



UNIVERSITY  
CHURCH  
OF EUGENE

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***Please note that these studies are simply meant to be a template and guide for you. Feel free to deviate in ways you feel necessary to meet the needs of the people you are studying with. It is not one size fits all.***

\*Supplemental Studies

\*\*Supplemental materials to the Study

# Seeking God

**Purpose:** to illustrate the heart and attitude needed to find God by giving examples of those who successfully found God and to provide practical means to see God.

## **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

- What does it mean to seek God with all your heart?
- What have you gone after with all your heart?
- What plans do you have for your life? - God has great plans!

## **Matthew 7:7-8**

- A universal principal
- God desires and rewards those who see Him.

## **Matthew 7:13-14**

- Seeking God means making it the first priority.
- What are some things that stop us from seeking God first?
- Let's look at some examples of people who sought God first.

## **Acts 8:26-40**

- An important and busy man, but he made time to seek God.
- He was looking in the right place, the Bible.
- He was humble enough to ask for help.
- He was ready to make a decision when he found what he was seeking.
- Baptism

## **Practical Challenges:**

- Set up another Bible study together.
- Read the Bible privately (one of the gospels).
- Attend church

**Additional Scriptures:** Acts 17:24-27, Deuteronomy 4:28-31, Matthew 6:25-33, Matthew 13:44-46, 2 Chronicles 15:1-4, Hebrews 11:6

# The Word

**Purpose:** *To establish the Bible as God's inspired word and authority for our lives.*

## 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- What is the purpose of the scripture?
- All scripture in the Bible was inspired by God.

## Hebrews 4:12-13

- What does this passage say about the Word of God?
- The Word cuts (hurts)-compare to a scalpel. It is good to be cut because it cuts the "cancer" (sin) out.

## 2 Peter 1:20-21

- The Holy Spirit inspired the men who wrote the books of the Bible.
- The Bible should become our authority because the Bible came from God's will, not men's ideas/opinions of God.

## John 8:31-32

- What does Jesus expect of his disciples?
- Decision: Jesus expects you to both believe and practice his teachings.

## Matthew 15:1-9

- What does Jesus think about traditions (man-made) as your doctrine?
- (Include more about the heart, his word should be our doctrine)

## 1 Timothy 4:16

- Which is more important? Life or doctrine? *An airplane with only one wing cannot fly.*
- Why is it so important to earn, teach, and live the right doctrine? *To save yourself, and those who hear you.*

## Acts 17:10-12

- Why were the Bereans noble?
- Maintain a healthy skepticism and do your own study.
- Decision: read the Bible everyday.

## John 12:48

- Why study the Bible? *The Word will judge us.*
- Decision: Will I live by the Bible or my feelings, traditions, needs, etc.

## Conclusion:

1. Do you believe the Bible is inspired by God?
2. Are you willing to make it the authority for your life and read it everyday?
3. Will you commit to reading the Bible every day during our studies?

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalm 119:60, James 1:22-25, 1 Thess. 2:13, Matthew 13:1-23, 2 Timothy 4:2-3, 2 Peter 3:15-16

# Knowing Jesus\*

**Purpose:** The Apostle Paul's great desire was to know Jesus and the Power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10). Likewise, he prays that God may give us wisdom so that we may know Him better (Ephesians 1:17). Few people seeking a relationship with Jesus have an accurate picture of Him. Before one can embrace true discipleship, he or she must first know, respect, and even love the man they will follow. Otherwise, discipleship remains a mere commitment to 'commitment.' Knowing Jesus is a prerequisite for following Him. While this study will help, you might instead ask seekers to read through a gospel (one a week is a good time frame), listing every inspiring

**John 1:1, John 1:14 Jesus is God, yet he became man for us.**

- Q: Why would he do that?
- Q: What type of man would be described as "full of grace and truth?"

**John 2:13-17** Jesus burned with zeal for righteousness. He was a man who acted on that zeal.

**John 3:1-16**

- Jesus taught the teachers. Later, Nicodemus was so amazed by Jesus' righteousness that he began to defend him before the intimidating council of Jewish leaders (John 7:50-51). Ultimately, Nicodemus was so moved by Jesus' sacrificial love, that he exposed his commitment to Jesus by caring for his burial (John 19:38-39).
- Q: What type of man inspires someone like Nicodemus to leave everything and start new?

**John 6:35**

- Jesus was more than a good moral teacher; he pointed to himself as the source of spiritual nourishment.
- Q: Could a mere human teacher make such statements about himself?
- You may wish to view other "I Am" statements of Jesus in John's gospel: 8:12, 8:58, 9:5, 10:7, 10:11, 11:25, 13:13, 15:1, 18:37
- He doesn't give us the option to simply admire him; we either decide that he's mad or He is Lord!

**John 14:1-6 Jesus is the only way.**

- Q: What more could he do to lovingly show us that one, true way?
- If you get to know him, you will follow him. He will lead you to heaven.

**Additional Scriptures:** John 4:1-42, John 12:32, Luke 4:1-13, Hebrews 1:3, Hebrews 2:9-11, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:15-16, 1 John 2:5-6, Mark 1:32-39

# God's Love\*

**Purpose:** to demonstrate the power of God's love for us as the reason we should love Him.

## **Acts 17:24-31**

- God works in our lives because he wants a relationship with us.
- God's love is shown by urging us to be ready for the Day of Judgement.

## **John 3:16**

- This shows the depth of God's love for us.
- God's greatest desire for each of us is for us to have eternal life with Him.

## **Romans 5:6-8**

- When we were powerless, sinners, and ungodly, Jesus died for us!
- That's real life; Jesus took my place, died for me. We should be incredibly thankful.

## **Mark 12:28-31**

- What God wants of us, more than anything else, is to love Him.
- What does it mean to love God with each area - heart, soul, mind, and strength?

## **Revelation 21:1-4**

- The Holy City, also called the New Jerusalem, is referring to the church as the Bride of Christ.
- God wants to be with us forever!

## **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

- Christ's love should compel us to die to ourselves and to live for Him.
- The fact that Jesus died and rose again for us, to give us a new life, should provide us all of the motivation we need to respond to God's love.

## **Questions to conclude the study:**

- As you think about the scriptures in the study, what caused you to feel most loved by God?
- How can you respond to God's love for you?

**Additional Scriptures:** Ephesians 2:4-5, Psalm 36:5, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 136:26, Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 8:35-39, Ephesians 5:2, Zephaniah 3:17, 1 John 4:9-10

# Discipleship

**Purpose:** to explain what it means to love Jesus wholeheartedly and to make him the Lord of our lives by obeying the Greatest Commands and the Great Commission. This study will show practically how to express that love toward God and people.

*Disciple or Christian? They are the same!*

*The word "Christian" only appears 3 times in the New Testament. It was the name those in the world gave the disciples (Acts 11:19-26), seven years after the church began. The word "disciple" occurs 270 times in the New Testament. Jesus defines the term disciple throughout his ministry. Since "disciple" is more clearly defined, let's use that term to find out what Jesus expects from those who love him.*

## **The Greatest Commands: Matthew 22:37-40**

- These commands summarize the heart and attitude of those who want to follow Jesus.

## **The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20**

- What does Jesus want everyone to become?

## **The Purpose: Mark 1:14-18**

- What purpose does Jesus call disciples to?
- What purpose are you living for now?

## **The Price: Luke 9:23-26**

- Who does this apply to? ("If any man...")
- If you were calling men to change the world, what would you expect of them?
- What does it mean to "deny self"?
- Notice Christ in the garden (Matthew 26:36-39)
- What does it mean to carry the cross daily?

## **Luke 14:25-33**

- Everyone must count the cost (v.28-30), consider the alternatives (v.31-32) and love Christ more than any person (v.26) or anything (v. 33).

## **A Life of Worship: Luke 11:1-4**

- Jesus modeled a life of worship for all disciples to follow, so what should we do?

## **A Life of Obedience: 1 John 2:3-6**

- Disciples obey Jesus' commands
- The test of our discipleship is that we must walk as Jesus walked
- Does your life look like Jesus' life? What would you need to change?

## **A Life of Love: John 13:34-35**

- Disciples are commanded to love each other the way Jesus loves us.
- Our love for one another shows others that we are Christians.

## **Conclusion:**

- Based on these passages, would Jesus consider you one of His disciples?

- Do you want to become a disciple of Jesus?
- What do you need to do practically to start?

**Additional Scriptures:** Matthew 22:34-40, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:20-21, Philippians 2:5-11, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:1-12

# The Kingdom

## **Importance of this study:**

- A. Produce faith in the continuity of the Word
- B. Kingdom is the Church -- importance of the Church in the eternal plan of God.

**Ask:** What do you think of when you hear Kingdom of God?

## **PART 1: THE PROPHECIES**

**Old Testament predictions of the Kingdom** - The height of Israel's glory was under the kingship of David approximately 1000 BC)

*-Moultins refer to Kingdom*

- A. Isaiah 2:1-4 (750 BC)
  - a. Last days
  - b. All nations
  - c. Jerusalem
- B. Daniel 2:31-44 (550 BC)
  - a. Endure forever
  - b. God allowed this king to have a dream with Daniel to interpret.

## **New Testament predictions of the Kingdom**

What empire was reigning during the NT time? *-the Romans!*

- A. John the Baptist (25 AD)
  - a. Kingdom is near (Matthew 3:1-6)
- B. Jesus (30 AD)
  - a. Kingdom is near (Matthew 4:17) message of Jesus same as John.
  - b. Kingdom will come in the lifetime of some of the disciples (Mark 9:1).
  - c. Kingdom will come with power (Mark 9:1).
  - d. Kingdom entered by a new birth (John 3:1-7) can't enter without a new birth.
  - e. Kingdom is within you (Luke 17-20-21).
  - f. Peter has the keys (Matthew 16:13-19). The Church and the Kingdom (interchangeable) are the same and will be built on the truth that Jesus is the Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).
  - g. Joseph of Arimathea was still waiting for the Kingdom when Jesus died (Luke 23:50-51).
  - h. Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached first in Jerusalem to all nations (Luke 24:44-49). Resurrected Jesus talking.

## **PART 2: THE FULFILLMENT**

Fulfillment of the Old and New testament Predictions Acts 1-2

- A. Last days (Acts 2:1-17 & Acts 2:22-47) Where are we? Who is there?
  - a. Isaiah 2:2
- B. All nations (Acts 2:5)
  - a. Isaiah 2:2
  - b. Luke 24:47
- C. Jerusalem (Acts 2:5)
  - a. Isaiah 2:3
  - b. Luke 24:44-49

- D. Eternal Kingdom (Acts 2:37-41)
  - a. Daniel 2:44, 7:18
- E. Date of coming approximately 33 AD (Acts 1-2)
  - a. Old testament prophecy
  - b. John the Baptism "is near" - Matthew 3:1-2
  - c. Jesus "is near" - Matthew 4:17
- F. Lifetime (Acts 2:14)
  - a. Mark 9:1
  - b. "Some" - Judas died (Acts 1:18-19)
- G. Power (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4)
  - a. Mark 9:1
- H. New birth (Acts 2:38)
  - a. Water and Spirit (John 3:1-7)
- I. Kingdom within (Acts 2:37)
  - a. Luke 17:20-21
- J. Peter with the keys (Acts 2:14, 38)
  - a. Matthew 16:19
- K. Repentance and forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38)
  - a. Luke 24:44-49

### **APPLICATION**

- A. The Church is the Kingdom of God on Earth established in approximately 33AD.
- B. Acts 2:42 As citizens of the kingdom and members of the body (the church), we must be devoted to:
  - a. Doctrine
  - b. Fellowship
  - c. Breaking Bread
  - d. Prayer
- C. Jesus is the "Lord and King", the Bible is the "law" of the Kingdom, the disciples are the "servants."
- D. Mathew 6:33 We must seek his Kingdom first.
  - a. Ask them to commit themselves to the meetings of the Church and to a daily focus on the relationships with others disciples.
  - b. Jesus is trying to get his Kingdom into our hearts.
  - c. Why do you think God would command us to do this?
  - d. Call them to read Matthew 6.

# Sin

**Purpose:** to define what God views as sin in our life so that we can see our need for forgiveness and identify the areas of our life that we need the most repentance.

## Isaiah 59:1-2

- Sin separates us from God (draw diagram)
- Who is responsible for our separation from God? *Us!*
- What needs to happen for us to restore our relationship with God?

## Romans 3:23

- Who has sinned? *Everybody!*
- Comparing sin diagram

## Romans 6:23

- Wage=something you earn or deserve.

## Mark 7:21-22

- Jesus for specific about sin (ref. John 4:18)
- Who or what is responsible for the sin in our life?

## Galatians 5:19-21

- Sin is obvious
- Those who live like this will not go to heaven

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5

- Sins of the heart are still seen by God

## James 4:17

- Sins of omission

## Conclusion:

1. Refer to the diagram from Isaiah 59:1-2
2. Which side of the wall are you on?
3. After this study about sin and conversion, it is important to share what sins we have struggled with? James 5:16 reminds us of the importance of confessing our sins to one another.

\*\*Sin list/Time of confession

**Additional Scriptures:** Revelation 21:8, Psalm 50:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 1 Timothy 5:24, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Colossians 3:5-11, James 2:10-11

## Definition of Sins\*\*

### Sins of Galatians 5:19-21

- Sexual immorality: Fornication, any sexual union outside of marriage. Denotes ungodly sexual acts and relationships; prostitution, rape, homosexuality, petting, adultery, child abuse, bestiality.
- Impurity: Any sinful thinking. Anything vulgar, wrong thoughts, lust, masturbation, wrong motives, pornography, fantasy.
- Debauchery: Any misuse of the body. Usually referring to sexual excesses, but in general, refers to a readiness to indulge in any pleasure (indecent, lewd dancing, etc.). There is no respect for anyone else. In this state, man is at the mercy of his passions impulses, emotions, etc. He is completely undisciplined (i.e. gives in to gluttony, laziness, smoking, cravings, masturbation, unlimited pleasure.)
- Idolatry: Worshipping anything other than God. Giving or devoting one's time, substance, talents, and/or self to anything that keeps one from obeying and following God in every way (i.e. status symbols, investments, engrossing sports or hobbies, selfish ambitions, relationships, property, possessions, pleasure and wants, school, work, pride). Praying to anyone other than God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.
- Witchcraft: Seeking or being hgf in any spiritual realm other than God's. Includes astrology (i.e. the stars control; consequently, God does not rule), horoscopes, Satan worship, the occult, magic spells, good luck charms or pictures, praying to saints, drug use, tarot cards, palm reading, channeling (the New Age movement), Ouiji board, etc.
- Hatred: Wishing ill or harm on anyone. Looking down on anyone, bitter feelings, resentment, and wanting revenge. Murder and abortion.
- Discord: Anything that breaks up relationships. Stirring up trouble, an inability to get along with people, arguing, slander, gossip, malicious talk, and criticalness.
- Jealousy: Possessiveness, not sharing.
- Fits of rage: Uncontrolled anger, losing your temper, temper tantrums, quick temper, angry shouting, cursing and profanity, fighting.
- Selfish Ambition: Living to please self. Wanting one's own way, getting what one wants at any cost, desiring to be first at any cost, overly competitive spirit. NOT willing to do menial or demanding tasks, refusing to admit being wrong, arrogance, doing things for honor or glory, wanting to look good for others, refusing to compromise, pride, selfishness, and independence.
- Dissention: Rebelling against authority. NOT submitting. Habitually disagreeing, arguing, causing division, starting arguments, stirring up trouble.
- Factions: Feeling superior to others. Cliques, refusing to associate with anyone because they are different or for any other reason. Wanting to be with "own" kind, prejudice, bigotry, and racism.
- Envy: Desiring something another person has while wishing that they did not have it at all. (i.e. wealth, status, ability, physical features, spirituality, relationships).
- Drunkenness: Anything that causes one to lose control. Intoxication, alcohol, drug abuse.
- Orgies: Living without restraint. Includes partying, sexual parties, unrestrained sex, vandalism, carousing.
- And the like: lying, stealing, cheating, deceit, etc.

## Sins of Mark 7:21-22

- Sexual immorality: (definition above)
- Theft: the act of stealing; the wrongful taking and carrying away of the personal goods or property of another; larceny (taking and carrying away of the personal goods of another from his or her possession with intent to convert them to the taker's own use).
- Murder: Taking someone's life.
- Adultery: voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than his or her lawful spouse.
- Greed: excessive or rapacious desire, especially for wealth or possessions.
- Malice: desire to inflict injury, harm, or suffering on another, either because of a hostile impulse or out of deep-seated meanness:
- Deceit: the act or practice of deceiving; concealment or distortion of the truth for the purpose of misleading; duplicity; fraud; cheating:
- Lewdness: the quality of being very sexual or lustful in an offensive way. Obscene or indecent, as language or songs. Vulgar.
- Envy: (definition above)
- Slander: the action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.
- Arrogance: an attitude of superiority manifested in an overbearing manner or in presumptuous claims or assumptions.
- Folly: lack of good sense or normal prudence and foresight.

# Cross

**Purpose:** To understand the tremendous cost Jesus paid in dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Passion of Jesus: Matthew 26:31-28:10** → take turns reading the passion account from heading to heading

<u>Sections</u>	<u>Possible Comments</u>
26:36-46	Jesus dreaded the cross. He prayed for the right attitude. Jesus had a choice to “drink the cup” or not. He chose to die for us.
26:66-68	He was beaten and mocked.
26:69-75	His best friends denied Him.
27:11-26	Jesus was flogged (explain flogging if needed). We are like Barabbas, guilty of sin but set free at Jesus' expense.
27:27-31	Jesus was mocked, crowned with thorns, spat upon and beaten.
27:32-35	He was crucified.
27:46	He was abandoned by God.

## **Power of Resurrection: Isaiah 53:4-6**

- Written 750 years before Jesus' death
- Personalize the reading by substituting the name of the person studying for the personal pronouns. (For example: “Surely he took up John's infirmities”).

## **Pain of the cross**

- Read the medical account (next page) and/or watch *The Passion*.

## **Personal Response: Romans 5:6-8**

- What did we do to deserve Jesus' dying for us? *Nothing!*
- What motivated Jesus to do that for us? *Love!*

## **1 Peter 2:21**

- What does the cross call us to do?

## **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

- Jesus' love for us is our motivation to follow Him.

**Additional Scriptures:** Psalm 22, Acts 2:22-38, John 1:29, Romans 6:1-11, Colossians 2:13-14, Ephesians 2:3-10

# Medical Account of the Crucifixion\*\*

Taken from [www.douglassjacoby.com](http://www.douglassjacoby.com)

**Sweat like blood** - Luke 22:24 says of Jesus, "and being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."<sup>3</sup> The sweat was unusually intense because his emotional state was unusually intense. Dehydration coupled with exhaustion further weakened him. (Note: the scriptures nowhere say that Jesus was sweating blood.)

**Beating** - It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse: punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes possibly injured. The psychological effects of the false trials should not be underestimated. Consider that Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, exhausted, possibly in shock.

**Flogging** - In the previous 12 hours Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating, and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. Despite the fitness he must certainly have gained during his travels in Palestine, he was in no way prepared for the punishment of flogging. The effects would be worse as a result. A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind and to one side of the victim. The whip used – the flagellum – was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death: several short heavy leather thongs, with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep's bone were sometimes included. As the scourging proceeds, the heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, than deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. The small metal balls first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by further blows. The fragments of sheep's bone rip the flesh as the whip is drawn back. When the beating is finished, the skin of the back is in ribbons, and the entire area torn and bleeding. The words chosen by the gospel writers suggest that the scourging of Jesus was particularly severe: he was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

**The mocking** - Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Made to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king's scepter. "Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff." The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds on Jesus' back when the robe was torn off again. Further weakened physically and emotionally, Jesus was led away to be executed.

**The crucifixion** - The wooden cross used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached crossbar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of execution. (The heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here.) Jesus was unable to carry his load – a beam weighing around 75 to 125 pounds (approximately 35-55 kg). He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him. Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in. (It would have dulled the pain.) Thrown down on his back with arms outstretched along the crossbar, nails were driven through Jesus' wrists into the wood. These iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3/8 inch thick, severed the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the full weight of the crucified man. In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the crossbar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs bent at the knee, a single nail was used to pierce both feet, one foot being placed over the other. Again there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure

this, so that death would be slower and the suffering longer. Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the crucified man would hang with his arms above his head, the weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect: It is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms. A terrible cycle of pain began: hanging by the arms, unable to breathe, pushing up on the feet to inhale quickly before again slumping down, and on and on. This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus' back was scraped against the upright post,<sup>4</sup> as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe. Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

**Cause of death** - Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion, but in Jesus' case acute heart failure may have been the final trauma. This is suggested by his sudden death following a loud cry, after only a few hours: a quick death, it seems (Pilate was surprised to find Jesus already dead). A fatal cardiac arrhythmia, or perhaps cardiac rupture, are likely candidates.

**The spear wound** - Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice. From the wound came a flow of "blood and water." This is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

# Repentance

**Purpose:** To define Biblical repentance and help us know if we have truly repented of our sins.

## Luke 13:1-5

- Jesus lays down an ultimatum.
- There are only two categories of people -- those who repent and those who do not.

## Luke 3:7-14

- The tangible fruit of repentance is the evidence of a changed mindset.
- If you were to ask John: "What should I do?" how would he respond to you?

## Acts 26:19-21

- Repentance is a decision that leads us to a radical change in lifestyle.
- It can be done in an instant, but its effects last a lifetime.

**Question #1:** Have you ever had a significant change in your behavior? Was there a time when someone said, "What has come over you? You are so different."

## 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

- Godly sorrow vs. worldly sorrow.
- True repentance produces a visible change in one's character and decision making.
- You can see whether one has repented or not.

**Question #2:** Are you eager to do the will of God, or do you need to be persuaded?

## Matthew 5:29-30

- Get radical about sin.

## Mark 9:42-49

- Before you can experience real change, you must have Jesus' attitude toward sin.

**Question #3:** Do you share God's attitude towards sin: a radical aversion?

**Question #4:** Do you think you have repented in accordance with what the Bible teaches?

**Question #5:** How many people do you know who have truly repented?

## Conclusion: Acts 3:19 // Acts 11:18, 2 Timothy 2:25

- Repentance is refreshing!
- God is the one who grants repentance!

**Additional Scriptures:** Matthew 4:17, Acts 5:30-31, Romans 12:1-2, Mark 1:14-15, Titus 2:11-12, Romans 2:4

# Baptism

**Purpose:** To explain how we receive forgiveness for sins and become a Christian.

## Ephesians 4:4-6

- Baptism is a primary Christian doctrine taught throughout the NT in Acts, the Letters and the Gospels. It is not peripheral to the gospel.

## Baptism in the Book of Acts: Acts 2:36-41

- These people already believed (2:37) but were not saved.
- They needed to repent first and then be baptized.
- The promise of forgiveness applies to all generations and all people (2:39).

## Acts 8:26-38

- Going “down into the water” points to immersion rather than a sprinkling (8:38).

## Acts 16:31-33

- Belief includes hearing the word and baptism.

## Acts 22:16

- Even though Paul had believed, fasted and prayed for 3 days (Acts 9:9), he didn't have his sins washed away until baptism.

## Baptism in the New Testament

### Letters: Romans 6:3-4

- What does baptism represent?
- Baptism is a participation in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection; it is more than a symbol.

## Colossians 2:12

- What is baptism without faith?

## 1 Peter 3:21

- The flood is symbolic of baptism; it “washed sin away.”

## Baptism in the gospels: Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, John 3:3-5

- What do water and Spirit mean?

**Conclusion:** What are you waiting for?

**Additional Scriptures:** Titus 3:3-5, Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 1:3-10

**Conversions in the Book of Acts:** 2:38-41, :47, 8:9-13; 8:26-40, 9:1-19, 22:6-14, 10:23-48, 16:11-15, 16:16-34

Baptism is the final step in God's plan of salvation through faith:

1) Hear      2) Believe      3) Repent      4) Confess “Jesus is Lord”      5) Be Baptized

# Church

**Purpose:** To teach God's plan for success as Christians.

## **Ephesians 1:18-23**

- God's power that raised Christ from the dead enables us to live for him.
- The Church is the spiritual body of Christ (body = church).
- The Church is a body and you are a part of it.

## **Colossians 1:18**

- Jesus is the head of the body or Church.
- The Church is not so much an organization as an organism.
- Jesus' Church should reflect the convictions and behavior Jesus displayed while on Earth.

## **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

- We are baptized into the body.
- The Church needs us and we need the Church.

## **Romans 12:4-8**

- Each member of the body belongs to the others.
- Therefore, there is no "solo" Christianity - my choices affect others.

## **Hebrews 3:12-14**

- We need daily encouragement to maintain a strong walk with God.

## **Hebrews 10:23-25**

- Attending Church is a habit, so is not going to Church.
- Make a decision to attend church faithfully.

## **Acts 2:40-47**

- This is a picture of how the Church should be.
- The early Church showed an amazing devotion to God and to one another.
- They shared their material possessions freely and loved being together for fellowship and worship.

## **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

- Who does God want us to be yoked/connected to in marriage?
- Dating should lead to marriage -- share about dating only Christians and "encouragement dates."

## **Financial Giving: 1 Corinthians 16:2 + 2 Corinthians 9:17**

- What is your heart in giving?
- How do you feel about financially supporting God's work?

**Conclusion:** Make a commitment to regularly attend, participate, and serve in the body.

**Additional Scriptures:** Matthew 16:17-18, Ephesians 5:24-33, Colossians 2:18-19, John 17:20-26, Hebrews 12:18-24, Romans 12:1-8.

*\*One Another Passages can also be used as a follow up to the Church Study.*

# Lordship/Cost Counting

## **Opening Discussion:**

- How are you feeling about your decision to become a Christian?
- How would you explain to someone the process of becoming a true Christian?
- What about the "good Hindu or Muslim or church person" where do they stand in regards to salvation and being right with God?

## **LORDSHIP**

### **Acts 3:36**

- Both Lord and Christ - "master" and "savior".
- Can't have one without the other.
- What does it mean for Jesus to be your "Lord."

### **Gatations 2:20**

- When you choose to become a Christian, you are choosing to put to death your sinful nature. What sins are you putting to death?
- How will your life change when you "die?"

## **COUNT THE COST**

### **Luke 14:28-30**

- To be Jesus' follower, we must choose to surrender everything to him.
- What does this mean for you?
- What will be the most difficult thing for you to surrender? (Is there anything from the Sin study that you feel you need to discuss further?)

### **Discuss making Jesus the Lord of your life in regards to your:**

- Time: quiet time, attending church and church functions, time for church relationships.
- Conduct: must repent of all sin, stop doing wrong and start doing right.
- Money: contribution, stewardship, avoiding materialism and pursuing wealth.
- Relationships: marriage, dating, marrying Christas; prayer partners; obey your leaders; love for brothers/sisters, lost, and physical family.

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2**

- God is reconciling you to Himself! Welcome to the Family of God!
- Christ's love compels us to live fo rhlm instead of yourself.
- You will become a new creation - the old has gone, the new has come!
- You can help others be reconciled to God!

## One Another Passages\*

- "...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)
- "...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
- "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
- "...Love one another..." (John 13:34)
- "...Love one another..." (John 13:35)
- "...Love one another..." (John 15:12)
- "...Love one another" (John 15:17)
- "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)
- "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)
- "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)
- "...Love one another..." (Romans 13:8)
- "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)
- "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)
- "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)
- "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)
- "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)
- "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)
- "...Greet one another with a holy kiss." (I Corinthians 16:20)
- "Greet one another with a holy kiss." (II Corinthians 13:12)
- "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)
- "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." (Galatians 5:26) 23. "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)
- "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)
- "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)
- "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)
- "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs." (Ephesians 5:19)
- "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)
- "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
- "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)
- "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)
- "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." (Colossians 3:13)
- "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)
- "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)
- "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)
- "...Love each other." (I Thessalonians 4:9)
- "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 4:18)
- "...Encourage each other..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- "...Build each other up..." (I Thessalonians 5:11)
- "Encourage one another daily..." Hebrews 3:13)
- "...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
- "...Encourage one another." (Hebrews 10:25)
- "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)
- "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)
- "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
- "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)

- *“...Love one another deeply, from the heart.” (I Peter 3:8)*
- *“...Live in harmony with one another...” (I Peter 3:8)*
- *“...Love each other deeply...” (I Peter 4:8)*
- *“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” (I Peter 4:9)*
- *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others...” (I Peter 4:10)*
- *“...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another...”(I Peter 5:5)*
- *“Greet one another with a kiss of love.” (I Peter 5:14)*
- *“...Love one another.” (I John 3:11)*
- *“...Love one another.” (I John 3:23)*
- *“...Love one another.” (I John 4:7)*
- *“...Love one another.” (I John 4:11)*
- *“...Love one another.” (I John 4:12)*
- *“...Love one another.” (II John 5)*

# Pride and Humility\*

## Luke 18:9-17

- What is the main point of these two stories?
- Jesus is so serious about pride! Anyone who does not have the humility of a child will not go to Heaven.

## PRIDE

- Proverbs 16:5
- Psalm 138:6
- 1 Peter 5:5
- Psalm 101:5
- Jeremiah 13:17

*Question: Why does God hate pride so much?*

### **Pride keeps you from knowing yourself. - Psalm 36:1-4**

- What is his problem? He does not fear God. In his own eyes he flatters himself too much from seeing himself as God sees him (i.e. When you have bad breath, usually you can't smell it, so you need someone else to tell you).
- When you are prideful, you do not see yourself- you either do not see your sin or you do not hate it.
- What happens? Plots evil, commits himself to sinful course (pride causes other sin).

### **Pride keeps you from getting convicted about your sin. - Jeremiah 8:11-13**

- Say "but" a lot "but I didn't do," "it's not serious," "lighten up", or "chill out".
- They are not ashamed. They are prideful because they do not see their sin the way God sees it.
- To show them how serious their pride is, God takes away their harvest.
- If you don't get deeply convicted about your sin you will never change.

### **Pride makes you resist correction**

- Proverbs 12: 1
- Psalm 141:5
- Proverbs 12:15
- Proverbs 13:10
- Proverbs 19:20
- Proverbs 20:18
- Proverbs 4:13
- Hebrews 13:17
- James 4:13-17

## HUMILITY

- 1 Peter 5:5
- James 4:6, 10
- Ephesians 4:2
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Luke 4:11
- Micah 6:8
- Proverbs 3:34, 11:2

# Glorifying God in All You Do\*

**Purpose:** to show what the Bible says about how Christians glorify God through their lives.

## 1 Corinthians 6:12

- Because of God's grace we have free will to do whatever we like. However, there are many things in the world that are not beneficial to building the kingdom of God. We have to think about what will be the best for us spiritually.
- What are some things in your life that you feel are not beneficial to your relationship with God?

## 1 Samuel 16:7

- According to this scripture, who is going to be looking at your heart?
- There are things that we can hide from people, but everything is laid before God and he can see everything (Hebrews 4:13).

## How to glorify God without speech and actions:

- **Ephesians 4:29**
  - What does this scripture mean by unwholesome talk?
  - Why would God not want any unwholesome talk come from our mouths?
- **Matthew 12:36**
  - Why do you think God cares so much about the words that come out of our mouths?
  - What is your hardest struggle when it comes to glorifying God with your speech?
- **1 John 2:15**
  - It's very black and white; you either love the world or love God. You cannot love both.
  - Why do you think people fall into their sinful cravings?
  - What are some of your personal sinful cravings?
  - How can you stand up from your sin and glorify God?
- **Additional Scriptures:** Proverbs 21:23 and Proverbs 15:14

## How to glorify God with our clothing:

- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**
  - Our bodies are a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit and God wants his spirit to reside in a palace that is righteous and holy.
- **1 Timothy 2:9-10**
  - This doesn't mean God doesn't want you to look nice, he wants you to dress appropriately.
- **1 Peter 3:3-4**
  - God wants your inner self to be the most beautiful part about you?
  - How can you build an inner unfading beauty?

## **Conclusion**

- **1 Corinthians 10:31**
  - Everything we do should be done for God and to honor God.
  - Can you think of times where it is going to be challenging to honor God?
- **Ephesians 5:3**
  - God doesn't want a hint of sin in our lives.
  - What is sin in your life that easily creeps in?
- **Romans 8:5** - What are things that the spirit detests?

## The Study Series - Scriptures Only

<p><b>Seeking God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah 29:11-13</li> <li>• Matthew 7:7-8</li> <li>• Matthew 7:13-14</li> <li>• Acts 8:26-40</li> </ul> <p>Additional scriptures: Acts 17:24-27, Deuteronomy 4:28-31, Matthew 6:25-33, Matthew 13:44-46, 2 Chronicles 15:1-4, Hebrews 11:6</p>	<p><b>The Word</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Timothy 3:16-17</li> <li>• Hebrews 4:12-13</li> <li>• 2 Peter 1:20-21</li> <li>• John 8:31-32</li> <li>• Matthew 15:1-9</li> <li>• 1 Timothy 4:16</li> <li>• Acts 17:10-12</li> <li>• John 12:48</li> </ul> <p>Additional Scriptures: Psalm 119:60, James 1:22-25, 1 Thess. 2:13, Matthew 13:1-23, 2 Timothy 4:2-3, 2 Peter 3:15-16</p>	<p><b>Discipleship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew 22:37-40</li> <li>• Matthew 28:18-20</li> <li>• Mark 1:14-18</li> <li>• Luke 9:23-26</li> <li>• Luke 14:25-33</li> <li>• Luke 11:1-4</li> <li>• 1 John 2:3-6</li> <li>• John 13:34-35</li> </ul> <p>Additional Scriptures: Matthew 22:34-40, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:20-21, Philippians 2:5-11, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:1-12</p>
<p><b>Sin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaiah 59:1-2</li> <li>• Romans 3:23</li> <li>• Romans 6:23</li> <li>• Mark 7:21-22</li> <li>• Galatians 5:19-21</li> <li>• 2 Timothy 3:1-5</li> <li>• James 4:17</li> </ul> <p>Additional Scriptures: Revelation 21:8, Psalm 50:16-21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 1 Timothy 5:24, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Colossians 3:5-11, James 2:10-11</p>	<p><b>Repentance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew 26:31-28:10</li> <li>• Isaiah 53:4-6</li> <li>• Romans 5:6-8</li> <li>• 1 Peter 2:21</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians 5:14-15</li> </ul> <p>Additional scriptures: Psalm 22, Acts 2:22-38, John 1:29, Romans 6:1-11, Colossians 2:13-14, Ephesians 2:3-10</p>	<p><b>The Cross</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Luke 13:1-5</li> <li>• Luke 3:7-14</li> <li>• Acts 26:19-21</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians 7:8-11</li> <li>• Matthew 5:29-30</li> <li>• Mark 9:42-49</li> <li>• Acts 3:19</li> <li>• Acts 11:18</li> <li>• 2 Timothy 2:25</li> </ul> <p>Additional scriptures: Matthew 4:17, Acts 5:30-31, Romans 12:1-2, Mark 1:14-15, Titus 2:11-12, Romans 2:4</p>
<p><b>Baptism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ephesians 4:4-6</li> <li>• Acts 2:36-41</li> <li>• Acts 8:26-38</li> <li>• Acts 16:31-33</li> <li>• Acts 22:16</li> <li>• Romans 6:3-4</li> <li>• Colossians 2:12</li> <li>• 1 Peter 3:21</li> <li>• Matthew 28:19</li> <li>• Mark 16:16</li> <li>• John 3:3-5</li> </ul> <p>Additional Scriptures: Titus 3:3-5, Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 1:3-10</p> <p>Conversions in the Book of Acts: <u>2:38-41</u>, <u>4:7</u>, 8:9-13; <u>8:26-40</u>, 9:1-19, 22:6-14, 10:23-48, <u>16:11-15</u>, 16:16-34</p>	<p><b>Church</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ephesians 1:18-21</li> <li>• Colossians 1:18</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians 12:12-27</li> <li>• Romans 12:4-8</li> <li>• Hebrews 3:12-14</li> <li>• Hebrews 10:23-25</li> <li>• Acts 2:40-47</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians 6:14-18</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians 16:2</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians 9:17</li> </ul> <p>Additional Scriptures: Matthew 16:17-18, Ephesians 5:24-33, Colossians 2:18-19, John 17:20-26, Hebrews 12:18-24, Romans 12:1-8.</p>	<p><b>Lordship/Counting the Cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acts 3:36</li> <li>• Galatians 2:20</li> <li>• Luke 14:28-30</li> <li>• 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2</li> </ul> <p><b>Kingdom</b> - Use full study pages on page 7 and 8.</p>

