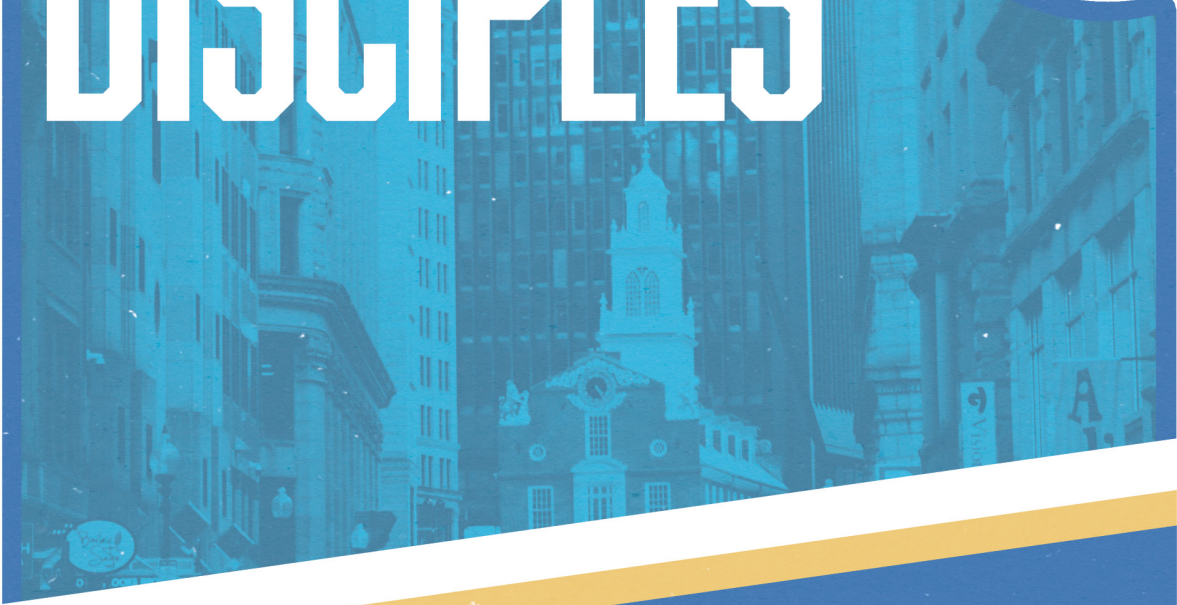


MAKING DISCIPLES



STUDENT EDITION

SEEKING JESUS

Big Idea: God is seeking you and wants to be found by you. Jesus was sent so that we could find God and have a relationship with him.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

This is an amazing description of God's plan/intention for our lives. God has good will towards us: blessing, hope and a future. This should put us in "awe" of God.

God is seeking you in order to bless you. He wants good will for you. But there is one condition: God will be found only if you seek him with all your heart.

Q. Have you ever done anything with all your heart?

Q. Will you commit to seek God with all your heart?

Acts 8:26-40

This is a great story of a God-seeking man who finds what he is looking for.

Q. What are some principles of seeking God that you see here?

- A seeking person prioritizes.
- A seeking person takes time to seek.
- A seeking person reads the Bible.
- A seeking person is humble to other followers of God.
- A seeking person responds eagerly to the word of God.

Q. Are you willing to seek God by studying the Bible with us and on your own?

Let's begin by studying about Jesus.

John 1:1-5, 14, 18

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Jesus is from eternity.
- He is the creator.
- He is God.
- Jesus was sent to us to reveal the God that he knew from an upfront, close relationship.

Mark 1:29-34

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Jesus cared for both men and women.
- He cared for the sick, suffering and downtrodden.
- Jesus used his power as God in the flesh to help us.

Mark 1:35-39

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Even though Jesus was God in the flesh, he was still reliant on God his Father; he is not self-reliant.
- Jesus shared the message of salvation and reconciliation of man to God wherever he went.

Mark 1:40-45

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Jesus came with the love and power of God and compassion for humanity.

Q. What about this truth endears you to Jesus?



SEEKING JESUS

Mark 3:1-6

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Jesus was persecuted.
- He was seen as a threatening authority to the religious establishment of his day.

Q. Why do you think he was a threat?

Mark 4:35-41

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Jesus had power over nature.

Q. How do you think you would have reacted?

John 14:1-6

Q. What do you see here about Jesus?

- Jesus believed that he was more than a good man or teacher, but that he is the only way to the Father.

Q. What do you think about his claim to be the only way to the Father?

Conclusion

Acts 17:24-28

Do you ever wonder why you are alive and what your purpose is in life?

Q. How does this scripture answer these questions?

- God created you to have a personal relationship with him.
- He has determined the times and the exact places where you have lived in order that you would seek him.

Q. Why do you think the word “perhaps” is included?

- God is expecting you to respond to his invitation to have a personal relationship with him.

It's not a coincidence that you are studying the Bible right now. It is part of God's plan for your life to be found by you.

Q. Are you willing to seek him with your heart and with your time, by studying the Bible?

Additional Scriptures: Col 2:9; Is 53:1-12; Heb 4:14-16; 1 Jn 2:3-6; Is 11:1-9; Heb 1:13, 2:14-18; Ps 22:1-18; Mic 5:2; Acts 2:22-38; Jn 1:29; 1 Pet 2:21-25; Jn 20:26-28; Jn 20:30-31; Rom 9:5.



THE WORD OF GOD

Big Idea: The Bible is God's Word and God's standard for your life. It is worthy of your time and devotion.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Q. Where did the Bible come from?

- Men wrote the Bible, as they were "carried along" (meaning "directed" or "led") by the Holy Spirit.

Q. Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God?

I. The Purpose of the Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Again, we see that the Bible comes from the mind and mouth of God. It is a "trustworthy" source of truth.

Q. What is the Bible useful for?

- Teaching, reproof, correction and training, to equip us for every good work.

The Word of God ministers to every part of our life such as marriage, work, relationships, making decisions, etc.

Q. What role do you think the Bible should play in your life?

1 Timothy 4:15-16

The way we live and what we teach are both necessary for salvation. Illustration: A plane must have both wings to fly. Likewise, we need to know and believe the correct teaching, and to live out these truths.

Q. How can you know you are following the right doctrine/teachings in your life?

Q. How can you know you are living the life of a follower of God?

Romans 10:17

Reading the Word of God produces faith. The more we read, the more our faith grows and understands God.

Q. How can you plan to begin reading the Bible daily?

II. The Power of the Word of God

Hebrews 4:12-13

Q. What does the Word of God do?

- The Word of God is not boring, but relevant, living and active.
- It has the power to remove what is wrong with our life like a surgeon's knife removes unhealthy tissue.
- It has power to go inside us and transform us. It can change our spirit, mind, emotions and will.

Q. Which one of these characteristics of the Word of God stands out to you? Why?

John 8:31-32

Note that Jesus is speaking to people who already believe in him.

Q. What do these two scriptures tell us?

- Intellectual belief is not enough.
- One must hold to the truth to be a true disciple and to be set free.
- Sincerity is not truth for one can be sincerely wrong.

We need to hold the truths of the Word of God close to our heart and be committed to following them.

Q. Are you willing to begin the journey of holding to the truths in the Word of God to truly be set free?



THE WORD OF GOD

III. The Priority of the Word of God

Matthew 15:1-9

Q. What is Jesus saying about traditions?

- Religious traditions, or cultural practices can hinder us from following Jesus.

Examples of religious traditions could be prioritizing the teaching of pastors, parents, friends, denominations, etc. over the Word of God. This can make our worship of God pointless and empty.

Q. Are you willing to examine any religious traditions you may have?

Acts 17:10-12

Q. What attitude did the Bereans display?

- They had eagerness for they examined the scriptures daily.
- They had a personal pursuit of truth for they did not blindly accept what religious leaders were saying.

Q. The Bereans are described as "noble." What do you think "noble" means?

The definition is "having or showing fine personal qualities or high moral principles and ideals."

Q. Do you want to be "noble" in God's eyes by pursuing truth for your life?

John 12:47-48

Q. By what are we going to be judged?

- The words of Jesus as found in the Bible. Jesus came to save, but his words will judge us.

Conclusion

Are you willing to build your faith on what the Bible says? Do you believe your faith in the Bible is growing? Is this study helping you?

Imitate the Bereans and read the Bible every day to form solid convictions.

Additional Scriptures: Jn 20:30-31; Acts 8:26-40; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:32; 2 Pet 2:16-18; 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 14: 15-17; Jn 14:25-26; Jn 15:26-27; Jn 16:12-15; Col 4:16; 2 Pet 3:15-16; 1 Tim 5:18; Lk 10:7; Rom 10:17.



BIBLE OVERVIEW: OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS

Goal:

- To help you know how to read the Bible and know what you are reading.
- Example: Google earth allows you to zoom in and know where you are located.

Overview: The Bible is a collection of 66 books (39 O.T. and 27 N.T.) written by 40 different authors in three different languages over the course of 1,600 years.

Old Testament	New Testament			
Jesus The Prophets wrote about the coming of Jesus Old Testament Points to Jesus	Gospels Matthew - Mark - Luke - John (The Life of Jesus)	Acts The acts of... The early Church, The Holy Spirit, The Apostles	Epistles Letters written to... Churches and Disciples	Prophecy "Current" (at the time) and future events

The Bible is divided into 2 Testaments, or Agreements, God made with human beings.

I. The Old Testament

- The Old Testament was God's covenant, contract, or agreement he made with his people, Israel.
- The Old Covenant was written by God's Prophets. Men who spoke as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- Many Old Testament scriptures are written to prophesy the coming of the Messiah... Pointing to Jesus!
- Examples: Psalm 22: 1,000 B.C. / Isaiah 53: 750 B.C. (Both scriptures describe what will happen to Jesus on the cross).

II. The New Testament (The New Testament is divided into 4 main sections.)

- The New Testament is God's covenant, a contract or agreement made with anyone who wants to follow Him through his son, Jesus Christ.
- 1. The Gospels**
 - Four men wrote their own account of the life of Jesus while on this earth. (Matthew - Mark - Luke - John).
 - The word Gospel means - Good News... (The Good News of Jesus Christ).
 - If you want to know about the life of Jesus, then simply read the Gospels.
 - 2. The Book of Acts**
 - The book of Acts is a chronological, historical account of the early church written by Luke who wrote the Gospel of Luke.
 - Some refer to Acts as... The Acts or Actions of the Early Church, The Acts of the Holy Spirit, or The Acts of the Apostles. The book of Acts covers approximately 30 years.
 - It gives a historical account of the church after Jesus' resurrection, the first gospel sermon ever preached is in Acts 2, the growth of the early church, the apostle Paul's conversion and missionary journeys.
 - 3. The Epistles - The word "Epistle" means letter.**
 - A letter or multiple letters that were written to churches, to individuals or from individuals.
 - Letters written to churches in certain cities such as Rome... Romans or Corinth... 1 & 2 Corinthians.
 - Letters written to or from a disciple - Timothy, Titus, 1 & 2 Peter.
 - 4. Prophecy**
 - The book of Revelation addresses events in the first century and in the future.
 - It shows that God is in control and that Christians will ultimately be victorious no matter what sufferings we currently endure.



Q&A

Q. If you want to know about the life of Jesus, where in the Bible would you look?

- The Gospels – The Gospels tell you about the life of Jesus from his birth till his resurrection.

Q. If you want to learn about the Church in the 1st Century, where in the Bible would you look?

- The Book of Acts and the Epistles.

Q. If you want to see someone become a New Testament Disciple, where in the Bible would you look?

- The Book of Acts – It is the only place where you read about a person making a decision to become a New Testament Disciple / Christian.

Q. Why would you NOT find someone becoming a New Testament Christian in the Gospels?

- The 4 Gospels end with Jesus having just been raised from the dead.
- Jesus then tells the apostles to go to Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit will show them what they must do (Luke 24: 45-49).
- The New Covenant is based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.
- Without the resurrection of Jesus, our faith is in vain and he is no different than any other prophet (1 Cor. 15:14).
- The Gospels give us an account of the life of Jesus, but no one ever became a New Testament Disciple because Jesus had not yet conquered death and the message of salvation had not yet been preached.
- While on this earth, Jesus did have authority to forgive men's sin (Mark 2:5-12). Since we can't wait for Jesus to tell us our sins are forgiven, we must obey God's New Testament plan and respond to the message of salvation.

Q. Why would you NOT find someone becoming a Christian in one of the Epistles / Letters?

- These letters were written to churches or disciples who had already responded to the message of salvation and become New Testament Disciples / Christians.
- You will never find someone becoming a Disciple / Christian, but you will find references to when they made their decision to become a disciple.



SIN

Big Idea: Sin separates us from God. It is a wall that exists for all human beings and it must be removed to be saved.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Peter is encouraging these Christians with all that they are as Christians. Verse 10 compares what they are versus what they were.

Q. How many categories?

Q. Where would you put yourself?

Darkness Not a People No Mercy	Light People of God Mercy
Lost Not a Christian Not a disciple	Saved Christian Disciple

I. What is sin and what are its consequences?

Isaiah 59:1-2

Q. How does sin affect our relationship with God?

- There is a wall of separation between God and man due to our sin. In a relationship, we care about the feelings and desires of the other person, so we should care about God. We want to develop a heart that asks God: "Show me how I am hurting you?"

Q. What must be done for a relationship to exist between God and anyone?

- The wall of sin must come down. This is the forgiveness of sins.

Q. How would you feel about not having a relationship with God?

Q. Has the wall of sin come down in your life? If so, describe how that happened.

Man Darkness Sin	W A L L	God Light Forgiveness
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Romans 3:23-25

Q. How is sin defined?

- Sin is falling short of the standard of God, of the will of God for our lives. We are in a "dire situation."

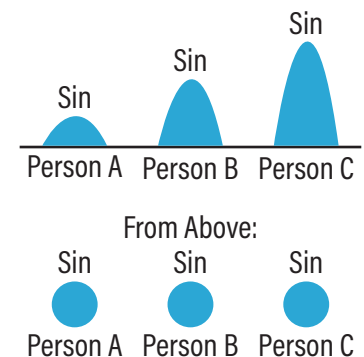
Sin means "to miss the mark." When we sin, we miss the mark of God's required perfection. We fall short of his glory.

Q. How many have sinned?

- Answer: All.

No one is righteous by their own deeds. Two Illustrations:

- Example #1: No one can jump over the Grand Canyon. Everybody would fall short just as everybody falls short of God's perfect standard.
- Example #2 (See Diagram): 3 piles of sin. Who has more sin when viewed from above? No matter how little or much you have sinned, you are lost. A good moral life does not save you.



II. What does sin look like?

Galatians 5:19-21

Paul tells these Christians that if they live this way, they will not inherit the kingdom of God.

For definitions of sins in this passage, please view the attached page "Sins of Galatians 5:19-21 Explained."



SIN

2 Timothy 3:1-5

There are also sins that might not be as obvious as the list in Galatians 5.

James 4:17

It is also considered sin when we don't do the good we know we should do.

III. Our attitude toward sin

Romans 6:23

Q. What is a wage?

- A wage is something that is earned because of work/effort. Our sins earn spiritual death or separation from God; a break in our relationship. V. 23 shows us what God has done to help us be restored to Him.

Q. What has God provided for us?

- Answer: The gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

God has taken steps to break down the wall of sin so we can receive the gift of eternal life. We take steps to accept the gift of eternal life in order to have a relationship with him and be healed because of our "dire situation."

Conclusion

James 5:16

Q. What does confession of sin bring about?

- Answer: Healing.

The goal for our next study is to confess our sins together.

This is a time when we promote healing in our lives through confession. After confession of sins we will then further study what Jesus has done so our sins can be forgiven.



SINS OF GALATIANS 5:19-21 EXPLAINED

Sexual Immorality: Fornication, any sexual union outside of marriage. Denotes ungodly sexual acts and relationships- prostitution, rape, homosexuality, sexual touching, adultery, child abuse, bestiality.

Impurity/uncleanness: Any sinful thinking, anything vulgar, wrong thoughts, lust, masturbation, wrong motives, pornography, fantasy.

Debauchery/lasciviousness: Unbridled lust, any misuse of the body. Usually referring to sexual excesses, but in general refer to a readiness to indulge in any pleasure (indecent, lewd dancing). There is no respect for anyone else. In this state, a person is at the mercy of their passions, impulses, emotions, etc. They are completely undisciplined (examples: gives in to gluttony, laziness, smoking, cravings, masturbation, unlimited pleasures).

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 (status, symbols, investments, engrossing sports or hobbies, selfish ambitions, relationships, property, possessions, pleasure and wants, school, work, pride). Also includes praying to anyone other than God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

Witchcraft: Seeking or being involved in any spiritual realm other than God's. Includes astrology (example: the stars control, consequently, saying God does not rule), horoscopes, Satan worship, the occult, magic spells, good-luck charms or picture. Praying to saints, drug use, tarot cards, palm reading, channeling (The New Age movement, Ouija Board, etc.)

Hatred: Wishing ill or harm on anyone, looking down on anyone, bitter feelings, resentment, wanting revenge, murder, abortion.

Discord/variance: Anything that breaks up relationships, stirring up trouble, an inability to get along with people, arguing, slander, gossip, malicious talk and criticalness.

Jealousy/emulation: Possessiveness, not sharing.

Fits of rage/wrath: Uncontrolled anger, losing your temper, temper tantrums, quick temper, angry shouting, cussing, profanity, fighting.

Selfish ambition/strife: 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.

Dissension/sedition: Rebelling against authority, not submitting, habitually disagreeing, arguing, causing division, starting arguments, stirring up trouble.

Factions/heresies: 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, racism.

Envy: Desiring something another person has while wishing that they did not have it at all (example: wealth, status, ability, physical features, spirituality, relationships).

Drunkness: 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.



FAITH AND THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Big Idea: A saving faith in Jesus only occurs through the cross. The cross helps us to better understand the love of God and the price of our forgiveness.

Romans 3:23

We are reminded from the last study that we did, that all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Can you recall what the definition of sin means? (Answer: Missing the mark).

Q. Do you remember any of the analogies we gave?

Romans 3:25

Faith in the blood of Jesus is necessary. Jesus shed his blood on the cross so we could be saved through faith. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22). What is faith? It is an active trust and reliance upon what Jesus has done for our salvation. So what did Jesus actually do? Read on in Mark.

Mark 14:26-42 Jesus was abandoned by those who walked with him

Q. What do you notice in these verses?

- His disciples (particularly Peter), made a promise that they did not keep (v31).
- They fell asleep when Jesus needed them the most.

Q. Can you describe how Jesus would have felt?

Mark 14:43-51 Jesus was betrayed by one who was close to him

Q. What do you notice in these verses?

- Judas kissed Jesus to show the soldiers who he was.
- It was customary for disciples to greet their Rabbi with a kiss.

Reflection: What is the hardest thing about being betrayed?

Mark 14:53-72 Jesus was falsely accused, and none came to his defense

Q. What do you notice in these verses?

- In the morning the full Sanhedrin met to accuse him. (Luke 22:66-67)
- Jesus gave no answer to the false evidence, except when asked: Are you the Son of God? (vs 62)
- It was hard for Jesus to have Peter deny him three times.

Reflection: How would Jesus have suffered emotionally during a time like this?

Mark 15:1-20 Jesus was condemned to crucifixion, while a criminal walked free

Q. What do you notice in these verses?

- Jesus did not answer any of these accusations brought against him (vs 5).
- Pilate knew it was a set up, so he gave the crowd a choice (vs 14).
- Those who were loyal to the Jewish leaders chose Barabbas over Jesus (vs 11).
- Jesus was flogged and set to be crucified (vs 15).

Reflection: Everyone was responsible for Jesus's death: His disciples who deserted him; Peter who denied him; Judas who betrayed him; The crowds who stood by watched; Pilate who wanted to please the crowd; and the soldiers who tortured him.

Mark 15:21-41 Jesus was tortured with whips and insults, then nailed to a cross

Q. What do you notice in these verses?

- Jesus was beaten approximately forty times by a whip with lead and bone.
- Victims were forced to carry their crosses along the longest routes, as a method of shame and warning.
- Jesus was nailed to the cross.



FAITH AND THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Mk. 16:1-8 Jesus was raised from the dead

Jesus not only died, but he was raised from the dead. The truths of Christianity are based upon Jesus rising from the dead (See I Cor 15:14). There is indisputable evidence that Jesus was raised from the dead.

Q. Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead?

Romans 4:23-5:2

We are justified by faith in what Jesus did on the cross. This is the example of the "life changing love" of Jesus. This justification by faith includes Jesus as our "Lord."

Q. What is a Lord?

- Answer: A master.

Repentance (Jesus as our Lord) is a part of being justified by faith.

Conclusion

The Good News is that when we respond to the cross through biblical faith in what Jesus did for us, we encounter his blood, and our sins are washed away! We will explore what a biblical, faithful response is in our next study.



REPENTANCE

Big Idea: Saving faith in Jesus is not a dead faith, but a faith that includes repentance. This lesson shows the necessity of repentance, what it is, and what the results of repentance will look like.

Romans 6:23

We have spent the last few studies looking at sin and its effects, as well as Jesus and the work that he did to offer us the gift of salvation.

We are going to take the next few studies to look at exactly how God is calling us to receive this gift.

Acts 1:1-5

The events that take place in Acts 1 immediately follow the events of the cross and resurrection.

- We see Jesus convincing his followers that he is alive.
- However, their ministry had not begun yet, and they were told to 'wait'.
- The New Testament covenant has not arrived yet.

Acts 2:1-4

- The apostles are filled with the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of their ministry in the New Testament covenant. Jesus actually lived and died under the Old Testament covenant.

Acts 2:22-24

- The apostles focus on what Jesus had done and how they crucified him but God raised him from the dead.
- This is the first time the gospel message is preached.

Acts 2:36-41

Q. How did they feel when Peter tells these Jews they killed the Messiah?

- They felt cut to the heart because they realized they were responsible for killing Jesus.

Q. What does it mean to you to be cut to the heart?

Shouldn't we feel the same? Jesus died for our sin. We should be cut to the heart also.

Q. How does he call them to respond to have the wall of sin come down?

- He calls them to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Repentance is essential to receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It includes "radical change."

Repentance is a turning, or a changing.

- The Greek term for repentance is "metanoia" which signifies a "turning" or a "change of mind and heart."
- Repentance is a change of mind, heart, and allegiance.
- A change of mind from viewing your life from a secular mindset to making God the center of your life.
- You change your heart in that you turn to loving God over loving self.
- You change your allegiance from serving yourself to putting God first in your life.

Luke 13:1-5

Q. What do you see here?

- Repentance is essential to salvation. Jesus says without repenting we will perish.



REPENTANCE

Four Characteristics of Repentance

Acts 26:19-20: The Deeds of Repentance

Q. What do you see here?

- True repentance is shown by the deeds that accompany it. Repentance is a change of heart.
- Q. Have you ever had that kind of change in your life? If so, what changed in your life?**

Mark 9:42-48: The Radicalness of Repentance

Q. What do you see here?

- Repentance is a radical change of heart in getting rid of sin.
- Repentance is an attitude of hatred toward sin; it is running away from sin.

Q. Is this your attitude toward sin? If not, are you willing to adopt this attitude?

2 Corinthians 7:8-11: The Fruit of Repentance

Q. What do you see here?

- Sorrow and repentance are not the same thing. There can be sorrow without repentance.
- Only godly sorrow produces repentance.

Q. What does repentance look like?

- Earnestness – serious/sincere about changing.
- Eagerness to clear – a desire to know.
- Indignation – Upset at self for where you've been.
- Alarm – Urgency, I want to get it right.

Q. Have you ever repented in this manner? If not, what do you need to repent of?

Conclusion

Acts 3:17-19: The Result – The Refreshment of Repentance

Q. What does Peter say is the result of repentance?

- Times of refreshing. This is an ongoing process and not just a one-time repentance.

This is the atmosphere you see at church. The people that have been broken and have repented are the most joyful people. Repentance brings refreshment.

Q. Are you ready to be refreshed by repentance?

We will continue to study repentance through the lens of discipleship in our next study.

Additional Scriptures: Mk 1:15; Mt 3:8; Lk 19:1-10; Rev 3:19; Rom 2:4; Acts 17:30; Joel 2:12-13; Ez 18:30-32; Jas 4:8; Ps 51; Eph 4:17-32.



DISCIPLESHIP

Big Idea: Saving faith in Jesus includes being a disciple of Jesus, a wholehearted follower who fishes for men.

Matthew 28:18-20

Q. What does Jesus want everybody to become?

- A disciple.

Q. What do you think a disciple is?

- A disciple is a follower of Jesus who is a "disciplined learner." A disciple of Jesus intentionally puts into practice what he/she learns. A disciple is like an apprentice.

Q. Do you believe you are a disciple of Jesus? If so, when did you become a disciple?

We will investigate what a disciple is for the rest of this study.

Acts 11:25-26

Q. What do you see here?

- In Antioch a disciple and a Christian were the same thing.

Q. Which is the more popular term - "Disciple" or "Christian" in the Bible?

- The word "Christian" only appears three times in the New Testament (as in Acts 11:26).
- The word "disciple" occurs over 270 times in the New Testament.

According to the scriptures, a disciple and a Christian are the same thing. You can't be a Christian without being a disciple.

Mark 1:14-18

Q. What was Jesus' call to these men?

- "Come, follow me" (Christ). A disciple is someone committed to following God in all areas of their life.
- A disciple is a person committed to making other disciples.

Q. How wholehearted and urgent was their commitment?

- They left their nets immediately and followed him, which shows a "wholehearted" commitment.

Q. If you believed Jesus was the Messiah, would you follow him wholeheartedly? Would you want to be with him and become like him?

Q. Is this how you became a disciple? Were you "wholehearted" and committed to making disciples?

Luke 9:23-26

Q. If anyone would come after me ... Who is anyone?

- All of us! Jesus is talking to anyone who wants to follow him.

Q. Jesus tells us to deny self. What does it mean to deny yourself and take up your cross?

- It is following the example of Christ in the garden (Matthew 26:36-39, "Not my will, but your will.")

Q. What is going to be the hardest thing for you to deny?

Luke 14:25-33

Q. What do you see here?

- Jesus applies this teaching to all ("if anyone"), which means us.
- Prior to being a Christian, everyone is supposed to count the cost and give up everything (v. 28).
- Consider the alternatives if you don't follow Jesus and give up everything (v. 31-32).
- Love Christ more than any person (v. 26); Jesus must come first, even over our closest relationships.
- Everything, not just anything (v. 33).

Q. What will be the greatest challenge for you that you see here?



DISCIPLESHIP

Mark 3:20-22, 31-35

Q. What do you see here?

- Jesus was thought to be crazy and dangerous by even his own family.

Q. If you are going to follow Jesus, how do you think your family will respond?

Luke 11:1-4

Q. What do you see here?

- Jesus taught his disciples how to pray in order to have a powerful walk with God.
- Daily personal relationship with God (v. 3) through daily prayer.

Q. Are you willing to learn to pray to have a powerful walk with God?

John 13:34-35

Q. What do you see here?

- Disciples are to love other disciples just as Jesus did.

Q. Are you willing to begin loving the disciples?

Conclusion

As we have looked at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, let's read Matthew 28:18-20 again and reflect on the following questions:

Matthew 28:18-20

Q. Are you a biblical disciple?

Q. If not, then what do you need to do to become a disciple?

Q. Is becoming a disciple what you want to do?

Someone ready to be a disciple is ready to be baptized. We will study that topic next.

Additional Scriptures: Lk 6:20-26; Rom 6:15-18; Jn 4:1-2; Mt 10:34-39; 2 Tim 3:12; Jn 1:35-42; Jn 1:43-50; Jn 4:28-42; Acts 8:1-4.



BAPTISM

Big Idea: A saving faith in Jesus saves at the point of baptism. Baptism is the point where one obtains the forgiveness of sins.

Baptism is an essential part in the plan of salvation. In this study, we will explain the "Why of baptism;" the "What of baptism" and the "How of baptism."

I. Why Baptism?

Matthew 28:18-20

Q. What do you see here?

- Baptism is a major component of the Great Commission.
- It is not an option. It is commanded.
- It is part of being a disciple of Jesus.

Acts 2:36-39

Q. What does the audience believe when they say "What shall we do?"

- They believe that Jesus is the Messiah and they are responsible for his death.
- They believe God has made Jesus both "Lord and Christ."
- They are expressing their guilt. They want to know what to do in order to be saved.

Q. What does Peter tell them?

- He tells them to repent and be baptized. Both repentance and baptism are commanded, not just suggested.
- When they repent and are baptized, they will receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- This plan is promised to every one for all time.

Note: Baptism literally means "immersion" or "dunking."

Q. Does repentance and baptism occur before one receives the forgiveness of sins or does it occur afterwards?

- Both repentance and baptism occur BEFORE one receives the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Q. Did you do this?

II. What Is Baptism?

John 3:1-7

Q. What do you see here about baptism?

- Baptism (being born of water) is a "rebirth." It is necessary to enter the kingdom of God.
- Here, water and the Spirit are closely linked with being born again.

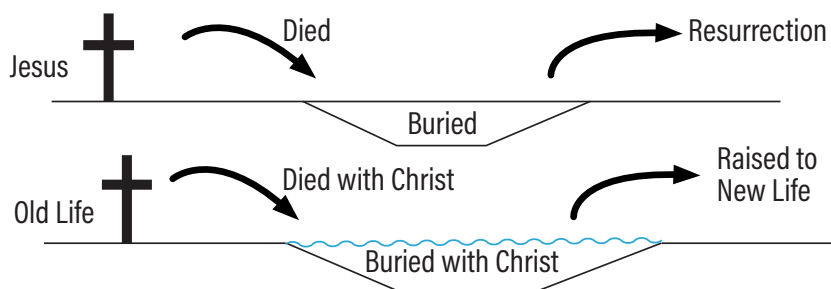
Romans 6:1-7

Q. What do you see here about baptism?

- When one is baptized, they are baptized "into Christ."
- When baptized, one is sharing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- Baptism is the point at which a person enters a new life.

Through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, the forgiveness of sins is now available.

Baptism is a participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.



BAPTISM

Acts 22:6-16

Paul encounters Jesus, he repents, prays, fasts (Acts 9:9-11) and is healed by Ananias. Yet Paul did not yet have his sins washed away at that time.

Q. What does Ananias tell Paul to do to wash away his sins?

- Arise and be baptized. (Acts 22:16)

We see in this passage that baptism is the point when one's sins are "washed away" which is consistent with previous passages on baptism. Baptism is:

- For the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
- The point when one is born again (John 3:5).
- The point when one enters Christ and begins to experience the new life (Romans 6:3-5).

1 Peter 3:18-22

Q. What do you see here about baptism?

- Water separated the lost from the saved.
- The water of Noah symbolizes Christian baptism which is the point that separates the lost from the saved.
- Baptism saves you by the resurrection of Jesus and your internal pledge to God.

III. How Is One Baptized?

Colossians 2:12-13

Q. What do you see here about baptism?

- One is buried with Christ in baptism and raised through their faith. Scriptural baptism occurs with faith.
- It is essential that there be faith at that point. Therefore, anyone who cannot have faith cannot be baptized.
- Baptism is the point where faith saves.

Conclusion

Acts 8:26-40

Q. What do you see here about baptism?

- It is done in water. Water is the element in which one is baptized.
- There is an eagerness to be baptized.

Q. Based upon what you have learned, why do you think the eunuch was eager to be baptized?

- The eunuch most probably knew that when he was baptized, he would be born again, participate in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, be saved, receive forgiveness of his sins, have his sins washed away, be baptized into Christ, and have a new life in Christ. Why would he NOT want to be baptized?

Q. Do you want to imitate the eunuch and be baptized?

Additional scriptures: Acts 19:1-5; Tit 3:3-7; Eph 4:4-6; Heb 10:19-22; 1 Cor 12:12-3; Ez 18:19-20.

See Appendix G for more resources on Baptism.



THE CHURCH

Big Idea: A seeker is baptized not only for forgiveness, but also into the body of Christ, the church (1 Cor 12:13). The church is a necessary, continual source of encouragement and is part of God's plan for every disciple.

I. The Foundation of the Church

Colossians 1:15-18

Q. What do you see here about Jesus and the church?

- Jesus is the head of the church. The church is his body.

Q. What is the relationship between a head and body? Apply that to Jesus and the church.

- As a head directs the body, Jesus directs the church.
- The church is essential and is part of God's plan for us.
- It is important for us to follow the directives of Jesus and be an active member of his body.

Ephesians 2:19-21

Q. What do you see here about the church?

- It is the household of God. A household is a "family." The church is the "family" of God.
- The church is built on the foundation of the Bible as taught by the apostles and prophets.
- Jesus is the chief cornerstone.
- It is a holy temple in the Lord. The temple was where God dwelt. God dwells in his church.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Q. What do you see here about the church?

- There should be unity in the church reflected in the right attitudes in relationships with one another.
- There needs to be the right doctrines about the one body, one Lord, one Spirit, one faith, and one baptism.

II. Relationships in the Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Q. What do you see here about the church?

- When we are baptized, we are baptized into the one body, the universal church. The universal church however functions on a local level. It is important to be part of a local church.
- The church is like a body that has distinct parts, but all function together. God has arranged the church and given each member gifts and abilities to help build up the body so that it functions as God desires.
- There are weaker and stronger members, but all are important and essential.

Q. How can you use your abilities and talents to build up the body of Christ?

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

Q. What does this passage tell us about relationships?

- We should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

Q. Why does the Bible call us to this standard?

- It protects our holiness. Being unequally yoked with another who is not a Christian could cause us to compromise our holiness (II Cor 7:1) and fall back into the world.
- This includes dating or marrying a non-Christian (1 Corinthians 7:39-40).

Hebrews 3:12-13

Q. What do you see here about relationships in the church?

- Christianity is a "one another" religion. Encouragement should be given daily to one another so we don't develop a hard heart or become discouraged by the deceitfulness of sin.



THE CHURCH

III. The Purpose of the Church

Hebrews 10:23-25

Q. What do you see here about spurring one another on?

- It helps others to hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess.
- It helps us to grow in love and good works.

Q. How do we spur one another on?

- By attending the meetings of the body with a committed attitude.
- By encouraging one another when we meet together.

Q. Are you willing to be committed to attend the meetings of the body and spur one another on through encouragement?

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Q. What do you see here?

- God wants us to sow generously. This specifically has to do with giving to the mission of the church.
- We give what we have decided in our heart to give, not under compulsion, but cheerfully.

Q. How do you feel about taking some time to think about what to give to the church that is both generous and cheerful?

Acts 2:42-47

Q. What characteristics do you see in 2:42 about the early church?

- They are devoted to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

Q. What was the result of these characteristics?

- The church grew daily (Acts 2:47).
- The purpose of the church is not just to meet together, but for every member to have a vibrant relationship with God, where we are devoted to one another in order to take the gospel to the lost and dying world.

Conclusion

Q. Are you committed to being devoted to follow only the Bible, to the fellowship, to meet on Sundays for the Lord's Supper, and to prayer to fulfill the mission of the church?

In the next study, we will be talking through the concept of "Counting the Cost" as a review of what we've learned in this series to make sure you are ready to follow Jesus.

Additional scriptures: Jn 13:34-35; Rom 12:3-5; I Cor 1:10-13; 2 Tim 4:1-5; Gal 1:6-10; Gal 5:2-4; Mk 3:20-22; Jn 15:18-16:4.



APPENDIX A: THE RELIABILITY AND TRUTHFULNESS OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible is the best-selling book of all time. It was written by 40 different people over 1600 years (1500 BC to about 100AD). It was written over 2 continents, in 3 different languages and in many different cultures.

Yet there is an unparalleled harmony and unity throughout its pages as it weaves the history of how God so loved mankind that he sent his son as a redeemer so willing individuals could have a personal relationship with God now and into eternity.

But what is the evidence that it is true, reliable and God-breathed? Read on.

Internal Evidence

- The gospels, for example, were written by eye witnesses or those who had access to eyewitnesses. Matthew and John are apostles and eyewitnesses of what they wrote. Mark was the scribe of Peter so the gospel of Mark is Peter's gospel. Luke "carefully investigated" and accumulated his information from "eyewitnesses" (Luke 1:1-3).
- The gospels were written soon after the recorded events. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are written in the 50s and 60s, John slightly later. Therefore, there was no time for legends or myths to infiltrate the New Testament. Many of those involved in gospel events were still alive and could have disputed the reporting. Opponents to Christianity would certainly have pointed out errors in their stories, but we do not find any such criticism.
- Fulfilled Prophecies. The Bible contains many prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus, written hundreds of years before Jesus' time. These include the place of his birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) and many specific details of his crucifixion (Isaiah 53).
- There is an unparalleled unity of thought and purpose from the Old to the New Testament that gives credibility to its message as being God-breathed.

Manuscript evidence

- There is an abundance of manuscript evidence, so we have great confidence that what we read in the scripture is what was written in the original. We have over 5,800 Greek manuscripts, over 18,000 translations of the Greek into other languages such as Coptic, Syrian, Latin, Georgian, Armenian and Ethiopian.
- We have very early copies of New Testament manuscripts. The earliest is from about 125-150AD, within 50 years of the writing of the gospel of John.
- The Bible has far, far more evidence than any comparable ancient document. For example: The Iliad by Homer has about 1,900 manuscripts, Plato (only 237 manuscripts), Herodotus (only 106 manuscripts), and Tacitus (only 36 manuscripts).
- Due to the huge number and recent dates of the Biblical manuscripts, we are certain of the truthfulness of any doctrine in the Bible.

External evidence

- Many contemporary non-Christians wrote about people and events mentioned in the New Testament. This includes: Josephus, a historian of the 1st century, mentions both Jesus and James his brother; Thallas, a first century Roman historian mentions the 3 hours of darkness; Tacitus and Suetonius, both 2nd century historians also mention Jesus as does Pliny the Younger, a Roman statesman. Even the Jewish Talmud mentions Jesus.
- Archaeological evidence: All archaeological finds confirm the truthfulness of the Biblical record. There are no archaeological findings that contradict the Biblical teaching.



APPENDIX B: RESOURCES ON THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD

The following resources will help you to understand the authenticity and the truthfulness of the Bible as the word of God.

How We Got the Bible and Why It Is Reliable

- "How We Got the Bible and Why You Can Trust It" by Mike Taliaferro
- Keydого: Prophecies About Jesus that Could Not Have Been Coincidence (9:01)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDaqffik7FM>
- ICOC Disciples Today: "Can You Trust The Bible? 3 Reasons to Consider" (7:26)
<https://youtu.be/pMYnxlZnZaY?si=wrqV62UbWZ8Vy6D6>
- Keydого Video: "The Bible's Indisputable Historical Accuracy" (7:44) at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifs_N4svnPM

How to Understand the Bible

- "A Quick Overview of the Bible: Understanding How All the Pieces Fit Together" by Doug Jacoby
- "Getting The Most From The Bible" by Steve Kinnard

Evidences for God

- "Is There a God" by John Oakes
- "Reasons for Belief: A Handbook of Christian Evidence" by John Oakes
- "Field Manual for Christian Apologetics" by John Oakes
- "Answering Skeptics" by Doug Jacoby
- "That You May Believe: Reflections on Science and the Miracles of Jesus" by David Eastman and John Oakes

Evidence for the Christian Faith

- "Evidence that Demands a Verdict" by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell
- "I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist" by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek
- "Compelling Evidence for God and the Bible: Finding Truth in an Age of Doubt" by Doug Jacoby

Evidence for the Resurrection

- "More than a Carpenter" by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell
- "Who Moved the Stone?" by Frank Morrison

