

THE
CHRISTIAN
INCREASES ...

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THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES . . .

INTRODUCTION

This study is only a guide and outline. All authority and instruction must come from God's word. It is the Bible, in particular the New Testament, that is our guide and it is our Lord Jesus Christ who is the source of our life. In light of this, we offer the following suggestions:

1. Precede and conclude each study lesson with prayer.
2. Older and younger Christians are studying, sharing, and learning together. No one has all the answers other than our Lord.
3. Reach each scripture together carefully before discussing and answering the questions.
4. Be as complete as possible with each answer.
5. If different translations of the Bible are being used, we recommend reading the scriptures aloud from each translation.
6. When further questions arise, don't be tied to this study guide.
7. Although there are lessons here in it, it is not vital that a full lesson be completed at one time. Be flexible.
8. Our aim is more that study together. We desire relationship to develop between the Christians involved.
9. If at any time additional aid is desired, we encourage you to feel free to call on any of our elders and/or our minister.
10. Precede and conclude each study session with prayer. God bless you as you share in this avenue of growth toward maturity in Christ. Our aim is to learn to serve Christ our Lord in a way tha brings glory to Him (Colossians 1:28).

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES . . . IN UNDERSTANDING

1. How do you feel right now about having become a Christian? _____

2. It is valuable to consider what it means to be a Christian.
 - a. Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:17-18: What has happened to your past sins? _____

 - b. Romans 8:15-17; II Corinthians 6:17-18: What is the relationship now between God and you? _____

3. What special blessing is promised in these passages?
Hebrews 13:6 _____
I John 1:8-9 _____
James 4:8 _____
I Corinthians 6:19-20 _____
4. What response to these blessings should we make?
Matthew 6:33 _____
Romans 6:11-14 _____
Romans 12:1-2 _____
I Corinthians 13:1-13 _____
Galatians 6:7-10 _____
Colossians 3:1-3 _____
5. What changes do you feel you will need to make in your life to respond to the blessing which are now yours? _____

6. Hebrews 10:19-25; Acts 20:7; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16: How is God's plan of worship beneficial to us?

7. John 3:1-8; Romans 6:1-7; Colossians 1:13-23: What changes has God through Christ already made for you?

8. I John 1:5-10; James 5:16-18: What provisions has God made for Christians when we sin? _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES . . . IN BEING MORE LIKE CHRIST

1. Our duty and God's grace must be kept in mind always:
Matthew 28:20; John 14:15; Ephesians 2:8-10. How do you
balance these ideas in your understanding? _____

2. To be more Christlike, what helps do we have?
II Peter 1:3-4 _____
II Timothy 3:16-17 _____
Galatians 6:1-2 _____
Hebrews 10:23-25 _____
Colossians 3:16 _____
Romans 8:26-27 _____
3. II Peter 1:5-8: Define these seven terms:
virtue _____
knowledge _____
self-control _____
steadfastness _____
godliness _____
brotherly kindness _____
love _____
4. II Peter 1:9-11: What are the results if we lack these? _____

What are the results when they are ours? _____

What assurance of staying true to Christ is given? _____

5. Galatians 5:22-24: Discuss and define these terms:
love _____
joy _____
peace _____
patience _____
kindness _____
goodness _____
faithfulness _____
gentleness _____
self-control _____

6. Matthew 5:3-16; What ideas do these verses suggest to you? _____

7. Romans 1:16-17; 10:17; I Peter 2:1-3, 11-12; II Peter 3:17-18: Where can we find help in increasing in Christ' likeness? _____

8. Romans 1:15-32: Toward whom is God's wrath revealed?

9. To summarize and review, read these scriptures:
Colossians 3:5-17 _____
Philippians 2:1-18 _____
Ephesians 6:10-20 _____
Galatians 6:7-10 _____
I Corinthians 15:51-58 _____
Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-19 _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES . . . IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

1. How does one become a part of Christ's church?
Acts 2:37-47 _____
I Corinthians 12:12-13 _____
Ephesians 5:23, 13-14 _____
2. By what name is the church Biblically referred to?
Colossians 1:18 _____
Colossians 1:13 _____
I Timothy 3:15 _____
3. What do these passages reveal about the head/authority for the church?
Ephesians 1:15-23 _____
Colossians 1:18-20 _____
Matthew 16:13-19 _____
1 Corinthians 3:11 _____
Colossians 3:15 _____
4. I Corinthians 12:14-27; Matthew 18:20: How important are you to the body/church of Christ? _____

5. What is God's desire for the church as seen in Scripture?
Ephesians 4:1-6 _____
John 17:20-24 _____
I Corinthians 3:1-11 _____
Luke 4:16 _____
6. Notice the various terms used to describe the church:
Acts 20:17 _____
Acts 20:28 _____
I Timothy 3:1-7 _____
Titus 1:5-9 _____
I Peter 5:1-5 _____
7. How should Christians relate to God's leaders?
I Peter 5:5 _____
Hebrews 13:17 _____
Ephesians 5:21 _____
8. What qualities of leadership do we see in these passages?
I Timothy 3:1-7 _____

Titus 1:5-9 _____

9. Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:8-13: What other function in the church is described? _____

Who is to serve in this manner? _____

10. Hebrews 10:19-25; I Timothy 4:6-13; II Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 2:1; 3:1; Ephesians 4:11-15: What is the role/task of the preacher/evangelist in the church? _____

11. Read Revelation 2:1-3:22; Galatians 1:6-10: What Warnings and blessings are available for the church? _____

12. Summarize your understanding of the importance of being a part of the church/body/household/family of Christ: _____

Evaluating My Increase

1. I feel my greatest spiritual strength right now is _____

2. The greatest need(s) I have in my spiritual life is/are _____

3. During the progress of these studies I have resolved to begin _____

4. The plan of Bible study I would like to increase more and more is _____

5. My temptation/weakness is experienced most in _____

6. I need the help of fellow Christians in order to begin to _____

7. One way I plan to help others is _____

8. One area of service in the church that I would like to get involved with soon is _____

9. Specific questions I have are: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... IN WORSHIP

1. Acts 20:7: What two activities are given here as an example of New Testament worship? _____

2. Hebrews 10:19-25: Note the four "let us" admonitions:
Hebrews 10:22 _____
Hebrews 10:23 _____
Hebrews 10:24 _____
Hebrews 10:25 _____
How do you see these related to one another? _____

Matthew 5:6: How do you see this passage related to Hebrews 10:19-25? _____

Matthew 18:19-20: What relationship do you see between this scripture and Hebrews 10:19-25? _____

3. Luke 4:16: What example of Jesus relates to our worship? _____

4. Psalm 111:9-10; Psalm 29:1-2: From this Old Testament background, what do you see as the essence of worship? _____

5. What is the significance of prayer as we worship?
Acts 2:42 _____
Acts 4:22-31 _____
Acts 12:12 _____
1 Corinthians 14:15 _____
I Thessalonians 5:17-18 _____

6. Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:15-27; Hebrews 2:10-12; Acts 16:25: What does singing accomplish? _____

What **instruments** are employed in singing? _____
Is there New Testament authority for prayer and for singing? _____

7. Acts 2:42; 20:7; Matthew 28:20; I Timothy 4:1-7; II Timothy 2:1, 15: What role does teaching/preaching as worship

Hebrews 5:11-14; I Peter 2:1-2; II Peter 3:18; Revelation 22:18-19: Why do we need God's word taught us faithfully and accurately?_____

8. Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:17-34: What are the items used in the Lord's Supper?_____

What do these items signify?_____

What should be our attitude as we partake?_____

9. I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15: What should Christians contribute?_____

What blessings attend our giving?_____

10. What strength is gained in faithful, regular worship?_____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES . . . IN STUDY

1. Define some terms:
context _____
study (vs. read) _____

Versions: The most commonly available versions are: King James Version (1611) KJV; Revised Standard Version (N.T. 1946; O.T. 1952) RSV; New American Standard (1960) NAS; New International Version (1978) NIV; New King James Version (1978) NKJV.

2. Tools to aid Bible study:
 - a. Bible dictionary—useful for background information and for insight into customs, etc.
 - b. Biblical Encyclopedias—useful for more complete information on subjects and concepts.
 - c. Concordance: (Some are included in Bibles) Exercise: Look up grace in concordance and read all passages listed. Look up faith in concordance and read all passages listed.
 - d. Topical indexes and/or Topical bibles.
 - e. Use and comparison of versions.
 - f. Commentaries: visit the church library and familiarize yourself with the study tools there.
3. The arrangement of the New Testament:
 - a. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: teach the life and meaning of Christ.
 - b. Acts: the coming and development of Christianity on earth.
 - c. Romans through Jude: Letters to Christians to guide them.
 - d. Revelation: symbolic look to the future glory in Christ. Read II Timothy 3:14-17; 2:15.
4. Ways to study the Bible:
 - a. By subjects, i.e., faith, baptism, church, etc., all passages on one subject consulted.
 - b. By books: one book of the Bible, verse by verse.
 - c. By chapters and/or paragraphs.
 - d. By significant words.
 - e. Biographies in the Bible.Each method has advantages and limitations.

5. Note the reason(s) for studying God's word:

Psalm 119:97-105_____

Proverbs 1:1-7_____

John 17:17_____

Acts 17:11_____

Romans 1:16-17_____

Romans 10:16-17_____

1 Corinthians 1:18-25_____

Galatians 1:6-10_____

Ephesians 4:14-16_____

Philippian 1:9-11_____

I Timothy 6:3-12_____

II Timothy 2:15_____

II Timothy 3:14-17_____

I Peter 2:2-3_____

II Peter 3:17-18_____

I John 1:1-4_____

II John 9_____

Jude 3_____

Revelation 22:17-19_____

Evaluating My Increase

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3. During the process of these studies I have resolved to begin _____

4. The plan of Bible study I would like to follow to increase more and more is _____

5. My temptation/weakness is experienced most in _____

6. I need the help of fellow Christians in order to begin to _____

7. One way I plan to help others is _____

8. One area of service in the church that I would like to get involved with soon is _____

9. Specific questions I have are: _____

Signed _____ Date _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... IN DOING GOOD

1. James 1:22; Ephesians 2:10: Why should Christians learn to do good works? _____

2. I Peter 2:11-12; Matthew 5:14-16; Acts 10:37-38: What purpose(s) is/are to motivate our acts/works? _____

3. Titus 2:11-14; 3:8, 14: What should be our attitude in doing good for others? _____
4. What specific good works do these scriptures suggest?
Matthew 4:19 _____
II Timothy 2:24-26 _____
John 15:8 _____
I Corinthians 1:3-5 _____
Hebrews 10:24 _____
II Corinthians 1:3-5 _____
Galatians 6:1-2 _____
James 5:19-20 _____
5. Toward whom do God's children want to show goodness?
Galatians 6:5-10 _____
6. What significance do good works have for us as Christians?
Matthew 25:31-46 _____
Luke 10:29-37 _____
James 1:17 _____
7. What do these passages suggest to you about good works?
I Timothy 5:10 _____
Titus 2:2-8 _____
Acts 20:35 _____
Ephesians 4:28 _____
Hebrews 13:2-3 _____
8. What do you see in these scriptures of good we need to do?
Matthew 28:16-20 _____
Mark 16:15-16 _____
Luke 24:44-47 _____
Romans 10:8-17 _____
Matthew 18:15-17 _____
9. I Corinthians 12:12-27: We are not identical. What have you determined from this study that you can begin to do in the way of good works? _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... IN DAILY LIVING

1. What is our basic commitment to our Lord?
Matthew 22:34-40 _____
Matthew 6:25-33 _____

Colossians 3:1-4 _____
2. What positive idea do you see in these passages?
Matthew 7:12 _____
Matthew 5:16 _____
Romans 12:1-2 _____
James 4:17 _____
I Peter 2:21 _____
Philippians 1:19-20 _____
3. How do these scriptures relate to our relationships in life?
Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21 _____

Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20 _____

Acts 4:18-20; 5:29 _____

Romans 13:1-5; I Peter 2:13-17 _____

I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:6-7 _____

4. What does the Bible say about our home life?
I Peter 3:1-7 _____
Hebrews 13:4 _____
Titus 2:3-5 _____
Colossians 3:18-19 _____
Ephesians 5:21-33 _____
Matthew 5:31-32 _____
I Corinthians 7:1-16 _____
5. What guidance does God's word give us at our job?
I Thessalonians 4:9-12 _____
II Thessalonians 3:10-12 _____
Ephesians 6:5-9 _____
Colossians 3:22-4:1 _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... IN SELF-SACRIFICE

1. Romans 12:1-3: What does this scripture suggest to you about living for Christ? _____

2. When considering our lives, what does the New Testament say about our bodies?
I Corinthians 6:13-20 _____

- I Timothy 4:7-8 _____

- I Corinthians 3:16-17 _____

3. What principles guide us in our choice of language?
Matthew 5:33-37 _____
Ephesians 4:25, 29, 54 _____
Colossians 4:6 _____
I Timothy 4:12 _____
4. How should we relate to our enemies in life?
Romans 12:14-21 _____

- I Peter 2:21-23 _____

- Matthew 5:43-48 _____

5. Christians are called out of, yet live in, the world. What guidance do these scriptures furnish?
Romans 12:2 _____
I Peter 2:11-13 _____
II Peter 1:3-11 _____
James 1:12-25 _____
Galatians 5:19-21 _____
Titus 2:11-14 _____
Psalm 1:1-2 _____
Psalm 119:97-105 _____
II Timothy 2:15 _____
II Timothy 3:14-17 _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... IN OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

1. What is God's will for us as revealed in these scriptures?
Matthew 10:22 _____
Matthew 24:9-23 _____
Revelation 2:10 _____
How would you define *enduring* and *faithful* as a Christian?

2. I Peter 5:8-11: What is the devil going to do now that we have decided to follow Christ? _____

3. I Corinthians 10:1-13: What great promise is made for us by our Lord in this passage? _____

Does God remove the promise of temptation to help us resist it? _____
What are some escapes He provides for us? _____

4. James 1:12-15: We will all be tempted. What is the source/basis of temptation? _____
Does God tempt us? _____
5. Hebrews 4:14-16: Even Jesus was tempted. Temptation is not sin; when does it become sin? _____

What concept of Jesus is suggested in these verses? _____

6. What can we do to resist temptation to sin? _____
Colossians 3:2 _____
Galatians 5:24 _____
Romans 12:1 _____
I Corinthians 15:33 _____
Psalm 101:3 _____
7. What quality do we need to develop to aid in resisting temptation?
I Peter 2:21-24 _____
II Peter 1:5-7 _____
I Corinthians 9:24-27 _____
Galatians 5:23 _____

8. Luke 6:22-23; Matthew 5:10-12: We all like to be approved of by others. How can this be a source of temptation to sin?_____

9. Acts 8:14-24; I John 1:9: When we as Christians do yield to temptation to sin, what then should we do?_____

If the sin is publicly known and/or if we need help in overcoming the temptation, what provision is made in James 5:16-18?_____

10. II Peter 2:4-10; 3:3-10: What is God's attitude when we sin and then seek forgiveness?_____

Romans 6:1: Because God is gracious, are we free to sin?_____

11. At this point, what do you understand concerning:

a. Our need to resist temptation?_____

b. God's attitude when we do not resist?_____

c. God's help in resisting temptation?_____

d. What we need to do when we sin?_____

12. What temptations do you feel the weakest in resisting?_____

13. What will you do to strengthen your resistance to these temptations?_____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... IN DETERMINING RIGHT AND WRONG

1. It is often said: "Ask what Jesus would do" when a choice of action is to be made. How do you feel about that suggestion? _____

2. Hebrews 5:11-14: What stages of Christian growth do you recognize in this scripture? _____

3. What specific sins do these scriptures have listed?
I Corinthians 6:9-10 _____
_____ Galatians 5:19-21 _____
_____ Romans 14:13-16 _____
_____ Ephesians 4:25-31 _____
_____ Ephesians 5:3-6 _____
_____ Colossians 3:5-9 _____

4. In Galatians 5:19-21, it includes things like those listed. What would you include in the list?
5. What does the Bible say about our conscience in:
Romans 14:23 _____
Acts 24:16; I Timothy 4:1-2 _____
I Corinthians 9:19-23 _____
6. I Corinthians 8:1-13: What consideration should Christians have in mind as they determine right and wrong? _____

7. I Corinthians 6:12-20; 10:31-33; Romans 12:1-2: How is my physical body related to determining right and wrong? _____

8. What Biblical teaching is seen in each of these scriptures concerning my mind/thinking?
Proverbs 4:23 _____
Matthew 15:17-20 _____
Philippians 4:8 _____

9. Ephesians 5:15-16; Matthew 25:14-30: What guidance is provided as we use our time, money, and possessions?_____
- _____
10. Revelation 21:8; 22:1-5; Matthew 7:13-14, 21-27; Why is it important to develop our ability to determine right and wrong?_____
- _____
11. What questions do you have concerning right and wrong?
- _____
12. How can we continue to develop our abilities to determine what is right and what is wrong?
- II Timothy 2:15_____
- II Timothy 3:14-17_____
- I Thessalonians 5:17_____
- James 1:5-7_____
13. What plans are you making for your continued growth in this aspect of serving Christ?_____
- _____
- _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES . . . IN CONTINUAL SPIRITUAL PROGRESS

Someone has suggested stages of Christian growth similar to human physical growth. Let us consider these:

Honeymoon Stage:	Happy and joyful in a new relationship. We also need to begin planning how to retain this relationship.
Fight Stage:	Old habits, feelings, and attitudes try to come back into our life. Time to learn to resist the evil.
Doubting Stage:	Wondering begins about the meaning of salvation. A need for more information develops. Good Bible Study habits help.
Panic-Search-for-Truth-Stage:	Questions and decisions arise. Decisions must be made about right and wrong. Some uncertainty and confusion common. Need Christian friends and helpers.
Silent Christian Stage	Beliefs known but not shared. Inner calm. Time to learn how to share Christ with others.

Do you find yourself in one of these stages. Let's outline briefly the available help provided by the church:

1. Older Christians-let them know your needs.
2. Small group studies-help Christians grown.
3. Life group meetings-fellowship and encouragement.
4. Bible classes Sundays and Wednesdays--grow in knowledge.

5. Worship assemblies--commune and be strengthened in the faith.
6. Individual counseling--elders ready to help as needed.
7. Special classes--*Family, Training to Multiply* (evangelism), others as announced.

You have begun a new life in Christ. This study has been one means of aid in your first days. You have grown. You have made spiritual progress. This needs to continue all the days of your life. Let's consider the continued growth needed.

1. What are these passages emphasizing?
 Ephesians 2:19-22 _____
 Ephesians 4:14-16 _____
 II Thessalonian 1:3 _____
 I Peter 2:2 _____
 II Peter 3:18 _____
2. I Corinthians 15:58: Discouragement comes from feeling useless. How can we avoid this? _____

3. Philippians 3:12-16: What is our goal in our growth?
4. Mark 4:1-20: What hindrances are noted by Jesus to the work of His word in our lives? _____

5. What activities can we be involved in to help us grow?
 Matthew 4:19 _____
 John 1:40-46 _____
 Galatians 6:10 _____
 Matthew 5:13-16 _____
 John 15:1-11 _____
 II Corinthians 13:5 _____
 James 1:26-27 _____
 I Thessalonians 5:17 _____
 Matthew 10:32-33 _____
 Acts 20:18-21 _____
 Acts 2:42 _____
 Hebrews 10:19-21 _____
 James 5:19-20 _____
6. What questions do you have concerning your continued spiritual progress? _____
7. Share your plans to grow in Christ. _____

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ... YOUR FIRST FORTY DAYS IN CHRIST

In all probability someone has shared this study guide with you immediately following your decision to die with Jesus Christ in baptism. You have just come forth from the water and all your sins have been forgiven, and there is now a new power at work in your life, the Holy Spirit of God. You were willing to count yourself nothings and now God has raised you up to life on the higher plane.

One of the things a disciple of Jesus learns is that there is much that he or she doesn't know or understand. This should in no way discourage you. It just means that you have a lifetime of growing and developing ahead. It will never become boring. God's love is wide and deep and long and high, and the more we grasp the better it all becomes.

This study guide is designed to help you have some direction each day for the next forty days as you start listening to the voice of God as He speaks to your whole life. Why forty days? That was the length of testing Jesus himself went through following His own baptism. He passed victoriously through that testing because He knew the word of God and each time Satan came, He drove him away by using the very words of Scripture. Satan will make his attack on you. He knows you are young and more vulnerable, but God is with you, and with the weapons of righteousness in your right hand and left, you can defeat anything that would take your new life from you.

Determine right now that you are going to make this a rich and powerful study. Open wide your heart and let God do with you all he wants to do. Make sure that you have a definite time and a definite place reserved each day to study the scriptures so you can keep hearing the word of God. Don't let anything or anyone keep you from this most crucial time.

THE CHRISTIAN INCREASES ...

WEEK ONE - "Dead to self-Alive to Christ"

This week you will study passages in the scriptures that show clearly the problem. The problem is self. Christ calls us to crucify the old self and He promises to raise up a new, different self.

1st Day

1. Before you actually begin your Bible study program, take a few minutes and write down, in your own words, what your baptism into Christ meant to you. Why did you do it? What is it going to mean? If you will keep this in a safe place it will mean a great deal to you for years to come. As the years pass, it will serve as a reminder to you of the serious commitment that you made.
2. Turn to Luke 9:18-16. Read and study this passage several times.
3. Now turn to Luke 18:28-30 and look at the promise that is attached to discipleship, indeed to the decision you have just made.
4. These two passages will become very important as you share your life in Christ with others. Remember where they are and what they say. As you continue to go through this study, remember that everything you learn is something you will be responsible for passing on to someone else. Don't skim over it. Learn it as you go.

2nd Day

1. Turn to Romans 6:1-14. Read and study this carefully. Each time you come to the word we or us substitute your own name. For example: Romans 6:2: "Certainly not! How shall John who died to sin live any longer in it?"
2. Write down some of the things about your old self that caused it to receive the death sentence.
3. Write down some thing about your new self that you really want to express.
4. How do you specifically plan today to live out verse 13?

3rd Day

1. Before you start today's study, ask yourself a very important question about everything you have learned. It is something that you will be responsible for passing on to someone else. Don't skim over it. Is there anything in you that does not want to be with other disciples? If so, you can be sure it is something not of God and must be crucified. It is your old, independent self; not the new self God is giving you.
2. Turn to Romans 7:14-24 and read how powerless we are to live the new life alone. Do you see why we must exalt Christ? Especially note verse 24.
3. But now go on to Romans 8, where we see how we can do the impossible. You were told at your baptism that you would receive the gift of the Spirit. Now study some of what the spirit means in your life. Read and study verses 1-17, making notes on the thing that strike you. Remember to continue substituting your own name for the pronouns.

4th Day

1. As you have questions about things that you are studying, or things that are happening to you, seek out some other brother or sister in Christ and let them help you. They have been through many things you will go through. Benefit from their wisdom and understanding.
2. For this Bible study, you will need both an Old Testament and a New Testament. If you don't have both, make arrangements to get them.
3. We are children of God. As His children, we need His correction and instruction. This is true for every Christian. How you take correction is going to make a great difference in your growth in Christ. Turn to Proverbs 12:1-2. Next look at Proverbs 12:15. Then go to chapter 10, verse 17.
4. Write down you own attitude toward being corrected. Distinguish between those things that are left over from your old self and those things Jesus Christ is putting in your heart.
5. Go to the New Testament now and read II Timothy 3:16-17, and answer the question: what is going to be your attitude toward God's word?

5th Day

1. In your new life, you will find that attitude is important. If you develop a critical, negative, pessimistic attitude, you will put out the Spirit's fire in your life. Today the Bible study will focus on the reason you can keep a great attitude even in the worst circumstances.
2. Read and examine each of the following passages: John 16:33; Romans 8:28; Philippians 4:12-13, 19; and James 1:2-4.
3. When these are all put together, what are they promising you about everything in your life?
4. How does this fit with having a good attitude regardless of what is happening?
5. List anything that is tending to cause you to have a negative, complaining, pessimistic attitude. Confess these to another Christian and ask for their prayers and encouragement.

6th Day

1. By today you have probably realized that you are not doing all for Christ that you determined to do. You want to love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength but you fail in some specific areas. What you will study today will be very important in dealing with this for the rest of your life.
2. Turn to I John 1:5-10. Read it once; carefully.
3. Think of the difference between light and darkness. In one, things are out in the open. You can see them as they really are. In the other, things are hidden and covered by darkness. With this in mind, what does he mean when he calls us to "walk in the light?" Do you see how this fits with verse 9 and the call to admit our sins?
4. We all, from the oldest to the youngest in Christ, sin. If we claim that we don't, we lie (verse 10). How then are we to handle all this? Do we cover and hide our sin? Or do we bring them out into the open?
5. Look at the two results of walking out in the light, as described in verse 7. How will this cause a deeper fellowship with the brothers and sisters?
6. Remember this trustworthy saying: "Satan's only ground is darkness. When we confess our sins and bring them out into the light, we take away from him his only base of operation."

7th Day

1. As you come to the end of the first week as a committed follower of Jesus Christ, go back to the most basic idea in discipleship. Turn to Galatians 2:20.
 2. Every time your old nature tries to assert itself, you can say: "I have been crucified with Christ." Concerning what things do you especially need to say that today? Write them down.
 3. As you determine what you should do with your day, remember, "I, _____ no longer live, but Christ lives in me." Meditate on this great idea and then determine to let your life today be used for the very things that Jesus Christ is most interested in.
 4. Focus on Paul's words today: "You are not your own; you are bought with a price" (I Corinthians 6:19-20). Believe that--you are not your own, Jesus Christ has purchased you for his purposes by his death on the cross. Carefully distinguish between your purposes and his purposes and live as one who has been bought with such a great price.
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WEEK TWO - "No Life Outside The Body"

8th Day

1. Begin today by reading Matthew 28:18-20, concentrating on verse 18 and verse 20. What do these two verses say to you?
2. Jesus Christ, who has all authority, taught us that the church is important. In Matthew 16:16-18, Jesus hears Peter confess Him to be the Christ, the Son of God, and immediately Jesus said, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Jesus saw the church as the center of His plan. He wanted to build it and He intended to make it so strong that the forces of Satan could not stand against it. What Jesus counted as so important, we, too, must count so important.
3. For a true picture of what the church should be striving to become every day, look at Acts 2:40-47.

4. What can you do today and the rest of this week to contribute to this kind of life, the church, among God's people.
5. If the church of which you are a part is not like this at all, what should you do? Complain vigorously? Leave the church and go it alone? Or, is there a better, more Biblical option?

9th Day

1. Paul describes the church as the body of Christ. Read Romans 12:1-8 and see how giving yourself first to God leads to giving yourself to others in *the body of Christ*.
2. Notice particularly verse 5, which says: "so we, being many, are one body in Christ" or "individual members of one another." How does this conflict with the American ideal of individualism?
3. List three things that you know already that you can do for other members of *the body of Christ*. Share these with someone close to you and get their reaction.
4. List at least three things that you need from *the body of Christ* in order to grow in Christ. Share these with another person, also.

10th Day

1. Read Ephesians 4:1-5. Why does it seem to you that God is so concerned about *the body of Christ* being in unity and peace?
2. Turn to Romans 14:13--15:3 and read how far we should go and how much we should bend to keep *the body of Christ* together.
3. Is there anything in your life that is so important to you that you would not give it up even if it were keeping people from coming to Jesus Christ or growing in Him? If there is, look back to verse 21, and seek help if dealing with this area of your life.

11th Day

1. God is greatly concerned about the *unity* of the church, but He is also greatly concerned about the *purity* of the body of Christ. We are called to a holy life and a pure life, and sin

that is hidden or ignored will destroy the power of the church.

2. Read Ephesians 5:1-14. List those things which are described here as improper for God's holy people.
3. How would living as "children of light" be totally different from those things you have just listed? What is the basic difference?
4. You are a young Christian, but what should you do if you see brothers or sisters falling into some sin? Read Galatians 6:1-2.

12th Day

1. What is the one thing that must be in the church and in our relationships above all else? Read the following passages: John 13:34-35; I Corinthians 13:1-3; Galatians 5:6, 13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:14; I Peter 4:8.
2. For a more precise definition of love, compare John 13:34-35 with I John 3:16. List all the things you can think of that describe the way Jesus loved us.
3. How are you progressing in your relationships with your new brothers and sisters in Christ? Are they seeing your love for them? Many new Christians just want to *beloved and to be served*. Break this pattern and reach out to others, because Jesus has reached out to you.

13th Day

1. One of the things we can all do for one another in the *body* is give encouragements. Read a powerful statement about this in Hebrews 3:12-14.
2. According to this passage, what is to be the specific purpose of our encouragement? If this is not clear, be sure to discuss it with a brother or sister in Christ.
3. Look at II Timothy 4:2. Notice we can encourage people by sharing the *word* with them; not just complimenting them. In your new relationships, try to share with someone every day something that you have found in God's truth that is inspiring and encouraging to you.

14th Day

1. When problems develop in the *body* between brothers and sisters, they must be dealt with so that Satan is given no

- opportunity to enter in. Read Matthew 18:15-20, which gives us the right way to deal with such situations.
2. Determine early in your Christian life that you will not complain or grumble behind someone's back about what they have done. Determine that you will always go to them and resolve the problem with God's help (verse 20).

WEEK THREE - "Go Make Disciples

This week we cant to look at how God plans to use you to bring others to freedom from sin that you have found in Christ. First, we will consider how important your own life is in sharing with others.

15th Day

To be a disciple is to come under the discipline of Jesus Christ. To be a disciple is to let Jesus Christ be Lord in all the areas of your life. Examine carefully the following items and make sure that you are opening up and working on those that are applicable to you.

Financial Status--Are you using money wisely? Are you taking care of debts? Are you giving generously to the church? Is all your money God's money?

Sexuality--Are you completely free of any immoral relationships? Are you opening up your struggles to others who can help and encourage you? Are you strongly rejecting the world's attitude toward sex and replacing it with God's attitude? This area is a real stumbling block for many young Christians. Don't dismiss it lightly.

Time Management--Are you eliminating wasted time from your schedule? Do you have definite plans at the beginning of each day? Have you shared your schedule with someone else to get their opinion and input? Read I Thessalonians 4: 1-12 for Biblical encouragement in all these areas.

16th Day

1. Turn to I Peter 3:13-17 (especially note verse 15 and 16).
2. What is involved in each of these statements?
 - a. "In your hearts acknowledge Christ as the Holy Lord."
 - b. "Always be prepared to give an answer."
 - c. "With kindness and respect"
 - d. "Keeping a clear conscience."
3. Who are the people around you? Write down their names. The need to hear the answer about Christ as Lord in the spirit of the passage you have just read.

17th Day

1. The last words a person speaks usually tell us a lot about the major things on their heart. Turn to Matthew 28:18-20 and read again the final commission of Jesus before He left this world.
2. What does it mean to you that "all authority has been given" to Jesus Christ? What does it mean that he has all authority over you?
3. What the implications for you life in his statement to "make disciples?"
4. Look back over the list of people you wrote down yesterday. Begin praying for them specifically that you may share with them the message that Jesus has given you.

18th Day

1. Start today with Colossians 4:2-6.
2. List all the things you find here that relate to sharing your faith with someone.
3. What does it mean to "Make the most of every opportunity?" How have you used the opportunities of this week? What can you do to use them more for the Lord?

19th Day

1. We tend to think that certain situations are not good ones for sharing the gospel. Most of us would find being in prison and in chains a terrible circumstance for evangelism. Read Acts 16:22-34.

2. To see that this is no fluke, turn next to Philippians 1:12-14 and listen to what Paul has to say while writing from another prison. This one probably in Rome where he was chained to a guard.
3. What situations are you in right now? Write down why these situations make sharing the gospel difficult. Having done this, give all these excuses up to the Lord and claim the fact that He is able to work powerfully in all circumstances. Turn over to Philippians 4:4-6 for encouragement.

20th Day

1. To make disciples, we need boldness and courage. In ourselves we don't have what it takes. The Holy Spirit will fill us with the boldness we need. Read Acts 4: 8-13, noting especially verse 13.
2. Also notice the message we must proclaim. It is found in verse 12. Don't ever water down this message. He is the only one who can change lives.
3. Read II Timothy 1:7. When you find yourself being timid, you can be sure that it is yourself. It doesn't come from Him. The self must be denied and we must give God's Spirit the freedom to fill us with power, love, and control. There are many statements in the Scripture concerning courage and boldness. Keep studying and never be satisfied with timidity and fear.

21st Day

1. True evangelism aims at bringing a person into the body of Christ. As you share with people, make every effort to introduce them to the members of the body where you are. Experience shows that this is a powerful tool in teaching people.
2. Look at Acts 2:42-47. This is to be the spirit found in our fellowship and, when outsiders come in, they will be convinced that something is missing in their lives.
3. You have now been a Christian for three weeks. You can be having an impact on others for Jesus Christ by now. If this is not happening, or if you see that it could be happening much more, et with a brother or a sister and share what is going on. Let them encourage and help you.

WEEK FOUR - "The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"

During this week of the study we will look at the God we worship and the way He expresses Himself in the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

22nd Day

1. Turn to Mark 14:32-36. Notice the word Jesus uses for God. It is the Aramaic word *Abba*. It was an intimate word and no Jew ever used it before Jesus to describe God. Look at Romans 8:15-17 and Galatians 4:6. Do you see the kind of God we have and how we can approach Him?
2. Look at Matthew 7:7-12. What does this say specifically about God's concern for you today? What things are you concerned about? What does God feel for you?

23rd Day

1. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Our whole faith is built on the fact that He came into this world from His own special place, and put down His life for us. What does that tell you about such a one?
2. Read John 1:1-18. According to this passage, what do we find in Jesus Christ? What does it all mean to your personal life that He is this way?
3. Look closely at what He went through for you. Take the Old Testament and read Isaiah 53 and see the statement made about Him even before He appeared on earth.

24th Day

1. When you were baptized into Jesus Christ, you received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today and tomorrow, we want to look at some of the ministries of the Holy Spirit in your life.
2. Turn to John 16:5-15 and read carefully, looking for teaching about the work of the Holy Spirit.
3. The work of the Holy Spirit involves convicting of sin, righteousness, and judgment. How would you relate the passage to the ideas found in Ephesians 6:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13; I Corinthians 3:16 and 6:17-20?

25th Day

1. Continuing to look at the work of the Holy Spirit, turn to Romans 8 and read verses 1-17.
2. Focus on verses 9-11. What kind of promise is made to you here? Write down some ways you can see this practically affecting your life.
3. In our lives we have been enslaved to various passions and desires. On our own we have found that we had no real power to break free from these desires. Notice the message of verse 12 and 13. How do we put to death the misdeeds of the body?
4. Notice in verses 14 and 17, how the Spirit of God in us brings us into intimate relationship with God.

26th Day

1. It is important to learn all you can about Jesus Christ because of what the following scriptures teach: II Corinthians 3:18 and Romans 8:29. What do these passages teach about our relationship to Jesus Christ?
2. Look at I John 3:1-3. What the hope referred to in verse 3?
3. List at least three things that are found in Jesus Christ that you want to work on in your life.
4. How would you respond to someone who might say: "Trying to be like Jesus is an impossible dream. It can only frustrate you."

27th Day

1. Look at the picture of Jesus Christ found in Hebrews 4:14-16.
2. Write down what each of these statements means to your life:
 - a. Jesus is the great High Priest who has gone into heaven.
 - b. Jesus is able to understand and relate to our weaknesses since He was tempted in every way like us, yet without sin.

- d. Because of Jesus, we can approach God's throne, a throne of grace, with confidence.
3. How does this understanding of Jesus Christ affect you right now? Write down the way it changes your attitude.

28th Day

1. There may be some things that will happen to you to make you wonder if God is for you or against you. Read Romans 8:31-39 to see the kind of God you worship.
 2. Go back to verse 28 for still another promise.
 3. Paul lists in the first passage a number of things that might seem to cut us off from the love of God. What are some things in your life that are difficult or threatening? Write out verse 37 just as Paul says it and then write verse 38 substituting the things in your life that might interfere with your relationship with God.
 4. What role do you play in gaining this victory?
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WEEK FIVE - "Submit to Every Authority"

This week you will study one of the keys to the Christian life. It is totally opposed to worldly wisdom, but it is something we see perfectly in Jesus, and He wants to see it in us. It is the principle of submission.

29th Day

1. Already you have studied passages that tell you who really has all authority today. It is Jesus Christ, but God has set up certain orders in society. The purpose: (1) maintain order and (2) teach us to be submissive and obedient in spirit so we can ultimately and basically submit to and obey Jesus Christ.
2. To follow Jesus Christ, one must have an obedient spirit. One must be willing to submit to another's authority. Read I Peter 1:2, 14. What kind of children does God want?

3. Read Ephesians 2:1-2 to determine what kind of spirit God is opposed to.
4. Look at Hebrews 5:7-9 for an important statement about Jesus Christ who is our example in all attitudes. What did He learn? How was it learned? What does God want us to learn? How will it be learned?

30th Day

1. Return to I Peter where we learned yesterday that God wants obedient children. Now look at I Peter 2:11-17.
2. Our old self with its sinful desires (described in verse 11) does not want to obey. It doesn't like to be told what to do. That is why Jesus says, "Deny yourself." We must be willing to cooperate with God's plan.
3. Notice in verse 13 why you submit to every ordinance [authority].
4. List all the authorities that you can think of that are in your life; meaning, all the people that are in some role where they can tell you what to do, or strongly expect you to do what they ask. What is your attitude toward these authorities?

31st Day

1. The question is often asked, "Do I have to submit to these authorities in my life even when they are wrong?" What do you think the mind of Christ would say here?
2. Continue the passage you started yesterday, Read I Peter 2:18-23. What does it contribute to the question raised above?
3. What we are being told here and in Ephesians 5 and 6 and Colossians 3 is that we should have a submissive and obedient attitude at all times. We should be ready to obey obey those that God has put over us. However, there will come times when we cannot obey. See Acts 4:18-20 for a clear example. Study this carefully. When a command of some man or woman constitutes a clear violation of scripture, then we cannot obey that person; but we should not then take on a rebellious attitude. We should lovingly and with respect for their authority decline to submit in that area.

32nd Day

1. In the body of Christ, God has placed certain men over you. First, there are the elders or overseers in the body, and then those who have been given special authority by the elders. Look at what Hebrews 13:17 says about your responsibility to these men.
2. Do you know the names of the elders and other leaders who are working to lead and guide you? How can you specifically make their work a joy and not a burden?
3. Does this passage say that we have to agree with everything a leader does before we can submit to him and obey him?
4. Make use that all of your relationships with all of your leaders are good ones. If there is any anger or resentment or hurt in you toward any one of them, don't put off sitting down with the leader and opening up your heart. If you see others in the body developing rebellious and disobedient attitudes, go to them and encourage them to deal with that.

33rd Day

1. Go to Ephesians 5:21 and start reading, and go through chapter 6 verse 4. Regardless of who you are, you are more likely in some kind of family relationship. In these relationships, you can show the love of God ... the kind of love that is willing to lay down its life for others in the family.
2. If your spouse, parents, or children have not been seeing in you the things described in Ephesians 5 and 6, then a confession to them could open up many new possibilities in your ministry to them.
3. Remember, your ultimate concern is that your family members come to know the living God through your life in a deeper and deeper way.

34th Day

1. Turn to and read Romans 13.
2. List as many clear teachings in this passage as you find.
3. Is there anything wrong with a bitter, complaining attitude about the government one lives under?
4. When must a Christian say *no* to government? In what way should he say *no*?

35th Day

1. One of the great texts in the New Testament is Philippians 2:1-11. Read this carefully, looking for the deeper teaching about the power of submission.
 2. In what ways can you *empty* yourself? (This is literally translated in some versions: *made himself to be nothing*.)
 3. In what specific ways can you, this week, take the form of a servant to others who are lost?
 4. What happens to those who submit? What does God do?
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WEEK SIX - "Fighting the Good Fight of Faith"

36th Day

1. You are well over a month into your life as a follower of Jesus Christ. If you have been serious about it, this month is one in which you have faced many things about yourself that need changing. It also is one filled with joy because you know that God is for you and Jesus Christ is with you to help you become like Him.
2. Look at Paul's word about joy in Philippians 4:4-6. How often does it say we should *rejoice*? Compare this with I Thessalonians 5:16-18. When should we rejoice? Be thankful?
3. If you have been guilty of complaining or being negative about your life, see out another disciple and let him/her know that you are sorry because you have all the reason in the universe for joy.

37th Day

1. The image of soldier or warfare is often used in the New Testament. The reason is: we are at war. The ways of God

and the ways of men influence by Satan are totally opposed. Our culture is constantly bombarding us with its message of how to find life, but God's message is totally different. One cannot survive in warfare unless he is equipped and knows how to do battle. For the rest of this week, we will look at this matter.

2. Start with Ephesians 6:10-18. There is enough here for several days of study and we will take a little at a time.
3. First of all, in warfare we need to clearly identify the enemy. Verse 11 makes that identification very clear to us. Who is the enemy? What are some of the schemes you can see him working in your life to take you out of the light of God?
4. Please realize now and always that your boss, your parents, your husband, your wife, are not your enemy. Flesh and blood people are not enemies, and any time we identify them as enemies we fall into Satan's scheme and begin shooting at the wrong person. List some times recently when you may have done this or come close to doing it.
5. Set your mind against the real forces of darkness that Satan commands. Pray for strength and for God's mighty power to overcome it.

38th Day

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 again.
2. Satan's power is described in real terms and you will be vulnerable to him if you are not aware of his power. But why is it true that we do not have to be fearful of this warfare?
3. We don't have to be fearful, but we do have to put on the full armor of God. Without the protection and the spiritual weapons He supplies, we will be overcome. Let's look at them one at a time:
 - a. The belt of truth--where do you find truth (John 17:17)?
 - b. The breastplate of righteousness (Ephesians 6:14; Philippians 3:8-9).
 - c. The gospel of peace (Ephesians 2:14-18).
 - d. The shield of faith--how does it put out the fiery darts of Satan?
 - e. The helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17; Romans 8:1-2).

- f. The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God (Hebrews 4:12).
 - g. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions. How has your prayer life developed?
4. You now know what the armor of God looks like, but please realize that like any good soldier, you will have to put it on anew each day. One of Satan's schemes is to make you believe once will do for all time. Every day you need to be in God's truth, reaffirming the gospel, reclaiming your righteousness and salvation in Christ, restating your confidence in prayer and in the God who answers prayers.

39th Day

1. Begin today with II Timothy 2:1-7.
2. Focus in especially on verses 3 and 4. Becoming a Christian is not like going on a picnic. It is like joining an army, taking up weapons, receiving training, and then going into battle. If you are really walking with Jesus Christ and waging His warfare, you will experience *hardship*. Look at II Timothy 3:12. What does this promise say? What are we assured of?
3. Returning to II Timothy 2:4, we see that the warfare is going to be so serious and so intense that the Christian soldier must not get involved in *civilian affairs*. There are a lot of things to do in the world that are not *wrong*. But they are wrong for us if they take away from the front lines and from fighting the good fight. Are there some things in your life that need to be given up because they require *involvement in civilian affairs*?

40th Day

1. Your study guide ends today, but may your study never end. You are on your way to things too glorious and enriching to even describe. Never, never, never, never, never give up!
2. Read carefully the call of these passages: 1 Peter 2:1-2; Hebrews 5:11--6:3; Colossians 2:6-10.
3. Keep studying, keep confessing your sins, keep encouraging others, keep sharing your faith, "and whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Prayer: "Father, thank you for taking our broken lives and making something beautiful out of us. May we always put ourselves in Your hands to be molded and shaped by You. Use our very lives to draw many people into the kingdom of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Him Amen."

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