (3) that of comforting believers. Do you think that someone who has this gift needs to be equally strong in both aspects?

B. **Teaching** (Romans 12:7; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29)

The Greek word for teaching, "*didasko*," is used nearly 100 times in the New Testament. It simply means 'to instruct'. In nearly all the verses *didasko* is used it is used in the context of public teaching, or the teaching of groups.

- Read Acts 18:24-26.
 1. Apollos clearly seemed to have the gift of teaching. Using Apollos as an example, what are some qualities that probably would characterize a person who has the gift of teaching?

 2. Does this passage indicate that teachers can learn everything on their own? What can we learn from Priscilla and Aquila's ministry?

3. Besides the answers you gave under #1, what other abilities do you think a person with the gift of teaching must possess? Also, can someone possess a lot of knowledge; yet not have the gift of teaching?

4. What is the difference between exhorting and teaching?

C. **Pastor**

- Read Ephesians 4:11

1. The word "pastor" (*poimen*) means shepherd. Read the following four passages and fill in the blanks below.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| a. John 21:15-17 | A pastor is responsible to
_____ the flock. |
| b. Acts 20:28 | A pastor is responsible to
_____ the flock. |
| c. Ephesians 4:11-16 | A pastor is responsible to
_____ the flock. |
| d. 1 Peter 5:1-4 | A pastor is responsible to
_____ the flock. |

Note: In 1 Peter 5:2, the Greek word for shepherd is "poimen". This is the same word that is translated "pastor" in Ephesians 4:11.

2. Although a pastor may not have the "gift" of teaching, do you think the gift of pastor involves some capacity or ability to teach which other Christians may not have? Explain.

3. Write down what you think separates the individual with the gift of pastor from the individual with the gift of teaching? Based on the four passages previously studied, how would you describe or define pastor?

4. Do only full-time pastors of churches possess this spiritual gift? To what type of ministry should an individual commit his time if he has the gift of pastor?

D. **Evangelism**

- Read Acts 8:5, 26-28, and 40.

The word “evangelist” occurs only three times in the New Testament. These three usages are in Acts 21:8, Ephesians 4:11 and 2 Timothy 4:5. Philip is the only person who is specifically stated as an evangelist in the entire New Testament.

1. What three types of evangelism was Philip involved in?
 - a. Acts 8:5 _____
 - b. Acts 8:26-28 _____
 - c. Acts 8:40 _____

2. Do you think someone can have the gift of evangelism, yet not have the ability to be a public speaker? If so, why?

3. The Greek word for evangelist (*euangelistes*) means the ability to preach the gospel. All believers are commanded to share the gospel. Not all believers however have the gift of evangelism, even if they know the gospel well. What do you think sets apart the person who has the gift of evangelism from the believer who isn't gifted?

- Read Acts 27:11 and Revelation 18:17.
 1. Comparing these two verses, which words do you think have been used to translate *kubernetes*?
 2. What are the responsibilities and functions of these two individuals, and how do you think administration ties into this?
 3. Although the Greek word *kubernesis* (1 Corinthians 12:28) is used only once in the New Testament, it was used three times in the Septuagint (the first and most important Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, translated around 250 B.C.) The places it was used are Proverbs 1:5; 11:14; and 24:6. All three usages in Proverbs involve the idea of giving wise guidance. What do these usages in Proverbs tell us about a person who has the gift of administration?
 4. What value can a person with the gift of administration offer to the local church?
 5. Do you think a gifted administrator needs to be an up-front person like the person with the gift of leadership? How can both be helpful to one another?

G. **Wisdom and Knowledge** (1 Corinthians 12:8)

These are two separate gifts and there is much confusion among scholars concerning the nature of these gifts. The confusion concerns whether the

“message” (NIV) or “word” (NASB) of wisdom and/or knowledge is a spiritual utterance of some revelatory kind, akin to prophecy and tongues.

- Read 1 Corinthians 14:5.
 1. Those who suggest that the gifts of wisdom and knowledge may be revelatory and temporary gifts suggest this because knowledge is listed in 1 Corinthians 14:6 alongside tongues, revelation and prophecy. What in this verse however might indicate that knowledge isn't a revelatory gift?

Note: *Others say wisdom and knowledge are miraculous, revelatory gifts because they are listed alongside tongues and prophecy in 1 Corinthians 13:2. The problem with this view is that verse 3 mentions giving, which obviously is not a miraculous or temporary gift. It is better to conclude that the gifts of wisdom and knowledge are for today.*

Proposed definitions:

Gift of knowledge: The ability to glean insight into the meaning of Scripture

Gift of wisdom: The skillful application of knowledge – the ability to give wise counsel and insight

2. Do you know any Christian who is a wise or knowledgeable person who you would say possesses one of these gifts?

H. **Faith**

- Read 1 Corinthians 13:2
 1. What does Paul mean when he says someone has the faith to move mountains? What characterizes a person who has the gift of faith?

Note: *All Christians are commanded to have faith and trust in God, just as all Christians are commanded to evangelize. No one can make an excuse for not trusting in God and blame his disobedience and unbelief on the fact that he does not have the gift of faith.*

2. Who do you know or who have you read about (i.e., in a missionary autobiography, etc.) that you would say has the gift of faith?

Conclusion: *It is important to remember these truths about spiritual gifts:*

1. If your gift is evangelism, teaching, etc., you will enjoy doing it.
2. Not only will you enjoy serving in that area, but you will be good at it.
3. Others will confirm that you are good in these areas (unless they are dishonest and afraid of hurting your feelings).
4. You need to develop your gift(s) and the best way to do so is by getting involved in a ministry where you can use your gift or gifts.
5. If you are still a fairly young Christian, you may need to get more active in various ministries before you can discern your gifts. Exposure and involvement in different areas gives us a good idea of what we enjoy or don't enjoy, and what we're good at or not good at.

Homework

- Take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory in Lesson 7.
- Ask another believer (friend, spouse, pastor, etc.) to fill out your Observation Assessment before your next meeting (You can cut it out and give it to them or let them use your book.) –it is important you have this finished for your next meeting.

Lesson 7

Discovering My Ministry

Once we understand what the Scriptures teach about spiritual gifts, it is time to find out what our individual gifts are. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us we are to be good stewards of spiritual gifts and use them to serve others.

In this lesson you will discuss the Spiritual Gifts Inventory, which you filled out, and the Observation Assessment that someone else filled out for you. Also, you will try to discern your “divine design” which includes your spiritual gifts plus your personality, talents, and heart.

Once you understand your “divine design” the next step is to discover what ministry you are tailored for in your church and in the world.

Divine Design

Spiritual Gifts	Personality
Talents	Heart

Spiritual Gift Inventory Questionnaire

Respond to each statement accordingly:

Name: _____

3=Consistently, definitely true
2=Most of the time, usually true
1=Some of the time, occasionally
0=Rarely

- 1. I have a consuming desire to see others won to Christ.
- 2. When I teach I am able to communicate biblical truths and impart knowledge in a way that motivates believers to want to learn and study more.
- 3. I get much satisfaction out of cheering up someone who is down in the dumps, and seek to do so when the opportunity arises.
- 4. My primary concern is that other Christians are growing spiritually.
- 5. I have a big heart for the "down & outers."
- 6. I hope that my giving takes place without any other person knowing it.
- 7. I enjoy working behind the scenes to meet a need.
- 8. I am a detail oriented person.
- 9. I have the ability to convince others to follow my example.
- 10. I have in the past stepped out in faith and taken what others might consider a risk because I knew God was leading me.
- 11. I have the ability to understand and accurately interpret a tough passage in the Bible.
- 12. I am able to apply Scripture to people's problems.
- 13. When I present the gospel to an unbeliever who is spiritually open and seems ripe for the "harvest," I am comfortable and confident that I can bring that person to a decision and lead them to faith in Christ.
- 14. I am able to communicate scriptural teaching clearly and accurately.
- 15. With a little more training, I really wouldn't mind serving as a "lay counselor" in the church.
- 16. If I could, I'd really like to lead a small group (discipleship group, etc.)

- 17. I am inwardly troubled by the condition of disadvantaged people, and have a passion to help them.
- 18. I feel a strong need to be giving to other ministries and individuals in addition to the local church.
- 19. I like to work fixing up things in the church.
- 20. I have the ability to see what needs to be done to bring about an objective.
- 21. I am able to motivate others to pursue following a vision.
- 22. I have believed God for the extraordinary and have seen it happen in a tangible way.
- 23. I am able to see and draw out meanings from Scripture that don't seem to be apparent at a first look.
- 24. I have a history for making good decisions.
- 25. I am comfortable sharing my faith with strangers.
- 26. I can explain difficult doctrines in a concise and clear manner.
- 27. I am not afraid to tell people that they are in sin when they are disobeying God.
- 28. I feel a strong responsibility to take care of the flock.
- 29. I put great importance on ministering to the physical needs of those whom we are trying to reach.
- 30. I view my money as a gift from God and I generously give with a cheerful and joyful heart.
- 31. It really doesn't bother me to take time out of my schedule to help meet another's physical need.
- 32. I really enjoy serving on committees, boards, etc.
- 33. I like to stand before people and direct them in the way the church should be going.
- 34. Others have told me that I have had faith to seek to accomplish what they would never attempt.
- 35. I love to study the Bible in depth and especially enjoy technical and theological truths.

- 36. I can intuitively arrive at solutions to fairly complicated problems.
- 37. I am able to clearly share the gospel.
- 38. I have the ability to maintain peoples' interest when teaching.
- 39. I like to pray with and comfort people who are going through hard times.
- 40. When I try to help Christians grow, a major emphasis of mine is to get to know the person well and develop a good relationship.
- 41. I really try to keep people from experiencing the negative consequences of their actions.
- 42. For me, giving is a key service to the Lord and I welcome and look for opportunities to give to His work.
- 43. Even when I'm tired, if asked to help do something, I'll pitch in and not complain.
- 44. I consistently develop a strategy and plan and stick to it in order to accomplish my goals.
- 45. I guess you could say I'm a take-charge kind of person.
- 46. I am not paralyzed by a concern about money as I pursue what I sense God is leading me to do.
- 47. I am able to discover truths from Scripture on my own without the help of a teacher or a commentary.
- 48. People have told me I am wise.
- 49. When witnessing to an unbeliever who is visibly upset and argumentative, I have the ability to calm him/her down and share the gospel clearly and effectively.
- 50. I get my greatest joy when I am preparing to teach a lesson and after teaching it.
- 51. I am not afraid to confront another brother/sister.
- 52. I have a strong concern when I see believers being taught false doctrine, and feel they are being misled.
- 53. I really hurt inside when I see others hurting.

- 54. I am motivated to give because I thoroughly enjoy giving to the Lord's work and receive joy and a special blessing from doing so.
- 55. It doesn't bother me if my work goes unnoticed; as long as I am helping a ministry go on successfully.
- 56. When the ship appears to be going off course (e.g., in a meeting, with someone's idea), I am able to perceive this problem and help get it back on the right track.
- 57. I do not back down when someone challenges my ideas.
- 58. I am willing to sacrifice my financial security in order to follow what I believe God is calling me to do.
- 59. I am refreshed and fulfilled after spending a day researching and studying in the library.
- 60. I am able to evaluate the pros and cons of a matter easily.
- 61. I get my greatest joy when I share the gospel with an unbeliever.
- 62. While preparing to teach a lesson, my primary objective is to first understand and communicate what the passage means and after that to explain how we can apply it.
- 63. When I see a fellow believer make an effort to serve God, I am burdened with a desire to encourage and edify them whether they did a "good" or "not so good" job.
- 64. I perceive myself as a shepherd.
- 65. I am able to exercise patience and work with those who are considered "headaches" to others.
- 66. I am able to give cheerfully, and don't need to be encouraged or exhorted to give of my resources.
- 67. I guess you could say I'm a busy behind-the-scenes kind of person.
- 68. I have a knack for arranging the details that need to be set in order for a project to be done well.
- 69. I don't mind managing and being responsible for a lot people.
- 70. I will attempt anything for God as long as I sense that God's Spirit is prompting and leading me in that direction.

- 71.** When others are stumped by the meaning of a passage, I am usually able to figure it out.
- 72.** I generally follow the soundest course of action, based on my knowledge, experience, and understanding of the matter.

Spiritual Gift Inventory Answer Sheet

Transfer your answers from the Inventory Questionnaire to the appropriately numbered box below.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.	34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.
49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.	56.	57.	58.	59.	60.
61.	62.	63.	64.	65.	66.	67.	68.	69.	70.	71.	72.

TOTALS:

A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.	G.	H.	I.	J.	K.	L.
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Key: A=Evangelism E=Mercy I=Leadership
 B=Teaching F=Giving J=Faith
 C=Exhortation G=Service K=Knowledge
 D=Pastor H=Administration L=Wisdom

List your top three gifts:

	<i>Gift Name</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Gift as Observed</i>	<i>Score</i>
1.			1.	
2.			2.	
3.			3.	

Observation Assessment

Note: *This assessment is to be completed by someone who knows you well (spouse, friend, etc.), who is preferably a Christian who understands*



spiritual gifts. Their relationship and observations can provide some insights that will assist you in determining your spiritual gift(s).

<p>This assessment pertains to the Spiritual Gifts of:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Observations by: _____</p> <p>Relationship: _____</p>

Directions: Read each of the descriptions below. Mark one of the following letters in the space provided.

- D = Definitely true, yes, certain gift
- P = Possibly true, maybe, potential gift
- N = Does not have gift
- ? = I don't know, have not observed

_____ ADMINISTRATION: The divine ability to devise and execute plans to carry out goals. Can give wise guidance – helps steer the ship.

_____ EVANGELISM: The divine ability to preach/share the gospel clearly. Probably is gifted in reaping (seeing an unbeliever trust Christ as a result of his/her witness).

_____ EXHORTATION: The divine ability to encourage and comfort believers who are discouraged, as well as exhort and admonish believers who need to obey and or apply God's Word. An individual's strength may lie in one of these three aspects (encouraging, comforting, or exhorting).

_____ FAITH: An unusual ability to trust in God beyond that exercised by most Christians. This gift may enable someone to perform an extraordinary work which most Christians would lack the faith to pursue.

_____ GIVING: The divine ability to give consistently with the right motivation and in the right manner. Loves to give.

_____ KNOWLEDGE: The divine ability to glean insight into the meaning of Scripture.

_____ LEADERSHIP: The divine ability to stand before people, take charge and influence others.

_____ MERCY: The divine ability to show compassion and empathy for those who are suffering and in need. Has special capacity to do acts of mercy.

_____ PASTOR: the divine ability to lead and feed the flock through personal relationship. He/she can shepherd and teach, although teaching ability may not be as strong as that of the "teacher." (i.e., may not possess a teaching "gift.")

_____ SERVICE: The divine ability and desire to work behind the scenes and meet the needs (oftentimes physical needs) of individuals and the church.

_____ TEACHING: The divine ability to teach the Scriptures; has a strong desire to impart knowledge and can clearly explain the Word.

_____ WISDOM: The divine ability to skillfully apply knowledge. Has a special ability to give wise counsel and insight.

A. List in order the top three gifts you marked with a "P" (Possibly True), and explain why.

1. Gift _____ Why _____

2. Gift _____ Why _____

3. Gift _____ Why _____

B. Look back at the gifts you marked "D" (Definitely True). List them from most to least and explain why you feel this person has that gift.

1. Gift _____ Why _____

2. Gift _____ Why _____

3. Gift _____ Why _____

****After completing this assessment, give it to the person whom you evaluated, and ask him/her to transfer the results to their Spiritual Gifts answer sheet.***

My Gifts

- Based on:** (1) Study of the Scriptures concerning spiritual gifts
(2) My two gift assessments
(3) The observation of my group members

***I feel that my gift or gifts are:**

1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____

Note: Not everyone has two or more gifts and others may have more than three gifts, though this is unusual.

*I am still pretty confused about my gift(s), but I at least think I have this one gift:

_____ and maybe another: _____.

 **Note: Transfer to your **Divine Design** on page 66.*

Personal Inventory

Respond to each definition accordingly:

- 0-1 = rarely, if ever true of me
- 2-3 = infrequently, but not usually true of me
- 4-6 = occasionally true of me
- 7-8 = most of the time, frequently true of me
- 9-10 = almost always true of me

***Note:** *The combination of your two scores should equal 10.
Example: E-6, I-4 or E-3, I-7*

1. My Energy – How I Get Energy

_____ Extrovert: I am energized by people. My focus is on the outer world and I prefer action and interaction. I experience loneliness when I'm not around others.

_____ Introvert: I am energized by solitude. My focus is on my inner world and I prefer reflection and concentration. I get drained from social interaction.

2. My Decision Making – How I Approach Decisions

_____ Thinker: I am concerned with objective facts. I focus on policies and procedures.

_____ Feeler: I am concerned with subjective feelings, although I can think logically. I focus on people and relationships.

3. My Arena – The Kind of Tasks I Prefer

_____ Ordered: I prefer an ordered, structured setting, and enjoy knowing what is expected. I seek closure, am detail oriented and am a finisher.

_____ Flexible: I prefer an unstructured setting and enjoy the challenge of diversity. I seek spontaneity, am adaptable and am a starter.

SCORING

Circle the higher of the two numbers on your Personality Inventory. Using that number (example: E-6, or I-7) as a guide, check mark the appropriate score below. Transfer what you checked to Personality Analysis

Energy	_____	E+	Extreme extrovert (E 9,10)
	_____	E	Moderate extrovert (E 7,8)
	_____	E-	Mild extrovert (E 6)
	_____	I+	Extreme introvert (I 9,10)
	_____	I	Moderate introvert (I 7,8)
	_____	I-	Mild introvert (I 6)
Decision Making	_____	B	Blend (E 5, I 5)
	_____	T+	Extreme thinker (T 9, 10)
	_____	T	Moderate thinker (T 7,8)
	_____	T-	Mild thinker (T 6)
	_____	F+	Extreme feeler (F 9,10)
	_____	F	Moderate feeler (F 7,8)
	_____	F-	Mild feeler (F6)

Arena	_____	B	Blend (T 5, F 5)
	_____	O+	Extreme ordered (O 9,10)
	_____	O	Moderate ordered (O 7,8)
	_____	O-	Mild ordered (O 6)
	_____	F+	Extreme flexible (F 9,10)
	_____	F	Moderate flexible (F 7,8)
	_____	F-	Mild flexible (F 6)
	_____	B	Blend (O 5, F 5)

Personality Analysis

My Energy: _____
 My Decision _____
 Making: _____
 My Arena: _____



Transfer to your **Divine Design on page 66.*

TALENTS

Each person is born with natural talents. Some have a natural ability with mechanical things, others are gifted with words. Some are good writers but not good spellers; others are good spellers but not good writers.

No one has an excuse for not getting involved in ministry by saying that they just don't have any abilities or skills to offer. That's just not true.

Below is an inventory to help you identify some of your talents that you may not be putting to use, or which you did not realize you could put to use for the Lord.

Talents Inventory

Indicate with an "x" what you have done and/or feel you are fairly good at.

ART

- photography
- multi-media
- decorating
- crafts
- other:

ATHLETICS

- coach
- official
- player (list 2 best sports)

- other

CONSTRUCTION

- carpentry
- architect
- electrician
- plumber
- painting
- roofer
- carpet installer
- woodworking
- other

THEATRICAL

- actor/actress
- puppets
- sound/mixing
- set design
- script writer
- other:

OFFICE SKILLS

- typing (40+wpm)
- computer skills
- library
- receptionist
- mail room
- other

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- counseling
- legal
- accounting
- landscaping
- public relations
- TV/radio
- nursing
- paramedic
- other

**TEACHING
or ASSISTING**

- preschool
- elementary
- Jr. or Sr. high

MECHANICAL

- auto mechanic
- small engine repair
- copier repair

SPECIAL NEEDS

- hearing impaired (signing)
- handicapped

college

other

hospital visitation

budget counseling

nursing home/ shut-ins

other:

learning disabilities

other

GENERAL HELP

MUSIC

building maintenance

choir

grounds maintenance

soloist

snow removal

sound

childcare

tape duplication

weddings

conducting

hospitality

song writing

other:

other

Are there any other skills or unique opportunities you would like to offer to the church? (e.g., access to specialized purchasing or discounts).

I feel my best abilities/natural talents are:

Name: _____

 *Transfer to your *Divine Design* on page 66.

HEART

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. So too, God has given each of us a unique emotional "heartbeat" that picks up or races when we come in contact with activities, ministries, subjects, or circumstances that interest us.

Other words for heart are *passion* and *burden*. There are certain subjects that you are passionate about and others you do not care much about at all. You have a burden for some ministries, and others you have no interest in whatsoever.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The following questions will help you identify and state your HEART.

1. I am drawn to and have the greatest burden for:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> infants | <input type="checkbox"/> young marrieds (18-29) | <input type="checkbox"/> elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> children | <input type="checkbox"/> marrieds (30+) | <input type="checkbox"/> poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teens | <input type="checkbox"/> singles | <input type="checkbox"/> prisoners |
| <input type="checkbox"/> young adults | <input type="checkbox"/> divorcees | <input type="checkbox"/> ill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> adults | <input type="checkbox"/> widows/widowers | <input type="checkbox"/> other ____ |

2. My deepest desire in ministry is to/for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> reach the lost/evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> promote missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> minister to new converts and help them get spiritually rooted | <input type="checkbox"/> small group ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> minister to believers | <input type="checkbox"/> newcomer assimilation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> teach | <input type="checkbox"/> hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> equip believers for service | <input type="checkbox"/> prayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> do acts of service (behind the scenes) | <input type="checkbox"/> worship/music ministry |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> camp ministry |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

3. If I could make a difference by serving in or starting an area of ministry, I would: _____

4. Based upon my responses, I believe I have a HEART for:

People groups: _____

Ministries: _____

DIVINE DESIGN

Spiritual Gifts	Personality
Talents	Heart

Homework

Pray about whom you'd like to share your evangelistic booklet within the next few weeks. Remember, this is due by the beginning of lesson #10. Continue reviewing the gospel and getting comfortable with the way you intend to present it. You will be sharing the gospel during your next group meeting (Practical Evangelism Ministry – Part II).

Lesson 8

Practical Evangelistic Ministry (Part 2)

Ideas: Check One:

1. Campus Ministry: Go to a local college campus student center or lounge and ask students about their spiritual views. (See Appendix 1)
2. Park/Street Ministry: Go to a local park or street where people tend to congregate and ask them about their spiritual views. (See Appendix 2)
3. Get involved in the Jesus video project. (See Appendix 3)
4. Jail Ministry: Go to a local jail or juvenile detention center and ask permission to talk with those prisoners who volunteer to meet with you. (See Appendix 4)
5. Other: _____

Appendix 1
CAMPUS MINISTRY

Materials Needed:

- Questionnaires (See Appendix 5)
- *Life's Most Important Question* booklets or pocket New Testaments
- Other tracts/pamphlets as needed

Instructions:

1. Visit a local college campus (Community College, University, etc.). Go where students hang out to eat and/or fellowship (e.g., student center, lounge, courtyard, gym).
2. Go in pairs and look for students who appear to have a few minutes of free time (i.e., they're not cramming for an exam).
3. Politely introduce yourself and your partner and ask if you could have a few minutes of their time and get their help answering a spiritual interest poll.
4. Discuss their answers if they give you permission (see #10 on the questionnaire). Share the gospel using a tract (e.g., *Life's Most Important Question*) or a pocket New Testament.

Appendix 2
PARK/STREET MINISTRY

Materials Needed:

- Questionnaires (See Appendix 5)
- *Life's Most Important Question* booklets or pocket New Testaments
- Other tracts/pamphlets as needed

Instructions:

1. Visit a local park where people gather or go to a street where people hang out.

2. Go in pairs and first look for people who are alone, simply because they may be more open to talk.
3. Politely introduce yourself and your partner and ask if you could have a few minutes of their time and get their help answering a spiritual interest poll.
4. Discuss their answers if they give you permission (see #10 on the questionnaire). Share the gospel using a tract (e.g., *Life's Most Important Question*) or a pocket New Testament.

Appendix 3 JESUS VIDEO PROJECT

Materials Needed:

*Call 1-800-29-JESUS for more information or to order JESUS videos and materials—or call Campus Crusade for Christ in Orlando, FL.

- JESUS Videos.
- JESUS door hangers, surveys, etc.

Instructions:

A. For people you know:

1. Offer to give them the JESUS video (to keep) if they say they will watch it within the next few weeks.
2. Return in 2-3 weeks with the survey to talk about the video, and to hopefully share the gospel with them.

B. For people you don't know:

1. Engage in prayer walking in your community, praying for people in the area and distributing attractive door hangers that tell people the video gift is coming.
2. Go back to the community (1 or 2 weeks later) and give out the JESUS videos. It is free for them to keep if they verbally agree to watch it within the next few weeks.
3. Return in 2-3 weeks with the survey to talk about the video; and to hopefully share the gospel with them.

Appendix 4
PRISON MINISTRY

Materials Needed:

- Tracts
- Gospels of John
- Paperback New Testaments

Instructions:

1. Contact your local jail (or juvenile detention center). Ask for permission to visit at a specified time when the inmates are not in lock-down. Tell them you are with an area church and would like to visit with any inmates who are willing to meet with you.
2. Visit the jail. Assign someone to be in charge who will share his/her testimony. Then divide into small groups. Give out tracts (e.g., *Life's Most Important Questions*) and share the gospel one-on-one. Give out Gospels of John or paperback New Testaments to those who are interested.
3. If your meeting is a success, ask for permission to return in the future. Keep in touch by mail with inmates who show an interest in knowing Christ.

Appendix 5
SPIRITUAL INTEREST POLL

Hi, my name is _____ and this is _____. We're on campus taking a Spiritual Interest Poll. Would you mind answering ten yes or no questions for us?

Questions	1	2	3	4	5
1 Do you have an interest in spiritual things?					
2 Do you believe in absolute truth (i.e., that there is truth and falsehood, right and					
3 Do you believe God exists? If so, is He a personal God?					
4 Do you believe the Bible is true?					

5	Do you believe you are accountable to God for your sins?					
6	Do you believe in a literal place called heaven? A literal hell?					
7	Will good deeds help you get into heaven?					
8	Do you believe Jesus died on the cross and rose bodily from the grave on the					
9	If you were to die today, do you know for sure where you would go? 100% sure?					
10	Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure you're going to heaven? May I?					

Name and Address of People Interviewed (corresponding in columns above)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Lesson 9

Counseling

Knowing how to counsel is essential to the process of making disciples. We'd like to think that the task of reproducing disciples only involves evangelizing and following up with new converts. The truth is that many people have problems. We are called to know how to deal with their problems in a loving yet biblical way; a way, which will point them to obedience and reliance upon the Lord.

For this reason this lesson will provide a basic introduction into biblical counseling. Although one lesson may not be enough to equip you with the knowledge you feel you may need, it will provide a foundation for you and help you as you seek to disciple and point others to Christ.

- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Principle #1

Note: In the church at Thessalonica there were three groups that needed special attention: the unruly, the fainthearted, and the weak. This is most likely true of all churches. Principle #1 will focus on the first of these three groups of believers.

1. According to verse 14, is the responsibility to work with these three types of believers left to the pastors and/or elders? Whose responsibility is it?
2. The first group of believers that verse 14 speaks of is the unruly (NASB) or idle (NIV). The Greek word used here is "ataktous" and is also used by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 7, 11. Take a few minutes to read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13. How were these believers sinning, according to 2 Thessalonians?

Note: *The Greek word "ataktous" (unruly, idle) means to be without rank, out of rank, or disorderly. The word was primarily a military term used*

of the soldier who is out of step or out of rank, or of an army moving in disarray.

3. Why do you think these Thessalonians were neglecting their duty of working and eating their own bread? (Hint: What doctrine is discussed at length in 1 Thessalonians 4-5 and 2 Thessalonians 2?)

4. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 says that the first way to deal with unruly or disorderly believers is to admonish (NASB) or warn (NIV) them. Why do you think Paul says this? Isn't this a little harsh and unloving?

- Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

5. Apparently these disorderly believers did not take heed of their warning (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) because Paul addresses this concern again in 2 Thessalonians 3. If the first step of admonishing fails to produce repentance, what is the next step we need to pursue, according to 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15? Also, what is the purpose of this step?

6. According to 2 Thessalonians 3:15, what is the right way and the wrong way of going about the step of disassociation?

7. In 1973, David Augsberger wrote a book, *Caring Enough to Confront*, which became quite popular. Do you think there is truth to the title of this book? Explain.

8. Matthew 18:15-18 also speaks of our need to confront a believer who sins against us, and the procedures to take if he is unrepentant. If the sin is such

that it may affect the whole congregation, public discipline is to be enforced. Do you think as believers we are only to confront other believers when they sin against us?

9. What might prevent you from confronting and admonishing an unruly brother or sister? What can you do to correct this?

10. Obviously we should not confront and admonish somebody for every little sin. Under what circumstances and for what kind of sinning behavior do you think we should admonish someone?

- Read 1Thessalonians 5:14

Principle #2

1. (NASB) or timid (NIV). What would be the danger of admonishing fainthearted or discouraged believers?

Note: *It is possible that these fainthearted believers were worried about their departed friends and relatives (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), as well as their own spiritual condition. Paul wrote to tell them that their deceased friends and relatives would be raised with Christ (4:16), and that they, being believers, would not go through God's wrath.*

2. Suppose a believer is fainthearted because his perspective is wrong and he's not allowing God's Word to clear his thinking. Wouldn't it be all right to admonish this person? Give reasons for your answer.

 3. Most of us would agree that it's probably not best to give "pat answers" to a distressed and discouraged person. What is dangerous about such statements?

 4. Do you think it is wise to say to someone who is struggling: "If you ever need any help, just let me know"? Explain.

 5. What one thing do people need most from us when they're really hurting?

 6. Romans 12:10-15 are general admonitions Paul gives to the church at Rome, but they are a good remedy for ministering to the downtrodden. Which two or three items in these verses stand out to you? Share with your group why you feel these actions are so important when it comes to ministering to discouraged believers.
- Read 1Thessalonians 5:14

Principle #3

Note:The third group of believers at Thessalonica who needed special attention were the spiritually weak. It appears that the “weak” believer in this context is one who desires to do what is right but has difficulty breaking away from the bad habits and practices that have ensnared him for so long. Perhaps the weak believers at Thessalonica were those who struggled in the area of immorality (4:1-8).

1. Is Paul implying that exhortation and encouragement are not enough for the weak person? If not, why not?

2. How can we help the spiritually weak? What do they need?

- Read John 5:1-9.

3. In verse 6 of this passage Jesus says to the invalid, “Do you want to get well? Why do you think Jesus asked this question? Is it possible that people who claim to want their circumstances and condition to change really don’t want help? If so, why?

4. Even if we offer the best counsel and help, if a person doesn’t really want our help, do you think we are wasting our time? If this is true, what must we be careful of as we seek to help struggling believers?

5. How can we know whether someone truly wants help? What must be their desire?

- Read 1Thessalonians 5:14

Principle #4

1. Paul concluded this verse by saying we need to be patient with everyone. What do you think Paul is saying in these verses? **Circle one and explain your answer below.*
 - a. It is harder to be patient with some than with others.
 - b. It is just plain old hard to be patient with anyone.
 - c. It is important that we be patient with people, no matter who we're working with.
2. How does showing patience help those we are ministering to? If we are impatient with people, how can this hinder the effectiveness of our ministry?
3. Who is it hardest for you to be patient with and why?
4. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 is an interesting verse, especially since it is penned shortly after the admonitions of verse 14. Could it be that God sometimes allows us to work with people who seem like they will never get it together? If so, what might be the reason and what can He teach us from this?

5. When you think of a patient person, who comes to your mind (a biblical character or someone you know personally)? Briefly share about this person with your group and how his/her patience with others has been a ministry to them and perhaps to you personally.

6. If you are impatient with struggling believers who truly desire to grow but have difficulty making fast progress, what may be your problem? How can you change?

Application Point

Which of the four areas below do you need to improve and work on when it comes to helping and counseling others? Circle one and plan to share this with your group, and share how you'd like God to change you.

1. Exhorting a sinning (unruly) believer
2. Encouraging the fainthearted
3. Helping the weak
4. Being patient

*What do you think you need to do to become a better counselor/discipler? What practical steps can you take to improve?

Homework

- Share the gospel with an unbeliever (if you haven't yet). Remember – this need not be with a person on your list, but it is recommended.
- Work on lesson #10, "Vision," and do the homework for that prior to your group meeting.

Lesson 9

Vision

Back in 1936, Jesse Owens came back from the Olympic Games as the World's Fastest Man. At a huge press conference, the first question asked was, "How did you do it, Jesse? Four gold medals, you embarrassed Hitler in his own hometown, the fastest man in the world...how did you do it?"

"Oh," he said, "I think it all began when I was just a kid back in junior high school, and my coach got us all together and made a speech I've never forgotten. The main thing he said was, 'You can pretty well become whatever you make up your mind to be.'

"As a junior high kid, I looked up at my coach and shouted, 'Coach, I've already decided what I want to be! The fastest man in the world!' And my coach looked down at me, a little skinny, scrawny black boy and said, 'Jesse, that's a great dream. Fact is, Jesse, I don't know if I've ever heard such a great dream as that. There's only one problem with your dream, Jesse.'

"'What's that, coach?'

"'Dreams have a way of floating high in the sky. They just float up there like clouds. Dreams never become realities unless you have the courage to build a ladder to them.'

"'How do you build a ladder to a dream, coach?'

"'Well, Jesse,' he said, 'you build it one step at a time.'"

Many great men such as Jesse Owens and Martin Luther King had big aspirations which drove them throughout their life. In the same way, God desires every believer to dream big and pursue those dreams. Such dreams might be called our vision. If we do not have a vision and do not fervently aim at something, we are bound to hit nothing every time.

This lesson will use the apostle Paul as an example of a believer who attempted great things for God because he had a vision and pursued that vision with all his might. Hopefully his example will prompt you to expand your vision of what God might want to do through you, and as a result, lead you to pursue even greater works for Him as well.

Note: *This lesson is not referring to literal dreams (i.e., when sleeping), or visions (e.g., Ezekiel's or John's visions), but is using these words in a figurative way.*

- Read Acts 20:24

Principle #1

1. What would you say Paul's vision was?

2. What characterizes a person who truly has a vision or dream he/she is pursuing?

- Read Acts 9:1-16 (especially verse 15); Acts 13:2-4; and Ephesians 2:10

3. How do you think a person acquires a vision and who/what motivates him to pursue it?

4. Based on the above answer, what must we be careful of when pursuing a dream or vision?

5. What might be some indicators that our "vision" is possibly not God's leading but is simply our personal pursuit? ("Ego" vision versus the Holy Spirit's vision.)

6. The difficulty with using Paul as an example (or most any other biblical character for that matter) is that God does not speak to us audibly and give commands to us in the same way He did for Paul. There are no inspired verses of Scripture which say, "John Smith must go to Saudi Arabia and preach the gospel to the Arabs," or, "Mary Jones is to establish an orphanage in the inner city of Chicago." Nevertheless, God still gifts people today (spiritual gifts and natural talents), and calls us to pursue ministries of

our desire. What might indicate to us that our so-called vision or dream is of God and we should pursue it?

7. Unfortunately, far too many believers have no vision (be it general or specific) that compels them. It is true that certain types of individuals are what might be called visionary leaders or self-starters, but not everyone has this type of personality. Nevertheless, do you think others who have little or no vision can use this (lack of a certain personality) as an excuse? What might be the real reason(s) why a believer has no vision that motivates him?

8. Do we have to wait for God to “zap” us or can we take steps to begin the process of acquiring a vision for our life? Explain.

Note: *This lesson is not implying that every believer has to go into full-time ministry (e.g., missionary, etc.) in order to have a vision. God calls some to be accountants, factory workers, housewives, etc. Yet these individuals still can pursue a vision where they are. They can use their gifts, talents and creativity on the job or in other settings. Example: A housewife may determine to hold a weekly Good News Club and have a vision to reach all the children in her neighborhood; a factory worker may hold an investigative Bible study on lunch hour and strive to witness to every worker on his shift.*

- Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Principle #2

In verses 19-23, Paul states that he was willing to sacrifice his freedom in order to reach all types of people. In verse 23, he says he does all things for the sake of the gospel. Clearly his readers most likely were impressed with his all-consuming commitment. When any of us read about historical figures like the apostle Paul, we are amazed and wonder what drove them. In verses 24-27, Paul states what drove him. He compared his ministry and the pursuit of his vision to that of a runner in a race. Paul used the work ethic of those who competed in the Isthmian Games in Corinth as an example of how he approached his ministry and vision.

1. Why does Paul say it is important to run the race to win the prize?

 2. What might prevent some from winning?

 3. Many Christians feel it is wrong to be competitive. Do you think that we need to have some type of competitive spirit to reach our vision? If so, why?

 4. What do you think Paul's fear is (verses 26-27)? What should our fear be as it relates to our vision?
- Read Acts 20:17-24 and 21:10-14

Principle #3

One of Paul's desires when he was coming to the end of his ministry at Ephesus was to return to Jerusalem and after that, to travel to Rome (Acts 19:21). He knew, however, that he would face many obstacles, as told to him by the Holy Spirit and the prophet Agabus.

1. Do you think it is true that all believers who strive to obey Christ and who especially desire to make a great impact for Him will face obstacles? Explain.
2. Looking at Paul's example, what kind of attitude is needed to help us overcome obstacles?
3. None of us may ever experience the kind of hardship Paul faced (shipwreck, torture, imprisonment, etc.); nevertheless, we will receive opposition. What are some other strategies Satan might use to hinder the pursuit of our vision?
4. What can we do to prepare for these obstacles, and how can we overcome them when we are confronted with them? Be specific.

Application Point

Answer the questions below and be prepared to share these at your group meeting.

1. What is your dream, your vision? Dream about the future and answer this question: "If God would grant you one request concerning your future ministry, what would it be?" State this below.

2. How do you know your vision is God's vision for you? Be specific.
3. How are you or how do you plan to fulfill your vision?
4. What obstacles have you already faced as you have pursued your vision?
5. Do you need to modify your vision (perhaps it is too big or too small), or do you need to get a new one altogether? Explain.

Note: One factor that may make it difficult for us to reach our vision is if our vision is too big and we're trying to reach it too soon. This could cause undue frustration and discouragement for us.

Homework

- Take what you have learned and continue to minister for the Lord, being a good steward of your gifts, committing yourself to evangelism and discipleship and pursuing your vision for Him.
- Don't be satisfied with the status quo. Believe that God wants to do great things through you and act on that.

<p><i>Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ephesians 3:20-21</i></p>

Book Four: List of Principles

Lesson #1: Evangelism (Pt. 1)

- Principle 1: We need to befriend sinners in order to bring them to Christ.
- Principle 2: We need to pray for opportunities to share our faith and for boldness to make good use of these opportunities.

Lesson #2: Evangelism (Pt. 2)

- Principle 1: We need to stair-step our friends to Christ.
- Principle 2: We need to be able to clearly share the gospel as well as our personal testimony.

Lesson #3: Discipleship

- Principle 1: Christ commands us to make mature disciples who can teach others.
- Principle 2: Discipleship is achieved primarily through small group and personal instruction, modeling and accountability.

Lesson #5: Spiritual Gifts (Pt. 1)

- Principle 1: Every believer has been given a spiritual gift by God and is therefore a special member of the body of Christ.
- Principle 2: Some spiritual gifts appear to have been temporary and are no longer normative today.
- Principle 3: God has gifted all believers with spiritual gifts to minister within the body and in the world.

Lesson #9: Counseling

- Principle 1: We need to confront and admonish those who are sinning and living unruly lives.
- Principle 2: We need to encourage and comfort those who are discouraged and fainthearted.
- Principle 3: We need to help the spiritually weak, but only if they want help and desire to change.
- Principle 4: We need to be patient everyone.

- ***Lesson #10: Vision***

- Principle 1: We need to have a vision that is ordained by God.
- Principle 2: We need to strive to fulfill our vision.
- Principle 3: We will need to overcome roadblocks as we pursue our vision.

