



Discipleship Manual



**A New Believer's
Introduction
to the Christian Life**



Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
Commission on Evangelism



Name: _____

Date Begun: _____

Date Completed: _____

2. How is God's truthfulness connected to His immutability?
Why is that important? _____

Conclusion:

Knowing God's attributes gives us a glimpse into who God is. This is only a glimpse because we do not know all things like He does. Through God's Word, a person begins to get an understanding of who God is and what He does. It is important to see how all the attributes can work together in forming a picture of the one and only true God.

Preparing for Lesson # 6

- 1) Read John 15-21, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete the lesson on *The Holy Spirit: His Work and Gifts* before your next appointment.
- 3) Memorize 1 Corinthians 2:14-15
- 4) Go to church and take notes during the pastor's message.
- 5) Make a list of the ways you saw the Holy Spirit active this week.

2009

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X. Truthful

Truthfulness is the attribute of God where He never stops in speaking the truth or keeping His promises. God’s truthfulness makes us fear His wrath and trust in His promises. God’s words will never pass away because His truthfulness is unchanging and will never be broken.

Read the following passages to answer the following questions.

- Hebrews 6:18
- Deuteronomy 32:4
- Romans 10:11
- Titus 1:2
- Psalm 116:11
- Romans 3:4

Questions for Discussion:

1. According to this study on God’s truthfulness, what are the two things His truthfulness makes us do? _____

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INTRODUCTION

This manual was birthed from an assignment at the Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in the Spring of 2007. All seminary students took part, working in small groups to write specific lessons relating to basic teachings of the Christian life. The resulting 10 lessons were edited, proof read, and tested in a variety of congregational settings. We are excited about it's use in our AFLC churches.

Why should we write a Lutheran discipleship manual? Today, more than ever, the Church must be vigilant in training new believers in the Word of God. Since we are Lutherans by conviction, it is valuable we have a Lutheran Discipleship Manual in our toolbox! The book in your hands reveals our best attempt to put together a simple, doctrinally sound, resource for the new believer.

Solo Dei Gloria.



shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Examine the following passages and record what each verse states regarding God’s divine love.

- Psalm 103:17 _____

- 1 John 4:8,16 _____

- Titus 3:4 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How are God’s love and immutability connected? _____

2. How is our love for our neighbor connected to God’s love for us? _____



- Corinthians 1:18 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. Can man keep the Law of God? _____

2. What demands that God's Law must be kept? _____

3. What are the two ways in which the justice of God is applied to men? _____

IX. Loving

Love is the attribute of God that shows us that God, in His goodness, is deeply attached to sinful mankind and anxious to restore men to communion with God. God is the Philanthropist. Simply put, divine love is God's goodness desiring communion with men. Scripture testifies of this love, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him*

PREFACE

This discipleship manual has been written to help new believers (those who have recently been brought into the family of God) grow in the grace and knowledge of truth as disciples of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus gave the Great Commission, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Disciples are made by baptizing and teaching. Missionaries Paul and Barnabas made disciples as they preached the Gospel and the people responded by believing the Word of God. In an effort to see them grow in grace, Paul and Barnabas *"strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith"* (Acts 14:21-22).

Sometimes new Christians think that they need to achieve a certain level of Christian spirituality or become a "super-Christian" who perfectly does everything God demands. But, we ask, "What exactly is a disciple?" The basic meaning of the word "disciple" is "learner." A learner, or student, soaks up everything he or she can from a teacher. A disciple of Jesus submits himself to the Lord to learn all he can from Him. Every word in the Bible will become precious to a disciple of Jesus. The Kingdom of God will become first priority (Matt. 6:33). The life of discipleship is a life of sanctification. A disciple is one who is saved by God's grace and knows that he or she is perfect before God because of the finished work of Christ on the cross. Yet, at the same time, acknowledges that before man, he or she is not perfect and will



never be absolutely perfect. It is a life of “pressing on” (Phil. 3:12).

How should this manual be used? Ideally, a mature Christian would lead a new believer or group of new believers through each lesson. Mature believers will be able to model the Christian life of discipleship for the new disciples as Paul explained in 1 Cor. 11:1, *“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”* Approximately one hour should be set aside for each meeting, at which the new believer will be given assignments to prepare for the next lesson. Please refer to the “Discipler’s Guide” section for more instructions. Both the leader and disciple should keep in mind 1 Tim. 1:5, *“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”*

We pray that this ten-lesson journey will be merely the *beginning* of a walk with Christ. If you get to the end of this manual and think that you have somehow “arrived,” you have missed the mark. We only wish to whet your appetite to the goodness of God in life as you begin to taste and see His grace powerfully at work in you. We don’t wish to bring anybody under the heavy yoke of the Law through this manual. We desire for all Christians to “delight in the Law” (Rom. 7:22) and to seek to walk according to the “Third Use” of the Law. *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed and overflowing with gratitude”* (Col. 2:6-7).



VIII. Just (Righteous)

Justice is the attribute of God in which He is perfectly just and righteous and in which He demands of men that which is just. God’s eternal Law must be kept and it is God’s justice that demands the keeping of the Law. Since God is God, He is not under the Law, like sinful man, but is Himself the perfect standard of justice. The justice of God is applied to men in two basic ways. The first way is the divine righteousness revealed in the Law. The second way is the divine righteousness revealed in the Gospel, which has been obtained for sinners through Christ’s death for sinful man on the cross.

Examine the following Bible passages and determine whether they refer to the divine righteousness revealed in the Law or the Gospel.

- Isaiah 45:18-21 _____

- Genesis 18:20-22 _____

- John 3:16 _____



- Peter 1:15 _____

- Isaiah 6:3 _____

- Leviticus 11:44-45 _____

It is the holiness of God that moves us to approach God with great reverence. It is also His holiness that gives us great confidence and boldness because of Christ's death on the cross where peace has been made between Holy God and sinful man.

Ephesians 3:11-12

"This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him."

Questions for Discussion:

1. If God is holy and He demands us (who are not holy) to be holy, how are we made holy? _____

2. Why should we try to be holy if it has nothing to do with our salvation? _____

LESSON 1

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

You know God has forgiven your sins. Yet you look at your life and wonder if you are indeed a child of God. Why do I struggle? Why do I always seem to sin no matter how hard I try not to? Do Christians struggle in life? Yes, they do. Sometimes, even more than the unbelievers. All of the struggles Christians face in this world come from three sources: the world, the flesh, and the devil. A disciple of Jesus Christ is confident that God has saved him and rejoices in the grace of God in the midst of trials, tribulations, and temptations.

Study Questions

As human beings, it is our natural response to look at our outward actions and think that somehow we have a right relationship with God because we do (or don't do) certain things.

1. Read Luke 18:10-14. Compare and contrast the prayers of these two men. Which one was justified? Why? _____

2. What did the man who beat his breast admit about himself? _____
3. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. What do you learn about yourself



from these verses? _____

4. Is a dead man able to do anything? Did you contribute anything towards your salvation? _____

5. How is a person saved from their sins? Find the answer in Ephesians 2:8-9. _____

Salvation does not depend on our efforts or works. We are not saved by trying to be good or by doing good deeds. In other words, we are saved based on the finished work of Christ on the cross (See 1 Peter 2:24). We are saved by grace. Do not get caught up in the trap of dwelling on questions such as, “Was I sorry enough for my sins?” “Do I believe strong enough for God to accept me?” These types of questions spawn doubt in hearts. Disciples of Jesus look *outside* themselves for assurance of salvation. When we look inside ourselves, we find imperfection. God requires perfection. Because God knew that we were not, by any means, able to pay for our sins by living a perfect life, He did it for us through His son Jesus Christ (See John 3:16).

God uses instruments to bring us His grace. These instruments are called “means of grace.”



2. How does the immutability of God affect you? _____

3. How sure are God’s promises in light of His immutability?

VII. Holy

The concept of the holiness of God is hard to grasp. Basically, when we say God is holy, we mean that God is great and that He is pure. Please read Isaiah 6 to get a better idea of God’s holiness. What caused the cherubim to say, “Holy, holy, holy?” God is supremely exalted over all creatures. God is also holy in that He is the Author and Producer of all holiness and stands contrary to sin.

Examine the following passages and determine whether the Scripture is discussing God’s holiness, or if it is discussing God as the Producer of holiness.

• Deuteronomy 32:4 _____

• Psalm 92:15 _____



VI. Immutable (Unchangeable)

God does not change in His existence, in His will, or in His purpose.

Examine the following passages and determine if God is referred to in an “unchangeable” way or in a “changeable” way:

- James 1:17 _____

- Numbers 23:19 _____

- Malachi 3:6 _____

- 1 Samuel 15:29 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does the immutability of God affect the world? _____



6. Read Mark 16:16. What “means of grace” can you pick out from this verse? _____
7. Read Acts 2:37-38. The people that heard Peter’s sermon were “cut to the heart.” What did Peter tell them to do? What was the result? _____

Were you baptized as an infant? Praise God that He brought His grace to you! If not, talk to your pastor about setting up a time to be baptized.

Another means of grace that God uses is the Lord’s Supper.

8. Read Matthew 26:26-28 and write what you learn about the Lord’s Supper _____

9. God’s Word contains so many promises of His grace. Read Romans 10:9, 13. What does God promise in these verses? _____
10. Even when we sin as Christians, God is ready to forgive and cleanse. Read 1 John 1:9 and 2:1. Who forgives us? _____

Read 1 John 5:11-13.

11. What do believers in the Son of God have? _____
12. Who has eternal life and who doesn’t? _____



13. What are “these things” in verse 13? Does it include the whole Bible? _____

14. How do the words of the Bible bring assurance of salvation?

15. What have you learned from this lesson? _____

Preparing for Lesson #2

- 1) Read the book of Ephesians, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete Lesson 2, *Life as a Disciple of Jesus Christ*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize Ephesians 2:8-10.
- 4) Go to church and take notes during the pastor’s message, and bring them with you to your next appointment.
- 5) Remind yourself of the truths you have learned in this lesson. Rejoice in the grace of God.

is here. God’s omnipresence means for us that God is always around us. It also means that God sees everything that we do. This is a sobering thing to think about. We cannot hide anything from God.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s omnipresence:

- Jeremiah 23:23-24 _____
- Psalm 139:7-10 _____
- Acts 17:24-27 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are these verses talking about? _____
2. How does this attribute affect your life? _____
3. How is this attribute of God a comfort to you? _____



LESSON 2

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST

- Genesis 18:14 _____

- Job 42:2 _____

- Matthew 19:26 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can the omnipotence of God change the way you live your life? _____

2. In what special ways does this attribute affect you? _____

3. What does God’s omnipotence mean for Satan? _____

V. Omnipresent (Everywhere-Present)

Take a moment and think about what it means for God to be always present. What comes to your mind? Let’s clarify the meaning of omnipresent. The word present means: here, close to everything, next to everyone. As you read through this manual, God

Have you come to trust Jesus as your Savior? If so, you have been forgiven of your sins! Christ has made you a new person, a person who is free from sin. Feels great, doesn’t it? As great as it may have felt those first few days, you begin to realize that there are certain areas of your life that still have not really changed. Your mountain-top experience now feels more like a steady descent and most of your life is returning to “normal.” As we learned in the last chapter, the struggles you had before are still present. You may still be suffering the consequences of your past. The question becomes, “What is going to happen next in my life?”

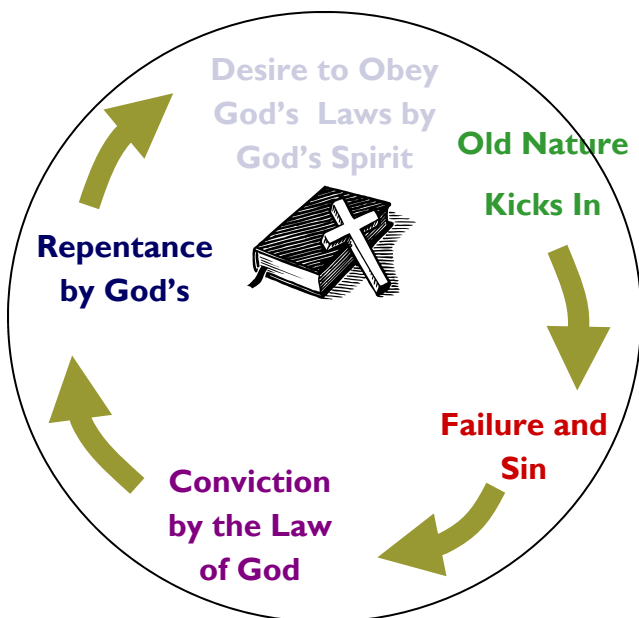
The call from Jesus to His disciples was to follow Him. Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, “*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” The answer to the question, “What next?” is that you, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, will follow Him and obey Him as you are empowered by His grace. 1 Peter 2:21 teaches that Jesus has left “*you an example for you to follow in His steps.*” Disciples do not follow Christ, though, because they feel pressured to do so. A person is happy to realize that life as a disciple of Jesus Christ is simply the life that springs from grace. Your motivation to obey the Lord is His grace, who He is, and what He has done for you.



Study Questions

1. The laws that God has given are meant for our own good. Read Matthew 7:24-27. Describe the two men in this passage. How were they different from each other? What was the result of their actions? _____

This “life on the Rock” can be illustrated by a cycle (see chart). Whenever you do not accomplish what is good, you sin. The old, sinful nature that you have encourages this sin. Sinning, how-



ever, does not mean that you automatically fall from God’s grace and are lost again. As you know, sin is forgivable. Christ forgave all of your sins on the cross apart from anything you have done. God’s Word and the Holy Spirit convict you of that sin, and you are led to repentance. When you repent of your sins, Christ takes away the guilt of those sins. A fresh desire to obey God then comes.

Eventually, the cycle repeats itself and will continue to repeat



Questions for Discussion:

How does your heart respond to the fact that you can go to God who knows all things? _____

Explain God’s omniscience in your own words _____

IV. Omnipotent (All-Powerful)

Think of someone you know that is very strong. Does that person possess all the power in the world? Can he or she move cars by picking them up with their hands? A super hero that comes to mind is Superman. He is faster than a speeding bullet and strong than steel. There is one thing that is Superman’s weakness: kryptonite. When he is in the presence of kryptonite he loses his strength. That is not the case for God. God has all the power in the universe.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s Power:



III. Omniscient (All-Knowing)

As you go through life it would be nice to know all things. Life would be easier for you because you would always know what was going on. Is there someone in your life that seems to know all things? Yet, at times that person does not know the answer. There are many different kinds of specialists who focus in on one area of life. You have everything from medical doctors to financial planners. It takes humans years and years of school and learning to become a specialist in one area.

What does God know? God knows all things perfectly. If we could directly ask God what 438 times 579 was, He could give us the answer right away. There is nothing new in this world that God does not know about.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about God’s omniscience:

- 1 John 3:20 _____

- Psalm 139:4 _____

- Psalm 94:11 _____



itself until Christ returns or you die. You will never reach perfection. You will always sin, but that doesn’t make you any less of a Christian or any less forgiven of those sins. Please don’t despair! Even through this cycle of sinning, repentance, and forgiveness, the Lord is at work in you. He is bringing about growth in grace and knowledge of truth (See 2 Peter 3:18). Christians who have faced this struggle have grown to be mature disciples of Jesus because they have been driven to the end of themselves and have found the only true refuge, Jesus Christ.

Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ is a day by day struggle. This is true because you have two natures warring within yourself.

2. Read Romans 7:14-25 and see the description the Apostle Paul gives for the struggle of the two natures in Christians. How would you describe this struggle? How have you seen it in your life? _____

A good summary of this section is found in Romans 7:18, *“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.”* Your new nature (your spiritual nature) wants to do all that is good and glorifies God. Your old nature (your sinful nature) wants you to do everything that is pleasing to self. Christians are in a civil war within themselves every moment of every day.

3. Read Galatians 5:17 and describe the civil war that Christians



face. What are the two sides? _____

4. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What are the different pieces of armor that God has provided for the battle? Who is the enemy in this passage? _____

Comparing your life to the lives of other Christians can become a trap. You will always be able to find someone who reads and quotes Scripture more than you, prays more than you, gives more than you, etc. Do not believe for one minute that religious activity is the evidence of being a Christian. There are many times when the disciples fought amongst themselves (See Luke 22:24; John 21:20-23), were filled with pride (See Mark 9:33-37), and even denied Jesus (See Luke 22:54-62). The disciples, just like you and all Christians, were still sinners saved by grace.

Because of this, Scripture continually urges Christians on to doing good works. Because you keep your sinful nature, you do not naturally desire to do good. However, your good works never are the reason you are saved. The reason you are saved is that God has given His grace to you.

5. Read Matthew 5:14-16. What is the purpose of good works according to these verses? _____



end of a specific event. Take time to think about when God started and when He is going to end.

The eternal attribute of God is that He has no start or end. This is to say that God created everything, but no one created God. He has always been and will always be.

Examine the following Scripture passages to see what they say about the eternity of God:

- Deuteronomy 33:27 _____

- 1 Timothy 1:17 _____

- Isaiah 57:15 _____

- Revelation 22:13 _____

- Psalm 102:27 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. What does God being eternal mean for creation? _____

2. What does God being eternal mean for you? _____



free to do whatever He wills to do.

Examine the following Scripture passage to see what they say about God's sovereignty.

- Matthew 28:18 _____

- Ephesians 1:11 _____

- 1 Timothy 6:15 _____

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does God have sovereignty over creation? _____

2. How does understanding God's sovereignty help you? _____

II. Eternal

In the space provided below, take a few moments to write a few important dates in your life. For example: your birthday, wedding, anniversaries, loss of loved one, etc.

With the dates that you put down, they signify either the start or



Further Scripture and Topics to Discuss:

1. What specific areas of sin do you still struggle with? Pray for forgiveness and trust God's promise to forgive. _____

2. Read Hebrews 11:1. What is faith? _____

3. Read Romans 8:15. When we have eternal life we have the spirit of _____ because we are brought into His family; not the spirit of _____ which makes us fear.
4. Read 1 John 1:6. If we have eternal life we want to have _____ with God; not walk in darkness.
5. Read Proverbs 28:13. How do we receive mercy? _____

6. Read John 9:25. What is your testimony? Can you say with this man that God has opened your eyes that were once blind to sin? _____

7. Read Romans 6:4. What kind of life has been given to us through baptism? _____

8. Read Titus 2:11-13.
 - ◆ What has appeared and what does it do? _____

 - ◆ "A people for His own possession, zealous for _____"



9. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What are we created for?

10. Read Matthew 7:21-23.

◆ Will everyone who says they are going to heaven actually go?

◆ Who will not? Why? _____

◆ What will Jesus say to these people? _____

11. As a disciple of Jesus, you seek first the Kingdom of God. What is the Kingdom of God according to Romans 14:17?

12. Read Romans 12:1-2. What are we urged to do in these verses? _____

13. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. What are we told to “put off” and “put on?” _____

14. Read Galatians 3:3. As a disciple of Jesus, life in Christ is begun by the Holy Spirit in you. How should it continue? _



LESSON 5

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Disciples of Jesus learning how to read the Bible and pray will benefit from a study of the attributes of God. What are *attributes*? The attributes of God are those character traits in which God reveals himself to us. Without the revelation of Scripture, the Bible, we all would have no clue what God is like. But God has graciously chosen to reveal Himself through His Word. We will examine ten of God’s attributes in this lesson. Keep in mind that many other attributes could be added to this list. Let this lesson be a starting point for you in getting to know God.

I. Sovereign

When looking up the word sovereign in the dictionary one finds the meaning to be, “supreme power or authority.” Who is someone in your life that is sovereign over you? Does that person have all power over you, or just the part of your life that is ruled by that person? For example, your boss has authority over you when you are at work, but not in the rest of the things that you do.

God’s sovereignty is much greater than that. God’s sovereignty is the attribute by which He rules His entire creation. To be sovereign God must be all-knowing, all-powerful, and absolutely



Heavenly Father. He longs to hear your prayers. You have become righteous in Christ by His grace and through faith.

What does James 5:16 teach us about prayers made by Christians? _____

God bless you as you begin to see Him in all things in prayer! I recommend that you search the Bible to see other great examples of what and how people in the Bible prayed. Other great tools for learning how to pray are as follows: *Prayer* by Ole Hallesby; *A Simple Way to Pray* by Martin Luther.

Preparing for Lesson #5

- 1) Continue using the reading plan from Lesson #3 that you started.
- 2) Complete Lesson 5, *Attributes of God*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize Philippians 4:6-7.
- 4) Set aside a specific time and place each day to pray and implement the things you have learned in this lesson during that time.
- 5) Stop to think about your life in Christ. Write down ways that you have seen God work in your life recently.



15. Read Galatians 2:20. What comforting truth do we learn from this verse? What impact does this truth have on your outlook of the days ahead? _____

Preparing for Lesson #3

- 1) Read through 1 John, one chapter a day.
- 2) Complete Lesson 3, *How to Read and Study the Bible*, before your next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16.
- 4) Take notes during the pastor's message next Sunday and talk to another believer about what he said.
- 5) Take a moment to think about the fact that God is speaking directly to you through the Bible. How does that affect your approach to reading the Bible?

NOTES:



We pray for all things—our family, our friends, our teachers, our employers (if you have a job), etc. I read something one time that really grabbed my attention: “To see someone is to pray for them.” As we grow in compassion for others, we will see the desire to pray for them and for whatever situation they may be facing. What about when we don’t know what to pray for?

Read Romans 8:26 and write out the answer to this question.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 and give a short list of who we are to pray for. _____

What are some other things that the Bible tells us to pray for and about? (Read Psalm 122:6; James 1:5, 5:13) _____

I pray that this lesson will create in you a desire to pray to our



3. What do I pray for?

We have now looked at why one should pray and how one should pray. Now we ask this question: “What should I pray for?” A simple answer would be anything and everything. As one grows in the Lord, reads more of the Bible, and learns the heart of God, as a result he or she will want to pray for things that God desires. A new Christian might pray for a million dollars or a fancy new car. Mature Christians lift everything up to the Lord in prayer and pray for things such as spiritual growth, that the Bible might be preached fervently, that the Gospel might spread to the end of the world, and that souls might be saved. These are things close to the heart of God. What are some things that people in the Bible prayed for? Let’s dig into the Word.

What did Paul pray about for the Christians in Ephesians 1:15-23? _____

What did the early church pray for in Acts 1:24-25? _____

Read 1 Kings 3:6-14. What was Solomon’s prayer? How did God answer Him? _____



LESSON 3

HOW TO READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE

Often when Christians learn that a person has recently become a Christian, they strongly encourage that person to “get in the Bible.” You may have heard this same advice, but you don’t know why and you aren’t sure how. Even in the first two lessons of this manual, you have already begun looking up Bible verses and learning from them. You have been told that Bible study is vital to your growth as a Christian, but you don’t know what to read or where to begin. Well, you aren’t alone. In this lesson we will tackle the basic questions of why, how, and what you should read in the Bible in an attempt to guide you as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this area. Jesus said in John 8:31, “*If you continue in My Word, you are truly disciples of mine.*”

Study Questions

1. Why should you read your Bible?

The obvious answer to this question is that you cannot possibly know what the Bible says unless you read it. However, instead of giving you “TEN REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD READ YOUR BIBLE,” let’s look in the Bible and see what it has to say.

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3 and Matthew 4:4

Who is it that tells us we should read the Bible? _____



According to these verses, what is the purpose of reading the Bible? _____

What type of life is kept alive by reading the Bible? Is it talking about physical or spiritual life? What do you think and why?

Read Psalm 119:9-16

According to these verses, what are some reasons for reading the Bible? _____

How can you use these verses in preparation to read the Bible?



Jesus Christ, when asked by His disciples about prayer, gave us the words of the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is a great example for us as we learn to pray. Please consult Luther's Small Catechism for further training on how to use the Lord's Prayer.

Now read Matthew 6:5-13. What does Jesus say about prayer before He speaks the Lord's Prayer? _____

Name all of the petitions (requests) mentioned in the Lord's Prayer. _____

In Matthew 6:9-10, who is the prayer directed to? What is said to this one? _____

In Matthew 6:11-13 the prayer shifts, How is this part of the prayer different than the first part? _____



How does David adore God in 1 Chronicles 29:10-12? _____

C—Confession: As we see God clearly through His Word, we are once again reminded of our complete sinfulness. Through confession, we agree with God that our sin is wrong. We tell God we have wronged Him.

What does the Bible say about confession in Psalm 32:5? _____

T—Thanksgiving: We remember and thank God for all things given to us.

Let's get back to David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29. In verse 13, what does he say? _____

S—Supplication: Here we bring specific requests to God—asking Him to intervene in a situation in our life, in the lives of others, etc.

What was Moses' supplication in Numbers 12:13? _____



Read Romans 10:17. What comes from hearing the Word of God? _____

Read Joshua 1:7-8. How often should the Bible be in your thoughts? _____

After reading these verses, you now see that the command to read the Bible doesn't just come from other Christians, but from God. He wants us to read His Word because it is the only way that we will be able to have a strong spiritual life. In addition to that, it will help us understand and know what God wants us to do in this life.

2. How should you study the Bible?

Studying the Bible is done in much the same way as other books, and yet it is different. We read to gain knowledge and we often bring our own biases to what we read. This may be fine for other books, but this is not how we should approach reading the Bible. Why? The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

Who has inspired the writing of Scripture according to this pas-



sage? _____

What do these verses tell us of the purpose of Scripture? _____

If we know that God has directed the writing of **ALL** of the Bible, can we trust that it is true? Why do you think that? What are the consequences to believing that **ALL** the Bible is true? _____

Now that you know that you should read the Bible as being true, lets look at a formula that is helpful to use when you read the Bible:

- **Observation**—What does it say?
- **Interpretation**—What does it mean?
- **Application**—How does it apply to you?

Let's use this method in reading Isaiah 40:28-31. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Observations: _____

Interpretation: _____



We pray in the name of Jesus (on the basis of who He is and what He has done) and He will answer prayers according to His will. God is not the ultimate vending machine, giving us what we want when we press the right buttons.

Read John 15:7, 16, 16:23.

Write down your thoughts on what Jesus says about prayer.

Let's shift gears now. We come to God humbly in prayer because He desires us to, to let God into our situation, and to lay hold of the grace given to us in the Gospel.

2. How do I pray?

This is the next question we must ask. There are many good resources that give us hints about prayer. For starters, let us look quickly at a simple way to pray. It is called "ACTS." Each letter represents a part of prayer.

A—Adoration: In this phase of prayer we praise God for who He is and what He has done. We lavish love on God who has loved and continues to love us so much.



Think of a relationship that you have with someone you love very much. How often do you talk to that person? Now think about someone that you are barely friends with. How often do you talk to that person? As a general rule, we have a better relationship with those we talk to frequently than those we do not.

As a Christian, what is your relationship to God? (See 1 John 3:1, Galatians 4:6) _____

Since God is our Heavenly Father, we can approach Him with confidence. (See Hebrews 4:16). With a correct view of God, we will see ourselves for what we really are—sinners in need of grace. Knowledge of sin will create in our hearts a sense of helplessness.

How did Hannah illustrate helplessness in her prayer? (1 Samuel 1:9-18) _____

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, is the best example of what prayer is and why we should pray. Read these verses and write your observations about Jesus and what His “prayer life” was like.

(Matthew 14:23, 19:13, 26:36; Mark 6:46, 14:32; Luke 5:16, 6:12, 22:40-42) _____



Application:

There are many ways to read the Bible, but try this way for awhile and see what God opens up to your eyes as you read! Ask mature Christians how they read the Bible. Their years of experience will give you more insight.

3.What should you read?

The answer to this question is that you should read the whole Bible, and in time hopefully you will. There are no right or wrong places to start reading in the Bible. However, there are some portions that may be more confusing to start with than others. To help you out with this we have provided you with a 40 day reading plan to help you get started along the way of developing a successful devotional life. This plan will help you get an overview of the Bible, but it is just the beginning of the wonders, wisdom, and insight that it contains. Before you read each day, take the time to find a quiet place and spend some time in prayer asking God to give you insight into what His Word says and how it applies to you.



Day 1	Genesis 1-2	The Creation Account
Day 2	Genesis 3	The Origin of Sin
Day 3	Genesis 15; 17-15	God's Covenant with Abraham
Day 4	Genesis 21:1-7; 22	God's Faithfulness and Abraham's Faith
Day 5	Exodus 3-4	God Calls Moses to Deliver His People
Day 6	Exodus 20	The Ten Commandments
Day 7	Joshua 1	Conquering the Promised Land
Day 8	1 Samuel 16-17	David and Goliath
Day 9	1 Kings 3; 8:1-9:9	King Solomon's Wisdom and the Temple
Day 10	1 Kings 18	The Prophet Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
Day 11	2 Kings 25	The Siege of Jerusalem and Exile of Judah
Day 12	Daniel 2-3	Daniel in Babylon and the Fiery Furnace
Day 13	Ezra 3	Rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem
Day 14	Isaiah 9, 53, 61	Isaiah's Prophecy of the Coming Messiah
Day 15	Luke 1-2	The Birth of Jesus
Day 16	John 1:1-18	Who Jesus is
Day 17	Matthew 4:14-44	Jesus Begins His Ministry
Day 18	Matthew 5-7	The Core of Jesus' Teachings
Day 19	John 3	God's Love for the World
Day 20	John 5	Jesus' Miracles and Authority
Day 21	John 11	Jesus' Power Over Death
Day 22	John 15	The Christian Life Defined
Day 23	John 17	Jesus' High Priestly Prayer
Day 24	Matthew 26-27	The Arrest and Crucifixion of Jesus

LESSON 4

HOW TO PRAY

You have just learned the importance of reading the Bible. That is the way we hear what God has to say to us. In any good relationship, though, there is communication both ways. God speaks to us through His Word. We speak to God through prayer. This circle of communication is important for spiritual growth as a Christian. In prayer we simply talk to God. You may have seen people pray before—folding their hands, bowing their heads, closing their eyes. You may have many questions about prayer. As new disciples of Jesus Christ, may your cry be the same as Jesus' first disciples: *"Lord, teach us to pray"* (Luke 11:1).

Study Questions

1. Why pray?

This is a good question. It seems somewhat silly at first to talk to God, who is invisible. What good does it accomplish? We all know of people who have prayed for something and have not gotten what they earnestly desired. Let us look to the Bible for answers.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. What does this simple verse tell us to do? _____



Here is another Bible Study to help you get acquainted with the person of Jesus and who He said that He is.

Day 1	John 1	Day 12	John 12
Day 2	John 2	Day 13	John 13
Day 3	John 3	Day 14	John 14
Day 4	John 4	Day 15	John 15
Day 5	John 5	Day 16	John 16
Day 6	John 6	Day 17	John 17
Day 7	John 7	Day 18	John 18
Day 8	John 8	Day 19	John 19
Day 9	John 9	Day 20	John 20
Day 10	John 10	Day 21	John 21
Day 11	John 11		

Preparing for Lesson #4

- 1) Start one of the reading plans listed in Lesson #3.
- 2) Complete Lesson 4, *How to Pray*, before the next appointment with your discipler.
- 3) Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.
- 4) Think about the tremendous blessing it is to know the Creator of the universe as Lord and Friend.
- 5) Spend time each day thinking about the awesome privilege we have of talking directly to God through prayer.



Day 25	John 20	The Resurrection of Jesus
Day 26	Luke 24	The Ascension of Jesus
Day 27	Acts 2	The Coming of the Holy Spirit
Day 28	Acts 9	The Conversion of Paul
Day 29	Acts 16	The Gospel Spreads to Europe
Day 30	Acts 26	Paul's Defense of the Christian Faith
Day 31	Romans 3	Justification by Faith Alone
Day 32	Romans 7-8	The Battle with Sin: Life in the Spirit
Day 33	1 Corinthians 13	The Way of Love
Day 34	1 Corinthians 15	The Power of the Resurrection
Day 35	Galatians 5	Freedom in Christ
Day 36	Ephesians 6	The Whole Armor of God
Day 37	Philippians 1:18-2:18	Christ's Example
Day 38	Colossians 3:1-17	Putting on the New Self
Day 39	James 1	Pure Religion
Day 40	Revelation 21-22	The New Heaven and Earth

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NOTES: