

# Faith Principles Overview and Loved by God

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## Faith Principles Studies

- Loved by God
- The Word of Faith
- Discipleship and Lordship
- Salvation and the Spirit
- Repentance
- The Cross and Grace
- The Church and the Kingdom
- Confessions of Faith

### Additional Resources

- Counting the Cost
- Baptism and False Doctrines
- Misconceptions of the Holy Spirit
- The Coming of the Kingdom
- Chemical Recovery

## Faith Principles Syllabus

### Word of Faith

South Cities: ..... Sun, Jan 10 • 9 AM @ Marine  
Downtown: ..... Sun, Jan 10 • 10:30 AM @ Hayworth

### Overview

Men: ..... Wed, Jan 13 • 7:30 PM @ Marine  
Women: ..... Thu, Jan 14 • 7:30 PM @ Marine

### Salvation and the Spirit

Marrieds: ..... Couples Enrichment by House Churches  
Campus/Singles: ..... Wed, Jan 20 • 7:30 PM, South @ Marine  
..... Downtown @ Hayworth Theatre

### Discipleship and Lordship

South Cities: ..... Sun, Jan 24 • 9 AM @ Marine Bldg  
Downtown: ..... Sun, Jan 24 • 10:30 AM @ Hayworth Theatre

### Repentance/Cross

Marrieds: ..... Couples Enrichment by House Churches  
Campus/Singles: ..... Wed, Jan 20 • 7:30 PM, South @ Marine  
..... Downtown @ Hayworth Theatre

### The Church/Kingdom

South Cities: ..... Sun, Jan 31 • 9 AM @ Marine Bldg  
Downtown: ..... Sun, Jan 31 • 10:30 AM @ Hayworth Theatre

### Memory Work

1. Galatians 5:6
2. Romans 10:17
3. Romans 10:9-10
4. Acts 2:38
5. Ephesians 4:3
6. 1 Peter 4:8
7. Define true, saving faith
8. 1 Way of Salvation
9. Names of the Faith Principles Bible Studies
10. The Books of the Bible in Order

## 10 Overview Questions

1. What kind of church are we? Faith Based Church
2. What do we focus on? Faith expressing itself through love
3. What is our mission? To bring true, saving faith and real love to a lost world
4. What two Scriptures encapsulate how we live? Galatians 5:6, Ephesians 4:3
5. What is saving faith and what are the accompanying Scriptures? Through true, saving faith

Hear (**Romans 10:17**)..... Related Studies: Loved by God, Word of Faith

Believe (**Romans 10:9-10**) ..... Related Studies: Word of Faith

Obey through

- **Repentance** (**Acts 2:38**).. Related Studies: Salvation & the Spirit, Repentance, The Cross and Grace
- **Lordship/being a Disciple** (**Romans 10:9-10**) ..... Related Studies: Discipleship and Lordship, The Kingdom and the Church
- **Baptism** (**Acts 2:38**)..... Related Studies: Salvation & the Spirit

6. What two Scriptures encapsulate salvation? Acts 2:38, Romans 10:9-10, 17
7. What are the two other popular views of Christianity? How do we differ?

**Ritual Based:** Certain actions are required to save you (older denominations)

**Belief Based:** Only belief or "accepting Jesus" saves you, no actions (Protestant Reformation)

**Faith Based:** True saving faith is our belief completed by our actions as we Hear, Believe, and Obey through Repentance, Lordship and Baptism

8. How do we live saved? By loving others
9. What 4 Scriptures support this? 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 3:18, 1 John 1:5-10, 1 John 4:19-20
10. What does being fruitful mean? *Sowing* with God and with man (see below)

## Sowing with God and with Man

### Sow with God

- Be devoted to praying for open doors and pray for our behaviors (Colossians 4:2-6)
- Sow to please the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-6:10)
- How are you striving to live by the Spirit rather than the sinful nature by being consistently open with righteous people?
- How are you striving to walk like Christ by persevering in doing good, especially by staying close to other disciples?

# Faith Principles Overview and Loved by God

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## Sow with Others

We sow with our example and words, but we cannot control how people respond

We act to please God by loving people, but our actions do not "make" someone open. Our actions help reveal who is open

- What it takes for someone to be ready for baptism:
  - **Knowledge:** Accurate teachings of salvation
  - **Heart:** Broken and willing spirit motivated by the love of Christ
  - **Character:** The capability to live out the Scriptures' call
- God makes things grow. We cannot control someone's readiness. Of the three qualities above, we can control only certain aspects of knowledge:
  - *the accuracy of Scriptures we teach*
  - *our availability to people who are open (we need to team to be available)*

God calls us to sow with people primarily by speaking the truth in love

**Love:** Build RELATIONSHIPS with people

- Meet them. WE CANNOT CONTROL WHO IS OPEN, BUT WE CAN CONTROL HOW MANY FRIENDS WE TRY TO MAKE
- Ask God to open their hearts
- Connect with them by following up and inviting them to our hospitality events

**Speak the truth** by sharing from your life, asking questions, listening, and clarifying.

Connect with people by asking good questions and making them feel understood

- Feeling connected in a loving environment helps as they examine their salvation
  - Listen to their life story and share yours as well
    - Share about how studying the Bible has helped you
  - At any and every opportunity, ask them if they would be open to studying the Bible
- Ask: How much do you know about the Bible or how well do you know the Bible?
- Clarify, "It sounds like you don't know much about the Bible."
- Ask: What is your religious background? If they are unclear, ask more specific questions, like:
- How were you saved/become a Christian?
  - How do you know if someone is saved?.....What do you think a Christian is?
  - What does repentance mean to you?.....What does baptism mean to you?
  - What is the difference between belief and faith?
  - Belief Based people usually have 1 of 2 responses:
    - Option 1: No difference: belief and faith are the same
    - Option 2: Belief is when you know it
      - Faith is when you REALLY know it or FEEL it
      - It can possibly or probably show in your action
      - Ultimately, you are saved when you REALLY know it or FEEL it

- Clarify, "It sounds like you go to a ritual or belief based church, because you believe..."

- Offer to explain, "I go to a faith based church. Would you like to know the difference?"

## Explain urgency:

*Our goal is to provide people the clearest and most direct path to salvation*

- What if someone kidnapped your adult child?
- How urgently would you want the police to respond? Right away!
- How would you feel if the police found your adult child, but your child would rather stay with his kidnappers? Very hurt!
- Satan has kidnapped people, and God wants us to find them. But they need to make the decision to return home
- Since we care about how God feels, we want you to urgently return to Him
- Our goal as a fellowship is to be available to you as much as you want to study

## Loved by God

Optional points are marked with "◇".

Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

- What really counts in life?..... **Galatians 5:6**
  - *Faith expressing itself through love*
- Why is faith so important? ..... **Ephesians 3:16-19**
  - It takes faith and spiritual power to experience deeply God's love
  - God's love is so expansive, it takes faith just to imagine it. It is beyond anything we have seen or experienced
- ◇ Why is God's love so important? ..... **1 John 4:16**
- ◇ God provides what we really want in life: *Love we can rely upon and trust*
  - The need to have real love motivates much of what we do, whether it is to be successful, attractive, or powerful
- ◇ God is love, so living a godly life increases the love we experience
- ◇ God's love is perfect..... **1 John 4:17-8**
  - Living in God's love brings confidence and security
  - Experiencing the love of God drives out fear
- ◇ God's love is proven by Jesus dying for our sins ..... **1 John 4:9-10**
  - Jesus' sacrifice always reminds us of God's unfailing love, even though circumstances change, we make mistakes, or people disappoint us.
- ◇ God's love is rare. There is nothing like the love of Christ
  - No other religion tells of a God who loves us sacrificially and graciously, despite our sins
- How do we start connecting with the love of God?..... **Hebrews 11:6**
  - We need to earnestly seek God with *faith*
- God has great plans for us! ..... **Jeremiah 29:11-13**
  - God's plans for us are full of love, hope and prosperity
  - We must earnestly seek with all our hearts to find him
- Where should we seek the faith that connects us with the love of God?
  - The Bible: Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ..... **Romans 10:17**
  - Would you like to study the Bible and learn how to live a life of faith expressing itself through love?

# Loved by God

Optional points are marked with "◊". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

- What really counts in life? ..... Galatians 5:6
  - *Faith expressing itself through love*
  
- Why is faith so important? ..... Ephesians 3:16-19
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  - We must earnestly seek with all our hearts to find him
  
- Where should we seek the faith that connects us with the love of God?
  - The Bible : Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ... Romans 10:17
  - Would you like to study the Bible and learn how to live a life of faith expressing itself through love?

# The Word of Faith

Optional points are marked with "◊". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Introduction

- Before the study, clarify how well your friend knows the Bible and how your friend defines faith
- The purpose of this study is to define true, saving faith according to God's Word
- Faith is exciting! How great it is to live with confidence! ..... Hebrews 11:1
  - Faith is being certain of our hopes, even when we cannot see the outcome
- Faith is not an option. It takes faith to please God. .... Hebrews 11:6

## Differing Views of Faith

Two views on a saving faith are in strong conflict:

### Ritual Based Views

- Ritual based faith describes the oldest forms of Christianity
- A ritual based view puts a saving faith in certain actions, rituals or traditions *over* knowing the Bible
- We should not *ritualize* our faith..... Matthew 15:1-9
- ***We must know and follow the Bible over having faith in traditions or creeds***
- Worship by traditions that supersede the Word of God is worship in vain

### Belief Based Views

- Belief based Christianity arose out of the Protestant Reformation. As a protest to ritual based Christianity, it took the extreme opposite view of a saving faith
- A belief based view is that only belief and no action saves you
- We should not *reduce* our faith to only belief ..... John 8:31-32
- ***All must hold on to and follow the teachings of Jesus to be a true disciple***
- Intellectual belief is not enough, nor can we go by our feelings
- Sincerity does not equal truth. A sincere faith is not a saving faith. Religious people can be wrong in their understanding, though admirable in their sincerity

## Elements of a True, Saving Faith

The question debated for centuries is which is it, action or belief?

- The Bible defines a saving faith as having elements of *both* ..... James 2:17-19
- Again, belief is not enough. Even demons believe in God
- Belief completed by action is the saving faith that justifies us ..... James 2:22-24
- Salvation comes when we humbly **accept** and **obey** the Word..... (James 1:21-25)

In summary, we are saved by faith when we:

- Hear the Message/Know the Bible correctly ..... Romans 10:17
- Believe confidently ..... Romans 10:9-10
  - In the Message and that Christ was raised from the dead
- Obey or act to complete saving faith  
(for example: confessing with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord")

## Hear the Bible *correctly*

- Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ through the Bible.....(Romans 10:17)
- But we must be *taught* the Word correctly. Why? ..... 1 Timothy 4:16
- The Bible is our doctrine. Correct teaching of the Bible saves those who hear
- We are saved only if we watch our doctrine closely: know the Bible correctly
- Were you taught that you must personally invest in studying the Bible to be saved?
- ***If you have not studied the Bible much, can you say you have a saving faith?***
- Also, life and doctrine must match to be saved, so obedience is equally important
  - For salvation, living by the Bible is just as important as knowing the Bible
  - Life and doctrine are equally important. A plane with one wing cannot fly

## Believe in the Bible *confidently*

- Believing in God's Word is essential, because the Bible teaches us about Jesus (Romans 10:9-10). What do we need to believe about the Word?
- Believe all Scripture is inspired by God ..... 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - Do you believe the *entire* Bible is the *only* Word of God?
- Believe the Bible is useful and applicable to our lives
  - Are you willing to be taught, corrected, and rebuked by the Word of God?
- Believe the Bible is useful for our hearts..... Hebrews 4:12-13
  - The Word cuts like a scalpel that removes the "cancer" (sin) out
  - Are you willing to allow your heart to be cut by the Word?
- Believe the Word will judge us, not our traditions or feelings (also in John 12:48)
- Believe in the Bible as written ..... 2 Peter 1: 20-21
  - The Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the Bible
  - There is no private interpretation of the Bible
  - Confidently trust that God's ways and views supersede our own opinions

## Obey to *complete* saving faith..... (Romans 10:9-10)

- Saying, "Jesus is Lord" is not enough..... Matthew 7:21-23
  - We must truly make him Lord by doing God's will, obeying the Word
- God makes his expectations clear. If we learn and obey the Word, we can be sure of our salvation! ***Do you have a saving faith, if you are not obeying the Word?***
- The next studies will teach how we should obey God in order to find saving faith. Ultimately, God wants our ***faith to express itself through love***.....(Galatians 5:6)

## Study the Bible Every Day

- The Word is the *daily* fuel for our *faith* ..... Matthew 4:4
- The challenge: Read and study the Bible every day! ..... Acts 17:10-12
  - The Bereans were examples of people who *daily* checked what religious leaders said
- How eager are you to be taught the Bible in order to be sure of your salvation?
- How willing are you to do your own *daily*, personal Bible study?
- How willing are you to live by the Bible over all else? When can we study next?

# Discipleship and Lordship

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Introduction

- Review how after we hear and believe, our obedience completes true, saving faith
  - Next, the question to ask is: "How does Jesus want us to follow him?"

## The Call to Discipleship ..... Matthew 28:18-20

- What does Jesus want everyone to become? Disciples
- Which is the more popular term: disciple or Christian? Christian
- What do you think is the difference between a disciple and a Christian?
  - Many perceive that disciples are "super" Christians
  - The word "disciple" occurs over 270 times in the New Testament. The word "Christian" only appears three times
- Seven years after the church began: ..... Acts 11:19-26
  - The term, "Christian", is used for the first time as a derogatory, secondary name given by those in the world
  - Before they were called Christians, what were they called? Disciples
  - They were disciples first, before they were known as Christians
- Christian and disciple are supposed to mean the same thing
- We must be **disciples** in order to be true Christians and to be **truly saved**
- Jesus wanted everyone to be disciples, because he wanted everyone to be saved
- We will examine how Jesus called people to discipleship
  
- Jesus defined the meaning of "disciple" throughout his ministry
- Disciples are defined by **love**: for God and other people.....Mark 12:30-31
  - When loving others, Jesus focused on both (1) loving other disciples and (2) loving those who are not yet disciples, those who are lost
  - In summary, disciples of Christ
    - Love God • Love Other Disciples • Love the Lost
- Jesus called the first disciples: "Come, **follow** me..." ..... Mark 1:14-20
  - Disciples follow Jesus. Disciples are under the Lordship of Christ

## Loving the Lost: The Mission of a Disciple

- What was their mission before Jesus called them? Fishing
  - Their mission determined how they lived their lives: where they would live, when they would wake up, how they would spend their time
- What did Jesus call them to become? "... make you fishers of men"
  - Jesus gave the disciples a new **mission for their lives**
- What has been your mission in life? Are you willing to be a fisher of men?
- How quickly, did they respond? "At once...": Living Jesus' mission is amazing!
  - They left everything. They trusted Jesus completely. Why?
- They also saw Jesus' mission was to help those in need physically ... Mark 1:32-34
- His heart for the poor and needy attracted many and validated his message
- A disciple's great and fulfilling mission is to love those in spiritual and physical need
- Jesus' mission drew him close to God and kept him focused..... Mark 1:35-39

## Loving God: The Marriage Transformation

True love for God changes our lives in a manner similar to getting married. Whatever our spiritual background, God has been trying to win us over so that we would choose to be fully devoted to Him

Unrivaled Love: "If anyone", this applies to all people ..... Luke 14:25-26

- "Hate": We can have only one Lord, Jesus. No competition..... Luke 16:13  
In marriage, how do people feel about whatever competes for their spouses' affection? Hate. We must be devoted completely to Jesus
- **Disciples love Jesus more than anybody or anything**
- Opposition, persecution and distraction can come from our closest relationships
  - Are you devoted to loving Jesus more than anybody or anything?
    - Parents, siblings, family: What relationships could compete?
    - Self: How could self get in the way?
    - How could devotion to money get in the way?

Sacrificial Love: "...carry his cross" means we must sacrifice ..... Luke 14:27

- **On a daily basis**, we are called to sacrifice and **deny ourselves**..... Luke 9:23-26  
In marriage, there is a big life change from being single to married. One difference is daily sacrifice. Married people are not free to come and go as they please  
Married people share everything and make decisions together
  - **Disciples make a big life change of daily sacrifice and self-denial**
  - How will your daily life change as a disciple of Christ?
  - Start with your daily personal time with God (v. 3) ..... (Luke 11:1-4)
- Count the Cost ..... Luke 14:28-30

- Were you taught to count the cost before you called yourself a Christian?
- Jesus was clear and upfront at the beginning, even when addressing a large crowd  
In marriage, a person thinks carefully before picking a spouse. Marriages can be annulled, if based on fraud or a misunderstanding. Marriage must come with a solid understanding and agreement that significant life changes are required
- Many make decisions about God based on a religious leader's opinion, rather than what the Bible actually says. They do not understand the obedience God expects
- True discipleship requires hearing the message and watching your doctrine closely
- What costs do you need to count before devoting yourself to Christ?
- Consider the alternatives when counting the costs..... Luke 14:31-32
  - Since God has way more in his army than we do, surrendering to the Lordship of Christ is wise

Give Up Everything ..... Luke 14:33

- Jesus taught with integrity. When he called people to follow him, he was clear about what he expected: **Everything**  
In marriage, people expect complete devotion. 99% faithful is not acceptable  
In marriage, a couple shares everything. Everything is given to the relationship
- As a disciple, we must give everything to Christ. What will you have to give up?

# Discipleship and Lordship

Optional points are marked with "◊". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

- How willing are you to give your time, energy, heart, resources and finances over to God?

## Loving One Another: The Mark of a True Disciple

- Love for one another is a defining characteristic of a disciple ..... John 13:34-35
- ◊ Disciples have a sacrificial love fore one another ..... John 15:12-14
- ◊ Disciples have a deep love for one another ..... 1 Peter 4:8
  - Loving each other covers over sin and connects to our salvation
- ◊ We cannot love God unless we love the disciples we see near us.... 1John 4:19-20
- ◊ Love is expressed through action and truth ..... 1 John 3:18
- ◊ We live by the truth by being open with each other ..... John 1:5-10
  - A lifestyle involving confession builds fellowship and cleanses us from sin
- Does your love for other disciples show yourself as a true, disciple of Christ?

## Conclusion .....Matthew 28:19

- Who is a candidate for baptism? Those who have been discipled to Christ
  - Jesus directs us to go disciple or teach people before they are baptized
  - People must be accurately taught what it means to be a disciple before they are baptized
- Have I been correctly discipled? Am I a disciple? Am I a Christian? Am I saved?
- "Teach them to obey everything..."
  - After baptism, people are important in teaching us to be mature in Christ
  - Jesus' command to make disciples was given to be passed down to all

Year	Preacher	Discipler
1	365	2
2	730	4
3	1095	8
13	4,745	8,192
32	11,680	The world: billions

- This was Jesus' primary plan to save the world
- *Are you willing to devote yourself to the Lordship of Christ by living so that your faith expresses itself through love?.....Galatians 5:6*

# Salvation and the Spirit

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

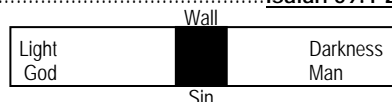
## Introduction

Review that true, saving faith involves hearing, believing and obeying the Bible

- Disciples are called out of darkness into light ..... [1 Peter 2:9-10](#)
- Not Saved/Not a Disciple/Non-Christian = Darkness/Not God's people/No Mercy
  - Saved/Christian/Disciple = Light, People of God, Mercy
- Every person is either saved or lost. There is no twilight zone. Where are you?

## Lost

- Sin separates us from God ..... [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)
- In order for a man to have a relationship with God the wall must be broken down, sin must be forgiven
- The point in time sin is forgiven is when a person is saved
- Everyone has sinned and is equally lost ..... [Romans 3:23-25](#)
  - A good moral life does not save you. You cannot earn your salvation by making up for sins with good deeds
  - Faith in the blood of Jesus saves you
- What is the eternal consequence of sin? Death ..... [Romans 6:23](#)
- God is serious about sin, because it separates us from him
- **Sin is serious, so it is important to get a clear picture of what is sin**
  - Sins of Commission ..... [Galatians 5:19-21](#)
  - Sins of Omission ..... [James 4:17](#)
  - Sins of the Heart ..... [Mark 7:20-23](#)
- Suggest writing a personal journal to better understand one's sinful nature

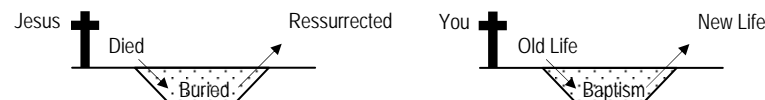


## Salvation

- Born again (v. 3), born of water and spirit (v. 5), born again (v. 7) ..... [John 3:1-7](#)
  - Personal decision as an adult
- What message must one **HEAR** and **BELIEVE** to be saved? ..... [Acts 2:22-24, 36](#)
  - Jesus is from God (v. 22)
  - Everyone is responsible for the crucifixion of Christ (v. 23, 36).
    - All have sinned
  - Jesus raised physically from the dead (v. 24)
  - Jesus is Lord and Christ (v. 36)
- Response of people ..... [Acts 2:37](#)
  - Cut to the heart: What shall we do?
- Once the people **HEAR** and **BELIEVE**, what do they do? ..... [Acts 2:38-42](#)
  - **REPENT** (Greek = to turn after feeling "cut to the heart")
  - **BE BAPTIZED** (Greek = to be immersed)

## BAPTISM

- Baptism is the sharing (a participation) in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (more than just a symbol) ..... [Romans 6:1-4](#)



- The point in time people are saved is when their sins are forgiven
- Holy Spirit given to each who responded, power to live as God commands

## The Spirit

- The **indwelling** Holy Spirit is received at baptism ..... (Acts 2:38)
- The Spirit is in us after baptism ..... [John 14:16-17](#)
  - The Spirit can be 'with' you, but the Spirit is not 'in' you until after baptism
- The Spirit keeps our hearts and consciences convicted about sin ..... [John 16:5-13](#)
- We live by the Spirit, not by the sinful nature ..... [Romans 8:5-8](#)
  - Living by our sinful nature is against living by the Spirit
  - Living by the Spirit, is **not** living by our own emotions, opinions or desires
- The Spirit we receive at baptism is the Spirit of Christ ..... [Romans 8:9](#)
- The Spirit calls us to be like Jesus: "...Christ is in you" ..... [Romans 8:10](#)
  - What would Jesus think, feel, perceive and do? Disciples live by a higher call, the general principle: **What would be in the Spirit of Christ?**
- By the Spirit, we have the power of the resurrection in us! ..... [Romans 8:11](#)
- We need to be led by the Spirit, not our sinful nature ..... [Romans 8:12-14](#)
- We have the Spirit of sonship to present us as God's children ..... [Romans 8:15-17](#)
- ◆ The Word is the sword of the Spirit ..... [Ephesians 6:17](#)
  - Living by the Spirit means living by God's Word
- ◆ The Holy Spirit transforms us with increasing glory ..... [2 Corinthians 3:17-18](#)
- After baptism, we are defined by Christ, not our sinful nature ..... [Galatians 3:26-27](#)
- We have the Spirit of Christ in our hearts ..... [Galatians 4:6-7](#)
- With the Spirit in our hearts, we truly desire righteousness ..... [Galatians 5:16-17](#)
- We crucify the sinful nature in order to live by the Spirit ..... [Galatians 5:19-21, 24](#)
- Living by the Spirit is never against living by God's law ..... [Galatians 5:22-26](#)
  - Keeping in step with the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, etc.

## Plan of Salvation Review (also preview "Baptism and False Doctrines" study)

- **HEAR** (Romans 10:17)
- **BELIEVE** (Romans 10:9 Hebrews 11:6)
- **REPENT** (Acts 2:38, Luke 13:3)
- **CONFESS JESUS IS LORD OR BE A DISCIPLE**  
(Romans 10:9, 1 Timothy 6:12, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 28:18-20)
- **BE BAPTIZED** (Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21)

# Repentance

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Introduction

- Review God's plan of salvation:
  - Hear; Believe; Repent; Confess, "Jesus is Lord"; Be Baptized
- Understanding how repentance is essential for salvation clarifies how a faith based view differs from a belief based or ritual based view
- It is important to understand the real meaning of repentance and to choose the repentant lifestyle that pleases God

## Repentance is Essential for Salvation..... Acts 2:36-38

- Sins are wiped out. Times of refreshing! This is a great thing ..... Acts 3:19
- Repentance means really turning or changing direction..... Acts 20:20-21
  - We prove our repentance by our deeds..... Acts 26:17-20
  - In Christ, we are new creations..... (2 Corinthians 5:17)
    - Our old life is dead..... (Galatians 2:20)
- ***It is not a one time occurrence it is a lifestyle***
  - We must turn from wickedness to follow Christ..... (2 Timothy 2:19)
  - We continue to resist the devil and come near to God.... (James 4:7-10)

## Repentance Begins with Godly Sorrow

- The people who heard God's message were "cut to the heart." ..... (Acts 2:38)
  - They felt emotionally sorrowful about their sin
- Godly sorrow leads to repentance that bring salvation ..... 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
- Worldly sorrow brings death. What's the difference between the two?
  - Because godly sorrow and worldly sorrow both involve the sadness, it is hard to tell the difference at first
- ***The main difference is the result that is produced, where the sorrow leads us***
  - Godly sorrow leads to an eagerness and readiness for lifelong change
  - The pain of your sin makes you more determined to change
- God cares about our hearts. He desires a broken spirit..... Psalm 51:16-17
  - God wants us to have a broken spirit about our sin ..... Psalm 51:1-6
  - God cares about how we feel about our sin. Do we have godly sorrow?

## Repentance Involves Relationships

- We are commanded to help each other at a heart level ..... Hebrews 3:12-13
  - Sin is a heart issue. Every day, we should connect with spiritual people who know us deeply, at a heart level
  - ***How willing are you to get help from people in order to repent?***

## Repentance involves Confession

- God desires truth in our inmost being. Keeping silent hurts us..... Psalm 32:1-5
  - Our spirit should have no deceit
- Lying is not just telling a falsehood. Concealing sin is lying..... Proverbs 28:13
  - We cannot conceal our sin from God
  - The Bible is talking about concealing our sin from people
  - We need to confess to people
- There is a difference between admitting your sin and confessing your sin
  - We admit our sins when someone questions us about our sins
  - Confession is when we ***initiate*** telling the truth
- People confessed their sins before being baptized by John..... Mark 1:4-5
- The Bible directly commands to confess to one another ..... James 5:16
- We walk in the light before people..... 1 John 1:5-10
  - God sees everything, so we cannot hide anything from him. Walking in the light is how we walk before people
- Confession builds fellowship
- When we confess, the blood of Jesus purifies us and unites us to the fellowship.
  - No wonder repentance brings times of refreshing!
- How devoted are you to confessing your sin on a consistent basis in pursuit of repentance?
- If a time comes when confession is difficult for you, how willing are you to be questioned about your sin by others?

## For Deeper Understanding

- When we get baptized, it is a pledge of a clear conscience ..... 1 Peter 3:21

Begin a time of Confession to help your friend have a clear conscience:

- Ask your friend to discuss the sin list that should have been written after the Salvation and the Spirit Study. Also, appropriately share your sins to help your friend feel connected and more at ease
- You can also use the following Scriptures as a guide for confession
  - Sins of Commission ..... (Galatians 5:19-21)
  - Sins of Omission ..... (James 4:17)
  - Sins of the Heart ..... (Mark 7:20-23)
- Ask: What are the most difficult sins to confess?
- Ask: What do you think will be most difficult to confess on an ongoing basis?



# The Cross and Grace

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Introduction ..... 1 Corinthians 1:18

Why do you want to be a disciple? The message of the Cross gives us the power and lasting love to live like Christ. Understanding God's love should change our hearts

## Passion Account..... Matthew 26:17 -27:54

Suggested Reading Intervals. Incorporate the medical account of Jesus' physical death. Highlight how Jesus suffered physically, emotionally and spiritually

Jesus lovingly sets up a holiday feast & washes his disciples' feet (Jn 13:1-6)... 26:17-19

Jesus shows this love, while knowing the disciples will betray & desert him..... 26:20-35

Jesus is vulnerable with his disciples, but they fall asleep on him..... 26:36-46

Jesus is in such anguish his blood mixes with sweat (Lk 22:44), ..... 26:47-56

a medical condition known as hematomosis. Jesus is betrayed & deserted

by his best friends & the crowd he seeks to help

God's religious people Jesus hopes to save, lie about, ..... 26:57-68

abuse, & humiliate him

Peter realizes he has betrayed Jesus & is heart-broken, ..... 26:69-75

which leads to repentance forgiveness in three days. Let's choose Peter's

response over Judas:

Judas sees he has betrayed Jesus & commits suicide, because he cannot ..... 27:1-10

face the depth of his sin. But he is only days away from being forgiven

God's religious people choose the murderer Barabbas over Jesus ..... 27:11-26

How does that make Jesus feel? How does Jesus feel when we choose

sin over him?

Jesus is flogged, a bloody process by which lead balls and barbs are..... 27:27-31

attached to leather straps. The bruising from the lead balls and cuts from

the barbs leave Jesus' back shredded and bloody. He is not only whipped,

but he is flayed alive. Some have theorized that Pilate is being "humane",

hoping flogging will kill Jesus, sparing him the worse fate of crucifixion

Further humiliation and blood as Jesus is stripped by soldiers. Thorns are

hammered into his head. Blood congeals on the robe & as it is ripped off,

his wounds are painfully torn open

Crucifixion is public, slow death by exhaustion & asphyxiation, reserved for ..... 27:32-35

the worst criminals. Nails are driven through wrists and feet, so you hang,

painfully supported by the nails in your wrists. The position of your arms

and chest make it hard to breathe. You must push yourself up, putting

pressure on your nailed feet to catch some air. Eventually you tire and

suffocate

The religious crowd he came to save betrays him. The government ignores..... 27:36-44

him. His friends desert him. Even his fellow criminals insult him. How

would you have felt in that position? But at least he has God...

Why did Jesus think God had forsaken him?..... 27:45-46

Learn Personal Responsibility and Godly Sorrow

- Sin is serious, because sin separates us from God..... Isaiah 59:1-2
- When we sin, death is what we deserve..... Hebrews 9:22 (Romans 6:23)
  - For our sins to be forgiven, we require a sacrifice to take the punishment in our place. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice necessary for our forgiveness
- Jesus, who had no sin, took on our sins..... 2 Corinthians 5:21
  - *He experienced separation from God for the first time in his life when he took on our sins*
- All of us have sinned, and all of us require God's grace..... Romans 3:23-24
- Jesus died on the cross for you personally..... Romans 5:6-8
  - Remember there were many others who died by crucifixion in the first century. It was not that Jesus was painfully crucified that makes him unique. It was that he was crucified for you, in your place.
  - Even if you were the only person in the world, Jesus would still need to sacrifice himself the same way so that your sins could be forgiven
- Jesus took our sin so seriously that he was willing to die in our place to save us. How seriously do you see your sin? How serious are you about dying to your sin?

## The Love of God

- At just the right time Christ would die for us, despite how we sinned against him
- God's love is rare. There is nothing like the love of Christ
  - No other religion tells of a God who loves us sacrificially and graciously
- We can know and rely upon God's love, because Christ died for us.. 1 John 4:7-21
  - God's love is proven by Jesus dying for our sins. Jesus' sacrifice always reminds us of God's unfailing love, even though circumstances change, we make mistakes, or people disappoint us.

## Live Like Jesus

The Roman centurions, who are of a different religion, are moved ..... Matthew 27:47-54

- Witnessing Jesus' death transforms people. *How will it transform you?*
- Christ's love compels us to be transformed..... 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
  - Because of God's love, we are motivated to love others and obey God
- Why be a disciple? *Because God gave his very best through Jesus, we should give our best in return*

## For Deeper Understanding

- Growing spiritually means understanding God's grace more and more
- Substitute your name..... Isaiah 53:4-6
- Take Sunday Communion: ..... (Matthew 26:26-29)
  - Jesus commanded us to remember the sacrifice of his body and blood
  - The bread represents his body which was given for us
  - The cup represents his blood that was poured out for the forgiveness of our sins

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## The Relationship between the Church and the Kingdom

*The kingdom should be top priority in our lives*.....Matthew 6:33

- Peter made repentance and baptism (born again) the keys to both the kingdom and the body of Christ ..... Matthew 16:13-20, Acts 2:38 (Jn 3:5-8), 1 Cor 12:12-13
- The kingdom and body are one. The body is the church ..... Ephesians 1:22-23

*The Bible interchangeably refers to the church, the body and the kingdom. On earth, the church is the representation of the kingdom of heaven, so it is also top priority*

## The Body of Christ

Once again, the church is the body of Christ. As Christ's body on earth, the church is important in God's plan, because disciples are called to love each other deeply. As with our physical bodies, there are two important points to remember about church:

- We must *pick* the church with Jesus as the head. A body cannot survive without a head. *If Jesus is not the head, the body is dead*
- We must *stick* with the body to stay alive in Christ. The finger cannot survive separated from the body, but the body can survive without a finger

## Pick the church with Jesus as the Head

- How can you tell if Jesus is the head?.....Ephesians 2:19-22
  - Examine the *family* and the *foundation*

## The Foundation is the Bible

 .....(Ephesians 2:20-22)

- The Foundation is the Apostles and Prophets, and the Cornerstone is Christ
  - Apostles Writings = New Testament
  - Prophets Writings = Old Testament
- The church must accurately teach the Word of God.....(1 Timothy 4:16)
  - Remember salvation involves watching life and doctrine closely
- Review: How firmly do you believe God's plan is the only way to be saved?
  - Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess Jesus is Lord, Be Baptized
- Do you know any other churches outside of ours that teach God's plan of salvation?
- Do you know any other churches that expect people to live as devoted disciples?

*If the church does not teach Gods' plan of salvation, Jesus is not the head*

## The Family is in the Fellowship

- Being members of God's household makes us God's family.....(Ephesians 2:19)
- This is why we call ourselves "brothers" and "sisters"
- Jesus called God's followers his family members.....Matthew 12:48-50
- Do you know any other churches trying to build close, spiritual family like this one?

*If the church is not building spiritual, loving relationships, Jesus is not the head*

## The Focus is on One Body

- There should be only one body, one church.....Ephesians 4:3-6
  - Make every effort to be unified with one church
  - Why do over 450 denominations exist in the U.S., alone?
  - There should be no division .....(1 Corinthians 1:10-13)
  - But even in the first century, following personalities was a problem. Over time, following human teachings over the Word has caused the divisions we see today as denominations (See Baptism and False Doctrine study)
- We should not hop or shop churches or fellowships, especially based on personal tastes, unresolved disagreements or social agendas
- We must be united with one church with the one Lord, Jesus, as the head
  - Base your decision on the foundation and the family:
    - *Is salvation taught accurately?*
    - *Is the fellowship devoted to building family?*
- How devoted are you to staying with one church that makes Jesus the head?

## Stick with the body to stay alive in Christ

.....Ephesians 4:1-3

- The call of Christ is to love one another. It takes a lot work to stay united
- Making every effort out of love is called *devotion*

## Devoted to the Fellowship

- Staying in the habit of meeting together is very important.....Hebrews 10:23-25
  - The fellowship should be on our hearts as we think to spur each other on
  - Meetings of the body build family in the church, so be *more* than "on-time". *Come earlier and stay later* to encourage the fellowship
- God thinks habitually missing church is serious, deliberate sin...Hebrews 10:26-31
- Church Attendance: Do not miss the meetings of the body: Sunday and midweek services, devotionals, retreats, seminars, Bible jubilees, etc.
- ◆ Be supportive of church leadership and practices .....Hebrews 13:17, 13:7-8
  - Leaders are qualified by their faith and their accountability to God and people. Try to support their decisions and practices so far as they are in the Spirit of Christ

## Devoted to Faith Partnerships and Discipling

- After we are baptized, we are to be taught to obey everything... (Matthew 28:18-20)
- In general, New Christians require much more training to mature spiritually and build spiritual partnerships.....(Hebrews 5:11-14)
- "See to it, brothers..." It is everyone's responsibility .....Hebrews 3:12-13
- Are you willing to have different people train you spiritually so you can mature into building spiritual partnerships? Explain faith partners and discipling partnerships
- **Every day:** Everyone must try to connect with each other at a heart-to-heart level
- *How eager are you to initiate building faith partnerships and discipling relationships?*

# The Kingdom and the Church

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Devoted to Daily Encouragement

- See the good and encourage each other *every day*..... (Hebrews 3:12-13)
  - It takes no faith to see the sin in each other
- Love and devotion for each other: an investment of time ..... Romans 12:9-10
- Use our time to honor one another, meaning we build each other up

## Devoted to Small Group Membership

- Serving together in a small group, builds great family ..... Romans 12:11-12
  - Share with each other who are in need..... Romans 12:13
  - Practice hospitality: Open our homes to reach out to others
- Small groups should create closeness and belonging ..... Romans 12:3-5
  - When we belong to each other, our actions impact each other
  - We need each other ..... (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

## Devoted to Using Your Gifts ..... Romans 12:6-8

- All are gifted by God's grace. Everything we have is a gift from God
- We should be sober and humble about how God has blessed us..... (Romans 12:3)
  - When we withhold serving God with our gifts, we can lack humility in understanding that all the good we have comes from God
- God has given us a measure of almost every gift listed in this passage
- For example, God expects all of us to serve, meet needs, encourage, give and show mercy
- Where we are most gifted, we can inspire and train the fellowship

**Prophesying** and evangelism: Speaking God's Word with vision and faith

- Faithfully speaking God's Word impacts unbelievers..... (1 Corinthians 14:24-25)
- How can you inspire others to speak God's Word with vision and faith?

**Serving:** Everyone in the church finds a way to serve

- Ushers, Audio/Visual, Children's Ministry, Communications, Worship
- What ways to serve interest you?

**Teaching**

- We are all called to help each other spiritually.....(Romans 15:14, Colossians 3:16)
- Are you willing to partner with others and care for others spiritually?

**Encouraging:** See above "Devoted to Encouragement"

**Contributing to meet needs:** Giving financially

- Financially, God expects us to be faithful and reliable ..... (2 Corinthians 9:5-8)
- Be cheerful, because you have *faith* that your generosity will reap blessings
- Be *reliable* with your promise. Follow through with what you decide to give
  - Periodically, we request pledges for budgetary planning purposes
  - Planning helps with reliable giving ..... (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- At times, collections are made to meet special needs: missionary work, disaster relief, helping the poor, expanding the church ..... (2 Corinthians 8:13-15, Acts 4:34)

- *How devoted are you to being a reliable financial contributor to God's church?*

**Contributing to meet needs** (continued)

- How much should be given? A tithe is good starting point in deciding what to give
  - Tithing is the practice of giving the first tenth of your income to God
  - Tithing reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God
  - ◆ Jesus told the Pharisees they should practice the tithe ..... Luke 11:42
  - ◆ He commended those who sacrificed financially for the church ..... Mark 12:41-44
  - ◆ God wants to bless us when we responsibly sacrifice ..... Malachi 3:8-10
- Leading:** We can lead in our areas of strength. Are you willing to lead when called?
- Mercy:** Helping the poor and needy was part of Christ's mission ..... (Matthew 25:31-46)
- From time to time we participate in programs to help the poor locally and worldwide

## Devoted to Peace and Unity ..... Romans 12:18-21

- We make every effort to live at peace with each other
- Work to resolve matters with people quickly and directly ..... (Matthew 5:25-26)
- Involve others when you cannot resolve matters personally ..... (Matthew 18:15-16)
  - Unity is very important. Use every means possible to bring peace
  - When involving others, be considerate and avoid gossip
  - Any person you talk to about the matter should be included in the reconciliation. If you do not, that person will be left with a bad view toward whomever is involved in the matter

◆ **Devoted to Purity** (primarily for the unmarried)

- ◆ We honor one another with our purity..... (Romans 12:10) 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- ◆ Treat the opposite gender with absolute purity, like family ..... 1 Timothy 5:1-2
  - Widows are only to marry disciples..... 1 Corinthians 7:39
  - Do not be yoked with unbelievers ..... 2 Corinthians 6:14-15
- ◆ The call to absolute purity, undivided devotion, being yoked with only believers and for widows to only marry disciples, strongly lead us to believe:
  - expecting disciples to date only other disciples is in the Spirit of Christ
  - double-dating only disciples helps single adults honor each other's purity

## Conclusion ..... Galatians 5:6

- The church helps us to focus on what's important: building faith and loving one another. Let's give church the priority that God envisioned for our lives!

# Confessions of Faith

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

1. You are royalty – 1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am royalty, a child of the King of Kings.
2. You are supernatural
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am supernatural, imbued with the Holy Spirit and endowed with His power.
3. You are eternal – John 6:47-51: "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am eternal, in Christ I will live forever.
4. You are family – Romans 8:16: Life Through the Spirit: "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am a beloved member of God's family on earth and in heaven.
5. You are full of goodness, knowledge and competence – Romans 15:14: Paul the Minister to the Gentiles: "I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am full of goodness.

6. You are sons of God – Galatians 3:26 "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus..."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith**- I am the son/daughter of Almighty God.
7. You are an heir – Galatians 3:29  
Sons of God – "If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am rich beyond imagination. I am an heir to the wealth of God.
8. You have been given fullness in Christ – Colossians 2:10  
Freedom From Human Regulations Through Life With Christ – "...and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am filled with the person of Christ.
9. You are precious to God – Isaiah 43:4  
Israel's Only Savior – "Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life."  
1 Kings 8:51  
The Temple Finished, Dedicated, Filled – "They are, after all, your people and your precious inheritance whom you rescued from the heart of that iron-smelting furnace, Egypt!"
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.**Confession of faith** – I am precious to God. He has given men and nations in exchange for me.
- 1.

# Counting the Cost

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Introduction

All questions and points refer to Scriptures from prior Faith Principles Studies. Cost Counters should be equipped to reference the applicable Scriptures. They are not listed in this study

- We must count the cost before being baptized..... Luke 14:28-30
- It is worse if we start, but do not finish ..... 2 Peter 2:20-22

## Hear

- How do you define faith? Hear, Believe, Obey (Romans 10:17, James 2:14-26)
- How are you saved by faith?..... Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess Jesus is Lord, Be Baptized (Romans 10:17, 9-10, Acts 2:38)
- Have you devoted yourself to reading the Bible and praying every day?
- Have you devoted yourself to obeying the Bible as written? We will talk more specifically about this in this study

## Believe

- Do you believe the Bible is the Only Word of God?
- Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and God raised him from the dead?

## Repent

- What does repentance mean? Godly sorrow that leads to a 180° change of direction

## Godly Sorrow

- *Why do you want to be a Christian?*
  - *Moved by the love Christ expressed on the Cross*

## Confession

- How devoted are you to confessing your sin on a consistent basis in pursuit of repentance?
- How willing are you to be questioned about your sin by others?
- What is the difference between admitting your sin and confessing your sin?
- What sins were hardest to confess? What will be difficult to confess on an ongoing basis?

## 180° Change

- What sins have you repented of since studying the Bible?
- What sins were the most difficult to overcome throughout your life?
- What sins do you think will be the most difficult to overcome looking forward?
- Give your feedback on what you think will be most difficult to overcome. Assess to see how humble and receptive the person is
- How do you think you can best manage your repentance as a disciple?

## Confess Jesus is Lord

***Most important is our faith expressing itself through love*** ..... Galatians 5:6

- With Jesus as Lord, disciples stay saved by living lives of love

**Love God:** How willing are you to give up everything for Christ?

- **Time**
  - How devoted are you to walking with God consistently through Bible study and prayer daily?
  - How much consistent time are you devoting to God through Bible study and prayer daily?
  - How devoted are you to seeking the Kingdom first by attending all the worship meetings?
  - What do you understand are the worship meetings of the body that we conduct? Discuss Midweek and Sunday services and meetings
- **Relationships**
  - What are the relationships that may hinder your devotion to Christ? Family, Friends, Co-workers, Opposite gender
  - How will you handle these relationships to maintain your devotion to Christ?
- **Possessions**
  - How devoted are you to being a reliable financial contributor to God's church?
    - Review Special Contribution and how pledges are helpful for budgetary planning
  - How enthusiastic are you about being consistent in your giving to God and His church? How do you feel about discussing your tithe with a financially qualified disciple?
  - What difficulties do you foresee with your ability to be consistent with financially investing?

## Love the Disciples

**How devoted are you to giving in the fellowship during meetings of the body?**

Worship services are important, because they are great ways to love the other disciples

- How devoted are you to being there earlier and staying later at worship meetings for fellowship and serving?
- We are called to give of ourselves so that the fellowship can be a place of encouragement: What do you think this means?
  - When we feel like we are doing well spiritually, we can give by encouraging others. When we feel like we are not doing well, we can give of ourselves by being vulnerable with our difficulties and allowing others into our hearts to encourage us.
- How devoted are you to being giving, interactive or vulnerable in the fellowship?

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Love the Disciples (continued)

### How devoted are you to being humble in initiating discipling and partnership?

- We should initiate with each other DAILY, so we can mature into having thriving faith partnerships. In general, New Christians require much more training to mature spiritually and build partnership (Hebrews 3:12-13, 5:11-14)
- Thus, there should be at least 2 people in your life who can help train and disciple you spiritually (1 Thessalonians 2:6-12)
- Since the goal is to mature from a discipling relationship to a more peer partnership, the 2 people training you should be closer and more available than the minister. Suggest the partnership that will disciple the new member. Assess the person's response
- What would you like to learn and what types of connections do you want in order to grow and thrive spiritually?
- Since discipling involves humility, how willing are you to be questioned and advised?
- More importantly, how eager are you to initiate seeking and applying advice?
- How willing are you to be humble about intimately personal areas that typically impact our spirituality? Here are some examples:
  - Managing Chronic Sin or Addiction
  - Time Management: Keeping priorities that strengthen devotion to loving God and others
  - Career: Being a spiritual example on the job, upgrading your job or getting a job
  - Finances: Honoring God with your money, Managing money well, getting out of debt
  - Relationships
    - Friends and Co-workers, Immediate Family (parents, siblings, etc.), Parenting
    - Marriage (fights, physical intimacy issues: 1 Corinthians 7:3-5)
    - Dating

**Serving and leading** helps to build yourself and others to maturity.

- How eager are you to lead in which roles? Review the 4 areas of leadership. Discuss Leaders Meeting Schedule. Discuss how Needs and Hospitality are a good start for New Christians

- How devoted are you to serving in areas like ushering, Kingdom Kids, A/V, etc?

### How devoted are you to relating with the opposite gender in the Spirit of Christ?

- The men are called to love, serve and lead the women with a Christ-like example
- The women are called to respect, serve and support the men like the church does Christ

◆ How willing are you to marry only a disciple?

◆ How willing are you to date only disciples on a consistent basis?

### How devoted are you to resolving conflict spiritually?

- Disciples are called to resolve conflict quickly and directly
- How devoted are you to considerably involving others, if matters cannot be resolved personally?

## Love the Lost

- Who would you like to impact for Christ?
- How would you like to impact people for Christ?
- What time have you opened up in your schedule to impact others for Christ? Be mindful about:
  - Making time to meet new people
  - Making time to be hospitable
  - Making time to study the Bible with others
- How devoted are you to participating in our efforts to help the poor and needy?

### *Do you know of any churches outside of this one that practice biblical love like ours does?*

- You will be devoting a significant amount of time and resources to loving God and others. Let's partner to carefully think through your schedule and life to set you up for a great life of faith

## Be Baptized

- What does baptism mean? Dying to sin and being raised through faith to a new life
- How strongly do you stand on the only way to be saved is through Hearing, Believing, Repentance, Confessing Jesus is Lord, and Baptism?
  - What if I only did some of them?
  - What if I did it in a different order?
  - Why do these all need to work together to have a saving faith?
- How devoted are you to attending only a church that teaches this plan of salvation?

### *Do you know of any churches outside of this one that teach this plan of salvation outside of ours?*

- There are churches worldwide that teach this plan of salvation, so we have little excuse. We should be devoted to attending only a church that teaches salvation by true faith: Hearing, Believing, Repentance, Lordship and Baptism
- What 2 other views of salvation are there and what do they teach? Ritual and Belief Based

# Baptism and False Doctrine

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Plan of Salvation Review

- *Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess Jesus is Lord or Be a Disciple, Be Baptized*

## Key Examples of Conversions in Acts

First Christian in Jerusalem .....	<u>Acts 2:36-47</u>
Ethiopian Eunuch .....	<u>Acts 8:26-39</u>
Philippian jailer and his family .....	<u>Acts 16:22-34</u>
Paul .....	<u>Acts 9:1-22, Acts 22:3-16</u>

- What was preached? ..... The good news about Jesus Christ
- What was the response to the message? ..... They were baptized
- How long did it take to make a decision? Less than 3 days. The longest is 3 days!

*They responded quickly, because they knew baptism was necessary for salvation*  
*Traditions and False Doctrines can emerge to nullify God's Word.. Matthew 15:6-9*

## Ritual Based:

**Infant Baptism:** Based on the doctrine of "original sin". We are born guilty of the sins of our forefathers.

- Began approximately third century A.D.
- Became "church doctrine" in 549 A.D.
- There is no original sin..... Ezekiel 18:20  
Each person is responsible for his own actions and will be judged accordingly.  
Therefore, babies are born sinless and will be saved if they die
- We are raised through faith in the power of God ..... Colossians 2:12  
Personal faith is needed. But babies do not have faith, so they cannot be baptized.

## Belief Based: Salvation by Only Believing

*"Pray or Accept Jesus into your heart"*

- This phrase is never mentioned in the Bible
- Began in the early 1800s in America
- About Jesus knocking at the door..... Revelation 3:20  
*Examine the Scripture in context:* This scripture does not teach how to become a Christian and be saved, but how to come back to God after becoming lukewarm. It is addressed to disciples who already responded to Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

*Only belief saves you* ..... Romans 10:9

- The Scripture also states that action, moving your lips to confess, "Jesus is Lord" to is required for salvation. Belief alone is not enough. Action is still required in this passage, the action of speaking
- Action is required to call on the name of the Lord..... Romans 10:13
  - When do you call on the name of the Lord? At baptism..... Acts 22:16

*"Baptism is a work, yet we are saved by faith"* ..... Ephesians 2:8

- We are saved by faith: faith in God working through baptism..... Colossians 2:12
- **Understand the Bible meaning of faith** ..... James 2:14-26  
Belief and action work together for saving faith as we hear, believe and obey God's Word
- **Understand the Bible meaning of "saved by works"**  
Being saved by works meant that for every sin committed, good deeds could be done to make up for the sin. When the Bible says salvation is "not by works", it does not mean we do nothing at all. It means there are not enough good deeds we can do to make up for our sins.
- There is no amount of work we can do to deserve salvation, but that does not mean we do nothing to access salvation
  - If someone said you won a Porsche, tax free and insurance paid, but to gain possession, you would have to pick up the keys, pink slip, and register the vehicle, would you earn the car by following the instructions? No, you would receive the car by following instructions
  - The car is worth way more than the time you invested gaining access it
- Action can be required to access a gift given by grace

*"Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace"*

- Baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is not merely a sign, seal or symbol ..... Romans 6:2-4

*"Baptism does not save you"*

- Baptism saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..... 1 Peter 3:21
- Sin is forgiven at baptism. One is saved at the point sin is forgiven..... Acts 2:38

*"Baptism isn't important"* ..... 1 Corinthians 1:17

- Paul was thankful that he had only baptized a few Corinthians
- *Examine the Scripture in context:* Paul does not diminish the importance of baptism. He makes the point that he does not want people following men (denominationalism) ..... 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
- He mentions baptism several times in the passage
- Paul himself was baptized to have his sins forgiven..... Acts 22:16

*"The thief on the cross was not baptized and Jesus told him that they would see each other in paradise"*

- Jesus had not died yet, and baptism is participating in his death..... Romans 6:2-4
- On earth, Jesus had the power to forgive sins..... Matthew 9:2-6

**"Believers baptism":** This is baptism as an adult, but is not done in conjunction with the understanding that one is being saved at this point in time.

- "Retroactive understanding" is not enough for salvation ..... John 3:5, Acts 2:38
  - Baptism works with hearing, believing, repenting and making Jesus Lord

# Coming of the Kingdom

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

The importance of this study is to

- produce faith in the continuity of the Word
- teach the Kingdom is the church
- teach the importance of the church in the eternal plan of God
- After you read the left column of "Predictions of the Kingdom", read [Acts 1:1-18](#), [Acts 2:1-17, 22-24, 38-47](#). The shaded column highlights how the predictions in the left column are fulfilled in Acts 1-2.
- The height of Israel's glory was under the king David approximately 1000 B.C.

Predictions of the Kingdom	Fulfillment
<b><u>Isaiah 2:1-4:</u></b> 750 B.C.	
• Last days	<a href="#">Acts 2:17</a>
• All nations	<a href="#">Acts 2:5</a>
• Jerusalem	<a href="#">Acts 2:5</a>
<b><u>Daniel 2:29-45, 7:18</u></b>	
• 550 B.C.	
• Prophesied Empires	
o Gold: Babylonian	
o Silver: Medo-Persian	
o Bronze: Greek Empire	
o Iron and Clay: Roman Empire –	
When the Kingdom would come.....	<a href="#">Acts 1-2</a>
occurred in 33 A.D.	
• Endure forever, possess forever	<a href="#">Acts 2:37-42</a>
<b><u>Matthew 3:16:</u></b> John the Baptist (25 A.D.) – Kingdom is near	<a href="#">33 A.D.</a>
<b><u>Matthew 4:17:</u></b> Jesus (30 A.D.) – Kingdom is near	<a href="#">33 A.D.</a>
<b><u>Matthew 16:13-19</u></b>	
• Peter has the keys	<a href="#">Acts 2:14</a> <a href="#">Acts 2:38</a>
<b><u>Mark 9:1</u></b>	
• Will come in the lifetime of some of the disciples	<a href="#">Acts 1:18-19</a>
• Kingdom will come with power	<a href="#">Acts 1:8</a> <a href="#">Acts 2:1-4</a>
<b><u>Luke 17:30-21</u></b>	
• Kingdom is within you	<a href="#">Acts 2:37</a> <a href="#">Acts 2:42-47</a>
<b><u>Luke 24:44-49</u></b>	
• Repentance & forgiveness of sins	
will be preached 1 <sup>st</sup> in Jerusalem to all nations.....	<a href="#">Acts 2:5, 38</a>
<b><u>John 3:1-7</u></b>	
• Kingdom entered by new birth	<a href="#">Acts 2:38</a>

## Fulfillment of the Old and New Testament Predictions

- The church is the kingdom of God on earth established in approximately 33 A.D. On earth, the church is the representation of the kingdom of heaven
- As citizens of the kingdom and members of the body (the church), we must be devoted to Doctrine, Fellowship, Breaking Bread, Prayer ..... [Acts 2:42-47](#)
- They had daily contact
- We must seek his kingdom first ..... [Matthew 6:33](#)
- Church should be top priority. Take whatever you've placed as top priority in your life, and have an even greater standard for church.
- Would you skip or be late for work? We also should not be for church.
- Needs are met at church..... [Matthew 13:31](#)
- Church is worth tremendous sacrifice..... [Matthew 13:44-46](#)



# The Holy Spirit

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## Introduction

- Jesus was given the Spirit in full measure, no limit..... John 3:34
- There are three measures of the Holy Spirit:
  1. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit
  2. Baptism with the Holy Spirit
  3. Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit

## The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (from Salvation and the Spirit)

- The Holy Spirit is the power of God ..... Genesis 1:1-3
- Received at baptism ..... Acts 2:38
- The Spirit is in us after baptism..... John 14:16-17
  - The Spirit can be 'with' you, but the Spirit is not 'in' you until after baptism
- The Spirit keeps our hearts and consciences convicted about sin ..... John 16:5-13
- We live by the Spirit, not by the sinful nature..... Romans 8:5-8
  - Living by our sinful nature is against living by the Spirit
  - Living by the Spirit, is **not** living by our own emotions, opinions or desires
- The Spirit we receive at baptism is the Spirit of Christ ..... Romans 8:9
- The Spirit calls us to be like Jesus: "...Christ is in you" ..... Romans 8:10
  - What would Jesus think, feel, perceive and do? Disciples live by a higher call, the general principle: *What would be in the Spirit of Christ?*
- By the Spirit, we have the power of the resurrection in us!..... Romans 8:11
- We need to be led by the Spirit, not our sinful nature ..... Romans 8:12-14
- We have the Spirit of sonship to present us as God's children ..... Romans 8:15-17
- The Word is the sword of the Spirit..... Ephesians 6:17
  - Living by the Spirit means living by God's Word
- The Holy Spirit transforms us with increasing glory ..... 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
- After baptism, we are defined by Christ, not our sinful nature ..... Galatians 3:26-27
- We have the Spirit of Christ in our hearts ..... Galatians 4:6-7
- With the Spirit in our hearts, we truly desire righteousness ..... Galatians 5:16-17
- We crucify the sinful nature in order to live by the Spirit ..... Galatians 5:19-21, 24
- Living by the Spirit is never against living by God's law..... Galatians 5:22-26
  - Keeping in step with the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, etc.

## Baptism with the Holy Spirit

### Characteristics in Acts 2 and Acts 10

- Promise (not command)..... Acts 1:4-5
- Predicted (prophesied)
- Came without warning. (People were not specifically praying for it)
- Languages
- Purpose: to usher in the Kingdom with power

### Accounts of the baptism with the Holy Spirit

- To the Jews in Jerusalem ..... Acts 2
- To the Gentiles ..... Acts 10
- Beginning with Cornelius
- Cornelius and his household were water baptized in v. 48, saved at baptism
- Peter explained actions to the Jews ..... Acts 11:1-18
- "At the beginning," (Acts 11:15)

### Does the Baptism with the Holy Spirit still exist today?

- There is one baptism (Written about 60-62 A.D.) ..... Ephesians 4:4-6
- Which one is it? There are three options:
  - John's baptism-passed when new covenant began ..... Acts 19:1-5
  - The baptism with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2 and 10). No longer present as it was a prophecy/promise that has been fulfilled. It was never a general command for all Christians
  - Baptism with water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
    - Jesus commanded this baptism ..... Matthew 28:18-20
    - Refers to salvation by water baptism ..... 1 Peter 3:21
    - This baptism is recorded all the way through the book of Acts and the epistles (also written about 62 A.D.)
    - It had to be the one baptism of Ephesians 4:4-6 as it was the only one practiced by 60-62 A.D. when Ephesians was written

# The Holy Spirit

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

## The Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Received by the apostles' laying on of hands
- No longer present today

### Types of Miraculous Gifts ..... (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

- Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Distinguishing Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation
- Drink poison or be bitten by snakes and not die .....(Mark 16:16-18, Acts 28:5)
- Types of "Laying on of Hands" .....(Acts 13:3)
  - Blessing
  - Healing .....(Acts 9:17-28, 28:8)
  - Ananias heals Paul's blindness
  - Paul heals Publius' father on Malta

### Passing on the Miraculous Gifts

- Context is the choosing of "The Seven" ..... Acts 6:1-8
- This is the first occasion that the gifts were passed. Stephen immediately starts to perform miraculous signs among the people with God's power (v. 8)
- The Seven could not pass on the gifts they received ..... Acts 8:1-25
- Philip, one of the seven who had received the gifts in Acts 6:1-8, goes to Samaria. He performs many miraculous signs and healings to get people to believe and be baptized (v. 12). By becoming Christians, they received the forgiveness of sins and the gift (indwelling) of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Simon the Sorcerer was also baptized (v. 13). When the apostles were visiting, Simon saw the Spirit's gifts were only given by apostles' laying on of hands (v. 18)
- **Note:** Simon offered the apostles money for the gifts, but he didn't ask Philip for the gifts because Philip could not pass them on. Simon is rebuked for having the wrong motivation
- *Apostles would pass on the gifts* ..... (Acts 8:18)
- **Paul's Laying on of Hands** ..... Acts 19:1-6  
Paul finds disciples in Ephesus who didn't know who the Holy Spirit was because they only received John's baptism of repentance. Next, they were baptized into the name of Jesus Christ to receive the forgiveness of their sins and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (v.5). Then they receive the miraculous gifts of prophecy and speaking in tongues by the laying on of Paul's hands (v.6). Paul is an apostle

## General Observations on the Miraculous Gifts

- Apostles were able to pass on the gifts because they were apostles..... Luke 9:1
  - The Apostles possessed the ability to perform miracles even during the ministry of Christ. This ability to pass and perform the gifts was not given at Pentecost (Luke 9:1)
- Jesus never spoke in tongues and he was accorded the full-measure of the Spirit ..... John 3:34-36
- 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 are not the directives on how to receive tongues (the church there had already received them), but rather the correctives on how to use them because everyone was speaking at the same time and misusing the tongues
  - Shows that tongues as a gift were not given to everyone in the church ..... 1 Corinthians 12:28-30
  - Thus the concept of a "Pentecostal church" (every member speaking in tongues) is against scripture
- "Perfection" here could not mean the coming of Christ..... 1 Corinthians 13:8-10  
It is in the neuter gender in Greek, not the masculine gender. When perfection comes probably refers to the canonization of the Bible sometime after the first century. At that time, all the miraculous gifts would be gone because all the apostles and those to whom they passed the gifts would have died
- The purpose of the miraculous gifts..... 1 Corinthians 14:20-22
  - To get non-believers to believe (tongues were only to be used to bring non-believers to faith.)
  - To edify the Christians and strengthen their faith
  - Now the Bible fulfills these needs-thus the church today does not need apostles or miraculous gifts
- A person can be filled with the Spirit without speaking in tongues ..... Ephesians 5:18-19
- There can be miracles by Satan today ..... 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10  
Satan's purpose is to deceive people about the truth, so they will not be saved. Speaking in "tongues" is common in many religions (Mormon, Catholic, Islam, etc.) because religion gets dried and staid. These are also called "ecstatic utterances"-non-understandable sounds and fragments of speech

# Chemical Recovery

Optional points are marked with "◆". Supplemental Scriptures are in parentheses ( ).

- The purpose of this study is to help someone develop biblical convictions about addressing the use and abuse of alcohol, nicotine and other damaging chemical addictive substances.

## **Biblical Definition of Addiction:**

- From the very beginning it is important to establish that addiction is a sin issue and must be approached from that standpoint. Helping the person you are studying with to understand this at the outset will be crucial to their willingness to repent and get help.
- Romans 7:14-20
- This scripture clearly shows the powerlessness associated with addiction.
- Give an example of someone who wants to quit drinking (smoking or drugging) and has tried many times only to find himself back at square one.
- This scripture shows addiction's relation to sin.

## **Damaging effects of Addiction:**

### **Drugs (Including Nicotine) Enslave Us**

- We should not allow sin to control us..... Romans 6:12
- Sin is not just looking to enslave us only on weekends ..... 2 Peter 2:19
- It desires to enslave us and reign supreme in our lives in place of God. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are addictive. They will become more important to you than God unless you stop using them. There is no easing off or cutting back. Sin needs to be dealt with quickly and effectively.

### **Using Makes the Gospel Unattractive..... Titus 2:6-10**

- God wants us to set an example for all non-believers and for our children. How attracted to God's kingdom would you have been if the person who invited you was smoking, drinking, or using drugs? Is that the kind of life that scripture indicates God desires to work through?
- Do you desire for God to work powerfully in and through your life? Substance abuse hinders God from working in our lives.

### **Using Violates Others Rights**

- Doing good to others summarizes God's Law ..... Matthew 7:12
- Christians consider others better than ourselves..... Philippians 2:4
- How can we do this and abuse drugs at the same time?
- The negative effects of drug and tobacco use have a huge impact on others around us. The Law and the Prophets all pointed to loving one another and by doing this, we should not knowingly harm another person. When we use inevitably that is what happens. Others are harmed.

### **Dishonors God with Our Body**

- How we treat our bodies is part of our worship of God..... Romans 12:1
- Jesus died for us so that we would honor God with our bodies.. 1 Corinthians 6:20
- As Christians, our body is the temple of God ..... 2 Corinthians 7:1
- When we do not have respect for how we treat it, we disrespect God.

### **A Poor Substitute for Prayer as a Means of Dealing with Anxiety**

- God wants us to rely on Him when we feel anxious ..... Philippians 4:6, 7  
He wants us to tell Him how we are feeling and to trust that He will take care of us. Drugs, alcohol and tobacco are poor substitutes for the peace that God wants to give us.
- We understand that dealing with some sins are more difficult than others even our Lord acknowledged that when HE said "*this kind can only come out through prayer and fasting*"
- It is the "*this kind*" that we direct our attentions toward in the C.R. Ministry. With God's help, in a safe confidential setting, we use the scriptures along with a proven approach toward helping free people from the power of addiction.

### **Conclusion: ..... James 4:17**

- If you know that there has been some kind of chemical addiction in your life; whether it be from alcohol, tobacco or drugs, God encourages you to do something about it.
- This would be a great opportunity to introduce the person to the Chemical Recovery Ministry at our church. The sooner they get introduced to the ministry the better their chances of having a sincere study and conversion experience. There is so much deceit and denial associated with addiction that it is almost impossible for someone under such conditions to make an honest connection to God.