

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DISCIPLE

Introduction to Disciples in Training

What is discipleship? Discipleship is NOT: Learning a lesson, memorizing a verse or going to Church.

Discipleship IS: One person pouring his/her life into another person until the disciple is made as strong as the teacher. IT IS SHARING A LIFE

Purpose of Disciples in Training

To reproduce Christians that are actively reproducing their mature lives in others. II Timothy 2:2

Requirements for Disciples in Training:

A willing discipler (mentor) and a willing, faithful, responsible disciple.

Tools for Disciples in Training

1. Bible

- Read the Scriptures daily
- Write a brief summary of what you read.
- Write a Personal Application. (Example: How does this passage affect my life? - or – What message or lesson do these verses have for me?)

2. Lesson

- Study the lesson through carefully.
- Look up in the Bible all the verses from the lesson and study them.
- Memorize the required verses and review them daily.
- Do the “Answer/Complete” section as well as you can. If you have a problem, just bring it to your discipler when you meet together.

3. Church Attendance - All services and small groups.

4. Prayer Sheet (“ASKING AND RECEIVING”)

- Write specific prayer requests.
- Write even the small requests.
- PRAY DAILY FOR THE REQUESTS AND THANK GOD FOR THE ANSWERS HE GIVES YOU.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DISCIPLER

1. Pray for your disciple DAILY.
2. Meet with the disciple at least once a week. (church time not included)
3. Check that the lesson is completed.
4. Teach the lesson and listen to their responses to see that they understand the lesson completely.
5. Answer the disciples questions.
6. Check the summaries and personal applications and questions.
7. Review sermon notes.
8. Listen to their verses - review all verses.
9. Share blessings together and encourage testimonies as you review their "Asking and Receiving" sheets.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

... a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work"

II Timothy 2:21

SALVATION AND ASSURANCE:

Lesson 1: What happened to me and how long will it last?

Memory Verse: I John 5:12

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

How do we know there is such a thing as SALVATION, or what SALVATION involves? Answer: The Bible tells us! The word “Salvation” or “Saved” comes from the Greek word that means “rescued or delivered from danger or death”. We know that the Scripture teaches us that all men are sinners, (Rom. 3:23), and that “The wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23). The Bible also explains that “...it is appointed for men to die once, but after this (death) the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). Therefore, we see that we, as sinners, stand guilty before God. We are lost in our sin and need to be rescued (SAVED) from the condemnation that is already ours. (John 5:24). The only way that we can be saved from our sins is to “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”. (Acts 16:31). There is no other way! (John 14:6) There is absolutely nothing we can DO to merit God’s favour or to be saved from our sins. (Eph. 2:8,9). It was all DONE on the cross when Jesus, the Lamb of God, shed His precious blood – not for His own sin, but for ours. (Rom. 5:8).

Our only part is to realize that we are guilty, hell-bound sinners; repent of that sin (Luke 13:3); ask Jesus for forgiveness and receive Him by faith. Jesus came to this earth to be our Saviour! (Mt. 1:21; I Jn. 4:14) He will save us and to make us “children of God”! (John 1:12). SALVATION is in a Person, and that Person is the LORD JESUS CHRIST. Salvation is not in a church, a religion, a ceremony, or a system of good works. (Titus 3:5). Only Jesus can save us from our sins (Acts 4:12).

Just think! The God of the universe loves us so much and He wants to have an eternal relationship with us! It was for this reason that He sent His only Son into this world (John 3:16). This eternal relationship begins the moment we put our faith in Him alone to save us! (Rom. 10:13) This “eternal transaction” is just as real as any earthly transaction you can think of. For example, when a person is married they know it. They remember the time when they stood before the proper authority and said “I do.” In the same way, we can KNOW for sure that we are saved. We can know that this decision to come to Christ occurred. (In 1 Jn.5:13 underline “know”).

As a person continues on in their new Christian life, doubts may occur. We need to know how to deal with doubt. Realize that Satan hates the fact that you have been taken away from his kingdom, and placed into God’s kingdom. (Col. 1:13) Therefore, because he works in the area of our minds and emotions (2 Cor. 4:3,4)

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he will try to bring doubts to our minds. It would be good to memorize some of the “salvation verses” mentioned in this lesson. Then you can use scripture to fight off Satan – just like Jesus did in Matthew 4:1-11. Remember, doubts come from Satan; assurance comes from God (and His Word, the Bible).

Another thing that sometimes causes new Christians to doubt their salvation is sin. Some think that because they have been saved, they will no longer sin, and that all of their problems will disappear. That is not possible because we are still human beings and we live in a sinful world. We will sin, but now that we are saved, we will become more sensitive to our sin. We will want to confess any known sin in our lives as soon as we are aware of it. (I John 1:9)

Once we are saved, we are saved forever. (John 10:28,29). This is called the doctrine of “Eternal Security”. These verses tell us that nothing (not even Satan himself) can take us out of the hand of God! What a blessed truth! There is nothing that can break this RELATIONSHIP between us and our Heavenly Father. However, our FELLOWSHIP with Him can be broken by our sin. Just like in a human family setting – a naughty child will cause the sweet, happy fellowship between him and his parents to be broken, but he is still their child and always will be!

The Bible says that when we are saved, we receive a new nature (2 Pet. 1:4). Our old nature (called “the flesh”) is always “at war” with the new nature. This struggle (Gal. 5:17) is very real, but we can have victory in the Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:57). This is why it is important to grow spiritually and become a healthy Christian who is ready to fight against the flesh and Satan. This growth will take place as you spend time in God’s Word, learn more about Him and obey His commands.

Receiving Christ brings salvation. Believing God’s Word gives you assurance. You can be both Saved and Sure!

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: Use an extra piece of paper if necessary.

10. What is the only book in the world that tells us how to be saved?

11. Salvation is a _____ from God. (Rom. 6:23)

12. The _____ of Jesus Christ has _____ me from _____ sin. (1 Jn. 1:7)

13. Salvation is not by _____, but by faith in Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:8,9)

14. If you were to die today, would you know for sure that you would go to Heaven? Explain.

15. If you were to go to Heaven today, and God would ask you, “Why should I let you into my Heaven?”, what would your answer be?

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16. Having doubts is a rare event for a new Christian. TRUE or FALSE?

17. Doubts come from _____. Assurance comes from _____.

18. What is a practical thing that you can do to help yourself or someone else with doubts?

19. What can take us out of the hand of God? _____ (John 10:28,29)

20. When should we confess our sin?

21. How would you reply to someone who says, "Well, if you believe that once you are saved you are saved forever, then why don't you just go out and live any way you want to?"

OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

John 3:1-18; John 4:1-30; John 14:1-6; John 17:3; Romans 5:1-21; Romans 8:31-34; I John 5:20; Rev. 3:20

THE BIBLE

Lesson 2: How does God speak to me?

MEMORY VERSE: 2 Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..”

As a new Christian, you need to know a very important truth – the Bible is God’s perfect revelation to man. Everything we know about spiritual things, we know because GOD TOLD US – IN THE BIBLE! For example, all we know about God, Christ, Heaven, Hell, man, angels, death, eternity and the way of salvation, we know because the Bible TELLS us. The Bible is God revealing His truths directly by means of written communication.

God not only created man, he made sound, words, language and communication. Therefore, God is the first and greatest communicator. Contained in the Scripture is everything we need to know on earth. Everything! Our memory verse teaches us this, and then the next verse after that says, “that the man of God (the Christian) may be complete (mature), thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim. 3:17).

The Bible is described as being “God’s love letter” to His human creation. It is also described as being our “spiritual food” (Math. 4:4; 1 Pet. 2:2). Just as we need to eat physical food every day, so we need to partake of this spiritual food daily (Acts 17:11) so that we can become spiritually strong and healthy.

The Bible is meant to be a guide for the Christian life. (Ps. 119:105). God’s Word will help us to go the right way and make the right decisions. It can be completely trusted in all things. If men disagree with the Bible, they are wrong! (Ps. 119:89). Also, God’s curse will fall upon any person who “adds to” or “takes away” from the message of this book (Rev. 22:18,19). The Bible should be our only rule of faith and practice.

You gain knowledge of God’s way and God’s will through personal Bible study, group Bible studies, church services, and special meetings. We need to put these eternal principles and lessons into practice in our personal lives. You will find that the treasures of God’s Word are far more precious than gold! (Ps. 19:7-11)

Now, how do you go about becoming a student of the Bible? Try to set aside a specific time each day for prayer and Bible study. Satan does not want you to do this, so you can expect it to be difficult to be consistent. However, we also know that we can MAKE time to do whatever we really want to do. Pray and ask God to help you find a suitable time to spend with HIM!

The format that you have been using in this DIT course is one good way to study – read, summarize, apply. However, there are other good methods – Topical (God’s love, forgiveness, grace, etc.), Biographical (choose a Bible character, read about

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him/her and apply what you learn to your life), Book/chapter/verse studies, are a few that you might want to consider.

The famous Bible teacher, Dr. Howard Hendricks, suggests the following things to help you:

As you study a passage of scripture, consider these 3 things (write them down):

1. **OBSERVATION (What does it say?)** Ask?: Who? What? Where? When? Why? Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, related (Example: questions and answers), things that are alike (comparisons – note the words “like” or “as”), things that are unlike (contrasts – note the word “but”).
2. **INTERPRETATION (What does it mean?)** Consider “Context” (Read the verses before and after; think of it in light of the whole chapter or book) You can use helps such as a dictionary or Bible handbook to help with this.
3. **APPLICATION (What does it mean to me?)** Note (and write down) the following:
 - Is there an EXAMPLE for me to FOLLOW?
 - Is there a SIN for me to AVOID?
 - Is there a PROMISE for me to KEEP?
 - Is there a PRAYER for me to REPEAT?
 - Is there a COMMAND for me to OBEY?
 - Is there a CONDITION for me to MEET?
 - Is there a VERSE for me to MEMORIZE?
 - Is there an ERROR for me to AVOID?
 - Is there a CHALLENGE for me to FACE?

“GOD’S WORD is His divine means of bringing CHANGE to my life. Then it can bring change to my society.” And, “We can’t apply EVERYTHING, but we should be consistently applying SOMETHING!”

Bible study should never be boring! It should be the most dynamic, exciting time of the day! Don’t disappoint God, or cheat yourself by missing it!

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: (Use another piece of paper if necessary)

1. The Bible is not just another book, it is _____ book!
2. All scripture is given by _____ of God.
3. What will God’s Word do for me? John 15:3

4. If a person loves Jesus Christ, what will he/she do? John 14:23

5. In order to keep from sinning, what must I do? Ps. 119:9,11

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6. How would you explain the statement “The Bible is our only rule of faith and practice”?
7. In Acts 17:11, why were the Thessalonian believers commended (complimented)? How can you apply this to your life?
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8. How would you answer someone who says that the Bible is “old fashioned and full of myths and stories”?
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9. The 3 things that Dr. Hendricks suggests you use to help you study are:
1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____

10. Why is it a good idea to write things down while you are doing Bible study?

11. After finishing your DIT course, what kind of Bible study method might you want to try?

OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER: Joshua 1:8; Rom. 10:17; John 2:5; Ps. 119:160, 162; Isa. 40:8; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; 2 Pet. 1:21

PRAYER

Lesson 3: How do I speak to God?

Memory Verse: *I John 3:22 -- "And whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."*

Praying is simply talking to God. The Bible, God's written Word, is like a "love letter" from the heart of God. He speaks to us through the Bible. We speak with Him in prayer. Praying is communicating (fellowship) with God, our Father. This is the meaning of prayer. The Bible says in I John 1:3, ". . . that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ." God wants us to talk with Him and fellowship with Him, so we should pray and pray often.

Praying is one way that we fellowship with God. The Bible says in Philippians 4:6, "... in everything by prayer... let your requests be made known to God..." Jesus said, "... men always ought to pray, and not lose heart (grow weak)" Luke 18:1. Again in Matthew 6:6, "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father which sees in secret will reward you openly." Christ Himself set an example of prayer by frequently going alone into a garden or a mountain to pray. If He, the Son of God, needed that personal contact and fellowship with His Father, how much more do we need to pray?

The Disciples on one occasion said, "..... Lord teach us to pray" Luke 11:1. Notice, they did not say teach us how to pray. No great knowledge or special wisdom is needed. We need to learn to pray. Prayer is talking with God and must become a normal practice for the Christian, just as talking to a friend or loved one -- for Jesus Christ is both a Friend and Loved One.

The Bible gives us a warning in regards to prayer that we need to remember. In Isaiah 59:2 it tells us that our sin can prevent God from hearing us! Therefore it is necessary for us to confess our sin regularly and especially before a time of prayer so that He will hear and, thus, be able to answer and bless us.

Some principles to follow are these: 1) Make it a practice to begin your day and end it with prayer. 2) Consciously ask God's help and forgiveness anytime you face a difficult decision or problem. 3) Pray together with your family. 4) Pray asking God's guidance as you study His Word. 5) Pray for others about whom you are concerned.

A simple acrostic that someone has suggested to help one pray is as follows:

A – Adoration – Just tell God that you love Him; worship Him; praise Him.

C – Confession – Ask Him to forgive you of any sin in your life (I Jn. 1:9)

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T – Thanksgiving – Thank Him for Who He is and what He has done for you (even the little things!).

S – Supplication – This is asking Him for your own needs and on behalf of others.

God is pleased when we make our requests known unto Him. He has promised, "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" I John 5:14. **SO, MAKE PRAYER ONE OF THE REGULAR PRACTICES OF YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.**

PLEASE COMPLETE/ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: (Use an extra piece of paper if necessary)

1. God talks to us through the Bible. We talk to God through _____.
2. Jesus often went alone into the mountains to _____.
3. Prayer ought to be a _____ experience for every Christian.
4. What can you learn about prayer from Matthew 6:9-13?

5. I Thes. 5:17 says, "Pray without ceasing". How is this possible?

6. How can we be sure that God hears our prayers? John 9:31

7. What does Christ ask of us in order for Him to honor our requests? John 15:7

8. What ultimate goal should be kept in mind as we pray? John 14:13

9. Why would Psalm 119:18 be a good verse for you to memorize?

10. Did you find it difficult to pray when you were first saved? Many people do. Why do you think this is so?

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OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

Job 22:27; Matthew 21:22; Jn.15:16; Acts 6:4; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2;
I Timothy 4:4,5; Ps. 5:3; Jer. 33:3

FELLOWSHIP

Lesson 4: Who can help me grow?

Memory Verse: *Hebrews 10:25 -- "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

What comes to your mind when you hear the word "Fellowship"? Perhaps "Chatting" or "Sharing" or "Caring"? Fellowship can certainly include all of those things, but there is a much deeper meaning to us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. In I John 1:3 we see that our fellowship with each other is based upon our fellowship with God! What a blessing to think that when God saves us, He makes us a part of His FAMILY! (John 1:12). He doesn't just leave us here by ourselves – He provides Himself as our Father, and brothers and sisters for us to fellowship with. He knows that we need each other! That is one reason He established His Church – that we might be able to interact and learn and be blessed by our fellow believers.

In order for us to enjoy fellowship with God, we must obey Him. Someone has said that fellowship with God is "...a condition of my heart whereby I am deliberately obeying God". Any kind of disobedience (sin) in my life can break this fellowship (NOT RELATIONSHIP) with God (Is. 59:1,2). Therefore we need to strive to obey whatever God's Word teaches us and to always have a clear conscience before Him. (Acts 23:1; 24:16).

In order for us to enjoy fellowship with others in the "family" we must strive to be friendly (Prov. 18:24), and loving (John 13:34,35) toward them. This would include such things as being polite, thoughtful, giving of your self, your time, your talents; being kind and forgiving (Eph. 4:32). God's Word has a lot of practical advice about those with whom we spend our time (Prov. 13:20; 22:24; 28:7; I Cor. 5:11; 15:33 2 Thes. 3:14). The verse just before our memory verse tells us that we are to have a good effect on our fellow believers – we are to "stir up love and good works" in each other. (Heb. 10:24)

This is one of the reasons why we should become a church member as soon as we can after we are saved. Some might ask what the requirements are for becoming a member of Kitwe Church. They are: 1. That you are saved. 2. That you have been baptized by immersion (the Bible way). 3. That you are living the Christian life. We suggest that you read our booklet *Discovering Baptism and Church Membership*. That way you will have a good understanding of what these important steps in your Christian life mean.

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One way that we express our fellowship with the Lord and with each other is by taking communion (or the Lord's Supper) together. This is called an "ordinance" of the Church. It is not a means of gaining favour with God or obtaining a right standing before Him (as some believe), but it is a time of reflection and "remembrance" of what He did for us on the cross. It is His desire that we do this. (I Cor. 11:23-34). You don't have to be a church member in order to participate in communion, but you do need to be saved and examine your heart to make sure that you are right with God.

As a part of the Church or fellowship of believers, we have an obligation to help financially in its upkeep and outreach. It is one way of worshipping God! Our "tithes" (10% of our income), and "offerings" are the means whereby God's work is carried out in our community and beyond. (Lev. 27:30) God says that He wants us to be "cheerful givers" (2 Cor. 9:6,7), and He tells us that we will be blessed by doing so. (Mal. 3:10). Incidentally, the book of Proverbs has a lot of good advice regarding finances.

Church attendance is important! - For worship, for finding ways to serve God, and for fellowshiping with other believers! Every Christian should be a part of a good, Bible-teaching church where he/she can grow spiritually and serve God. Don't miss out on this plan of God for your life!

PLEASE COMPLETE/ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: Use another piece of paper if necessary.

1. Christ purchased the church with His own _____ . Acts 20:28
2. The church is also called the _____ of Christ. (Eph. 1:22,23) What does this suggest?

3. Can you be a good Christian and not attend church? Yes or No. Please explain:

4. Is Baptism or church membership optional? _____ Please explain:

5. What does Baptism picture?

6. Someone has said, "No man is an island". How does this relate to you as a Christian?

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7. Please read Prov. 27:17 and share how you can apply this to your life as a Christian “brother” or “sister”.

8. Giving of our money to God should follow the giving of _____ to Him. 2 Cor. 8:5

9. Should a Christian worry about money? Please read the following verses and comment on them. Mal. 3:10; Phil.4:19; Mt.6:33; Rom.14:23 (last phrase):

10. How would you answer someone who says, “Just so you go to church – it really doesn’t make any difference which one.” ?

OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

Math. 3:13; 28:19,20; Acts 2:41; 8:35-39; 12:5; Eph. 5:23; I Tim. 3:15; Rom. 6:1-6; Gen. 14:20; 2 Cor. 8:1-9; Math. 6:19- 21; Amos 3:3

WITNESSING

Lesson 5: Who should I tell?

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

The dictionary defines "witness" as: "A person who saw, or can give a firsthand account of something". A Christian witness is a person who can give a "firsthand account" of his salvation experience through Jesus Christ. In other words, such a person can tell others how he came to know Jesus Christ personally. As "babes in Christ", or new Christians, we must realize that God expects us to share our message with others. He expects us to tell others about Him and His salvation. WE MUST NOT keep the glorious message of the gospel to ourselves. WE MUST NOT be ashamed of Christ or His Gospel. The Apostle Paul set the example for us: "For I am NOT ASHAMED of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes; ..." (Romans 1:16). Christ was not ashamed of you on the cross. Do not be ashamed of Christ on earth. Witnessing will help you to grow as a child of God. Also, others will be encouraged by your obedience to Him in this important matter.

Public profession of your faith in Jesus Christ is a command of the Lord Jesus. In fact, just before Jesus Christ ascended to the Father, after His resurrection, He left one great mission for all believers. It was this: "... Go into all the world, and preach (tell) the Gospel to every creature (person)" (Mark 16:15). In Acts 1:8 He said, "But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be WITNESSES TO ME..." . Christ told us to go everywhere and tell everyone the Gospel. All men are sinners. Christ died for all men. Therefore, He desires all men to hear the message. This is the responsibility of all the people of God.

As a new Christian, you should begin to study and memorize Scripture. But even before you are well-grounded in the Bible, you can be a WITNESS for Christ, by simply explaining what happened to you. In reality, the greatest and most important argument for the Christian faith is the personal testimony of a transformed life. God promises that as we go and tell others the message, some will hear and respond. "He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, (the Gospel), shall DOUBTLESS COME AGAIN WITH REJOICING, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:6).

Witnessing is not just a matter of "giving a speech", but of sharing your life. Sometimes we are able to witness just one time to someone – for instance while riding on a bus. However, most of the time it will be a PROCESS. Jesus gave us the parable of the "sower, the seeds, and the soil" in Matthew 13. As good "sowers" we need to know the "soil". If someone is sad or despairing, we need to

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emphasize the love of God (Rom. 5:8); if someone is self-righteous, we need to emphasize the fact that all are sinners (Rom. 3:23; Is. 64:6); if someone is involved in sin, we need to emphasize repentance (Luke 13:3). We must always ask the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and guidance in what to say – and He will!

Here are some definitions of “Witnessing” which you might find helpful and encouraging:

“Telling a message and supporting it by our lives”

“Not just talking, but a lifestyle that focuses on our diplomatic representation of God to others”

“Representing God to the world! When they look at us, they should see what God is like!”

The Bible records times when God’s people were poor witnesses: (Ezek. 36:22,23; Rom. 2:24) This does teach us, however, that God’s intent is that His name (character, reputation, desires, etc.) be known to the world!

Perhaps one of the greatest motivations for witnessing is the fact that Jesus is coming again! (I Thess. 4:13-17) We don’t know when that will be, but it could be soon! We need to get the job done while we can!

If your house was on fire and you managed to escape, would you keep that story a secret? Of course not! If you discovered some very precious gems buried in your garden, wouldn’t you want to tell your friends? Surely you would! The fact that we have escaped Hell and received eternal life is more wonderful news than anything else! LET’S TELL IT!

PLEASE ANSWER/COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING: Use another piece of paper if necessary.

1. A witness is someone who tells what he has seen or _____.
2. God expects every Christian to _____.
3. If Jesus Christ died for us we should live and _____ for Him.
4. We should memorize _____ so we can be better witnesses for Christ.
5. What are we promised regarding our witnessing in Gal. 6:7-9?

6. What example did Andrew set that we should follow? John 1:40-42

7. In John Ch. 3 and Ch. 4, Jesus was witnessing to two different people. What can you learn about witnessing from these two encounters?

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8. Someone has said, “What you ARE speaks so loud I can’t hear what you SAY”. How does this apply to our witnessing?

9. Three ways that we can witness are by - _____
John 13:34,35 _____ Phil. 2:14,15; _____
Mt. 23:2,3

10. Sometimes the hardest people to witness to are those the closest to us. What do these verses teach you? I Pet. 3:1,2; Deut. 6:6,7, 20, 21

OTHERS PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

Matthew 4:19, 28:18-20; Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; II Corinthians 5:16-21;
Acts 4:18-21

The “Romans Road” to salvation: Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9,10, 13

Other good “Salvation Verses” – John 1:12, 14:6; Acts 4:12; 16:31

NEW LIFE

Lesson 6: How does God expect me to behave as a Christian?

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17 - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

According to our memory verse, when we are saved we become “new creations”. What does this mean? It means that something happens inside of us! The Bible describes this in other ways: We were once in darkness, now we are in the light (Eph. 5:8); we once followed Satan, now we are following God (Acts 26:18). Someone has said that Jesus can not come into a life without there being an evident change in that person.

Let’s take a look at some of the “new things” we experience as God’s children:

We now have a new King! (Col. 1:13) We need to realize that He is GOD and He is worthy of our total allegiance. He must now be #1 in my life! (John 13:13; James 4:13-15)

We now have a new purpose in life! (Rom. 8:29) We are to be more and more like Jesus! What a challenge! This will involve discipline and determination and obedience! The Bible says we are to seek to live in righteousness (Mt. 5:6). As we do this we find that we are not only becoming more like Jesus, but we are also experiencing happiness and joy in Him!

We now have a new goal in life! (2 Cor. 2:14) We are to become strong Christians who can face the challenges of life triumphantly. We can do this because our new Master will give us the strength we need to do so. (Phil. 4:13) Becoming a strong Christian does not mean that we will not sin (as we have discussed before), but we can prepare ourselves to prevent spiritual downfalls and live a life of victory in Christ! (I Cor. 15:57). Satan will surely try to make us stumble, but we do not have to backslide! (I Jn. 4:4) God’s will is not for us to live from crisis to crisis, or in defeat, but in a consistent pattern of growth and victory.

He has given us a new song in our hearts! (Ps. 40:3). You will find yourself learning the new songs that you hear in church and doing away with the worldly songs you knew before. This even affects such practical areas of life as to what you listen to on the radio, or watch on TV, or the tapes or CD’s that you buy. Whatever we do now, we want to do “to the glory of God” (I Cor. 10:31).

We will find even our attitudes changing! Love instead of hatred or just not caring (I John 3:18); kindness instead of rudeness (Eph. 4:32); forgiveness instead of holding grudges (bitterness) (Eph. 4:32; Heb. 12:14,15); humility instead of pride (Prov. 16:5); joy instead of despair (Phil. 4:4); peace instead of worry (Phil. 4:6,7), ETC., ETC.!

There will also be a new awareness of temptations and the choices/changes that need to be made. For example:

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1. Your old friends might now mock or laugh at you. How should you react? – I Pet. 4:14,15; Mt. 5:10-12; Prov. 15:1
2. You might have opportunity to become closely associated or in partnership with (marriage or business) someone who is not saved. What should you do? 2 Cor. 6:14-17
3. You might be tempted to compromise your integrity (Ps. 26:11) or honesty (Pr. 16:11) or truthfulness (Eph. 4:25), or sexual purity (I Cor. 6:18; I Thess. 4:3), or to use bad language (Eph. 4:29). Again, God’s Word has the answers!
4. Some other areas in which you might need Biblical advice are these:
 - a. Worldly activities-discos (Ex. 32:19), alcoholic beverages (Hab. 2:15; Pr. 20:1; 23:29-35)
 - b. Immodest dressing – (Pr. 7:10; I Tim. 2:9; I Pet. 3:3-5)
 - c. Taking/giving bribes – (I Sam. 8:3; Is. 33:15)
 - d. Witchcraft – (Deut. 18:10-14; Lev. 19:26,28, 31; I Cor. 10:20,21; I Chron. 10:13; Mal. 3:5; Is. 8:19,20)

Any other areas which you have questions about, you should seek advice from Godly counselors. (Pr. 11:14) Anything which you see that needs changing, ask God to give you the wisdom and courage to do it and He will! (Jam. 1:5)

Also, take every opportunity you have to hear God’s Word. Get in on all of the special meetings and Bible studies that there are. By learning more of God’s Word, you will gain its PRINCIPLES to live by. For example: The Bible does not have specific verse which deals with the subject of smoking cigarettes, but there is the PRINCIPLE which tell us that our bodies are the “temples of the Holy Spirit” and we should therefore take good care of them. (2 Cor. 6:16; I Cor. 6:19,20).

Dear new Christian, there are many more “new things” that could be spoken of, but we are limited as to time and space. Don’t forget that you now have some “new names” - “the salt of the earth” (Mt. 5:13); “the light of the world” (Mt. 5:14-16); a “Christian soldier” (Eph. 6:10-18); even “babes” (I Pet. 2:2). What an exciting life you have ahead of you! It may not be easy. God has not promised us we will live in a “garden of roses”, but He has promised us His presence, His provision, and His power. Do we need more than that?

PLEASE ANSWER/COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING: Use another paper if necessary.

1. Which of the “new things” mentioned in this lesson most interest you? Why?

2. Since you have been saved have any of your old friends or family made fun of you? If so, how did you feel?

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3. Since you have been saved have you had to face any new situations or make any new choices or changes?

4. Are you experiencing any problems or decisions that need to be made right now? If so, in light of today's lesson, what do you think you should do?

5. Please take each of the "new names" listed in the last paragraph of this lesson and apply it to your life.

6. Someone once asked, "If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" How would you answer this?

OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

Heb. 12:5-11; Ps. 89:30-34; 1 Thes. 4:11; Mt. 6:25-34; Is. 42:10; Prov. 4:11-15; Ex. 32:17-19 John 13:3-17; Col. 3:23

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Lesson 7: What should I expect the Christian Life to be like?

MEMORY VERSE: *James 4:7 -“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

The reason we as Christians are called ‘soldiers of Christ’ is because we are in a very real battle. Our enemy is Satan and he has thousands of helpers called demons. You can not see them because they are spirit beings, but they are real and very powerful (I Pt. 5:8). The main goals of Satan and his helpers are 1) to keep people from getting saved (II Cor. 4:4) and if they fail in this, 2) to keep Christians from growing spiritually (II Cor. 2:11).

Satan is very clever has many tricks to deceive people. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 15 Satan is called an angel of light. From this we know that Satan can disguise himself as something good. He uses even good things to keep us from SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS. Satan works against the Christian to defeat him in his walk with Christ. Satan can also come disguised as SELF (Mt. 6:24: Rom. 12:3). He tries to get us to think about what “I” wants to do, say, think, or go. He then tempts us to please ourself. He also hides behind PEOPLE (Mark 8:33), and CIRCUMSTANCES (Job 1:9-12, 2:4-6). The Bible tells us that we “wrestle not against flesh and blood” but against Satan and his forces (Eph 6:12). When Satan comes with temptation to sin we are to resist him with the “sword of the Spirit,” the Word of God (Eph. 6:17; Mt. 4:1-11) and God promises that he will flee (Jas. 4:7).

When you were saved the Holy Spirit came to dwell in your spirit forever. Because of this you can never be possessed or OWNED by Satan or his demons. HOWEVER you can be influenced or controlled in varying degrees by them (Eph. 4:27). Some Biblical examples of Christians who were controlled by Satan are Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:3) and Peter (Mark 8:33).

One area which Satan uses to tempt people is witchcraft. Witchcraft is, sadly, a very real part of our community and involves people in all areas of society. Even children are sometimes forced by their “aunties” or “uncles” to participate in these things. Some of the advice given before marriage and at other cultural events is often steeped in witchcraft. As Christians we need to know what God’s Word says, and act accordingly. (Mal. 3:5; Is. 8:19, 20; Lev. 19:26, 28, 31; Deut. 18:10-14; I Chron. 10:13; I Cor. 10:20,21).

Satan and his demons can exert influence in a person’s life only if allowed to, either knowingly or unknowingly. When Satan tempts us to sin, and we choose to disobey God, we are inviting disaster. Choosing to continue in a particular sin opens a door in our life by which Satan may gain influence (Eph. 4:23-32 note v. 27; Jn. 13:21-27).

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Christian counselors tell us that in their experience with thousands of cases the following sins seem to be Satan’s most common means of gaining access to a person’s life. (This however does not mean that they are the only sins that Satan uses.)

- A) INHERITANCE -- Powers or oaths passed on by ancestors.
- B) ILLICIT SEX -- adultery, fornication, pornography, etc.
- C) OCCULT -- witchcraft, white or black magic, astrology, cults, secret organizations.
- D) MIND CONTROL -- drinking, drugs, hypnosis, transcendental meditation, yoga, etc.

IF you ever have been involved in any of these before or after you were saved, and if you are having problems with depression, confusion of mind, sleeplessness, inability to pray or concentrate while reading the Bible, it could be that demons have taken influence in an area of your life. If so, confess each sin specifically and ask God to forgive and cleanse you. Then with the AUTHORITY that you have IN CHRIST (Eph. 1:20,21; 2:6) and in Jesus’ name, command the demon(s) to leave your life and never come back.

By staying close to Jesus you CAN HAVE VICTORY over your enemy! God’s Word says so! (I Jn. 4:4; I Cor. 15:57).

PLEASE COMPLETE/ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: (Use another piece of paper if necessary.)

1. Satan’s goals are to _____ people from getting saved, and if that fails to keep Christians from _____.
2. How did Jesus Christ defeat Satan when tempted by him? Math. 4:1-11 (note especially vs. 4,7,10)

3. In I Peter 5:8, Satan is described as a _____. What does this suggest?

4. What can you learn from Job 1:12 and 2:6 regarding “God’s vs. Satan”?

3. Professional counselors tell us that the four most common ways demons invade a life are: A _____ B _____, C _____, and D _____.

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4. The way to get rid of any demonic influence in your life is to ask God to _____ and _____ you.
5. From Eph. 6:10-18, please answer these questions: vs. 11 – What are we to do with “the Armor of God”? _____ How can we do this?

vs. 12 – Who are we fighting against?

vs. 14-17 – Which weapons are “offensive”, which are “defensive”

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6. What is a very practical thing that you can do in order to defeat Satan in your life? Ps. 17:4; 119:9,11

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6. I Cor. 15:57; Col. 2:15 – How can you apply these verses to your life?

OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

I Jn. 3:8; Heb. 2:14; Is. 59:19b; II Cor. 2:14; 10:3-5; Rom. 8:37; Rev. 12:11; 20:1-3,14

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 8: How does God Himself guide me in successful Christian living?

Memory Verse: John 15:26 -- "But when the Comforter comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

The Bible teaches that our God is one God, but He has three separate persons -- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is called the DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY (Gen. 1:26 -- note the words "us" and "our"; also Is. 6:8; Ps. 104:30; Col. 1:16; Jn. 5:18, 10:30, 20:28; Lk. 3:22). In this study we want to learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Christians.

Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Jn. 14:16,17,26; 15:26; 16:7-16) and He did come in a mighty way at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21). The Holy Spirit empowered and enabled the disciples of Jesus to "turn the world upside-down" (Acts 17:6) with the Gospel message. The Holy Spirit gave special gifts to those early believers in order to CONFIRM THE NEW MESSAGE that they were preaching (Heb. 2:3,4; I Cor. 12).

Now, what part does the Holy Spirit play in our salvation? The Bible tells us that we "receive" Him (I Cor. 2:12), we are "born" of Him (Jn. 3:3-8), we are "indwelt" by Him (I Cor. 6:19), we are "sealed" by Him (Eph. 1:13; 4:30), and we are "baptized" by Him (I Cor 12:13).

It is this last item, the "baptism" of the Spirit that is misunderstood by many who say that it is something to wait for and pray for after you are saved. BUT THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES US THAT ALL OF THE ABOVE THINGS - "BORN", "SEALED", ETC. - HAPPEN THE MOMENT WE ARE SAVED. (Please note the PAST TENSE of the words; see Romans 8:9,14,16.)

AFTER we are saved the Holy Spirit CONTINUES TO WORK IN OUR LIVES! He "indwells" us (I Cor. 6:19,20), "comforts" us (Jn. 14:16), "teaches" us (Jn. 15:26), "guides" us (Jn. 16:13), and even "intercedes" for us when we pray! (Rom. 8:26,27).

What a precious privilege we have to be helped in our Christian lives by such a wonderful person! We have been told by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:18 that we are to be "filled" with the Spirit. In the original language of the New Testament (Greek) the words "be filled" mean a CONTINUING PROCESS RATHER THAN A ONE-TIME EVENT. Now then, this is a matter of obedience and action on our part. Just as a cup cannot be filled with water if it is partly filled with stones, neither can we be filled with the Holy Spirit if there is sin in our lives. We need to daily (if not more often) confess our sins to God (I Jn. 1:9) and ask the Holy Spirit to fill us. The EVIDENCE of this filling is seen in the verses following the command, that is Ephesians 5:19-21.

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Because the Holy Spirit is a person, He has feelings. The Bible tells us that He can be “grieved” (Eph. 4:30). He can also be “quenched” (I Thes. 5:19), or unable to work in our lives and bless us the way He wants to because of our disobedience. However, if we are “walking in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16,25), controlled by Him, then we can experience the joy and peace and other “fruits” of the Spirit that He wants to produce in our lives. (Gal. 5:22,23).

PLEASE COMPLETE/ANSWER THE FOLLOWING: Use another piece of paper if necessary.

1. The doctrine of the Trinity teaches us that we worship _____ God, but that He has _____ persons.
2. The Holy Spirit gave special power and gifts to the Apostles to _____ the new message.
3. The moment we are saved we receive the Holy Spirit; we are born of Him; we are _____ by Him; we are _____ by Him; and we are _____ by Him.
4. Being filled by the Spirit is a continuing process. True or False?

-
5. When we don't know how to pray about a certain matter the Holy Spirit will _____ for us. (Rom. 8:26,27)
 6. Please read Eph. 5:18. What is the contrast pictured here? How can you apply this to your life?

7. Gal. 5:16 speaks of _____ in the Spirit. What does this mean?

-
8. What does Ps. 143:10 teach us about the Holy Spirit?

-
9. In your past Christian life, do you think the teaching about the Holy Spirit was under-emphasized or over-emphasized? _____
Has this lesson helped you? _____ How?

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OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER:

Joel 2:28,29; Acts 2:17,18; Zech. 4:6; I Cor. 2:9,10; Acts 16:7

CHARISMATIC DOCTRINES

Lesson 9: What counterfeits does Satan commonly use to confuse new Christians?

Memory Verse: *I Timothy 4:13* “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”

As we begin this study we want to say that we are not presenting these issues in a critical way, but rather in a spirit of love. We acknowledge the many good characteristics of those in these charismatic groups who are truly born again, such as their love for the Lord, their joy, zeal, enthusiasm, and love for each other. There are, however, certain areas where we believe they are in error. We will very briefly state the issues and then give what the Bible teaches concerning it. We also realize that all Charismatics and/or Pentecostals do not believe exactly the same about some of these issues and so we will be referring to “many” or “most” of them.

1. “Baptism of the Spirit.” Charismatics believe that this is something that takes place after a person has been saved; that we should pray for it, and that this baptism is usually accompanied by speaking in tongues. However the Bible teaches that we are baptized with the Spirit the moment we are saved and tongues are not involved. (I Cor. 12:13; John 7:37-39; Gal. 3:26,27; Rom. 8:9,14,16; Acts 2:38,39; 5:32).
2. “Miracles for Today.” In many charismatic meetings the advertising of “Miracles” is used to attract people. In the Bible we see that God used miracles throughout history to authenticate the message or the messenger. (Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Jesus, and the Apostles; John 10:37,38; Hebrews 2:2-4). **GOD STILL DOES MIRACLES, HE NEVER CHANGES, BUT HIS METHODS DO!** There is no need for this kind of “confirming” now because we have the completed Word of God - THE BIBLE.
3. “Healing in the Atonement.” Many Charismatics believe that Christians should never be sick, but that we should claim healing because it is “in the cross”. They get this thought from Isaiah 53:5. However if we look at the context of the whole chapter it becomes clear that this passage is referring to SPIRITUAL HEALING (also Is. 6:10; I Pt. 2:24). The Bible also teaches that sickness can be for God’s glory (Jn. 9:1-3; 11:4). Sickness is sometimes used by God to teach us (II Cor. 12:7-10), or punish us (I Cor. 11:29,30). Even Jesus did not escape suffering (Lk. 22:42). **GOD STILL HEALS TODAY, HE NEVER CHANGES, BUT HIS METHODS DO!**
4. “Tongues.” Charismatics believe that speaking in tongues is an evidence of the baptism or filling of the Spirit in Christians today. However as we look at the tongues which were given by God at Pentecost the Scripture is very clear that these tongues were UNLEARNED KNOWN LANGUAGES (Acts 2:11,12). They were given for the specific purpose of warning unbelieving Israel of coming judgment (I

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Cor. 14:21-22 with Is. 28:11-12, See also Deut. 28:49; Jer. 5:15). The sign of tongues also served to confirm the authority of the Apostles (Acts 2:42-43) and to show the inclusion of other groups into the church (Acts 8:5,15,16; Acts 10:44-48). This great event, Pentecost, partially fulfilled the prophecy of Joel in the Old Testament (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16), and Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; Acts 1:8).

Let us briefly note some Biblical facts about tongues: Tongues was not given to all (I Cor. 12:8-11,30). Tongues was not "angel speech". Whenever angels spoke to men, it was in a known language -- Jacob (Gen. 32:24-29); Peter (Acts 12:7-9); Zacharias, Mary, and the shepherds (Lk. Chaps.1&2). Tongues is not one of the "fruits of the Spirit" (Gal. 5:22-23). Tongues is not an evidence of being "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18,19). Tongues is not a sign of people in the Bible who were filled with the Spirit - John the Baptist (Lk. 1:15); Elizabeth (Lk. 1:41,42); Deacons (Acts 6:3). Jesus never spoke in tongues nor commanded us to do so. The "How to Pray" passages in the Bible never mentioned speaking in tongues (Mt. 6:5-13; Lk. 11:1-4). It is also interesting to know that "tongues" are not only spoken by those who say they are Christians, but by other religions as well. Tongues is not a sign of "spirituality" -- Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about the problem tongues was causing in the church.

Then, one might ask, what is the "tongue speaking" that is being practiced today? What we as Christians believe and practice is to be based on the objective fact of the Word of God, not upon subjective feeling or experience. Some who speak in tongues are guilty of "fakery". Others however have experienced something they cannot explain. Satan is able to disguise Himself as an "angel of light" if it will enable him to deceive someone. The Bible clearly states in I Corinthians 13:8 that where "there are tongues, they will cease". The word "cease" is the Greek word "pao" which means to cease permanently. When tongues ceased they would cease forever. This would happen "when THAT which is perfect (complete) has come" (I Cor. 13:10). "That which is complete" did come within 40 years of the time the Apostle Paul penned these words -- The finished, complete, perfect WORD OF GOD.

5. "Experience over Doctrine." In many charismatic groups there is much emotion and you hear such expressions as "slain in the Spirit", "ecstasy of tongues", and "high on Jesus". Many of these people try to make the Bible fit their experience rather than just accept it for what it says. EXPERIENCE DOES NOT DETERMINE TRUTH! God's Word is truth (Ps. 119:142, Jn. 17:17). A desire for an unscriptural "wonderful experience" can be dangerous. As an "angel of light", (II Cor. 11:14,15) Satan can provide a great "religious experience". After emotional "highs" there can be "lows". This can develop into a disturbing pattern for some people.

6. "Prophecies, Visions, Dreams." Charismatics believe that God still speaks through people today as He did in Bible times. The Bible teaches that God's revelation to man is complete with the completion of John's Revelation. God issues a strong warning to anyone who "adds" to God's Word (Rev. 22:18).

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7. “Place of Women.” In many charismatic groups women have a place of leadership over men, and are in some cases pastors. The Bible teaches that women are to play a submissive role in the church as well as in the home (Gen. 3:16; 2:20-24; I Cor. 11:3,8,9; Eph. 5:22,23; Col. 3:18; Titus 2:3-5; I Pt. 3:1-6). Women are not to have authority over men (I Tim. 2:11-14). Women are not to be pastors (I Tim. 3:2-5 -- Please note: “husband of one wife” and masculine gender pronouns). There are, however, many things that women can do in the church such as: teaching Sunday School, music, giving testimonies, counseling, soul-winning, discipling, visiting the sick, etc.

8. “Losing Salvation.” Most Charismatic/Pentecostals believe that it is possible to lose your salvation by sinning. The Bible, however, teaches the doctrine of “Eternal Security”. Once you are saved, you are saved FOREVER (Jn. 10:27,28; 4:13,14; 5:24; 6:37; I Jn. 5:11-13; Ps. 89:31-33; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30; Rom. 8:38,39). Those who “go into sin” were either never truly saved (Mt. 13:20,21), or are backsliders and will be chastened by God (Heb. 12:5-8; I Cor. 11:29,30).

In conclusion, we realize that some of the charismatic issues go against what the Bible teaches. The Bible clearly warns us against “false teachers” (2 Pet. 2:1-19; Col. 2:4 - 8). Anything that does not agree with the Bible is FALSE! (Titus 1:2) We must “beware” that we are not carried away by certain teachings just because they are entertaining or make us “feel good”. We must not get involved in anything which is false whether it comes from the TV or even from a church. False doctrine can rob us of the truth!

“Feelings come and feelings go, and feelings are deceiving;
My standard is the Word of God – naught else is worth believing.”

- Author Unknown

Because of the length of this lesson we will not carry on with the usual “ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS” and “OTHER PASSAGES TO CONSIDER: sections. Rather, we suggest that you re-read this lesson and then write down any questions that you might have and bring them to your discipler.

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