

Lesson one: the believer in the world

Relationship builder: 1) Name three things about yourself that the other person might not know.
2) Describe briefly how you came to Christ.

The goal of discipleship is more like Jesus, and less than our former selves. The idea of the Christian life is that our new faith draws, is closer to Christ, and away from the world. The world is attracted to our flesh, but our spirit is attracted to the things of God.

Theme verse:

1 John 2:15-16 (NIV): "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world."

The goal of this lesson is to learn to live a life set apart for God.

Read: Romans 12:2 (NIV): "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

In Romans 12:2, what does the verse emphasize transforming by staying in the Word of God?

- A) Physical appearance
- B) Material possessions
- C) Mind and thinking
- D) Social relationships

Answer _____

In Romans 12:2, what is the goal of transforming our mind to think like Christ?

- A) Achieving worldly success
- B) Gaining popularity among peers
- C) Discerning God's will
- D) Pursuing personal ambitions

Answer _____

Read: Colossians 3:2 (NIV): "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

In Colossians 3:2, what is emphasized as the best way to keep our minds set on the things above?

- A) Engaging in constant entertainment
- B) Focusing on earthly achievements
- C) Setting personal goals
- D) Setting our minds on heavenly things

Answer _____

Discussion:

What are some ways we can sit our mind on heavenly things?

What are ways that you can overcome worldly thinking?

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV): "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

In Ephesians 4:22-24, how can believers walk in the newness of life as mentioned in the verses?

- A) Clinging to old habits and behaviors
- B) Embracing the mindset of the world
- C) Putting off the old self and being renewed in the spirit of the mind
- D) Isolating oneself from the Christian community

Discussion: Can you share to habits that you would like to break in this new season of your life?

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV): "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Application:

According to Ephesians 4:29, improving our speech offers benefits such as:

1. Building Others Up: Speaking in a way that is helpful and constructive for the well-being of others.
2. Meeting Needs: Tailoring our speech to address the specific needs of individuals, contributing to their growth and development.
3. Benefiting Listeners: Ensuring that our words bring positive and beneficial impact to those who hear them.

Discussion: who are the people in your life that are most directly influenced by the words you use and the way you use them?

What can you do today to improve your speech towards others?

Application: Proverbs 18:21 (NIV): "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Lesson two the believer and the word.

The Bible is our manual for survival while we are here on the earth. It gives us practical lessons to learn how to maintain a close walk with our Lord. As Christians, we should learn how the Bible teaches us how to think and act. Today's lesson is about the importance of the Bible in the believers life.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV): "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

In Psalm 119:105, what is described as the purpose of the Bible in the believer's life?

- A) A tool for worldly success
- B) A source of entertainment
- C) A lamp for guiding one's path
- D) A manual for material prosperity

Discussion: What is morality? How important is morality for our society? What do you think is the best way for us to live moral lives?

Joshua 1:8 (NIV): "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

In Joshua 1:8, how does God define prosperity and success?

- A) Accumulating material wealth
- B) Following personal ambitions
- C) Meditating on His word and obeying it
- D) Winning the approval of others

Answer _____

Discussion:

- 1) Would you rather be rich, or have the peace of knowing that God is in your life?
- 2) What would you say is the problem with riches of this world?

James 1:22 (NIV): "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

In James 1:22, what is highlighted as the purpose of Bible study?

- A) Accumulating knowledge for personal pride
- B) Religious rituals and traditions
- C) Hearing the word without applying it
- D) Being a doer of the word, not just a hearer

Discussion: What do you call a person who hears the word, believes the word, and then does not obey it?

Matthew 7:24 (NIV): "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Which of the following best summarizes the benefits of building your life upon biblical values, as stated in Matthew 7:24?

- A) Material wealth and success
- B) Strong foundation during life's storms
- C) Popularity and recognition
- D) Immediate happiness and pleasure

Discussion: 1) Does the Bible promise us a life filled with happiness 100% of the time?
2) What does the Bible promise us?

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

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, who is attributed to be the source of the Bible's authorship?

- A) Various human authors
- B) Paul alone
- C) Divine revelation
- D) Early church leaders

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what does the Greek word "Theopneustos" mean?

- A) Divinely inspired
- B) God-breathed
- C) Human interpretation
- D) Ancient manuscripts

Theo = _____. Pneumonia is a disease of the _____.
Therefore, what came forth from God's lungs?

Point of understanding: what does the doctrine of inerrancy mean?

Christians believe in the doctrine of inerrancy because they hold that the Bible, as the inspired Word of God, is without error in its original manuscripts. This belief is based on the conviction that God, being perfect and truthful, communicated His divine message accurately through the human authors of the Bible. The doctrine of inerrancy underscores the reliability and authority of Scripture for guiding faith and practice.

Here are three things that we can receive by believing on God's Word:

1. Trustworthy Guidance: The doctrine of inerrancy means that believers can trust the Bible as a reliable guide for faith and practice, confident that its teachings are without error.
2. Authority: It establishes the Bible's authority in matters of faith and morality, providing a solid foundation for believers to base their beliefs and conduct on the teachings found in Scripture.
3. Divine Inspiration: Inerrancy implies that the original writings of the Bible were inspired by God, reinforcing the belief that the Scriptures accurately convey God's intended message without any falsehood or contradiction.

Lesson three: the believer and our witness

Part of the life of a disciple is learning to share their faith with others. Sharing our faith can be as easy as expressing Thanksgiving to God, and teaching others why they should be thankful to God. But it also must go beyond that and explain precisely the way of salvation and offer an opportunity for someone to receive Christ as their savior.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus instructs three key things for Christians to obey:

1. **Make Disciples:** "Go and make disciples of all nations." Jesus commanded us to go to the whole world because he died for the whole world. He also wants the world to follow him and learn about his kingdom.
2. **Baptize:** Jesus directs his followers to baptize new disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism helps us to identify and have access to our heavenly father. We are now rightly related to God by the son and the Holy Spirit. Being baptized in the water is a public testimony to our friends and family. Then we are committing to live a new life based on following Christ.
3. **Teach:** The command to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you" emphasizes the importance of instructing new believers in the teachings and commandments of Jesus. Education in the Christian faith is an ongoing process.

Mark 16:15 (NIV): "He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'"

In Mark 16:15, where does God expect believers to go?

- A) Only to familiar places
- B) To their hometowns
- C) To all the world
- D) Solely to religious gatherings

Discussion: the process of sending Christians to live in other countries for the purpose of sharing the gospel is called "missions". How does North Dallas Family Church support missions?

Romans 10:14 (NIV): "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

In Romans 10:14, what responsibility does the verse highlight for Christians regarding nonbelievers?

- A) To judge and criticize
- B) To convert forcefully
- C) To pray silently
- D) To proclaim the gospel

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV): "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

In 1 Peter 3:15, how does the passage guide believers on sharing their faith?

- A) Through forceful persuasion
- B) With fear and intimidation
- C) With gentleness and respect
- D) By avoiding discussions

Discussion: why do you think your family and friends would be reluctant to become a Christian like you?

How can we see more people come to Faith?

Acts 1:8 (NIV): "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

In Acts 1:8, believers are not left alone in the witnessing process. Which option reflects this idea?

- A) Isolated and independent
- B) Abandoned and forsaken
- C) Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- D) Left to personal strategies

Application:

To prepare to share the message of the gospel with a nonbeliever, a Christian should:

1. Study Scripture: Have a solid understanding of key biblical teachings to effectively communicate the message. This is the purpose of Discipleship.
2. Pray for Guidance: Seek God's wisdom and guidance through prayer for clarity and discernment in sharing the gospel.
3. Be Genuine and Relational: Build a genuine relationship with the person, expressing care and understanding before discussing spiritual matters.
4. Be Ready to Listen: Be open to the nonbeliever's thoughts and questions, fostering a dialogue rather than a one-sided conversation.
5. Trust in the Holy Spirit: Rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for effective communication and conviction.

Discussion: Explain in a few words, what the gospel is and what someone must do to become saved.

In the account of the Ethiopian eunuch in the Gospel of John (Acts 8:26-39), the eunuch was reading from the book of Isaiah when Philip approached him. After Philip explained the Scriptures to him, the eunuch expressed a desire to be baptized. In verse 38 (Acts 8:38), it says that they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. So, to become saved, the Ethiopian eunuch believed in Jesus, and his response was to be baptized.

Lesson 4: the believer, and their walk

1. Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV): "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

In Colossians 2:7, what does the verse emphasize as an expectation for Christians after receiving Christ as their Savior?

- A) Strict adherence to religious rituals
- B) Continual growth in faith and gratitude
- C) Withdrawal from the community
- D) Pursuit of material wealth

Discussion: how can we express thankfulness for the teaching, which strengthens our faith, we have received?

Faith leads to new _____. Teaching leads to strong _____.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV): "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

In Ephesians 5:1-2, where do we find our example for how we should walk?

- A) Worldly influencers
- B) Celebrities and public figures
- C) Christ, as beloved children, imitating His love
- D) Personal desires and ambitions

Discussion: Have you ever noticed children imitating their parents?

How can we as Christians imitate our heavenly father?

Christ gave himself up as a S_____.

Therefore, walking in love should be S_____.

Galatians 5:16 (NIV): "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

According to Galatians 5:16, what does "walking by the Spirit" mean?

- A) Indulging in worldly desires
- B) Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- C) Ignoring spiritual principles
- D) Pursuing selfish ambitions

Discussion: What is the result of walking in the Holy Spirit?

Read: Here are three verses from the Bible that describe the desires of the flesh:

1. Galatians 5:19 (ESV): "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality..."

2. Romans 13:14 (NIV): "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

3. 1 John 2:16 (NLT): "For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world."

Discussion: How can you create a plan for walking in the spirit and not following the desires of the flesh?

1 John 2:6 (NIV): "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

According to 1 John 2:6, what is expected of a believer in Christ?

- A) Following personal desires
- B) Living as Jesus did
- C) Prioritizing material wealth
- D) Ignoring moral principles

Philippians 4:8 (NIV): "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Our minds should be focused on
what is T _____
What is N _____
What is R _____
P _____ L _____ and A _____

Discussion: if our bodies are unhealthy, would that influence the way we think about such things?

If our spirit is exposed to the glamour of this world, would that influence the way we think about these things?

What can we do to maintain our minds and bodies pure so that we might think on these things?

Lesson five: Being a member of North Dallas Family Church

North Dallas Family Church provides these important ministries to its members:

1. **Worship and Communion:** NDFC provides a place for believers to come together to worship God collectively, living life together.
2. **Spiritual Growth:** NDFC offers opportunities for spiritual growth through teaching, sermons, Bible studies, and fellowship with other believers.
3. **Community and Support:** NDFC creates a supportive community where Christians can share their faith journey, struggles, and victories, providing emotional and spiritual support.
4. **Service and Outreach:** NDFC provides a platform for believers to serve others and engage in outreach activities, demonstrating Christian love and compassion to the broader community.
5. **Equipping and Discipleship:** NDFC equips believers for ministry and discipleship, helping them understand and live out their faith effectively.
6. **Corporate Prayer:** NDFC facilitates collective prayer, where believers come together to intercede for one another, their community, and the world.

The responsibilities of a member to the North Dallas Family Church:

1. **Regular Attendance:** Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) - "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
2. **Financial Support:** Malachi 3:10 (NIV) - "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."
3. **Serving:** 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) - "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
4. **Spiritual Growth:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
5. **Fellowship:** Acts 2:42 (NIV) - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
6. **Prayer Support:** James 5:16 (NIV) - "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

7. Evangelism: Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

8. Submission to Leadership: Hebrews 13:17 (NIV) - "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."

9. Loving and Serving Others: Galatians 5:13 (NIV) - "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Questions:

1. What spiritual gifts do you believe you possess, and how do you see them aligning with potential areas of service?
2. What areas of ministry or church activities are you most passionate about or interested in?
3. What skills and talents do you have that could be utilized in serving the church community?
4. Have you been involved in any specific ministries or service roles in the past, either within or outside of a church setting?
5. What is your availability in terms of time commitment? Are you looking for a regular role or occasional opportunities to serve?
6. In what areas of your faith do you desire to grow, and how might serving in a particular capacity contribute to that growth?
7. Do you prefer working independently or as part of a team? Are you comfortable taking on leadership roles or would you rather support existing initiatives?
8. Are there specific goals or outcomes you hope to achieve through your service in the church?
9. How do you respond to feedback, and are you open to evaluations to enhance your service?
10. Have you spent time in prayer seeking guidance on where your unique abilities and calling might align with the needs of the church?