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Basic Discipleship Lessons

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This study guide is made up of 12 lessons: the first five are entitled “New Life in Christ”, and explain some general foundations to faithfully follow Jesus. The following seven lessons, entitled “Keys to the Abundant Christian Life”, provide more details for the ongoing walk with Christ. It also includes forms to request baptism and membership, as well as two certificates to give to the new disciple after having completed each one of these two steps.

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Includes:
guides for the
disciple and the
mentor

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You are about to begin a beautiful adventure of faith with your new brother or sister in Christ. We encourage you to be consistent and allow God to use you powerfully. Ask the Lord to give you grace and wisdom to influence the life of your new brother or sister, and for both of you to grow in experience, knowledge and commitment to Christ and His church. Work toward the point where the person you're discipling becomes a mentor themselves.

**Be a faithful and committed disciple of Christ!
This is our lifelong task!**

Discipleship Ministries

Church of the Nazarene • Eurasia Region

Guide for the Mentor

Congratulations on accepting the privilege and challenge of discipling a new believer in Christ!

This is exactly what God called us to do as a church: make disciples. This basic discipleship guide will help a new follower of Christ in a crucial way, establishing solid foundations at the start of their Christian walk and for their future in God's work. Truly, the present and the future of the church depend on the effectiveness of this task.

It is certain you have prayed a lot for this moment, and perhaps you had the joy of praying for the salvation of this person for months. If this is the case, give thanks to the Lord for answering your prayer! You will be investing in this person for a long time. Because of this, we will give you some brief details to help you in your work.

Jesus said:

"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Matthew 28:19

Guide for the Mentor

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Guide for the Mentor

1

Remember that discipleship is more than giving or finishing a series of lessons: it is a lifelong process. Specifically invite the person to choose to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. You will share your life, your experiences and your insight to guide them on the path that you have already chosen. It is vitally important that you develop a relationship of love, trust and mutual learning with the person you are discipling. You must also be willing to learn from them.

A personal relationship of unity and care establishes the basis for discipleship. In addition, it provides your new brother or sister with a healthy model for their Christian life and for a future ministry as a mentor. You should be aware of the fact that you will be the living example to this new convert, because they need a tangible example.

2

Another important task in your ministry as a mentor will be to help your new brother or sister to know and practice spiritual disciplines, together and privately. Because of your experience, you already know that we need to participate in means of grace, such as prayer, fasting, reading and meditating on Scripture, and community worship in the church, among others.

It will be important that you help the new follower of Christ to establish the habit of having a personal devotional time to spend with Jesus and to be fed daily by Him. You will also need to introduce the Bible as their guide to continuous spiritual development. Show them how to look up passages in the Bible.

allowing the new believer to practice prayer when you are present. This way you will be able to encourage them to cultivate the life of prayer and correct with love any inadequate things in their prayer. You will want them to learn how to pray correctly and to let prayer become a habit for their whole Christian life.

7. Make sure that the new believer completes all the activities in each lesson; that they memorize the verses when the lesson calls for it and that they understand and are able to explain the verses in their own words. Ask them, maybe towards the end of the lesson: How can you put into practice what you learned? Would you encounter any obstacles incorporating these principles into your life? If yes, how could you overcome them with the help of the Lord and me?

8. If other mentors are discipling other new believers, you could get together in small groups to share one or more lessons, to hear each other's testimonies, to get to know each other or simply to pray for one another.

9. It is very important that you are responsible and punctual with the person you are discipling. Do everything you promise. Put yourself at the person's disposal; give them your telephone number and address, as well as those of the pastor and the church. Be mindful of the way you dress and your personal appearance, as well as your speech and vocabulary.

10. If you come across a situation, question or doubt that you can't deal with, talk to your pastor or the assigned leader. Regardless, it is important that you get together periodically with your pastor or the leader in charge of the discipleship program.

Guide for the Mentor

develop. Choose a day of the week, a specific time and place where you will meet. Each session should be no longer than 60 minutes; 45 minutes is ideal. If you don't complete a lesson, continue with it the next time.

3. Encourage the new disciple to study and complete the whole lesson before you meet. This will help you take the most advantage of your valuable time together. Give them one lesson at a time. There is no hurry; let them fully digest every lesson. Study the lessons in advance, fill in the blanks and learn the content well before sharing it. If the person has trouble reading or writing, find another way for them to complete the lessons.

4. If the disciple ever forgets to complete the lesson, be patient, but motivate them to do it for the next time. It is very important that the new believer learns to be accountable to someone; in this case, it's you. If, as you review the lesson, you encounter mistakes, correct them kindly and listen to their point of view. However, under no circumstances should they be allowed to continue in their error.

5. Make sure that the person you are discipling has a Bible and, if necessary, spend one session explaining to them what the Bible is and how to look for verses. Clarify any misunderstandings that the person might have about the Bible, and allow them to share any concerns or questions about it.

6. You will need to teach the new disciple about prayer. It is always a good idea to start and conclude the lesson with prayer,

The booklet *How to read the Bible every day and learn from it* could help you in this task. As you know, there are many versions of the Bible that can and should be used to enrich its study. However, during this study, we will use the New International Version unless otherwise noted.

3

Thirdly, the lessons at the core of your encounters are very important. We recommend that you get together with the new believer in the first 48 hours after their decision for Christ. The first thing you need to do is to discover if the person made a conscious decision to follow Jesus, and if they are sure that they have been forgiven. This is the starting point for basic discipleship. If that is the case, then you can begin with the lessons; if not, you should work with the person through a different method.

Guide for the Mentor

This study guide contains 12 lessons: the first five are entitled “New Life in Christ”, and explain some general principles for following Christ faithfully. The additional seven lessons, entitled “Keys to the Abundant Christian Life”, provide more details for the continuing walk with Christ. We also included certificates to give to the new believer after completing each of these stages. We suggest that you give them to the disciples publicly in a church service or special meeting where the whole congregation has the opportunity to celebrate the spiritual growth of the new members of the family of God.

We also include baptism and church membership requests for the new believer. You should orient them and help them when the appropriate moment comes.

Next, we offer you a list of support materials that could help with some of the topics in the basic discipleship lessons.

For the course “New Life in Christ”:

- Lesson 1: How to read the Bible every day and learn from it
Dictionary for new believers
- Lesson 2: Discovering Jesus every day
- Lesson 4: What Nazarenes believe
Unity in the family of God

For the course “Keys to an Abundant Christian Life”:

- Lesson 4: Four steps to being a happy tither
- Lesson 6: You will receive power
- Lesson 7: Sharing Christ with your family and friends
History and ministry of the global Church of the Nazarene

In addition to these resources, we have others available to help you and those you are discipling to continue growing. You can contact us through:

As you begin this study, keep in mind that the topics in the lessons should be adapted to the specific needs of the new believer. Start where the believer is. To adequately guide them, you should discover their personal situation. How was their life without Christ? How are the relationships with their spouse and family? What are their struggles? What needs do the person and their family have that the church can respond to? When you begin a journey of constant learning and growth as disciple of Jesus, you will receive principles and guidance through the Holy Spirit to enjoy a new and abundant life.

There are some practical elements that you should consider as you lead the lessons of this Bible study:

1. Pray consistently for the life of the new disciple and their family. Ask them for specific prayer requests. Pray also for the time you will study the lessons individually and together. Pray that the Lord will enlighten your minds and help you understand the truths presented in each lesson.
2. Read and review the “Guide for the Disciple” with the person so they understand your relationship and how the lessons will

before you meet. Write down your questions and doubts in a notebook. Your mentor will go through the completed lesson with you. Above all, this process should be centered in prayer. Ask God to give you the wisdom you need to learn the spiritual truths that are fundamental for your new life in Christ.

You are about to begin a beautiful adventure of faith with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We encourage you to be consistent. Allow God to continue shaping you. Share what you learn with your family, friends and school or work acquaintances. This way, you will influence others with the Word of God and your learning will increase.

**Be a faithful and committed disciple of Christ!
This is our lifelong task!**

Discipleship Ministries
Church of the Nazarene • Eurasia Region

Guide for the Disciple

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Guide for the Disciple

Congratulations on making the most important decision of your life: allowing Christ to forgive you and take control of your life!

From the beginning of your Christian journey, accept the privilege and challenge of being a disciple of Christ, a follower, an apprentice and an imitator of Him. From this moment on, this should be your highest priority: to allow Jesus to really be your Master. Learn from Him throughout your whole life, so you can become more like Him every day and fulfill the purpose of God for your life.

Jesus said:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34-35

Guide for the Disciple

To learn about Jesus you will need the help and guidance of another follower of Christ who has been on the journey of learning from Him longer, and has done so through a group of disciples called the church. This is why you have a person to guide you. We call him or her “brother” or “sister” because of the close family relationship we should have with one another. You should rejoice that when you give your life to Jesus, you also became part of this family called the church (later on you will learn more about it).

You, as a spiritual baby, together with your mentor, will pursue growth in an intimate personal relationship with God and in the understanding of God’s will for your life. God is the inexhaustible source for your constant growth and spiritual development of your whole self. This study uses two important learning methods: praying and reading the Bible, the Word of God. You should know and incorporate both into your life.

The main purpose of learning this way is to become obedient and faithful to your Master, Jesus Christ, and to become a servant to others, motivated by His love. You will need to continue taking steps to get involved in the life of the church, and making decisions to grow in commitment to Jesus. In this way, you will allow God to continue changing you, and you will be able to develop fully until you can guide others in their walk with Christ.

Studying is a powerful method to achieve permanent growth and maturity as a disciple of Jesus. Start getting used to it and enjoy the time you dedicate to studying. This study has been created as a basic tool to motivate you to learn about what

Christ has done for you and what He wants to do in you and through your life.

This study guide is made up of 12 lessons: the first five are entitled “New Life in Christ”, and explain some general foundations to faithfully follow Jesus. The following seven lessons, entitled “Keys to the Abundant Christian Life”, provide more details for the ongoing walk with Christ. You should commit to completing all the lessons in order to learn as much as you can about Christ and establish a solid foundation for everything that God has planned for you.

Your mentor will walk alongside you in this initial process. You can share your questions, doubts and needs with him or her. The lessons are based on different Bible passages that you need to read, then fill in the blank spaces according to what you have learned from them. Having a Bible and learning to use it is very important for this task. You can use different versions of the Bible, but we will use the New International Version (NIV). Your mentor will help you with this. Many of the lessons will have verses to memorize and activities to do. It is important that you do all of these exercises, because they will enrich your practical learning.

For your continued growth in Christ you should choose a weekly time to meet with your mentor and dedicate to this important task. Choose a day and time that will be optimal for your learning. Choose a place to meet that is free of distractions and where you will be comfortable sharing with your mentor. Let your family know so that you are not interrupted unless it’s an emergency. You will need to study and complete the lesson

4. You have experienced new growth

Jesus died to give you new life, a new relationship with God and others, and for the Holy Spirit to guide you step by step in growth. Read Luke 14:25-33, where Jesus talks about how the disciples should grow. According to the passage:

Does being a follower of Christ have a cost? _____

According to verses 27 and 33, what three steps do the disciples of Jesus need to take? _____

According to verses 28-32, what does Jesus compare to growth in the Christian life? _____

If you build a tower or guide an army, what is the first thing that needs to be done so it does not fail? _____

To grow as a follower of Christ you need to be willing to leave all you are, all you have and all your future in His hands. If you want to continue being His disciple, give everything to Him in prayer.

New Life in Christ

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New Life in Christ 1

These Biblical lessons have been designed for you, who have received new life in Christ, to help you in the first steps of Christian life. But before continuing, read the following phrase out loud:

Welcome to the family of God!

This first lesson will help you understand the new life that Christ has given you. In the lessons that follow, you will learn to grow in your new relationship with God through prayer and Bible reading. You will also be able to discover the wonderful plan that God has for you and how you can be a follower of Jesus who is involved in His church, and in that way, fulfill His purposes for humanity.

To complete these lessons, you will need a Bible and a pen.

As a new creation in Christ, you need to learn how to live as a child of God. There are six practices that identify someone as a Christian:

Followers of Jesus:

Pray

Grow in daily Bible reading

Worship God in community with His people

Obey God

Talk to others about Jesus

Serve God with their lives

Christ has given you a new life! Now...

1. You are a new creation

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, who is a new creation? _____

What happened to "the old things"? _____

Who provides all this? _____

Think about your salvation experience and answer the following questions:

What are "the old" things in your life that are now gone? _____

What are the things that God has made new in your life? _____

John 1:12 affirms that all who have received Him become... _____

2. You have a new security

Now someone lives in you, because you have invited Him to live in your heart. You are no longer alone. Who is with you, according to John 14:23? _____

According to 1 John 5:13, what can you be sure about now? _____

If you died in the next few hours, where does the Bible say you will go according to John 14:1-3? _____

3. Enjoy new relationships

The Christian life is not a solitary life. Some people are afraid of losing their friends and loved ones because of their decision to follow Christ. Though this might happen in some cases, the Bible and the experience of millions of Christians affirm that when Jesus is in your life, He fills you with His Spirit of love. This is reflected in all of your relationships.

John 14:15-17 says that Christians have the presence of God in their lives at all times. After reading this passage, answer the following questions:

Who did the Father send to be with His children at all times? _____

In whom can the Holy Spirit live? _____

In whom does the Holy Spirit not live? _____

When you read John 15:11-16, you will discover that besides God, now you have more friends.

Christians have a new family in God that extends to (verse 12): _____

Christians have the best friend anyone could ever have (verse 14): _____

Christians who love Jesus will do as much as possible to (verse 16): _____

Jesus doesn't want you to be apart from your family and friends. His will is for them to see in you the new life that God has given you.

2. The Bible

What does the Word of God say about itself in 2 Timothy 3:16? _

For whom is the Word of God, according to Matthew 4:4? Mark the correct answers:

- For experts. For preachers.
 For believers. For everyone - men and women.

In the following passages you will discover how reading the Word of God will help you grow in your daily Christian life:

Psalm 119:11 _____

John 15:3 _____

Acts 20:32 _____

2 Timothy 3:15 _____

A believer needs to spend time alone with God. Start by setting apart a time every day to nourish your life with the Word. This is commonly referred to as a devotional time.

- Read carefully for 5 to 10 minutes, starting with the Gospel of Luke.
- Meditate on how what you read relates with how you are living now. As you read, you will find promises from God for your life, commandments to obey, sins for which you should ask for forgiveness and teachings about what God expects from you.
- Pray according to what God has said to you through the Word. Don't forget the purposes of prayer that you studied in this lesson: worship, give thanks, pray for your needs and those of other people, confess your sins and ask for forgiveness.

New Life in Christ

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New Life in Christ 2

This lesson will teach you how Christians grow in their relationship with God through praying and reading the Bible. In this lesson, you will find answers to the following questions, which are common to all new followers of Christ:

Why do Christians pray?

How do I pray as a faithful follower of Jesus?

Did Jesus pray when He was on the earth?

Does God listen to me when I pray?

Why should I read the Bible every day?

How can I start to read the Bible?

Let's remember the six practices that identify the followers of Jesus:

Pray
Grow in daily Bible reading
Worship God in community with His people
Obey God
Talk to others about Jesus
Serve God with their lives

Christ leads you to a new relationship with God!

1. Prayer

“Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3).

The Bible teaches us that God wants to listen to and help his children. Now that you are a child of God, He wants you to share with Him everything that is in you. You can come to God freely and tell Him about your dreams, goals and needs. Do you know how to express your needs to the creator of the universe? Jesus understood, better than anyone else did, God’s patient and loving heart in listening to His children. He frequently went somewhere alone to have a private prayer time with God. At what time did Jesus wake up to pray, according to Mark 1:35? _____

The disciples were witnesses of the wisdom, strength and power that Jesus received through prayer. On one occasion, they asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus gave them the instructions about prayer that we find in Matthew 6:5-13. Read the passage and answer the following question:

What kinds of prayer does God listen to (verses 7,8)? _____

In this model that Jesus gave us, we can find some fundamental purposes of prayer:

A. TO WORSHIP AND GIVE THANKS. To worship God is to recognize His greatness and glory. We can see this in verses 9 and 13. What does Jesus affirm in the opening and closing of His prayer? _____

Gratitude is closely related to worship. Jesus taught that the children of God should be thankful for everything they receive from their Heavenly Father. This not only includes material things, but also friends, family, job, rest and everything else

they receive every day from God’s hand.

B. TO ASK WITHIN THE WILL OF GOD. When Christians pray, they demonstrate that they want to live close to God and know His will for their lives. Through prayer, they can get to know their Heavenly Father more and more, and grow in their love for Him every day. A believer who doesn’t pray every day will soon become discouraged and weak; they won’t be able to overcome trials and temptations. Because of this, many fail in the Christian life. What did Jesus ask for in His prayer, in verses 11-13? _____

Are Jesus’ requests selfish and focused only on His personal desires? _____

In the same way, the believer should seek to be guided by God every day in prayer, to do His will at all times (verse 10). The believer also has the privilege of interceding for other people. Who do Ephesians 6:18-20 and 1 Timothy 2:1-2 say we should remember to pray for? _____

C. TO CONFESS SIN AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FROM GOD. The word “sin” refers to actions, words, thoughts or desires that ignore the known law of God. When someone sins, he or she offends God and breaks his or her relationship with Him. That person needs to ask for forgiveness in prayer. Jesus taught that God’s children should also be merciful and forgive those who wrong them.

According to Matthew 6:12, what is the relationship between the way a person treats someone who has offended him or her and the forgiveness that they want to receive from God? _____

According to Matthew 5:44-45, what does God expect from His children in their relationships with others? _____

What is the best way of showing love to our friends (verse 13)? _

What example did Jesus give in relation to “giving life for others to have eternal life”? _____

In verses 14 and 16 Jesus asks His followers to make an effort to bear fruit. One way of doing this is by sharing the eternal life they received with others. Is this optional or is it a commandment? _____

What promise can be found in verse 16 for those who ask for the salvation of their friends? _____

Write the names of some of your friends that need to know Jesus:

You can help them have eternal life in Jesus by doing the following things:

- Pray for them to desire to hear the Word of God.
- Talk to them about what God has done in your life (what your life was like before, how you got to know Christ, and what Christ means to you now).
- Invite them to your small group meeting or to the local church, or set a date for them to come and listen to the gospel in your home.

New Life in Christ 3

This lesson will teach you that God has a wonderful plan for your life and that He wants to guide you step by step in fulfilling it. You will find answers to the following questions, which are common to everyone who has decided to follow Jesus:

What does God expect from me?

How do Christians serve God?

How can I help my family and friends to know Jesus?

Let's remember the six practices that identify the followers of Jesus:

Pray

Grow in daily Bible reading

Worship God in community with His people

Obey God

Talk to others about Jesus

Serve God with their lives

New Life in Christ

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Christ has a wonderful plan for your life!

“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).

1. God created you with a purpose

What was God’s purpose in creating humans beings, according to Genesis 1:26-31? _____

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and separated themselves from the plan He had for their lives, which affected their descendants, including us. The Old Testament shows us a God that is seeking individuals and a people to live within His plan. He also sent Jesus Christ to guide people back to God’s original plan. Jesus illustrated this process in the parable of the sower.

2. God wants to be the farmer of your life

Read Mark 4:1-20 and answer the following questions:

What does the seed represent (verse 14)? _____

What stops the plant from having roots (verses 15-16)? _____

What happens to the seed that doesn’t fall on good soil (verses 15-19)? _____

When the seed falls on good soil, what happens (verse 20)? _____

What is your understanding of “bearing fruit”? _____

How much fruit do you think you can produce? _____

3. God has given you a new life for you to bear fruit

The seed of the Word of God has been planted in your heart. It will start producing changes that are necessary for your life to be more pleasing to God. After reading Luke 3:10-14, make a list of the fruits that God will produce in your life. _____

According to Matthew 7:17, what fruit does Jesus expect from Christians? _____

What can you do so that your friends and family know that now you are a follower of Jesus? _____

4. The fruit that God wants to produce in His children is eternal

Everything in this life has a limited existence, for example: building a house, planting a tree, writing a book, having a child, having a wonderful marital relationship, being good at art, sports or a profession, etc. The only one who offers you something that will not cease to exist after death is Jesus. The life that He gives you is eternal and now He wants to use you so that others have the same eternal life. Read John 15:12-17 and answer the following questions:

What is the great commandment that Jesus left for His followers (verse 12)? _____

Acts 1:8? _____

According to Acts 1:8, what do we need to receive before fulfilling our mission as a church? _____

During His ministry with the 12 disciples, Jesus was teaching and modeling the mission of the church for them in different ways. According to the following passages, what is the mission of the church, of each congregation in the world?

Matthew 5:13-16 _____

John 15:1-5 _____

Finally, we learn about the mission of the church as we observe how the first Christians developed their ministry. According to Acts 2:42, what were the purposes that were part of their mission as a new church? In what did they persevere? _____

According to 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, what is the mission of the church? _____

To what does Paul compare us in verse 20? _____

The mission of the church is to become the type of church that God can use to reach others for Him. We need to be faithful disciples of Christ through the ministry of the church and be involved in its life and mission. What a great privilege we have to be an active part of what God wants to do in and through His church in the world!

New Life in Christ 4

This lesson will help you understand what the church is and why Christians gather to worship and fellowship with the people of God. You will find answers to the following questions, which are common to everyone who has decided to follow Jesus:

What is the church?

Why do Christians gather together?

Why is unity necessary in the church?

What is the mission of the church?



Let's remember the six practices that identify the followers of Jesus:

Pray

Grow in daily Bible reading

Worship God in community with His people

Obey God

Talk to others about Jesus

Serve God with their lives

New Life in Christ

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Christ wants to make you part of His church!

The word church literally means “assembly” and it appears 109 times in the New Testament, mostly in Paul’s letters. Only in 17 of these passages does church refer to the whole people of God; in the rest of the references it describes a local congregation of disciples.

1. The nature of the church

On whom is the church founded, according to Matthew 16:16-18? _____

Read 1 Peter 2:9. How does Peter describe Christians?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

These terms describe what the church is and they mean:

- Chosen people: family, race, descendents.
- Royal priesthood: priests that serve before the King of Kings (Jesus).
- Holy nation: a people that is clean of sin and lives according to the will of God.
- A people belonging to God: the people of God that have been bought by the blood of Jesus.

What did God create His church for, according to 1 Peter 2:9b? _____

According to 1 Corinthians 12:27 and Ephesians 5:23, what is the relationship of Christ with the church? _____

Read Ephesians 5:25-27 and explain in your own words: How important is the church to God and how has He shown this? _____

2. The unity of the church

In John 17 we can read the prayer Jesus prayed for all His dis-

ciples before giving His life on the cross for them. Read verses 20-23. For whom was Jesus praying to the Father? _____

Did Jesus also pray for you? _____ What did Jesus ask the Father for His disciples? _____

Why is it important, then, that Christians get together and develop bonds of friendship? _____

Read Acts 2:43-47. Is it possible to be a disciple of Jesus without being part of His church? Yes ____ No ____

Where did the first Christians gather? _____

Why did they gather? _____

What happened when the Christians were together? _____

Read the following passages for more reasons that Christians should gather:

Ephesians 5:18-20 _____

Acts 1:14 and 12:5 _____

Acts 2:44-45 _____

3. The mission of the church

The mission of the Christian church is its “reason to be” in the world. The mission of the church is the same mission that Jesus had in His ministry on the earth. He now shares it with us; we are His church in our time, wherever we live.

There are two key passages in the New Testament that summarize the mission of Jesus for His church in the world. What is the mission of the church, according to Matthew 28:19-20? _____

Mark 14:24 points out that the cup, which symbolizes the blood of Christ shed on the cross, makes us participants in: _____

The new covenant refers to a new relationship that we can now have with God through the death and resurrection of Christ, an intimate love relationship as children of God.

What did Jesus do immediately after taking the bread and the cup, according to Luke 22:17-19? _____

What future hope does Luke 22:18 give us in the Lord's Supper?

In the same way as Luke 22:19, 1 Corinthians 11:24-25 urges us that when we celebrate the Lord's Supper we do it in _____

Participating of the Lord's Supper in memory of Him is to realize that the Lord relives this experience with His disciples, making Himself present not in the elements, but in His church.

Finally, what opportunity does the Lord's Supper give us for our spiritual growth as reflected in 1 Corinthians 11:28 and 31? _____

If you have received forgiveness of sins, it is important that you fill in the baptism request soon and give it to your pastor so that you can be baptized. In the same way, we encourage you to participate more intentionally in the Lord's Supper every time it is celebrated.

New Life in Christ 5

This lesson will help you understand the importance of the sacraments of the church in your constant spiritual growth. Some of the questions it will help you answer are:

What is a sacrament?

Why do we celebrate two sacraments?

What is baptism and what is its place in my commitment to Christ and the church?

What is the Lord's Supper?

Let's remember the six practices that identify the followers of Jesus:

Pray

Grow in daily Bible reading

Worship God in community with His people

Obey God

Talk to others about Jesus

Serve God with their lives

New Life in Christ

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Christ invites you to be an active participant in His sacraments!

Sacraments are symbols that were incorporated into the life of the church by Jesus Christ himself, who also participated in them during His earthly ministry. Because of this, we only observe two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Read Matthew 3:13-17. Who is baptized in this passage? _____
What happened and what did the voice from heaven say immediately after this baptism? _____

In Luke 22:14-16, who led this supper? _____
Who else participated in the supper and what was the message given at the beginning of the supper? _____

Your participation in the sacraments is very important for your continued spiritual growth, because through the sacraments we unite as a church, receive grace from God and become witnesses of His love to the world.

We participate in the sacraments in church, led by a qualified pastor or minister. The Lord's Supper can be celebrated as frequently as desired.

1. Water baptism

Water baptism is an initiation ceremony and a public witness of the forgiveness of our sins. We affirm our death and life together with Christ (Romans 6:3-5).

What does Matthew 28:19 say about baptism? _____

Note that this is a direct commandment from Jesus, not a suggestion. According to Acts 2:38, what was the condition for the people being baptized? _____

According to Acts 8:36-38, what did Philip require of the Ethiopian eunuch before baptizing him? _____

What did Peter do with the new believers in Caesarea, according to Acts 10:47-48? _____

After the baptism of Lydia and her family, what did she ask of Paul and his companions, according to Acts 16:14-15? _____

According to Acts 18:8, what happened to the people after they believed? _____

The word baptism literally means submerge, immerse, purify, regenerate, sprinkle, cleanse. We can identify at least three different forms of baptism in the New Testament: immersion (to be completely submerged in water), sprinkling (to trickle water onto the person) and effusion (to pour water on the head of the person). Which of the three forms could have been used in the following cases?

Mark 1:9-11 _____

Acts 9:17-18 _____

Acts 16:29-33 _____

Finally, to which other baptism does the water baptism point, according to Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:5? _____

2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Lord Himself and is a ceremony of communion and constant renewal for His disciples. We can see some of the significant elements of the Lord's Supper in the following passages:

According to Matthew 26:26-28, what do the bread and the cup symbolize? _____

According to 1 Corinthians 11:26, when we take the elements of the Lord's Supper, what are we doing and until when? _____

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 1

Putting it into practice

1. Read Psalms 18:2 and 62:1-2. Is Christ your “rock” and your “salvation”? _____

How can others see this truth in your life? _____

2. Communicate your answer to God in prayer and ask Him to keep you firm in your decision to follow Christ.

3. After reading John 6:67-69, in whom, other than Jesus, can you find eternal life? _____

4. Pray for help and direction from God to be victorious in every situation.

5. If there are obstacles in your life that can stop you from following Christ, share them with your mentor or small group. It is possible that they can give you valuable suggestions based on their own personal experience or from that of other more mature Christians.

Follow Christ!

This lesson will

...help you understand that the call of discipleship of Jesus is for everybody.

...give you a bigger vision of what being a follower of Christ implies.

...challenge you to have a deeper commitment with Jesus, accepting Him as the Master and model for your life.

To memorize:

“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”

1 Peter 2:21

Follow Christ!

1. To follow Him is to know Him

These days there is a lot of confusion about who Jesus really is or was. Some who call themselves teachers or the “illuminated” affirm that Jesus was a good guide for the people of His time, but that now there are other teachers, who are similar to Him, sent by divinity to show men and women the way to become superior. They affirm that there are many ways to get to know God and reach eternal spiritual salvation.

However, the Bible affirms that there is only one person whom God has sent to be the mediator and the guide for humanity. Who is He according to 1 Timothy 2:5? _____

What is the only foundation designated by God for the Christian life in 1 Corinthians 3:11? _____

Why is Jesus the only firm rock on which the Christian life can be built, according to Matthew 16:13-18 and Hebrews 9:14-15? _____

What security can a Christian, who has put his or her faith in Christ as the Rock, have? Acts 4:11-12 _____

The Bible affirms that Jesus was the only person sent by God to help people live their lives in accordance with the will of the Creator.

Being a follower of Jesus requires leaving behind anything that could separate us from Him. This renunciation includes giving everything to God, for Him to be the owner and for us to be the administrators of those resources. According to Ephesians 4:13, what goal do the disciples of Christ strive for? _____

Can we follow Jesus without making changes or adjusting our lives? _____

These changes won't happen only by understanding that they are convenient. We must be willing to surrender our heart and to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. The disciples of Jesus need to make the decision to be transformed by Him.

What I learned in this lesson

Follow Christ!

Why is it not enough to be hearers of the Word of God, according to James 1:22? _____

The Master's teachings have to be lived out in His disciples' lives. Consistency is required. That is why Jesus tells those who want to follow Him that they need to persevere, and if they don't, they can't be His disciples (Luke 9:62). In this world, nothing lasts forever, but the real followers of Jesus are those who persevere, even in the midst of difficulties.

His follower must also adopt this lifestyle. What should the disciples of Jesus seek as their priority, according to Matthew 6:33?

The disciple of Jesus must "seek the Kingdom of God," that is, to fervently desire that the will of God be done in every area of their lives and around them. But this doesn't happen automatically after being born to the Christian life.

What areas of the life of the new disciple of Jesus need to be transformed?

Ezekiel 11:19 _____

Romans 12:2 _____

1 Peter 1:14 _____

The former desires, customs, and ways of thinking and acting need to be removed from the life of the new disciple of Jesus. This is why the Christian life is a continuous process of growth and transformation.

2. To follow Him is to obey Him

What is the common calling that Jesus gives to people in:

Matthew 8:22; 9:9? _____

Luke 9:59; 18:22? _____

John 1:43? _____

How did Jesus demonstrate that He has authority over nature?

Matthew 8:26-27 _____

Mark 1:27 _____

According to John 1:1-18, why did Jesus have this power? _____

What invitation does Jesus make to those who believe in Him in the following verses: Matthew 10:37-38, Luke 14:26, and John 7:37? _____

Jesus' invitation, "come to me," is a call for all who believe in Him to become His disciples. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus according to John 8:31? _____

In other words, being a disciple is being willing to imitate and learn from Him, applying His teachings in every area of life. To be a Christian is to be a follower of Jesus. Is it possible to be a real Christian without being a disciple of Jesus? _____

According to Luke 6:46, is it possible to be a real Christian without doing what Jesus asks us to? _____

Follow Christ!

3. To follow Him is to imitate Him

Jesus did not try to make His followers practice a new religion based on rituals, ceremonies and rules. The disciples discovered step by step that Jesus had a lifestyle that was in continuous harmony with God's will. What was Jesus' priority in life according to John 6:38-40? _____

According to John 13:14-15, what does Jesus say that should be the priority in the life of His disciples? _____

4. To follow Him is to be willing to leave everything

What examples can you give of people that gave up something to reach a goal in their lives? _____

In 2 Timothy 2:1-5, Paul compares a Christian to a good soldier and an athlete that trains hard to be among the victors. Which are the Christians that reach the goal or prize of eternal life? _____

Jesus used a clear example from His time to help those who wanted to be His disciples to understand that they needed to be willing to pay the cost. What comparison did He use according to Luke 9:23? _____

Being crucified on the cross was the way in which Jesus taught that the Christian life requires sacrifice. The cross represented suffering and physical death. The cross was the price that Jesus was willing to pay for our salvation.

As their Master has, the disciples of Jesus throughout history have faced trials and difficulties because of their faithfulness to the gospel. But it is in these situations where Christians are strengthened in their faith (Romans 5:3-5).

In Matthew 24:13 there is a promise for all who remain faithful to the Lord in the midst of trials. What is it? _____

Jesus did not accept anyone as a disciple who was not willing to pay the price.

According to what you have observed in your own life, what are the current difficulties that the disciples of Jesus have to face because of deciding to follow Jesus? _____

5. To follow Him is to be Faithful

The call to be Jesus' disciple is for one's entire life. The Christian life is to be lived day by day.

In what were the first Christians faithful, according to Philippians 3:13-14? _____

What did Paul recommend that the Christians in Thessalonica be faithful in doing (1 Thessalonians 5:12-23)? _____

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 2

Wednesday: Psalm 90:2 and 119:137

Thursday: Jeremiah 23:24; 32:17

Friday: John 1:18; 4:24

Saturday: John 1:5; 3:20; 4:16

Sunday: Psalm 130:3-41

2. Make a list of things you will do this week to show God your love:

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Mark the ones that you did with an X.

Love God with all you are!

This lesson will

...teach you more about what God is like and how much He loves you.

...guide you to discover what God has done and continues to do to bring humans closer to Him through His love.

...help you understand that God created you to have fellowship with Him.

...show you how you can experience the genuine love that comes from God and respond to this love without reservations.

To memorize:

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.’”

Matthew 22:37-38

Love God with all you are!

1. What does it mean to love?

In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus reminds us that the most important commandment that the children of God must keep is _____

What does it mean to you to love? _____

It is not easy to describe love. This is because the verb “love” has lost its true significance. We cannot fully understand love if we don’t understand who God is. God is the source of love and where the human capacity to love comes from.

2. How does God show His love to us?

The first two chapters of the Book of Genesis tell how God, starting from nothing, created the whole universe and what is in it.

How did God rate human beings and the rest of creation after evaluating His work, according to Genesis 1:31? _____

Human beings were created by God in a “perfect” or “very good” way, like the rest of creation. This perfection not only refers to the physical aspect of humans, but also to their mental capacity, their desires, their emotions, their feelings and their spiritual purity.

According to Genesis 1:26-27, what made the first man and woman so special? _____

God wants you to know Him and love Him more every day. God wants you to learn to express your love for Him. This will be the theme of the next lessons.

What I learned in this lesson

Putting it into practice

1. In the following Bible passages you will find more information about what God is like. Read them during your quiet time with God this week and write a description of what God is for you and how you want your relationship with Him to be from now on. Give thanks in prayer to God everyday for what He means to you.

Monday: Deuteronomy 7:9

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 29:10-19

Love God with all you are!

Human beings have a tendency to love those who show love to us. We love people because of what they do or what they are able to do. Do you think God loves you for what you do, or for what you are? _____

Verify your answer with the following verses: Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 4:10.

Should we trust that God will give eternal life to those who do good works, according to Ephesians 2:8-10? _____

Good actions cannot compensate for our sins before God. Why then should the disciples of Jesus do good works, according to Matthew 5:16? _____

God loves us for who we are, not for what we do. In the same way, we should love Him for who He is. Some people fear loving God because they have been disappointed by someone they loved. It's hard to trust in someone again after being hurt. But these people can see their fears disappear as they know God more and more, and as they experience His faithfulness.

Again and again in the Bible, God is praised for His faithfulness (Psalm 40:10; 92:2; Lamentations 3:23). God is faithful independent of what we do. Even if we fail, He continues being faithful.

Find the following passages and identify examples of how God's faithfulness is revealed:

1 Corinthians 10:13 _____

2 Thessalonians 3:3 _____

1 John 1:9 _____

For what purpose did God give humans intelligence and the capacity to relate to their Creator? _____

God likes to have fellowship with human beings. In this way, He can share His love and wisdom with us, and be our tender and protecting Father. God is Spirit, but He is also a person. Like us, God feels happiness, gets angry, reasons with His children, forgives, loves, feels pain and has mercy.

Find some of the characteristics of God in the following passages:

Genesis 6:6 _____

Psalms 86:15 _____

Luke 12:6 _____

1 John 4:10, 16 _____

We shouldn't treat God as if He were an insensitive being, ready to punish us when we make mistakes. God is not a bunch of rules or norms that need to be obeyed. We don't seek God only when we need Him for something.

He is a loving Father who wants to hold you, who cares about you, who delights in talking to you, and who wants to guide you so you don't get hurt. Because He is your friend, He wants to help you become a better child, a better spouse, a better parent. God desires happiness for His creation. But something happened that affected God's plan. You can read about it in Genesis 3:1-24.

Because of Adam and Eve's disobedience, sin, suffering and death broke the wonderful harmony of the world created by God, and brought disgrace for all creation.

Love God with all you are!

But God didn't give up His purpose of having fellowship with human beings. Because of His love, He put His salvation plan in place to rescue human beings from sin and bring them back into an intimate relationship with their Creator.

The Bible was written by people who had fellowship with God and, in obedience to Him, wrote how this plan was developed in human history. It tells how God gave all of Himself so we can be reconciled with Him (Romans 5:8).

Why did God intervene in human history by sending His Son Jesus, according to John 3:16? _____

Personalize this verse, writing it in your own words and inserting your name:

For God so loved (write your name) _____
that He _____

List some examples of how God shows His love.

While the plan of salvation was being developed, God revealed Himself to human beings. The Bible shows us that God is One, but at the same time He is three persons in One: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (the Trinity).

You can find more information about the three persons of the Trinity in the book *What Nazarenes Believe* or in the *Dictionary for New Christians*.

3. God longs for His love to be returned by all His creatures

Do you know someone who loved deeply, but his or her love was not returned? _____

Some people make the mistake of believing that God can be loved superficially. For them, loving God means fulfilling certain rites, prayers and sacrifices. But the Bible affirms that all that is useless; it doesn't please God.

In what way did the people, according to Isaiah 1:10-20, try to please God? _____

Do you think these people loved God in the way He wanted them to love Him, according to Matthew 22:37-38? _____

Why did they not please God if they complied with all the rituals and religious festivals? _____

What contemporary examples can you give of misguided ways to please God? _____

4. Love God with everything you are

How does God want you to love Him, according to Deuteronomy 6:5? _____

Do you think it's easy to love in this way? Yes ____ No ____

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 3

Putting it into practice

1. Reflect on the following phrase: "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." Then, read John 3:16.

2. Read Psalm 133 and discover: what blessing is reserved for those who learn to love one another from the heart? _____

3. How is love perfected in the children of God, according to 1 John 2:3-6? _____

4. Read 1 John 4:7-21 and answer: Why isn't it possible to love God without loving your brothers and sisters? _____

5. List some things that you can do this week to show love to your family, brothers and sisters in the church, and neighbors in your community, job, school and so on. Ask God to help you reach these goals.

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Mark the ones that you did with an X.

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life

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Love other people!

This lesson will

...help you understand that the will of God is that humans love each other.

...help you know the ultimate model for Christians of love in action: Jesus Christ.

...teach you to recognize who is your neighbor, whom God asks you to love.

...show you how you can experience genuine love that comes from God and put it into action.

To memorize:

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:39b

Love other people!

1. You were created with the need to love and to be loved

From the time they are born, humans need love to grow healthy mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. There are many illnesses that are caused by the lack of love. Can you give some examples? _____

In the previous lesson we saw that human beings were created with the capacity to love and receive God's love. The first and greatest commandment Jesus gives to His disciples is to love God. It is in this relationship of love that a person can find satisfaction in his or her inherent need for eternal love.

But loving God and having fellowship with Him is not the only thing Jesus expects from His disciples. From the very beginning, the Creator's original plan was that human beings would also relate to each other in love. We can see this in the following passages:

If Adam had a perfect relationship with God, why did he feel lonely? Genesis 2:18-25 _____

God created man and woman to live as a family, where they take care of and love each other. Later on, God called Abraham. What plan did God have for Abraham's life, according to Genesis 12:1-2? _____

In the Bible there are various suggestions for the members of the family of God (the church) to cultivate their relationships and learn to live like brothers and sisters in faith. Investigate this in the following passages: Matthew 5:22; 18:15, 21-22; Romans 12:9-10; Galatians 6:1 and Ephesians 4:2.

E. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit.

According to John 17:26, what kind of love did Jesus give His disciples? _____

Through whom is God's love poured into the hearts of His children, according to Romans 5:5? _____

According to 1 Thessalonians 3:12, God's love should _____ and _____ in your heart.

The Holy Spirit of God is who teaches you to love your neighbors like Jesus did. You can pray, asking God to fill you with His Holy Spirit and His love.

What I learned in this lesson

Love other people!

What are some wrong ways of loving yourself, according to 2 Corinthians 10:12-13 and 2 Timothy 3:2? _____

Some, on the other hand, see themselves as unworthy of being loved and valued. Some people have a difficult time forgiving themselves for past mistakes and sins. Christians need to learn to see themselves as God sees them.

You are a valuable person in God's hands. God loves you and if you have asked Him for forgiveness for your failures and sin, be sure that He has forgiven everything and forgotten it all (Micah 7:19). You are a new creature for Him, for yourself and for others.

Your love for yourself is the measure of love that God asks you to have for others (Matthew 7:12). When you don't know what to do, you can ask yourself: if I were in this situation, how would I like people to treat me?

D. Jesus wants His disciples to love each other and remain united.

The church is made of human beings, and the Christians that are part of it, even though they are saved, are not without faults. They, in the same way as you, are learning to live as disciples of Jesus and they are learning to love like Jesus did. What example does the apostle Paul give about this in his letter to the Philippians (3:12-14)? _____

From the offspring of Abraham, God formed the people of Israel (Hebrew people), from which Jesus would come. With what purpose did God send Jesus into the world, according to Titus 2:14? _____

All the followers of Jesus are part of a new people (1 Peter 2:9-10). What other name did the people of God receive in the New Testament in Acts 2:47? _____

What should the relationships be like between the disciples of Christ who form the church, according to 1 John 4:7-8? _____

According to 1 John 4:16, what is the characteristic that identifies a disciple of Christ? _____

2. Jesus Christ is our perfect example of love in action

God knew that human beings, because of sin, could not love each other perfectly, according to the original purpose for which they were created.

Jesus lived among human beings as a perfect and continuous example of God's love in action. What did Jesus do out of love for the people of His time, according to the gospels?

Luke 4:38 _____

Love other people!

Luke 4:43 _____

Luke 9:10-17 _____

Can we love as Jesus did? _____

Do you believe God would ask you to do something you can't do? Answer this question after reading Ephesians 5:1-2. _____

3. You can put God's love into practice by imitating Jesus

A. Jesus had compassion.

According to Matthew 9:36, what did Jesus experience when He saw the crowds? _____

To have compassion is to feel pain or mercy for others' misfortune. To feel compassion is not merely to be sympathetic with the other person, but also to identify with them, to feel their pain, their need. Feeling pity for someone is not enough. Many people feel pity for those who suffer, but don't do anything to help them.

Jesus is the personified compassion of the Creator, who in view of His lost and hopeless creatures, decided to act to solve the problem (Matthew 15:32). Jesus demonstrated that love is not only words (1 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 6:10 and 10:24). What then, should compassion compel Christians to do? _____

Through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, the Church of the Nazarene promotes, trains and encourages Christians to practice compassion in concrete ways--the compassion that should characterize their lifestyle, helping to meet the needs of others.

B. Jesus loved everyone in the same way.

To show the people of His time that the children of God should love everyone, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan, which you can read in Luke 10:25-37. With this parable Jesus had the purpose of teaching that the commandment of loving our neighbor has no limits; it includes people of all races, cultures, religions, political ideologies, gender, age, social, economical or cultural standing, and even includes enemies.

Who is the neighbor in the passage mentioned above? _____

To what extreme does Jesus take this teaching, according to Matthew 5:43-44? _____

For whom does Jesus ask forgiveness in Luke 23:34? _____

Love and forgiveness are inseparable, but they are not easily accessible to human beings. We can only learn to forgive this way through the love that God gives us as we ask Him in prayer.

C. To learn to love others, start by loving yourself.

Some people have a mistaken self-image. What does Romans 12:3 say about this? _____

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 4

3. Read Luke 14:28-32. Examine your goals, priorities and plans for this week analyzing whether they are in accordance with the will of God for you by answering the following questions.

Are my goals, priorities and plans a personal desire that God would approve of? _____

If Jesus were in my place, would He act the same way I act? _____

Am I being faithful to God with my goals, priorities and plans? _____

Have I thought about how my goals, priorities and plans can affect my neighbors (family, friends, siblings, co-workers, etc.)? _____

Will my goals, priorities and plans contribute to my growth as a disciple of Christ? _____

Am I investing enough time in my spiritual growth: Bible study, prayer, attending church, Christian fellowship and so on? _____

Am I separating a tithe of all my income of the week to offer to God and His work? _____

Make a list of things you will do this week in response to what God expects from you as a responsible administrator of what He has put in your hands.

Allow Jesus to be Lord of all!

This lesson will

...help you understand that everything you own has been given to you by the generous hand of God.

...show you that Christ has given you a new life to be your Lord and for you to be a good administrator of everything He gives you.

...teach some characteristics of good administrators.

...inform you about some things that you can start doing as a faithful administrator of the Lord.

To memorize:

“If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”

Romans 14:8

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life

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Allow Jesus to be Lord of all!

1. Who is the owner of everything?

What is the difference of being able to use something and being the owner of it? _____

Compare your answer to Acts 4:32 _____

According to Psalms 24:1, who is the owner of everything?

Choose among the following options:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The individual | <input type="checkbox"/> The family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The community | <input type="checkbox"/> The government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The church | <input type="checkbox"/> God |

Why isn't it right to say that the human being is the owner of what he or she possesses, according to 1 Corinthians 4:7 and 1 Timothy 6:7? _____

On what do we base the belief that God is the owner of everything?

Job 38:4 _____

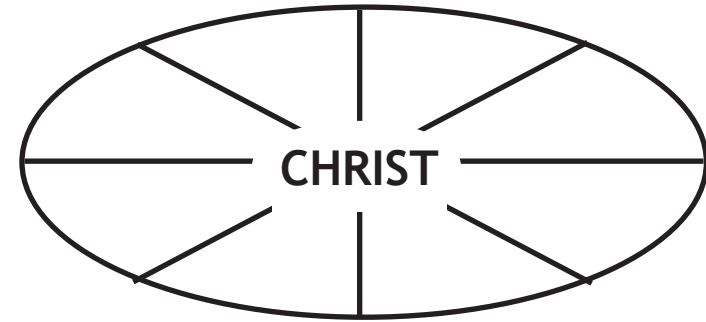
Psalms 100:3 _____

Isaiah 45:12 _____

Acts 17:28 _____

God created you, and He provides what you need to continue with your life. He has rescued you from the power of sin and death through the blood of His Son Jesus, and He has made you part of His holy people for you to serve Him with everything you are. Everything you are and everything you have has been given to you by God. Now He asks you to be the administrator of all those things.

If your answer is no, what is stopping you from making this decision? _____



What I learned in this lesson

Putting it into practice

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15.
Meditate: What will the practical implications be of giving the Lord control of your life?
2. Read Mark 16:15, Ephesians 5:16 and Philippians 4:8.
Meditate: How can you invest the resources that you have received from God: your mind, personality, capabilities, time and knowledge of the gospel of Jesus?

Allow Jesus to be Lord of all!

God will bless you every time that you give something that He asks you to. You will always receive more from God than what you can give Him. Is anyone so poor that they aren't able to give something to God or to others? What does Acts 3:6 say about it? _____

D. Inform: In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus taught that each person should give an account for what he or she administers. To whom should he or she give account? _____

Prayer is the means by which we, as Christians, can be accountable to God, evaluate together with Him our performance in the different areas of life, and make plans with Him. But we also need to be accountable to one another; with our leaders, and brothers and sisters in the church.

5. Surrender the control of your life to Christ

According to Colossians 1:13-18, Romans 14:9 and Acts 10:36, to whom has God the Father given the title of Lord of your life? _____

On the next page there is a graphic that can be helpful to show what a life bound to the lordship of Christ looks like. Place different aspects of your life that you need to surrender to the lordship of Christ into the graphic. Try areas like marriage, children, education, free time, job and finances, among others.

The decision is yours. Do you wish to give control of your life to Christ? If your answer is yes, tell it to the Lord in prayer:

"Christ, I give You every aspect of my life that I have placed in the graphic, and I ask You to take control of everything I am. Help me live every day under Your Lordship."

2. God has made you His administrator

Jesus used other words to refer to administrators, like steward and servant. What is a servant, according to Mark 10:43-45? _____

In the time of Jesus there was slavery, and to say servant was the same as saying slave. The only purpose a slave had was pleasing his or her owner, whom they called lord or master. A steward was a servant who fulfilled administrative functions under the orders of his or her master. If Jesus is the Lord, then who are His administrators, servants or stewards? _____

Jesus was the perfect example of a person who gives His life in service to God. Therefore, who is a steward?

- ___ One who uses the property of his or her master in the way he or she thinks best.
- ___ One who obeys the desires of his or her owner.
- ___ One who decides what to do with his or her master's properties.

3. Characteristic of a faithful administrator of God's resources

In the parable in Matthew 25:14-30, how does a good administrator differ from a bad one? _____

If you had to put someone in charge of something that has a lot of value to you, what characteristics would you look for in that person? _____

The New Testament requires three things of a faithful steward of God.

Allow Jesus to be Lord of all!

The first requirement is found in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. What is it?

A faithful steward is one who fulfills all of his or her responsibilities, takes care of his or her master's interests, and uses his or her abilities for the master's service.

The second requirement can be found in Titus 1:7. What is it? _____

Another word for blameless is "upright." An upright person is one whom no one can accuse of failures. If the steward is not "upright" people can develop a wrong understanding of the owner, because the steward represents the owner to others. The third requirement can be found in Hebrews 6:3, 10; 7:9-10. What is the characteristic that is found in all of these servants of God? _____

How can a Christian be wiser, according to James 1:5? _____

4. Responsibilities of an administrator in the service of God

God's administrators have four responsibilities.

A. Follow instructions: We have learned that God decides what to do with His property and that we only need to follow His instructions. The Bible teaches us how to correctly use the resources we've received from God.

B. Look for direction: As an administrator you need to be in contact with God so you can know His will and receive new instructions. God does not always reveal His will all at once, but step by step. How does God reveal His will little-by-little to His servants in the following passages?

Genesis 12:1 _____

Acts 9:6 _____

Acts 16:6-10 _____

Hebrews 11:8 _____

C. Wisely invest the resources received: God wants His children to be faithful and to invest what He has given to them with the goal of multiplying these resources. These resources can be your life, your time, your abilities, and your money, among others.

According to 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, what is the promise God makes to all who invest their life according to His plan? _____

According to God's plan, a wise person invests what he or she has received in three persons:

GOD

OTHERS

YOURSELF

According to Malachi 3:10-12, what has God promised to those who give Him what belongs to Him? _____

God wants us to share what He gives to us with others. In what way are you to do that, according to 2 Corinthians 9:7? _____

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 5

What I learned in this lesson

Putting it into practice

1. Read Philippians 1:12-30. Write your personal reflection about the following: What was Paul's reason to live? What is your reason to live? Is your life valuable to you? Do you think your life could have more value? How? _____

2. Read Philippians 2:1-11. List the recommendations Paul makes in relation to the way in which Christians should serve following Jesus' example. _____

3. Read Colossians 3:18-4:6. Consider how your relationships with your family, friends, co-workers, classmates, neighbors, and brothers and sisters in the church has been this week. Focus especially on how you have interacted with the people who have authority over you. Do you think you could improve the way you relate to them? Do you think you need to ask for forgiveness or apologize to someone you have offended or treated poorly? If this is the case, ask God for forgiveness and talk to the person at your first opportunity.

Serve Christ!

This lesson will

...help you to understand that God has given you a new life for you to be a minister in the service of Christ.

...show you the different areas in which Christ wants you to serve Him.

...give you practical ideas for you to start serving Jesus this very week, in your home, job, school, church and community.

To memorize:

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

Luke 16:13a

Serve Christ!

1. What is a servant?

In the previous lesson we saw that a servant is one who is not his or her own master, but he or she has someone else as a master.

What is the other word is used in the New Testament as a synonym of servant? Choose among the following options:

__ brother __ boss __ slave __ lord

Is it correct to say that an individual is a slave to the thing or person in which he or she invests most of his or her time, attention and money, according to Matthew 6:24? _____

Who is the only person the Christian should serve, according to 1 Corinthians 4:1? _____

What example did Jesus give us in relation to service in Mark 10:45 and Luke 22:27? _____

According to Philippians 2:7, did Jesus volunteer to come and serve, or was He commanded by His Father? _____

Jesus was always willing to do humble tasks. He never made excuses nor refused to do tasks that required a lot of effort or personal sacrifice. If Jesus is to be your example in everything, what does His attitude teach you? _____

Jesus served the people around Him in different ways, providing answers for their needs. He taught, healed, preached, consoled, fed the hungry and even washed His disciples' feet, when none of them wanted to do that!

In the same way in which Jesus served the people, we, His disciples, have the privilege of serving them.

Read Ephesians 4:1-16. Why has Jesus made you a member of His church, according to verses 11 - 16? _____

In the same way that the parts of the human body (e.g. arms and legs) cannot be useful separated from the body, the disciples of Jesus need to remain united in a local church (group of believers from one location), with the goal of serving the world in accordance with the will of the Lord (John 17:20-21).

The members of the Church of the Nazarene around the world are people who, like you, have accepted the challenge of serving Christ and serving one another in love (you can find more information in the booklet History and Ministry of the Church of the Nazarene in the World).

Would you like to be part of this international family?

Yes __ No __ I'm not sure __

If your answer is yes, communicate your desire to your mentor or pastor to receive instructions how to do this.

6. Serving Christ in your community and the world

As followers of Jesus, we have been called to contribute to the development of our communities and the physical world in all its dimensions (health, education, living place, employment, etc.). What are some of the needs that you see in your community to which you could contribute as a follower of Jesus?

Serve Christ!

There are many ways in which the believer can serve God in his or her job. We offer you a list with some of them, and you can start putting them into practice this week:

- Working consciously, with creativity, diligence and responsibility.
- Being a faithful steward of the resources you administer (teams, people, buildings, land, etc.)
- Doing the job as if it was for God; it doesn't matter whether it's a manual or intellectual job, or if it's paid or not.
- Serving your co-workers in their needs when it's possible.

5. Serving Christ in your Church of the Nazarene

Because the word "minister" has been used for a long time in churches to refer to the pastoral ministry, some people have come to believe that this is the only ministry, or the most important one. Is this true in light of Ephesians 4:11-13? _____

What is the purpose of these ministries? _____

Make a list of some needs the people in your neighborhood have.

Is it possible for one person to satisfy all of these needs? _____

For this reason, Jesus has made you _____ of His Body or church (Ephesians 5:29-30).

2. What does it mean to be a minister of Christ?

In the Bible, the word ministry is used to refer to any service done for God. The words service and ministry communicate the same idea.

When Jesus addressed the needs of the people, was He concerned only with their spiritual life or did He also worry about their physical condition and emotional situation? _____

Jesus' servants should see to the well-being of their neighbors, spiritually as well as physically, emotionally, economically; in family, social and educational contexts, etc. Yes ___ No ___

Some Christians believe in Jesus Christ, but don't talk to others about Him, nor do they do anything to help people in their needs.

Do you think this type of Christianity is pleasing to God? _____

Why? _____

Compare your answer to James 1:22-25 _____

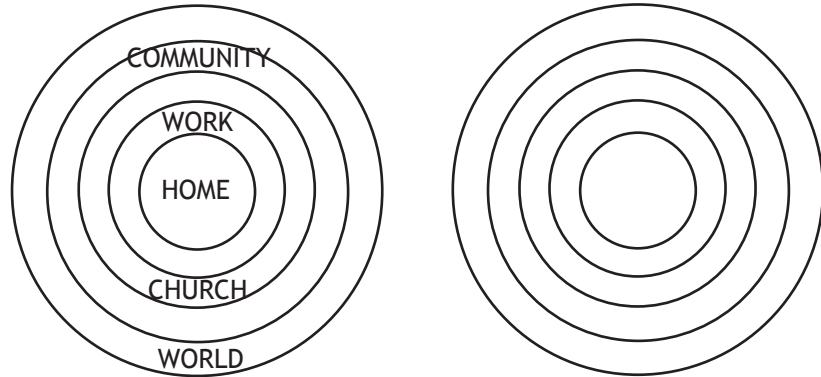
There are different types of ministries, or ways of serving the Lord, for each disciple.

Is it correct to say that since the moment that God gave you a new life in Christ, He has prepared a ministry for you, according to Ephesians 2:10? _____

There are also different spheres or fields of ministry. Christians are people who live serving God wherever they are. The graphic that follows represents the life of an average Christian

Serve Christ!

adult. He or she is responsible to be a minister of Christ when at home, at work or in their neighborhood. He or she even has the responsibility to serve people farther away than his or her community or the borders of his or her country.



Write down on the blank graphic the areas of your life the spheres in which you have a responsibility to serve others as a Christian.

3. Serving Christ in your home

Who is the creator of marriage and the family? _____

God desires that His children live within the comfort and security of a family. The family was created by God to give love, companionship, trust, encouragement and protection to human beings.

After reading Ephesians 5:25 to 6:4, mark some of the behaviors you have observed in families that you know that are not in accordance to the ideal family God intends His children to have:

- ___ The children suffer from a lack of attention because their parents dedicate all their energy to their job, community or church.
- ___ The parents don't give spiritual direction to their children.
- ___ The children don't communicate with their parents.
- ___ The parents don't know where their children are nor what they are doing.
- ___ The parents have vices in which they waste all of their money and their children are poorly cared for.
- ___ There is physical violence, mistreatment and offensive vocabulary in their interactions.
- ___ One of the spouses has extramarital relations.
- ___ Others: _____

God's desire for His servants is that they serve Him in their most immediate environment first: their family. In what ways do you think you can serve your family better? Write down some examples:

4. Serving Christ in your work

Human beings were created by God with the ability to work (Genesis 1:26-28). Work should not be seen as a curse, but as a blessing and opportunity to serve. What example did Jesus give us in relation to this in John 5:17? _____

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 6

What I learned in this lesson

Putting it into practice

1. Reflect on the following, after reading the indicated Scripture passages:

What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit according to Romans 6:1-16?

How is the filling of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the life of Christians, according to Galatians 5:16-26?

2. After asking for direction from the Holy Spirit through prayer, respond to the following questions with a list of ideas:

How can I express the perfect love that God has put in my heart to my family and my brothers and sisters in Christ? (Write down the date in which you will do each thing).

Are there habits in my life that are not compatible with the Christian way of living? Are there unresolved personal relationships in my life?

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

This lesson will

...teach you more about the person of the Holy Spirit so you can have fellowship with Him.

...help you understand the ways in which the Holy Spirit has been present before, during and after your conversion.

...guide you to discover some dispositions and attitudes in your life that threaten your spiritual growth, which God wants to transform through the Holy Spirit.

...teach you that being filled with the Holy Spirit is being full of Christ's love so you can reach out to those around you.

To memorize:

"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life

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Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

1. The Holy Spirit is a person

The word spirit means life and breath; the word holy means pure and separated from evil. Holiness is the very essence of God (Leviticus 19:2).

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity; He is God. Because He is a spiritual person, He is invisible to human eyes; however, His presence is always with the Christian (Psalm 139:7). What are some of the names by which the Holy Spirit is known?

John 14:26 _____

John 16:13-15 _____

God sent the Holy Spirit for Christ to be known and His truth to be revealed to believers (John 14:26). Therefore, the Holy Spirit doesn't draw the attention of believers to Himself, but He directs them to look at and imitate Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:3).

2. The Holy Spirit is active in salvation

From antiquity, the Holy Spirit inspired holy men to write so that we would have the Bible today. He is the One who makes that Word speak to you, correct you, console you, teach you and apply it to your life and needs.

Before being born again, the Holy Spirit shows us, in many different ways, the sinful condition we are in. What does John 16:7-11 say about this? _____

In the moment we are forgiven and we receive Christ, who makes us new creatures according to John 3:6 and Titus 3:5? _____

If your answer is yes, you can pray a prayer similar to the following:

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me Your son or daughter and giving me a new life in Christ. I open myself before You today for You to examine my heart and to remove everything that doesn't please You. Cleanse me with Your Spirit and fill me with Your love. I consecrate myself to You and I give You the control over my whole being, to live under Your lordship every moment, in every relationship, everywhere I go.

Give me Your power to be a witness to others of Your love.

I receive this by faith and I commit to continue growing in Your ways. Amen.

5. After being filled with the Holy Spirit...

- Ask the Holy Spirit to affirm to you His sanctifying work in your life (Romans 8:16).
- Continue growing in Jesus through all the means available to you, cultivating the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Share with others the good news of salvation and what the Holy Spirit has done in your life, purifying your heart.
- Let the Lord use you in His church with the spiritual gifts He has given you.
- Continue constantly searching for Him, to know Him and obey Him more and more.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

4. How can you be filled with the Holy Spirit?

In the same way that forgiveness of sins is received freely by faith in Jesus, this second work of deep cleansing of your sinful nature has also been achieved for you in the cross (Ephesians 5:25-27). You will not receive it because you deserve it or desire it.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will be empowered to live a holy life in all its fullness, and then you will be able to share this life as you disciple others, producing the abundant fruits that God expects from you. But you must prepare your heart first to receive Him. To prepare yourself, answer the following questions sincerely:

- Do you wish with your whole heart to please God in all your thoughts, desires, words and actions?
- Are you willing to give complete and absolute control of your life to the Lord?
- Are there sins in your life that you have not confessed to God and that need God's forgiveness?
- Have you consecrated your life to the Lord? Have you given Him all you are so He can accomplish all of His purposes in your life?

According to Ephesians 5:18, the commandment of God for all His children is that they be filled with the Holy Spirit. What do you need to do to receive the filling of the Holy Spirit in your life, according to Luke 11:13? _____

Do you want to be filled with the Spirit now?

Yes ___ No ___ I still don't understand ___

According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, where does the Holy Spirit dwell? _____

According to Romans 8:16, what security does the Holy Spirit place in the hearts of those who have been forgiven of their sins by God? _____

What other works does the Holy Spirit perform in the salvation of His children?

- John 16:13 _____
- Acts 1:8 _____
- Acts 8:29 _____
- Acts 15:9 _____
- Romans 8:26 and Jude 20 _____
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 _____

For the Holy Spirit to be able to form you in the likeness of Jesus Christ, you must allow Him to act in every area of your life.

3. The Holy Spirit fills your life

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is being filled with the Spirit of Christ. This is why the person that is filled with the Spirit can walk in purity of life, just as Christ lived in this world. The blood of Christ cleanses you of sin and keeps you free of sin every day.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit!

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit starts to live in our hearts too. God forgave your sins so you can live a life without sin; a holy life, depending on God, and experiencing His great spiritual riches (Ephesians 3:14-21). However, even though you have received new life, Christ still doesn't have "total control of your life." Christ cannot live and work in complete freedom in the life of a Christian who hasn't been completely filled with the Spirit.

After reading the verses below, mark which of the characteristics you notice in your own life:

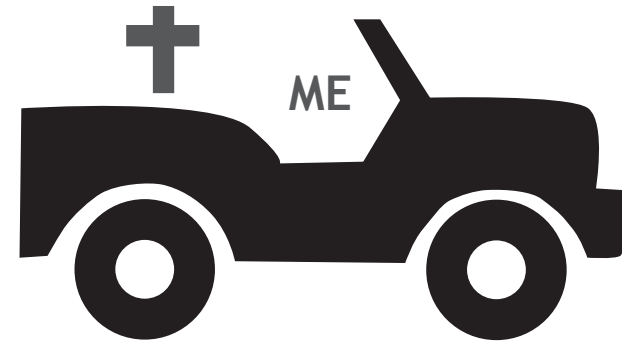
- Matthew 16:23 a struggle between your will and God's will
Luke 22:24 selfishness and pride
John 18:25 cowardice
Romans 7:8 covetousness
1 Corinthians 3:3 envy, division, lack of love
Galatians 5:17 internal struggles

In 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 Paul refers to Christians who have these attitudes as "worldly" people. He is trying to show that their lives are not controlled by the Holy Spirit but by their own human will, also called the "I" or "ego."

The human will that is not controlled by the Holy Spirit frequently refuses to obey God in some areas of life. The "I" is the one who makes the final decision about in which aspects to obey God and in which ones to reserve the right to choose what to do.

No child of God should stay indefinitely in this conflict, for he or she is sinning every time he or she chooses to follow his or her own will instead of God's will. He or she will feel more and more confused and like a failure, as he or she tries to perfectly obey God relying on his or her own effort. This Christian is like someone who lives on an oil reserve, but chooses to be poor instead of being a millionaire.

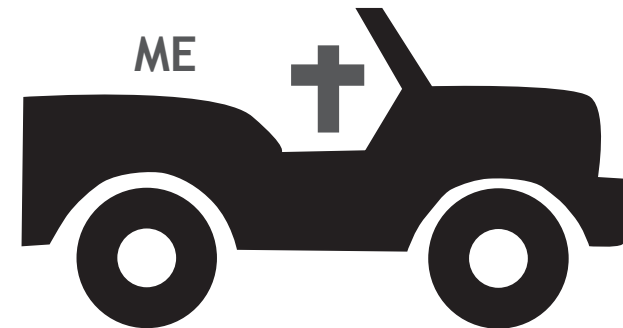
In the following graphic you will see a representation of the life of a worldly Christian. The life of the Christian is the vehicle. If this vehicle represented your life right now, who would be the driver? _____



After reading 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, answer: Is God pleased if you live like this?

Yes ___ No ___

But when you allow the Holy Spirit to fill your life, the following occurs:



Who is the driver of this life now? What place does the "I" have in this life full of the Spirit of God?

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life 7

2. According to Matthew 25:41-46 and John 3:17-18, is there hope for those who die without having been born to the new life in Christ?

3. Read and reflect on John 3:14-16 and Romans 10:14-15. Is it correct to say that God's will is that ALL His children proclaim to the world that there is hope in Jesus? Do you accept this commitment? If you do, express it to God in prayer and share it with your pastor and leaders in your church.

And now what?

In completing this series of lessons of basic discipleship, we hope you have grown in your faith and commitment to Christ. Be especially careful to continue setting aside a daily time to spend alone with God and study His Word. It's important that you have made the decision to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and a mentor, and that you continue to learn for the rest of your life.

Now you need to continue your spiritual growth, making the decision to become a member of the Church of the Nazarene, which has been nurturing you with so much love during all this time. In the church you will find help to grow in the life full of the Spirit, and you will be trained in the ministry that God has for you. There will be other lessons or studies that will help you understand the doctrines and organization of our beloved church better.

On one occasion, Jesus instructed His twelve disciples saying: "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). The mission of the church, according to Matthew 28:19-20, is to make disciples; therefore, God's desire is that you also become a mentor. We hope that very soon you will make this decision, working in the evangelism and discipleship ministry in your local church.

Continue your walk in Him!

Keys to an Abundant Christian Life

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Be a faithful mentor of Jesus!

This lesson will

...help you to understand that the calling of Jesus to make disciples is what the church has started in you through these basic lessons.

...guide you to being a faithful disciple of Christ for the rest of your life.

...teach you to take advantage of opportunities to share Christ with other people.

...challenge you to become a mentor to others.

To memorize:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

Be a faithful mentor of Jesus!

1. The responsibility of making disciples

The mission of the whole church is to make disciples. According to Matthew 28:18-20, which was the last commandment that Jesus gave His disciples before ascending to the heavens? _____

If you examine your life in light of the following list, which requirements to be a mentor do you fulfill?

- I have a new life in Christ.
- I am growing in knowledge of the Scriptures.
- I love God with all my heart.
- I love people that need Jesus and I feel compassion for them.
- I wish to guide others to know Jesus.
- I am learning to help others be disciples of Jesus.
- I wish to be a member of the Church of the Nazarene.
- I am willing to work under the authority of the leaders of my Church of the Nazarene.

What promise can you find for yourself in Matthew 4:19? _____

2. The cost of being a disciple of Jesus

Even though you have received forgiveness of sins, you need to consciously decide to be a disciple of Jesus for the rest of your life. This is precisely what God desires for you. But being a disciple of Jesus - a constant apprentice of Him in everything - has a cost, a greater commitment.

prepare yourself for the appropriate occasion to share your testimony, and help them to receive new life in Christ.

NAME	AGE	RELATIONSHIP	SPECIAL NEED

5. Be willing to continue growing and to receive training through the church, in order to mentor others in the near future.

What I learned in this lesson

Putting it into practice

1. According to Ezekiel 33:8-9 and Proverbs 24:11-12, are the excuses God's children make, not to speak to others of Christ, valid to Him?

Be a faithful mentor of Jesus!

Following Paul's advice in Corinthians 9:18-22, what should be your disposition to reach those who don't know Christ? _____

3. Give your personal testimony to others

Your verbal testimony of what God has done in your life is important to reaching others. The following exercise suggests some general guidelines for sharing your personal testimony with others:

Write your personal testimony on a separate page, using the following questions as a guide:

- What was your life like before knowing Jesus?
- What need did Jesus satisfy in your life? It can be: lack of love, loneliness, feeling of guilt, need of forgiveness, among others.
- How did you receive new life in Christ?
- How has your life changed now that Jesus lives in your heart?

Your personal testimony is the key to awakens people's interest in hearing more about Christ. (You can read about the example of Paul's personal testimony in Acts 26:1-23).

4. Pray for others to become disciples of Jesus.

It is important to pray and to wait for the right moment to talk about Jesus. Remember that it is the Holy Spirit who prepares people's hearts so they desire to hear the Word of God. Fill in the chart on the next page with information of the people you want to guide to Jesus.

Pray daily for these people, serve them in their needs, be an example to them so they can see your life transformed by God,

According to Matthew 16:24, which are the three steps that Jesus requires of those who want to "come after" Him or be His disciples?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Other minor requirements that Jesus expects from His disciples are clear in the following verses:

Luke 14:26 _____

Luke 14:33 _____

It is important to understand that the word "hate" in these verses doesn't mean to hate or reject in sense we know it, but it is equivalent to "love less." It implies loving our family and even our own lives less because Jesus is our supreme love, incomparable to our other loves.

3. The formation of a disciple

After assuming the cost of renunciation to be a disciple of Jesus, a process of continuous formation follows. The disciple is formed through experiences, knowledge, habits and sharing his or her faith with others; that is, through a life of obedience that bears abundant fruit.

Let's take a look at the following:

1. Know Jesus Christ.

Can you correctly introduce someone you don't know? _____

Be a faithful mentor of Jesus!

How do you get to know a person? _____

What causes people to grow in the knowledge of the Word of God every day, according to Psalm 119:11 and Luke 8:15? _____

A good mentor is a person who grows every day in the knowledge of Jesus.

2. Be an intercessor.

Does your prayer have an influence so that other people get to know Jesus, according to 1 Timothy 2:1-4? _____

A good mentor is a Christian who loves other people and is willing to spend time in prayer for each one of them.

3. Discipline your life.

According to John 15:14, what is the relationship between knowing Jesus and obeying Him? _____

One of the keys to bearing fruit in the Christian life is consistency in obeying the Lord. Below you will find a list of Christian disciplines that require perseverance. Mark those into which you need to put more effort:

- ___ Spend time alone with God every day.
- ___ Practice Christian fellowship.
- ___ Memorize verses from Scripture.
- ___ Read books and magazines that help me grow as a disciple of Jesus.
- ___ Participate in the ministries of the church.
- ___ Participate in the services and activities of my church.
- ___ Regularly give my offerings and tithe.
- ___ Practice compassion.
- ___ Submit to church leaders.

The best mentors are those who offer those they are discipling a model of Christian life that is worthy of imitation.

4. As you share with others, follow the Biblical model

From the beginning of the Christian church, the Good News of salvation has been passed on through people who told others about their experience with Christ, whether through their words or lifestyle.

Therefore, it is important that you share your personal testimony with others, then you will become a part of the chain of faithful disciples of all the ages. As you share with others, follow the Biblical model:

1. What does Jesus ask us in John 13:15? _____

According to Matthew 9:9-13, following the example of Jesus, why is it important that you continue building relationships with those that still don't know Him? _____

2. What example did the apostle Paul give in 1 Corinthians 11:1? And the church in Thessalonica in Thessalonians 1:7? _____

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