

GROWING IN CHRIST

This booklet was compiled from a study originally prepared by Charlie Riggs, director of Counseling and Follow-Up for Billy Graham Evangelistic Association from 1957 to 1989.

Growing in Christ

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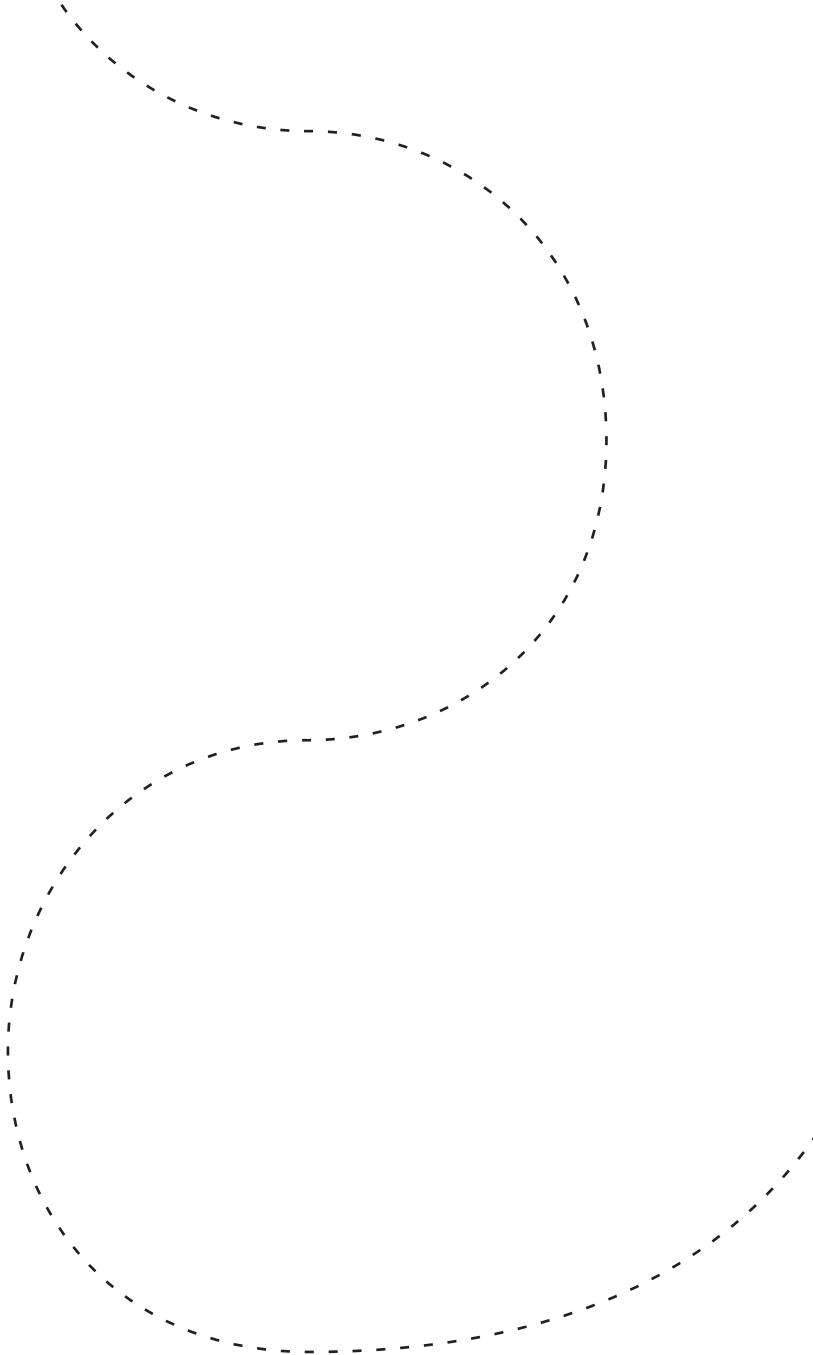
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INTRODUCTION

CONGRATULATIONS

on the step you are taking in walking on God's pathway!

Growing in your faith and Christian walk is one of the most important things you will ever do. Responding to what God has said to you is the essential key, not only for obedience to God but also to a life of fulfillment and joy.

Jesus said, *"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly"* (John 10:10).

As you have responded to the message of the Gospel, you are showing that you are determined not only to hear God's Word but to act upon it.

The aim of this booklet is to help you understand what it means to be a Christian and to know some of the basic steps of living the Christian life.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Growing in Christ is a study featuring 10 different topics with six Bible verses for each lesson. The Scriptures selected are basic to the Christian life and witness. This material can be used for personal devotions, one-on-one discipling of another, or for small group discussions.

Personal Devotions

Take one topic a week for 10 weeks. Take at least 15 minutes each day to ...

1

Prayerfully read each verse.

2

Circle key words or phrases. This will make you look more closely at the content of each verse.

3

Answer the questions at the bottom of each page. You may want to use a separate sheet of paper or a small notebook for your written work.

4

The verse study will give you a good look at some basic truth and specific insight to apply to everyday life.

5

Memorize the verse in each lesson that is used for the verse study form.

Once you have finished the exercises you can start all over again. The second time, open your Bible and look at each verse in its context—reading the whole chapter from which the verse is taken.

One-On-One Discipleship

You can use this material for meeting with an individual for personalized follow-up. Have the individual complete the exercises on a weekly basis. When you meet, compare key words and phrases as well as answers to the questions. Discuss the application of these principles and have prayer together.

SMALL GROUP STUDY

The primary intention of these lessons is for small group interaction. A small group is a group of 6-12 people meeting weekly in an informal setting to study and discuss the Word of God. The leader asks questions to draw the group into a discussion of the Bible study, which each member of the group prepares in advance.

There is no perfect size for a small group nor a perfect number of weeks for the group to meet. But experience has taught a helpful guideline—avoid too many and too much! Six to 12 people led for 10 weeks can provide a wonderful learning experience—a journey of discovery!

The 10 topics covered in this book are foundational to the Christian life: salvation, assurance, the Bible, prayer, the church, the Holy Spirit, adversity, Jesus Christ, witness, and having a proper perspective.

In each lesson the Bible is the text and the Holy Spirit the teacher. All members of the group, including the leader, learn together. Indeed, every program of study must have a goal or objective. In each lesson in *Growing in Christ*, we have three:



DISCOVERY
“What does God say?”



UNDERSTANDING
“What does the Scripture mean?”



APPLICATION
“How can this affect my life?”

Following is a suggested plan for Lesson One—Salvation—and a basic guide for Lessons Two to Ten.

Each participant will be discovering Biblical truth by:

- Circling key words or phrases
- Answering questions
- Defining key words
- Paraphrasing a verse
- Making application to daily life

What is the purpose of *Growing in Christ*?

The primary purpose is to follow up inquirers from an evangelistic event or a special outreach ministry. Following the evangelistic ministry, people who have made commitments, their friends, and other church members who are interested in Bible study should be invited to attend the small group.

Leadership and materials

Churches wishing to be in a small group ministry are responsible for training leaders. Copies of *Growing in Christ*, a part of the Christian Growth Series, can be purchased online at **BillyGrahamBookstore.org**.

Tips for leaders are in the back of the book, on pages 58–67. This section will be helpful in leading and organizing a study.

STUDY FORMAT

WEEK 1

0:00

Introduction/opening prayer

3-5 minutes

- The leader welcomes each member of the group and leads in an opening prayer.
- The leader then explains that the Bible study will cover 10 lessons, with each lesson requiring about 75 minutes.

Get acquainted

10-15 minutes

- Starting with the leader, have each group member give his or her name and special interest. Example: Hobby; vacation; club activity; if a student, where? What program of study? etc.
- As each person shares, have each member write out the name and special interest on “My Group,” page 15.
- Explain the importance of the six items under “As a member of the small group Bible study I will.”

The lesson—discussion

25-30 minutes

- The leader reads aloud the introductory paragraph on “Salvation,” page 18.
- The leader then reads aloud slowly and carefully the six verses that follow. As you read, have group members circle words and phrases that seem to “jump off the page,” either as an insight into spiritual truth or as a question.
- Take two or three minutes for the group to silently reread the six verses.
- Ask question number 2. Discussion should follow after each question.

The lesson—verse study

15–20 minutes

Do the verse study on page 21. This will allow each group member to “dig deeper” into the subject of Salvation.

- Have each member define *believe* and *eternal life*.
- Ask if two or three members would like to share their definitions and have a brief discussion.
- Next, have each member paraphrase—that is, write in their own words—the verse John 3:16. Have two or three members read aloud their paraphrases and discuss.
- Next, have each member answer the question: How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today? Note: This is usually more difficult in the beginning; therefore, the leader should set the pace by answering this question honestly and sensitively.

Home assignment

2 minutes

Give the following home assignment in preparation for Lesson 2, “Assurance.”

- Have each group member read the introduction paragraph and verses prior to next week.
- Have each group member write out a question(s) they would like to ask the group next week.
- Encourage each member to memorize John 3:16—salvation. Memory verse cards for selected subjects are in the back of the book.

Closing comments/prayer

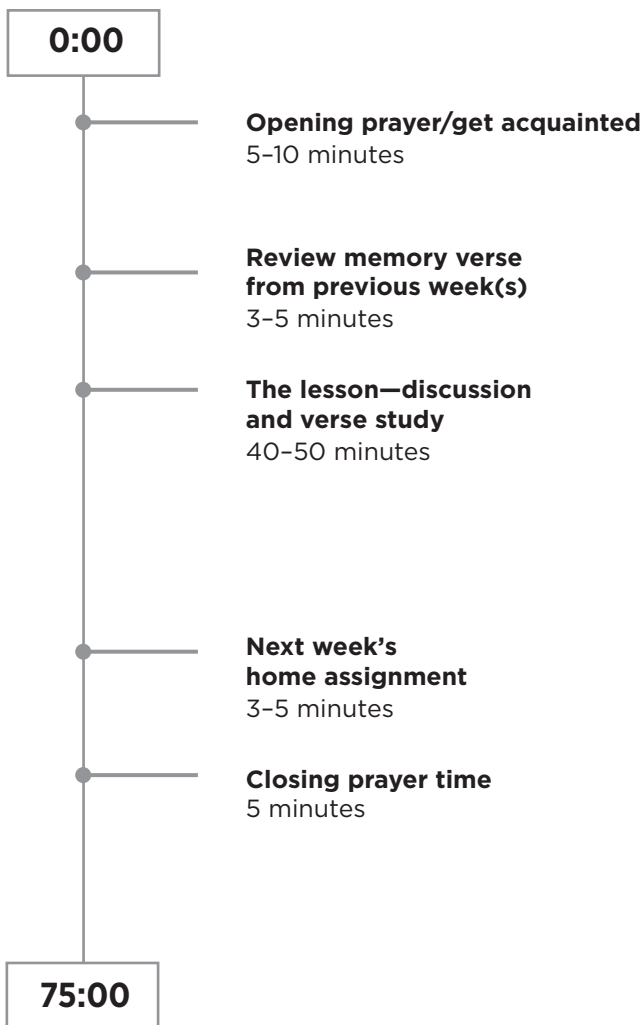
3 minutes

- Thank everyone for their participation, and lead in a closing prayer.
- Be careful not to put anyone on the spot by asking him or her to pray. Learning to pray out loud takes time. The leader should set a good example.

75:00

STUDY FORMAT

WEEKS 2-10



MY GROUP

Names

Special Interest/Prayer Needs

As a member of this small group, I will:

- 1.** Give priority to attending each week.
- 2.** Faithfully complete the weekly home study assignments.
- 3.** Participate in the group discussion as I am able.
- 4.** Find creative ways to communicate my faith in Christ to others.
- 5.** Pray by name for each member of my group during the weeks the group is meeting.
- 6.** Refrain from discussing needs expressed in the group with anyone outside the group.

Signature: _____

Date: _____





Salvation means deliverance from sin and its consequence. Review and meditate on these truths until you can say with confidence, “I know I am a Christian ... I have been born into God’s family as His child ... I now have eternal life.”

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about Jesus.

Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about salvation.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ROMANS 5:8

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about becoming God’s child.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

*who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh
nor of the will of man, but of God.* **JOHN 1:12-13**

**Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture
about eternal life.**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that
whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal
life.* **JOHN 3:16**

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about Jesus in

Philippians 2:5-8 _____

2. List what you learned about salvation in

Romans 5:8 _____

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 _____

Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

3. List what you learned about becoming God's child in

John 1:12-13 _____

4. List what you learned about eternal life in

John 3:16 _____

5. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize John 3:16. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)

2

ASSURANCE

One of Satan's tricks is to cause believers to doubt their salvation. Having assurance means being certain, with freedom from doubt. Meditate on the following Scriptures to enable you to have victory over your doubts.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about salvation.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

EPHESIANS 1:7

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about why you can be sure.

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 JOHN 5:13

Who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 PETER 1:5

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about Jesus.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about who guarantees your salvation.

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

JOHN 10:27-29

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about salvation in

Ephesians 1:7 _____

2. List what you learned about why you can be sure in

Philippians 1:6 _____

1 John 5:13 _____

1 Peter 1:5 _____

3. List what you learned about Jesus in

Romans 8:38-39 _____

4. List what you learned about who guarantees your salvation in

John 10:27-29 _____

5. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?

(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize Philippians 1:6. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)

To be the kind of Christians God wants us to be, we need to know and obey the Scriptures. Make it your habit to memorize and meditate on the Word of God daily.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about the Bible.

And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.

2 TIMOTHY 3:15-16

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about the value of reading the Bible.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

PSALM 119:105

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

PSALM 119:130

Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.

PSALM 119:165

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about meditating on the Bible.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

PSALM 1:2-3

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about obedience.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

JAMES 1:22

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about the Bible in

2 Timothy 3:15-16 _____

2. List what you learned about the value of reading the Bible in

Psalm 119:105 _____

Psalm 119:130 _____

Psalm 119:165 _____

3. List what you learned about the value of meditating on the Bible in

Psalm 1:2-3 _____

4. List what you learned about obedience in

James 1:22 _____

5. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study form.

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.*

JAMES 1:22

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?

(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize James 1:22. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)



4

PRAYER

Prayer is our lifeline to God. We need to form the habit of starting each day with prayer and then praying throughout the day.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about prayer.

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

JOHN 16:24

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

MATTHEW 7:7

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about God's power through prayer.

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

JEREMIAH 33:3

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

EPHESIANS 3:20

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about praying with confidence.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

1 JOHN 3:21-22

This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

1 JOHN 5:14-15

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about prayer in

John 16:24 _____

Matthew 7:7 _____

2. List what you learned about God's power through prayer in

Jeremiah 33:3 _____

Ephesians 3:20 _____

3. List what you learned about praying with confidence in

1 John 3:21-22 _____

1 John 5:14-15 _____

4. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. **JOHN 16:24**

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____
Definition _____

Key word _____
Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize John 16:24. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)



The Bible clearly states that believers should meet together regularly for prayer, worship, teaching, fellowship, and mutual encouragement. God never intended that we walk alone in our faith. Involvement in a local church is vital to our growth in Christ.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

MATTHEW 18:20

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:2

Let us ... not [neglect] to meet together, as is the habit of some, but [encourage] one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

JOHN 13:34-35

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:11-13

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about the church in

Acts 2:42 _____

Matthew 18:20 _____

Galatians 6:2 _____

Hebrews 10:24-25 _____

John 13:34-35 _____

Ephesians 4:11-13 _____

2. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

MATTHEW 18:20

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?



6

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INDWELLING

God has not left us alone in the world. His Holy Spirit lives in us and daily ministers to our needs.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about the Holy Spirit.

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

JOHN 3:8

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

JOHN 14:26

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about being God's child.

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

ROMANS 8:16-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

ROMANS 8:14

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about prayer.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

ROMANS 8:26

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about the Holy Spirit in

John 3:8 _____

1 Corinthians 3:16 _____

John 14:26 _____

2. List what you learned about being God's child in

Romans 8:16-17 _____

Romans 8:14 _____

3. List what you learned about prayer in

Romans 8:26 _____

4. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. **JOHN 14:26**

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____
Definition _____

Key word _____
Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize John 14:26. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)



In many respects, the Christian life is a life of testing. We can expect trials because God, through adverse situations, takes out of our lives things that are not pleasing to Him. But trials should never be viewed as punishment.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures.

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

JAMES 1:2-4

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

ROMANS 5:3-4

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. ... But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold."

JOB 1:21; 23:10

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-17

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned adversity in

James 1:2-4 _____

Romans 5:3-4 _____

Romans 8:28 _____

Job 1:21; 23:10 _____

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 _____

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 _____

2. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____
Definition _____

Key word _____
Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?





JESUS CHRIST: HIS PERSON AND WORK

Jesus Christ is the most unique person in all of history. He is the eternal God who became man in order that He could die for the sins of the world. He is the Son of God who died in our place. He was raised from the dead and ascended back to heaven. He has promised to return to the earth a second time. He indwells everyone who has received Him. Through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, we have a personal relationship with the Father now and forever.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about who Jesus Christ is.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

HEBREWS 1:3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

JOHN 1:1, 14

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

COLOSSIANS 2:9-10

Concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 1:3-4

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about what Jesus Christ has done for us.

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all.

1 TIMOTHY 2:5-6

Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

TITUS 2:13-14

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about who Jesus Christ is in

Hebrews 1:3 _____

John 1:1, 14 _____

Colossians 2:9-10 _____

Romans 1:3-4 _____

2. List what you learned about what Jesus Christ has done for us in

1 Timothy 2:5-6 _____

Titus 2:13-14 _____

3. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study form.

Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

TITUS 2:13-14

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?





WITNESS

When we become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, we become responsible to tell others about Christ. There is no greater privilege than sharing the love of God with your friends, family, and neighbors.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures about witnessing.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. **MATTHEW 5:16**

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. **1 PETER 3:15**

For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. ... Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household. **ACTS 4:20; 16:31**

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about Jesus and witnessing.

[Jesus] said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." **MATTHEW 4:19**

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about the Holy Spirit and witnessing.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **ACTS 1:8**

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scripture about your responsibility.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:20**

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about witnessing in

Matthew 5:16 _____

1 Peter 3:15 _____

Acts 4:20; 16:31 _____

2. List what you learned about Jesus and witnessing in

Matthew 4:19 _____

3. List what you learned about the Holy Spirit and witnessing in

Acts 1:8 _____

4. List what you learned about your responsibility in

2 Corinthians 5:20 _____

5. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

1 PETER 3:15

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize 1 Peter 3:15. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)



We do not know the day or hour, but one day Jesus Christ is coming back again to take us to be with Him forever. The Scriptures clearly tell us how we should live each day as we await His coming.

Circle key words and phrases in the following Scriptures.

The grace of God has appeared ... training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

TITUS 2:11-13

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

COLOSSIANS 3:4-5

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

1 JOHN 2:28

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 JOHN 3:2-3

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

JOHN 14:1-3

What did you learn about:

1. List what you learned about having a proper perspective in

Titus 2:11-13 _____

Philippians 3:20 _____

Colossians 3:4-5 _____

1 John 2:28 _____

1 John 3:2-3 _____

John 14:1-3 _____

2. Do the verse study using the form on the next page.

Verse Study Form

Use the following Scripture to complete the verse study.

The grace of God has appeared ... training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. **TITUS 2:11-13**

1. List two key words and define them.

Key word _____

Definition _____

Key word _____

Definition _____

2. What does the verse say?
(Paraphrase—Rewrite the verse in your own words.)

3. How can you apply the truth of this verse to your life today?

4. Memorize Titus 2:11-13. (Verse card is in the back of this book.)

TIPS FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The purpose of each lesson and verse study is to discover what God's Word says, to understand what it means, and to apply it to life.
2. A leader talks less than 20 percent of the time. Guide by skillfully using questions. Remember, this is not a lecture.
3. Maintain good eye contact by looking around the group and not focusing too much on one person.
4. The discussion of the lesson and verse study will take approximately 75 minutes. The leader divides the time between the questions and the verse study, emphasizing the importance of having a clear understanding of the important words. The leader keeps the group moving through the questions and the verse study.

5. A good leader will launch the discussion by using the suggested questions at the bottom of each section. Several additional questions may be used to guide the conversation.

- “What do others think about this?”
- “OK, what else?”
- If a pause (before someone responds) seems long, ask, “Does everyone understand?” If not, read the Scriptures and ask again.

Definition: To clarify the meaning for the group—

“What do we mean by _____?”

Illustration: To relate concrete life situations—

“How does this work out in life?”

“Has anyone observed this? Tell us about it.”

“For example?”

Personalization: Applying truth to your own life—

“How have you experienced this?”

Concentration: Focus attention on the Word of God as the authority for our discussion and decisions—

“What other Scriptures help us here?”

“What Scriptures support this idea?”

“Turn to _____. How does this Scripture help us with our discussion?”

NOTE: You need not add any comment after a member speaks. Your silence implies neither approval of the person's reply nor disagreement with it.

6. Let answers be given by all group members in a spontaneous pattern. Don't call on specific people by name or go around the circle for answers.
7. A good question:
 - Is never answered by "Yes" or "No"
 - Has several replies
 - Is simple—easily understood
 - Is short—to the point
8. To clarify the meaning of a specific point for the group, ask, "What do we mean by _____?"
9. Stick to the study form and topic. If someone introduces some other subject, just say, "We can explore that some other time. Right now let's look at this study," and repeat a good discussion question.
10. If some people seem to dominate the discussion by talking too much, wait until they have finished and then ask, "What does someone else think about this?"

11. Each section in the study should be summarized before moving on to the next section. “Does this cover the subject?”
“What is most meaningful about _____ (section title)?”
“What is the most valuable lesson from the section?”
Summary statements can be made:
 - By the Leader—Jot down notes of what is said. At the conclusion, put the main ideas together in a few sentences of summary.
 - By a Group Member—Leader assigns one member to summarize, or a question may be asked to evoke a summary: “How would you summarize, in one sentence, what we have learned about _____ (section’s topic)?”
12. Encourage the group members to make specific applications of the Scripture to their own lives.
13. If someone is repeatedly misunderstanding key elements of the study, counsel that individual outside the group meeting.



GROUP PROBLEMS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

1. Too Talkative

- Ask: “What does someone else think?”
- Talk to them privately about the problem.
- Ask them to listen and ask questions to “help me out” in the next session.
- Assign them the project of listening to summarize.

2. Wrong Answers Given

- Guide by letting the group comment or by having some more mature Christians in your group who can contribute a Biblical foundation to your discussion.
- Ask: “What Scriptures help us here?” or: “Let’s look at _____ (reference) and see how this Scripture speaks to our discussion viewpoint.”
- Counsel anyone with a special need privately after the meeting.

3. Non-involved

- Ask: “Anyone want to add something here?”
- “Just those who haven’t spoken before on this question.”
- Personal encouragement—take time alone with any reticent person.

4. Sidetracks

- “Sometime that topic would be an interesting study, but right now the question is _____.”
- Face the fact: “I think we’re off track.” Repeat the launch question for the section.



ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A LEADER MAY INCLUDE

1. Forming the group

- Recruit the members and issue invitations.
- Consult with pastoral leadership for suggestions. If your church has been involved in a special evangelistic event or ministry, a personal invitation should be given early to each person who responded to Christ and was referred to your local congregation. New members in your church should also be included—your pastor may know of some with special needs.
- Invite personal friends and acquaintances. You may have friends in business or in the neighborhood who would add a different perspective to the group—involve them.
- Find mature Christian friends who know and love the Word of God. They will greatly assist the group's understanding by contributing a Biblical basis to the discussion.
- Allow for diversity of background among group members to aid the group's understanding.

2. Arranging practical details for the study. Following are a few suggestions:

- Most successful programs are centered in a home. A home provides a warm and friendly atmosphere.
- Use a room not too small or too large for 6–12 people. Proper lighting, ventilation, and temperature are important.
- Seating should be in a circular pattern, with the circle complete if possible.
- Decide ahead of time who will take care of disturbances such as doorbells, telephones, and children.
- Serving refreshments is an option. If deemed appropriate, it should be after the study and clearly made optional for persons on a tight schedule.
- The small group format is designed for a 75-minute meeting. It is suggested that the study not run longer than this, even though some individuals may want to spend additional time together.
- *Growing in Christ* has been prepared to form the basis of discussion. The material is a guide—giving the format and discussion questions needed.

3. Managing time allotments

The *Growing in Christ* material has a suggested format including time allotments for each lesson. A good leader will attempt to give complete coverage to the material by setting the pace, moving the discussion along, and avoiding sidetrack issues.

4. Leader's preparation

- Do the study and complete the written answers.
- Make notes of additional questions that will be helpful to stimulate conversation.
- Pray regularly for each member of the group.



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HOW TO MEMORIZE

- A sequence for memorizing:

1. Topic 2. Verse 3. Reference

The reference is like the handle on a suitcase, enabling you to lift up from the Bible a complete portion whenever needed.

- The real secret of Scripture memory is review, review, review.
- Quote the verse aloud. Ask God to make its meaning clear and applicable to you. Memorize one phrase at a time, using the reference, adding phrase by phrase until the entire verse is committed to memory.

Proper Perspective

"The grace of God has appeared ... training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

TITUS 2:11-13

Witness

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

1 PETER 3:15

The Holy Spirit's Indwelling

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

JOHN 14:26

Prayer

"Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

JOHN 16:24

The Bible

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

JAMES 1:22

Assurance

"I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

Salvation

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16



Proper Perspective

"The grace of God ... has appeared ... teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." **TITUS 2:11-13, NKJV**

The Holy Spirit's Indwelling

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you"

JOHN 14:26, NKJV

Witness

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

1 PETER 3:15, NKJV

The Bible

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

JAMES 1:22, NKJV

Prayer

"Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

JOHN 16:24, NKJV

Salvation

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16, NKJV

Assurance

"... being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

PHILIPPIANS 1:6, NKJV