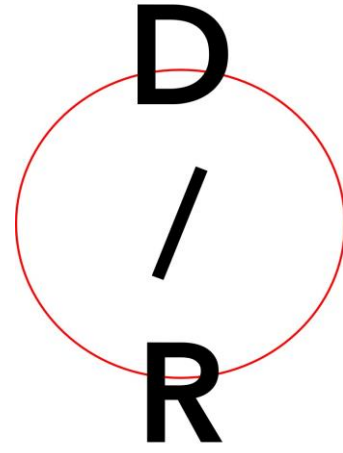


DISCIPLESHIP/ RECOVERY

Book 1: Jesus First



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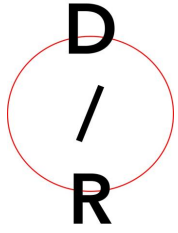
Some material is taken from the T4T Training Manual. (*T4T - Training for Trainers* - is a discipleship and church planting book by Steve Smith with Ying Kai.)

Discipleship/Recovery is a residential and non-residential transitional ministry and discipleship training curriculum of Restore Church, the church planting and training arm of the Yeshua Society, Inc. For more information see yeshuasociety.org or send an email to seeker@yeshuasociety.org.

yeshua society

 restorechurch

What is Discipleship/Recovery?



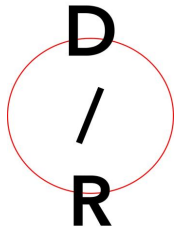
**Real recovery
and restoration from
alcohol and substance
abuse addictions and
brokenness of any kind
can only happen inside
a relationship with**

JESUS

Discipleship/Recovery is a three-step approach (Jesus First, Strongholds and Lifestyle ABCs) to recovery and restoration. This curriculum is for residential and non-residential participants. It takes approximately nine months to complete the curriculum.

We pray that participants:

- ➔ Obtain a real Jesus relationship. (The greatest commandment is that you love Him. - Matthew 22:36-38)
- ➔ Experience their strongholds and addictions destroyed by Jesus.
- ➔ Are equipped for restoration in all aspects of their lives - physical, emotional, academic, financial and spiritual.
- ➔ Become disciples of Jesus who make more disciples.



Congratulations on making the wise decision to exit a life of addictions and brokenness. Your journey starts now by examining five areas of your life in order to clean up and fill in the gaps as part of your road to recovery and restoration.

For instance, you might need a Social Security card or a drivers license. You might not have completed you high school degree. Most importantly, you might not have a relationship with Jesus.

Lifestyle ABCs is an ongoing phase of Discipleship/Recovery until all your gaps are filled. You'll be introduced to a Christian advocate who can assist you throughout this phase.

Here are the five areas of your life that will be examined and examples of potential items and issues to be addressed:

1

SPIRITUAL

You'll learn about the real Jesus from Scripture and discover He's your only hope for recovery and restoration.

2

PHYSICAL

You may need help obtaining health insurance or finding a doctor to see you. Your advocate will help.

3

EMOTIONAL

We have professional Christian partners who can help if there are tough areas of your life in which you need assistance.

4

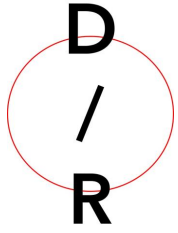
ACADEMIC

If you didn't graduate from high school or are seeking to attend a trade school, college or maybe seminary we'll help you find the pathways to academic success.

5

FINANCIAL

We get you on your way to being able to support yourself and to being able to help others in need. You'll no longer be a slave to handouts or people who want to control you financially.



JESUS FIRST

Those who make it have a relationship with Jesus. Those who don't - don't.

That's more than a saying. That's the truth.

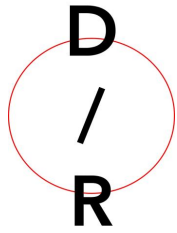
Without Jesus you may be able to be clean for awhile. You may be able to feel better about yourself. You'll never be healed, though, because Jesus is the only one who can do so.

So, unlike secular

recovery programs, we start down the recover path heading to what is most important.

If you don't know Jesus, we tell you about him. If you do know Jesus, we'll walk beside you as you revisit the basics of Christianity.

The following pages contain the lessons for the Jesus First portion of the Discipleship/Recovery curriculum.



JESUS FIRST

LESSON ONE

PATH TO ETERNAL DESTRUCTION

Isaiah 52:3 - but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Hebrews 9:27 - And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

Romans 6:23a - For the wages of sin is death,

Revelation 21:8 - But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

LESSON ONE - continued

PATH TO ETERNAL SALVATION

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

John 5:24 - Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

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

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

John 14:6 - ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 2:38 - ... Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9 - ... if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

LESSON ONE - continued

EVIDENCE OF A REAL CHRISTIAN

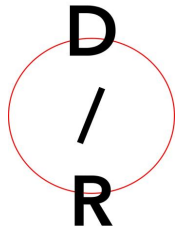
1 John 1:6 - If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Matthew 22:36-40 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

John 14:23 - ... If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Galatians 5:22-23 - ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.



JESUS FIRST

LESSON ONE - continued

QUESTIONS

1. What causes separation from God?
2. How many people have sinned and fallen short of God's glory?
3. What is the consequence of our sinning?
4. How do we escape eternal destruction?
5. Is there any way back to the Father other than Jesus?
6. How can you be saved from eternal destruction?

Christianity 101

LESSON TWO

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Luke 9:23-25 – ... If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

(To take up the cross meant to carry one's own cross to the place of crucifixion. With this word picture, Christ presented a clear and challenging description of the Christian life. Being His disciple means putting aside selfish desires, shouldering one's "cross" every day, and following Him. It is simple and yet so demanding.

For the original Twelve, this meant literal suffering and death. For believers in the United States, it means understanding that we belong to Him and that we live to serve His purposes. Note: There is evidence that persecution is coming to Christians in the United States.

Consider this: Do you think of your relationship with God primarily in terms of what's in it for you (which is considerable) or in terms of what you can do for Him? Anything less is not discipleship; it is merely superficial lip service. If this present life is most important to you, you will do everything you can to protect it. You will not want to do anything that might endanger your safety, health or comfort. By contrast, if following Jesus is most important, you may find yourself in unsafe, unhealthy and uncomfortable places. You will risk death, but you will not fear it because you know that Jesus will raise you to eternal life.

Nothing material can compensate for the loss of eternal life with Jesus. Jesus' disciples are not to use their lives on earth merely to please themselves; they should spend their lives serving God and people.)

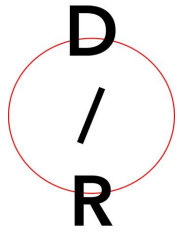
LESSON TWO - continued

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

John 16:33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

(To "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness" means to turn to God first for help, to fill your thoughts with His desires, to take His character for your pattern, and to serve and obey Him in everything. What is really important to you? People, objects, goals, and other desires all compete for priority. Any of these can quickly become most important to you if you don't actively choose to give God first place in every area of your life.)



JESUS FIRST

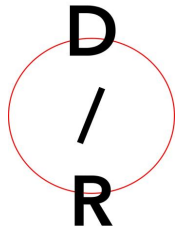
LESSON TWO - continued

QUESTIONS

1. Our salvation is a free gift from God. After accepting Jesus, though, what do people do so they are real Jesus followers?

2. What does a believer seek first?

Christianity 101



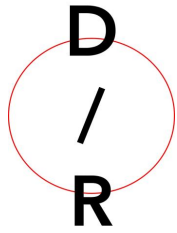
LESSON THREE

IMPORTANT MOVING FORWARD QUESTIONS

- 1.** What do you want to do with the rest of your life?

- 2.** Do you understand that life on this earth is preparation for your eternal life?

- 3.** What kind of eternal life do you want?



LESSON THREE - continued

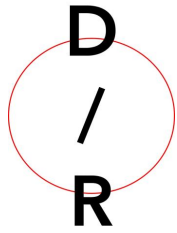
HOW TO BE SAVED

Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, meaning He was God manifest in human form (John 1:14, Matthew 16:13-17, 1 John 4:15, John 10:30)

and that He was crucified and rose again so we can be saved from the consequences of our sin (1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Matthew 26:28, Romans 5:8).

Thus, by His grace we are saved (Ephesians 2:8) if we believe (John 3:16).

BELIEVE



LESSON THREE - continued

HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS

True believers become followers of Jesus by **giving their lives 100 percent to Him** (Luke 9:23).

They **pray constantly** (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

They **repent from sinning** (Matthew 4:17, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 3:19, Acts 20:21, 2 Corinthians 7:9-10) and are **transformed** so they no longer conform to the patterns of the world (Romans 12:1-2, 1 John 2:15-17).

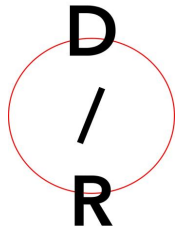
They find **joy in their sorrows** (John 16:33, Romans 5:3-5).

They **love Jesus more than anything else** (Matthew 22:37).

They **love others** (Matthew 22:39),

they **follow Jesus' commands** (John 14:15)

and **they want Him to use them for His Kingdom-building purposes and glory** (1 Corinthians 10:31).



LESSON THREE - continued

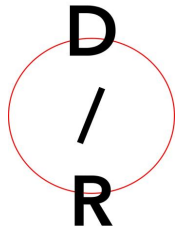
INHERT ETERNAL LIFE

Real Jesus followers are His disciples who are so excited about what He has done for them, including enabling their adoption into God's family (Ephesians 1:5) and sending the Holy Spirit who seals them (John 14:15-17, Ephesians 1:13), and the perfect eternal life that awaits them (Revelation 21:4, Ephesians 1:13-14) that they

profess their faith publicly (Romans 10:8-12),

are **baptized** (Acts 2:41)

and **tell others** about Jesus so they can believe, too (Matthew 28:18-20).



LESSON FOUR

CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

God created us because He wanted a special relationship with us. Every day He provides for us so many things that we take for granted, like the air we breathe, our daily food and drink, our loved ones, and much more. We take these things for granted because we don't really know God. God is calling you right now to stop living in ignorance of Him, to come close to Him and know Him. Jesus has changed your life. Now you also can have a relationship with God and receive all the blessings He has for you.
(Acts 17:28-29)

I. Here is how we can receive God's gift of Life through Jesus

A. What does sin do in our life?
(See Isaiah 59:2)

B. People try many different ways to find God, yet they fail. Why?
(see Ephesians 2:8-9)

C. How does God bring us into relationship with Himself?
(See 1 Peter 3:18)

LESSON FOUR - continued

CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

II. The way of salvation is simple

A. Jesus' saving work for us

+ trusting Him

+ turning from our selfish and evil ways to Him (He becomes our Lord)

= salvation

Has God done His part (Jesus' death and resurrection)?

___ Yes ___ No

Have you done what you need to do (believe and repent)?

___ Yes ___ No

If you have "believed," then you are saved (Romans 10:9-10)!

B. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

(See John 10:28)

C. Eternal life means more than just living forever with God. It also means that God's Spirit now lives within us, teaching us about Him and enabling us to live a life of holiness, love, peace and joy. Revelation 3:20; Galatians 5:22-23.

D. The Prayer of salvation - There's nothing magical in the words to this prayer, but if you believe it in your heart, God will hear your prayer and welcome you into His family. This is the start of your new life with Him!

"Dear God, I know that I have sinned, and that my sin has separated me from You. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my way of life toward You. Please forgive me and save me. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was raised from the dead, is alive today, and hears my prayer. Jesus, I invite you to become the Lord of my life from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

LESSON FOUR - continued
_____**CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD****III. Your response**

Do you know you have been saved? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you know you have received eternal life with Jesus? _____ Yes _____ No

Conclusion: ___ I have been saved ___ I have not been saved ___ I still don't know

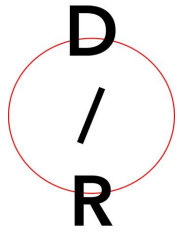
IV. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ . The old _____ ; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Here are some of the changes you can expect to experience in your new life.

- Love for God
- Inner peace
- Awareness of sin
- Awareness of God's love
- Ability to overcome sin
- Desire to read the Bible
- Concern for others
- Feeling that my life is moving in the right direction

Also, you will begin to experience and show the fruit of the Spirit (See Galatians 5:22-23a):

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self Control



JESUS FIRST

LESSON FOUR - continued

CREATED FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

V. When you sin in the future, what should you do?

(1 John 1:9)

VI. Please joyfully fill in your spiritual "birth certificate."

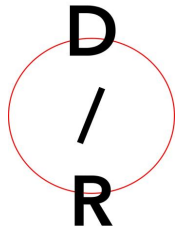
On _____(year) _____(month) ____ (day), I received Jesus into my heart to be my Savior and Lord. He forgave my sin and gave me a completely new direction for my life. Now I have become a child of God and a new creation. I have begun a new life.

Signature:

VIII. Memorize Bible verse.

Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. - 1 John 5:12.

VIII. When you receive this great salvation, your life is full of joy and peace! The first thing that you should do is to share this good news with those you care most about. Ask God to show you five people with whom you can share all that you have learned today. Then train those five to share and train others. In the following weeks we can meet together to encourage one another as we share what Jesus has done in our lives.



LESSON FIVE

WHY PRAY?

Praying is “talking” with God. When you pray you should be truthful and earnest, as Jesus was when He “talked” with God and as He taught His disciples.

I. Why do we need to pray?

A. It's God's command.
(Luke 18:1)

praying at all times in the _____.
(Ephesians 6:18a)

B. This is your need:

1. You can:
(1 Peter 5:7)

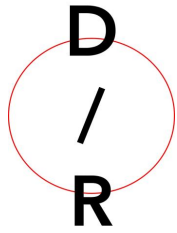
2. Seek God's leading:

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. (Jeremiah 33:3)

Receive mercy and find grace in your time of need:
(Hebrews 4:16)

C. What things do you need to pray for?

do not be anxious about anything, but in _____ by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your _____ be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:6-7)



LESSON FIVE - Continued

WHAT'S IN A PRAYER?

II. The content of prayer

Praise: Praise God for who He is - Matthew 6:9

Thanksgiving: Thank God for his grace - Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 2:8

Request: Ask God to meet your own needs - Matthew 6:11

Intercession: Ask God to meet the needs of others - 1 Timothy 2:1

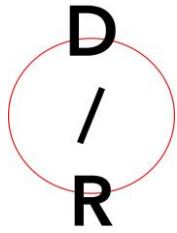
Confession: Ask God to forgive your sins - Matthew 6:12, 1 John 1:9

III. Three answers to prayer

A. Yes (green light), God grants your request.

B. No (red light), God does not grant your request. Trust that God knows what is best for you and says "no" because He loves you.

C. Wait (yellow light), God may not immediately respond. You must be patient.



LESSON FIVE - Continued

MINDSET OF PRAYER

IV. Attitudes that are important in prayer

Attitude:	Verse:
1. Faith	But let him ask in faith, with no doubting ... (James 1:6a)
2. Repentance for sins	If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Psalms 66:18)
3. Correct motives	... You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (James 4:2b-3)
4. Desire for God's will, not our will, to be done.	And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14) (see also Luke 22:42)
5. Persistence	And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (See Luke 18:1-7, Luke 11:5-10)

LESSON SIX

GETTING TO KNOW HIM

To really know a person you need to spend time with them. In the same way, if you want to have a close relationship with God, you need a "daily time with God."

I. Why do we spend time with God?

1) To worship Him 2) To open our lives to Him 3) To let Him speak to us

II. What do we do in our time with God?

1) We talk to God through prayer 2) We listen to God speak to us through reading the Bible

III. How does God speak to us through the Bible?

A. All _____ is breathed out by God and profitable for _____, _____, _____ and for training in _____, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every _____ work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

B. You can apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17 each time you read a passage from the Bible. Ask God's Spirit to:

1) **Teach** you - Ask Him to show you the main lesson or truths that He wants you to understand and believe. 2) **Rebuke** you - Ask Him to correct any false or sinful beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values in your life. 3) **Correct** you - Ask Him to show you what you need to add to your life or remove from your life to be right with Him (*beliefs, deeds, attitudes, and values*). 4) **Train you in righteousness** - Ask Him to show you what Bible verse or spiritual truth He wants you to apply to your life this week so that you develop a Godly character and habits.

LESSON SIX - Continued

GETTING TO KNOW HIM

IV. What attitude should we have in our time with God?

(See Psalm 42:1-2 and Psalm 119:147-148)

V. Examples from the Bible

How did these characters from the Bible spend time with God?

- Genesis 19:27 - Abraham met God in the morning.
- Psalm 5:3 (Written by David) -
- Daniel 6:10 -
- Mark 1:35 (Written about Jesus) -

From the examples above, what applications to your life can you make regarding spending time with God?

VI. Tools for your daily time with God

Bible: Choose a Bible translation that you can understand. You'll want to start your reading in the New Testament. Begin with Luke's Gospel, followed by his Book of Acts.

Notebook: During your time with God, write down what you sense God is saying to you from the Bible.

Place: Choose a place where you can meet with God daily without being disturbed.

Time: Choose a daily time when you can consistently meet with God.

Plan: Take your Bible, notebook and pen with you each day. Talk to God openly and honestly through prayer. Listen to God as He teaches you, rebukes you, corrects you, and trains you in righteousness (in correct living).

LESSON SIX - Continued

GETTING STARTED AND MORE

VII. Beginning Your Time with God

A. Begin with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for God's goodness. Psalm 100:4 says: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!"

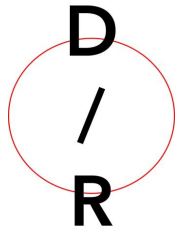
B. Confess any sins that may be hindering your relationship with God. 1 John 1:9 says: "If we _____ our sins, he is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and _____ us from all unrighteousness."

C. Ask God to open your eyes to see what He has to teach you from the Bible. Psalm 119:18 says: "Open my _____ that I may behold wonderful things out of your law."

D. Now use the pattern from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as you read a passage from the Bible, asking God to:

1. **Teach** you - show you the most important lesson He has for you.
2. **Rebuke** you - show you any immoralities or false teachings.
3. **Correct** you - show you what He wants to add to or remove from your life.
4. **Train you in righteousness** - show you what Bible verse or spiritual truth He wants you to apply to your life this week.

E. The Bible promises that if you do this, you will be "equipped for every good work" (from 2 Timothy 3:16-17).



LESSON SIX - Continued

COMMITMENT

VIII. Persevere in your daily time with God

Are you willing to commit to a daily time with God?

___Yes___No

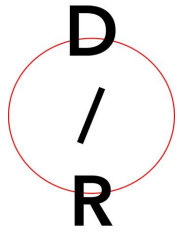
Date:

Time:

Place:

Plan:

Signature



LESSON SEVEN

INCOMPREHENSIBLE, AWESOME MYSTERY

I. The Trinity

The Bible teaches that there is only one true God (see 1 Timothy 1:17 and John 17:3, for instance). The Bible also teaches that although God exists as a single Being, He is comprised of three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in every way, yet distinct in their tasks and relations to humanity.

While the word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, the evidence of this incomprehensible and awesome mystery does. For instance, Genesis 1:1, says, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” The Hebrew word in this verse which is translated to English as God is Elohim. Elohim is a plural noun, a name for our God. The fact that the noun is plural can suggest all three Persons were at the creation of the heavens and earth. One of the best proofs of the Trinity is when all three Persons are at Jesus’ baptism (see Matthew 3:16-17).

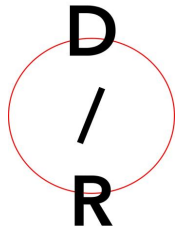
This is important for you to know so you are worshipping the true God. However, this is a mystery that mere humans will never figure out - how can our one God be existent in this way?

We accept this truth, though, because it is in Scripture and we acknowledge that all things are not revealed to us (see Deuteronomy 29:29).

What do you learn about God the Father and the Son of God, Jesus Christ, in these passages?

- John 1:1-14
- John 6:38-40
- Col. 1:12-20

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17 and 26?
What do you learn about what He does and about His relationship to the Father and the Son?



LESSON SEVEN - Continued

GOD IS EVERYTHING FOR US

The Bible teaches that God loves, protects, provides for, and disciplines us. This is examined in the rest of Lesson Seven.

II. God's Love

The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have _____ you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jeremiah 31:3)

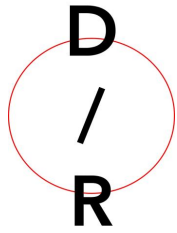
A. Why did God save you?

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great _____, with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - (Ephesians 2:4-5)

B. How does God reveal his love to you?

1. What does John 3:16 say about God's love?

2. What does it mean to you to be a "child of God?" (See 1 John 3:1)



LESSON SEVEN - Continued

GOD IS EVERYTHING FOR US

III. God's Protection

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and _____ you against the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3).

A. In Psalm 34:7, what does God promise?

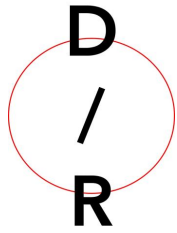
B. How does God protect you when you face temptation? (See 1 Corinthians 10:13)

IV. God's Provision

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

A. Why are God's children not to be anxious? (See Matthew 6:25-34)

B. What gift has God given his children to demonstrate he will meet our needs? (See Romans 8:32)



LESSON SEVEN - Continued

GOD IS EVERYTHING FOR US

V. God's Discipline

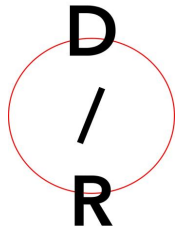
For the Lord _____ the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives. (Hebrews 12:6-7)

Read Hebrews 12:5b-11 to find out why God disciplines those whom He loves.

A. How does God discipline his children?

1. Being with, being accountable, learning from fellow Christians: (See Proverbs 27:17)
2. Studying the Bible: (See 2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Through trials: (See James 1:2-4)

God disciplines us because we're His children and He loves us and He wants us to grow as Christians. How does He want us to mature? (See Ephesians 4:11-16)



LESSON EIGHT

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

When you became a Christian, you became a member of God's family. God is your heavenly Father and all Christians are brothers and sisters of the same family. Galatian 4:4-5 says, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Your new family is the Church of Jesus Christ.

I. Let's answer some basic questions about church

A. Who is in the church?

1. Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the _____ that day - about 3,000 in all. (Acts 2:41)
2. Church consists of those who accept the message of the Gospel.
3. Have you accepted the message of Christ's salvation? Have you been water baptized? (Baptism is an important expression of the change in one's life and one's devotion to Jesus.)

B. What is our role in the church?

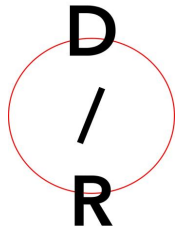
- Read Romans 12:4-21

C. What is Christ's relationship to the church?

- Read Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 5:23

D. **THE GREAT COMMISSION** - What does the church do?

As "the body of Christ," the church exists to continue and spread the work of Jesus Christ on earth by making disciples who make disciples. Matthew 28:18-20 says: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



LESSON EIGHT - Continued

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

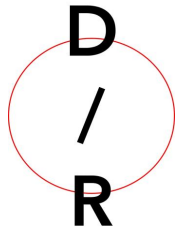
II. Jesus' two GREAT instructions to the church give the church five purposes

A. The GREAT Commandment. Read Matthew 22:36-40.

- Purpose 1. Loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind is **WORSHIP**.
- Purpose 2. Loving your neighbor, if he or she is a believer, is **FELLOWSHIP**.
- Purpose 3. Loving your neighbor, if he or she is lost, is **MINISTRY**.

B. The GREAT Commission. Read Matthew 28:18-20.

- Purpose 4. Making disciples and teaching them Jesus' commands is **DISCIPLESHIP**.
- Purpose 5. "Go" in verse 19 is **EVANGELISM/MISSIONS** (evangelism is local, missions means "to send out with a message").



LESSON EIGHT - Continued

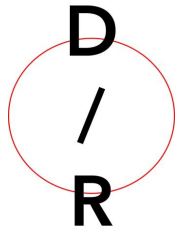
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

III. Practice and remember: "A GREAT Commitment to the GREAT Commandment and the GREAT Commission makes a GREAT Christian, and a GREAT Church!"

The Five Purposes of the Church:

Read these verses to see how the church can fulfill its purpose on earth.

1. **Worship:** _____ the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful. (Psalm 149:1)
2. **Fellowship:** Let us think of ways to _____ one another to acts of love and good works. (Hebrews 10:24)
3. **Discipleship:** _____ these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. (Matthew 28:20a)
4. **Ministry:** Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means _____ for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. (James 1:27).
5. **Evangelism/Missions:** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my _____, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8).



LESSON EIGHT - Continued

BAPTISM, LORD'S SUPPER

IV. Where does the church meet?

A. Churches can meet anywhere: schools, theaters, church buildings, parks or homes.

B. Where did churches typically meet in New Testament times? Read Acts 2:46; 5:42; 16:40; 17:5-7; 19:2; 20:20; Romans 16:1-5

C. Do you have a home? Could a church be started there?

V. Rights and Obligations We Have in Church

A. A righteousness to fulfill - **Baptism**

1. Jesus called baptism "righteousness." (See Matthew 3:15)

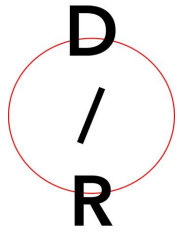
2. Baptism does not save you. Instead, **it is the first order of obedience for a Christian**. It is a public sign that we have a new life in Jesus Christ. It is a public profession of a believer's faith in Jesus. Baptism is not a requirement to go to heaven but it is a part of Christian growth and service. (See Acts 2:37-38, 41; 8:12; 18:8; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21)

B. A remembrance to practice - **the Lord's Supper**

1. Jesus Himself established it, to be in remembrance of Him, of His death and shedding of blood for our sins. (Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

2. Whenever we take the Lord's Supper it helps us to think and to thank God for his grace again. "But he was _____ for our _____; he was crushed for our _____; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are _____." (Isaiah 53:5)

3. The Lord's Supper is for believers and it is to be taken in a worthy, respectful way. (See 1 Corinthians 11:27-30)



LESSON EIGHT - Continued

GIVE OFFERINGS

C. A sacrifice to make - offerings

1. An offering is a gift that we make to God, and it is also worship to God. There are many kinds of offerings: living sacrifice of the whole person, life offering, time offering, gift offering, and money offering.
2. Giving a money offering is sometimes confused with tithing. Our examination of Scripture reveals the following:
 - Tithe - The definition of tithe is to give a tenth. While there is debate among Christians, we believe Christians today, unlike Old Testament time believers, are not obliged to fulfill the command that was given to the Israelites as part of the Mosaic Law which said they were to give 10 percent of everything they earned and grew to the tabernacle or temple. (See Leviticus 27:30)
 - Offering - Nowhere in the New Testament is there a command to tithe. When Jesus died on the cross He fulfilled the requirements of the Mosaic Law, making the 10 percent tithe obsolete. To continue to insist it is still in effect is to nullify the sacrifice of Christ and to say we are justified by works and law-keeping.

However, **Christians are to give money offerings appropriate to the amount of money they have.** (See 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

We are to give generously (see Romans 12:8), cheerfully (see 2 Corinthians 9:7) and lovingly (see 1 Corinthians 13:3). Also, we are to excel at giving (see 2 Corinthians 8:7).

By regularly doing so we will discover it is more blessed to give than to receive (see Acts 20:35).

LESSON NINE

ADVANCING BEYOND CHRISTIANITY 101

Now that you are a follower of Jesus, a child of God, you will want to continue to grow in your relationship with Him. We do this by spending time with God each day, learning from the Bible and obeying the Holy Spirit's leading. We also grow by regularly meeting with other believers who can speak into our lives as we apply God's word to our lives together. Together, we fulfill Christ's central teachings of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) as we worship, fellowship together, minister to those in need, obey His teachings, and spread the message of Christ's salvation.

II. God has a special assignment for you

A. For people who are saved, God has plans for you including a very special assignment. To begin understanding this, let's see what the Bible says about God saving Noah, Rahab and the Philippian jailer.

1. When the world was destroyed by flood, God saved Noah and all of his _____. (Genesis 6:9-7:1)
2. When God destroyed the city of Jericho, He saved Rahab and all _____. (Joshua 6:17-25)
3. When the Philippian jailer turned to Jesus, he was baptized, along with all _____. (Acts 16:23-34)

B. After discovering who was saved along with Noah, Rahab and the Philippian jailer, what is the special assignment God has for you?

- God wants you to allow the Holy Spirit to use you to win your family and friends to Christ as well.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you which persons He wants you to tell your story to about how Jesus changed your life. Begin immediately praying that God will save them.
- Prepare a time when you will tell them your story.
- For those who respond, teach them the lessons you have learned.

LESSON NINE - Continued

GET EQUIPPED

III. God wants you to be thoroughly equipped for every good work

Congratulations on completing the Jesus First portion of this curriculum. Here are some final instructions.

A. Spend a portion of every day in alone time with God so you can grow deeper in your understanding and relationship with Him.

B. Spend time each week with fellow believers (as the church) so you can be used by God to fulfill His purposes of worship, fellowship, ministry, discipleship, and evangelism and missions.

C. Each time you study God's word, whether alone, or as a community of believers, you can use the pattern you learned in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

1. **Teach** you - What truths does God want you to understand and believe?
2. **Rebuke** you - What false or sinful beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values does God want you to avoid or relinquish?
3. **Correct** you -What new beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values does God want you to have.
4. **Train you in righteousness** - What does God want you to apply to your life each day and week so that you develop a Godly character and habits.

As you practice these disciplines, God's word promises that you will become "thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).