

Special thanks to Jeff Lauzon and Tricia Millar for their contribution to this course.

Introduction:

Welcome to your new faith journey.

Your decision to follow Christ and be in a relationship with Him is the best and most important decision. It is our prayer that you continue to grow in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Over the next few weeks as you work through this booklet, we hope your faith questions are answered and that you grow your knowledge and understanding of who God is, His love for you, what it means to serve Him.

We want to help you progress in your newfound faith. The Bible is full of truth and wisdom for our daily lives, and the topics covered here are to get you started.

As you allow us to journey with you, continue to put your hope, faith and trust in God.

Marvin Sinclair

Pastor of Connections and Growth

Paul compares individual believers to various body parts in the body. If every body part has a purpose, does every Christian also have a role to play within the church?

How should Christians respond when other Christians suffer or are honoured?

Hebrews 10:24-25

What are we not to do according to these verses?

What should we do when we meet together?

As the return of Christ draws closer, is it more or less important for Christians to meet together?

In conclusion, we need to make time to meet regularly with other Christians. This allows us to encourage one another. As Christians share their gifts, the church as a whole comes to maturity. God created us to be in relationship with Him and others. Find a connect group today!

Matthew 18:19-20

Does Jesus teach there is power in prayer when believers pray in unity?

Where is Jesus when 2 or 3 are gathered in his name?

John 17:20-23

Did Jesus desire that believers be united?

What happens when believers walk in unity?

Acts 2:42-47

According to verse 42, what did the disciples do after they responded to the gospel?

What did the early church do for those who had need?

Other than the temple, where did the early disciples meet?

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

What does Paul use to illustrate the unity of believers?

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Connecting

God has created mankind to be dependent. First and foremost, we have a need for God. God has also created us with a need for each other. Apart from a union between a man and a woman, the human race would cease to exist. God's plan for believers is that they be one in love and purpose. Developing relationships with other believers, is necessary to our spiritual growth and maturity. One of the greatest joys of the Christian life, is being part of a loving community with other believers. Let's see what the Bible says about connecting with others.

Genesis 2:15-18

In verse 18, what did God say was not good for man?

1 Samuel 18:1-3

Jonathan is a great example of someone who was a faithful friend. Jonathan loved David as much as which person?

1 Samuel 23:15-18

David became greatly discouraged knowing that Saul was out to kill him. Jonathan offered him a word of encouragement. Who did Jonathan help David find strength in?

Proverbs 27:17

What does it mean for one man to sharpen another?

In conclusion, we are all called to share our faith and play a part in the great commission. There are several ways in which we can do it. We do this by being salt and light, through the way we live our lives before others. We can verbally share the Gospel. We can share our testimony. We can invite others to church services, or other Christian gatherings. We should always pray for the salvation of others, and make sure that we are motivated by love.

The Inspiration of the Bible

Christianity is a revealed faith. It is our belief that God has given light to every man. There must be a Creator because there is a creation. We see intelligent design in created things that points to a Creator. God has also given us a conscience. We all have a sense of right and wrong. The Bible tells us this is because we are moral beings created in the image of God. These things are referred to as general revelation.

God has also given us special revelation. God has acted in time and space and revealed Himself to mankind in various ways throughout history. God's special revelation is found in Jesus. Jesus was and is God incarnate. In the person of Jesus, God became a man. Jesus reveals the will of God to us and died for our sins on the cross.

Another area of special revelation is the Bible. God inspired people throughout history to record His dealings with man. Rather than be left to rely on subjective opinions, the Bible gives us an objective standard. Through the Bible we can learn about God and see Him revealed as He really is. The Bible also tells us how God desires us to live. The Bible is foundational to living the Christian life. We need to read it daily and put its teachings into practice. Let's take a brief look at some reasons for trusting the Bible.

1) The Bible claims to be the Word of God

The fact that the Bible claims to be the Word of God does not make it so. However, it is a starting point.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

According to this verse, is the Word of God of human or divine origin?

According to this passage, why do people refuse to come to Jesus?

Acts 17:29-31

According to verse 30, who does God call to repent?

Romans 5:17

What gift do we receive when we place faith in Christ?

Sharing your testimony (story)

Acts 26:1-29

Who shared his testimony in this passage?

According to verse 29, what did Paul desire for those who heard his testimony?

Inviting others

John 1:43-51

When Nathanael was skeptical about Jesus, how did Philip respond?

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

What does this passage mean, when it says that believers are known and read by everyone?

Proclaiming the gospel

While it is true that we are witnesses to others through our lifestyles, we can also take the initiative and share the Gospel with others verbally. Let's look at a few passages from the Bible regarding the message of the Gospel.

Romans 3:9-20, 23

According to this passage, who is sinful and falls short of God's glory?

John 3:16-21

What motivated God to give His Son?

Who did God give His Son for?

What standing do people have before God if they don't believe in Jesus?

2 Timothy 3:16

What does this verse say is true of all Scripture?

2 Peter 1:20-21

According to these verses, who inspired the prophets of the Bible?

2) The Bible gives moral direction

The Bible provides moral guidance. Even people who do not claim to believe in God, constantly make statements about things being either right or wrong. We instinctively know there is such a thing because God has created us in His image and has given us a conscience with a sense of right and wrong.

Romans 2:14-16

According to these verses, what has God given us that guides us to His moral law?

Isaiah 45:19

What does this verse say God declares?

Isaiah 48:17-18

Does God desire what is best for us?

What do we experience when we obey God's commands?

3) The Bible answers life's ultimate questions

At one point in time, every thinking person asks certain foundational questions about their existence. Where do I come from? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life? What happens to me when I die? The Bible offers answers to all of these questions. This would make sense if the Bible is inspired by God to guide us.

Genesis 1:1

Where does this verse say the universe came from?

Genesis 1:26-27

Where does this verse say mankind came from?

Isaiah 45:12

Who in this verse claims to have created the universe and mankind?

Acts 17:24-28

According to this passage, does God want people to seek him?

Sharing your Faith

Sharing our faith with others is part of the Christian life. Sharing our faith in Jesus is done in obedience to the great commission. Jesus instructed His followers to go into all the world and make disciples. Let's look at what the Bible says about sharing our faith.

Matthew 28:18-20

According to Jesus, what is the mission of the church?

John 6:44

What needs to happen for a person to come to Jesus?

1 Timothy 2:1-4

According to this passage who does God want to see saved?

Being salt and light

When it comes to sharing our faith, we are not only called to go out and witness. We are also called to be witnesses through the transformed lives that we live.

Matthew 5:13-16

What does it mean to be salt and light?

1 John 1:9

What does God faithfully do if we sincerely confess our sins?

Psalms 103:13-14

In what way is God said to be like an earthly father?

In verse 14, what causes God to show us compassion?

In conclusion, Christians are not powerless when facing temptation. God has given us tools to win the spiritual battle we are in. God desires what is best for us. Walking in holiness brings peace and pleases God. Avoiding sin also keeps us from many self-inflicted wounds. If a Christian does sin, he can confess it, and rest assured that God forgives him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Who are we called to live for?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

What is mankind called to do?

John 11:25-26

What did Jesus mean when He said, a person who believes in Him will live even though he dies?

John 14:1-3

Jesus says He will prepare a place for us in His Father's house. Where is His Father's house?

Revelation 21:8

According to this verse, where will those who fail to repent and trust in Christ end up?

4) Fulfilled prophecies

Many people try to predict the future and fail. Only God knows the future. That being the case, the fact that the Bible contains many fulfilled prophecies suggests divine inspiration. No other book contains countless fulfilled prophecies like the Bible. Here are a few.

Isaiah 46:10

Who proclaims the end from the beginning?

Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25

What prophecy concerning Jesus was made and fulfilled in the above passages?

Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1-6

Where does this prophecy say Jesus would be born?

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who does this chapter refer to 700 years in advance?

Luke 21:20-24

Jesus prophesied this. When was it fulfilled?

Ezekiel 11:16-17

What prophecy is made in these verses?

When was it fulfilled?

Hebrews 4:14-16

Why can Jesus relate to us when we battle temptation?

What will God give us in our time of need?

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

What are we to take captive and make obedient to Christ?

Proverbs 3:7

According to this verse, rather than be wise in our own eyes, what should we do?

Isaiah 48:17-18

According to this passage, does God desire what is best for us?

What is the result of obedience to God's commands?

Is there still hope for us if we fail and sin? _____

Resisting Temptation

Every Christian faces temptation. It is not a sin to be tempted. We only fall into sin when we yield to a temptation. God equips us to overcome temptation by his Spirit that dwells within us, and through His Word. Let's look at what the Bible says on this topic.

James 1:13-15

Does God tempt us to do evil?

According to verse 14, how are we tempted?

1 Corinthians 10:13

Are all temptations common to mankind?

In what way is God faithful to us when we face temptation?

Matthew 4:1-11

What did Jesus use when resisting temptation?

Matthew 26:41

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do to avoid falling into temptation?

5) The message of the Bible transforms lives

People throughout history, right up to the present, have had their lives positively transformed by the message of the Bible. This common experience is shared by people who apply the Bible to their lives regardless of their backgrounds. A similar transformation has been experienced by rich and poor, highly or poorly educated, men and women, young and old, famous and unknown. Those who have faith in Christ and live out the Bible's teachings have experienced new joy, peace, and purpose for living.

Isaiah 55:11

What happens to God's Word after He sends it out?

Psalms 119:9

What is the result of living according to God's Word?

Romans 10:17

What produces faith in a person?

6) The testimony of the writers

The writers of the Bible were often eye witnesses of the events they wrote about. In some cases they were not and received revelation from God. When it comes to the gospels, the information was compiled by, or obtained from, eye witnesses. Not a single Biblical writer ever recanted on what he wrote. Jesus' disciples all died as martyrs with the exception of John. None of them ever changed their account of the life of Christ.

Luke 1:1-2

Who did Luke obtain his information from?

2 Peter 1:16

How did Peter obtain his information about Jesus?

1 John 1:1-3

How did John obtain information about Jesus?

How does God bless cheerful givers?

What is given to God as a result of our generosity?

In conclusion, let us tithe systematically, cheerfully, and generously in obedience to God. God will always provide for our needs as we put Him first. Giving generously is a form of worship.

7) The unity of the Bible

The Bible is a library of 66 books. The Bible was written over a period of about 1600 years. It has about 40 different authors, and was written on 3 different continents, Asia, Africa and Europe. The Bible deals with many controversial subjects and yet there is a wonderful unity of thought. The Bible reads as if it was written by one person. The miraculous unity of the Bible suggests divine inspiration. The various writers were all inspired by the same Holy Spirit. No other book compares. Imagine getting 40 different people, living in different parts of the world, in different periods of history, to write on numerous controversial subjects, to produce a book with such unity of thought that it seems to be from one author. The Bible is unique.

What connection did Jesus make between our heart and our treasure?

Why did Jesus say we cannot serve both God and money?

Luke 11:42

The Pharisees faithfully gave a tenth to God. What did Jesus say they failed to do?

Did Jesus tell the Pharisees they should not tithe?

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

How often should we set aside a sum of money for giving?

What should our tithe be based on?

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

What kind of a giver does God love?

8) Jesus believed the Bible

Although only the Old Testament existed when Jesus walked the earth, He constantly quoted it as authoritative. When reading the Gospels it is clear that Jesus believed the Old Testament events to be historically accurate. Jesus referred to the creation account, the flood of Noah's day, and Jonah being swallowed by a great fish as literal events that took place in the past. Jesus is God incarnate, God in human flesh, and He believed the Bible (Old Testament at that time) was the Word of God. Since Jesus is God and our Lord, we should hold the same view He had about the Word of God.

In conclusion, there is evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We should read and obey it. We should hold the Bible to be trustworthy and use it as our final authority. The Bible is our most reliable source of information regarding what God is really like, and how He wants us to live.

Prayer and Bible Reading

One of the keys to the Christian life is spending time with God. Biblical Christianity is about having a personal relationship with God. Like all other relationships, we must invest time for it to grow and deepen. We must regularly communicate with God. The best way to do this is to pray and read the Bible.

God created mankind to be in a relationship with Him.

According to Genesis 1:27, what did God create in His image?

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Based on Colossians 1:15-16 who was mankind created for?

Prayer

Prayer is simply talking to God. God desires that we walk in relationship with Him and talk to Him daily in prayer. Let's look at what Jesus taught about prayer.

Matthew 6:5-15

In Matthew 6:5-6, what does Jesus say our focus should be in prayer?

What is the solution to this?

Where should Christians tithe?

Why not to other churches or organizations?

What were the Israelites promised if they repented and gave God their tithes?

Tithing in the New Testament

Matthew 6:19-24

According to Jesus, where should we not look to store up our treasures?

Where does Jesus say we should store up our treasures?

What is the difference between storing up treasure on earth versus storing up treasures in heaven?

Tithing

Tithing is the practice of giving a tenth of one's income to God through the local church. Although tithing was originally part of the law of Moses (taught in the Old Testament), the principle of putting God first in our finances remains valid. When we tithe, we acknowledge that God is the source of all that we have and receive. When tithing, we also demonstrate how important it is to us to invest in the kingdom of God. Tithing does not make you a better person, but God promises to bless us when we put Him first. What we do with our money reveals what is most important to us. Let's look at what the Bible says about this topic.

Tithing under the law of Moses

Leviticus 27:30-34

Under the law of Moses, how much were the Israelites to give to God?

Proverbs 3:9-10

According to these verses what are we to honour the Lord with?

What do these verses promise if we honour God with our finances?

Malachi 3:6-12

In what area are the Israelites charged with robbing God?

According to Matthew 6:7-8, do we need to repeat things over and over in order to be heard by God?

If God already knows what we need before we ask Him, why does He want us to ask Him?

Who does Jesus say we should address our prayers to in Matthew 6:9?

How should we treat the name of God?

Whose will should we pray to be done on earth based on Matthew 6:10?

In Matthew 6:11-13, what three things does Jesus say we should pray for?

According to Matthew 6:14-15, what must we do if we want God to forgive our sins?

Mark 11:22-23

How does Jesus say we should pray?

Who does Jesus say we should place our faith in?

Luke 6:12-13

Why did Jesus spend the night in prayer?

What does this teach us about making important decisions?

Luke 6:27-28

What did Jesus say we should do for those who mistreat us?

James 4:3

According to this verse, why are some prayers not answered?

Reading the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us in written form. It is our instruction manual and reveals to us how God would have us live. The most common way God speaks to us is through the Bible. Knowing what

What important lesson can we learn from this passage?

In conclusion, let us make time to use the gifts and talents God has provided us with to serve Him through the local church and elsewhere. God desires that we place Him first in our lives. Part of this means taking time to serve. We grow spiritually when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and make serving others an important part of our lives. God will bless you as you bless others.

Mark 10:42-45

How does one become great in God's eyes?

Jesus is our example. Did Jesus come to serve or be served?

Ephesians 6:7-8

Who are we told to serve wholeheartedly? Who are we truly serving?

Who will reward us for the good things we do?

Luke 10:38-42

Was it wrong for Martha to be serving?

Why was Mary commended by Jesus?

the Bible teaches prevents us from having a wrong understanding of God.

Matthew 4:4

What did Jesus say man lives by?

What is the difference between natural and spiritual food?

What nourishes the soul?

If you feed your physical body daily, how often should you feed your eternal soul?

Luke 8:4-15 - The story of the Sower

In Luke 8:12, what happens to those who receive the seed along the path?

How does the devil take the word from their hearts?

In verse 13, what happens to those who receive the seed on rocky ground?

In verse 14, what happens to the seed that falls among thorns?

In verse 15, what three things are true of those who receive the seed on good soil?

Mark 7:6-8

According to Jesus, which carries more authority, human traditions or God's commandments?

Luke 11:27-28

What does Jesus say brings a blessing in these verses?

John 8:51

What promise did Jesus give to those who obey His word?

Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:7-11, 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Do all Christians have the same gifts?

What should we do with the gifts God has given us?

Let's look at what Jesus said about serving.

John 13:1-17

Was Jesus just being practical when washing the disciples feet, or was he trying to teach a spiritual lesson?

What did Jesus mean when he said we should wash one another's feet?

In verse 17, what did Jesus say would bring a blessing?

John 12:26

Whose example did Jesus say we must follow?

Who did Jesus say the Father would honour?

Serving

Every Christian is expected to serve. God has equipped each of us with talents, skills, and spiritual gifts. When we serve, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. We also grow in spiritual maturity and please God when we make serving in the church a priority in our lives. Let's turn to the Bible to see what it says about serving.

Ephesians 2:10

According to this verse what were we created in Christ Jesus to do?

When did God plan for us to do good works?

Ephesians 4:11-13

According to this passage who does Jesus give to help equip his people?

Who is to be equipped for works of service?

What is the result of God's people being equipped for service?

John 12:47-50

What did Jesus say would judge people in the end?

In conclusion, may the Lord richly bless you as you spend time with Him daily in prayer and Bible reading. Daily devotions will become the most exciting part of your day as you walk in relationship with the God who created you for Himself.

Water Baptism

Why should a Christian be baptized? Jesus commanded and modeled it for us. It is a step of obedience and was practiced by the early church. Water baptism is a public and outward sign of the inward work God is doing in your life.

Matthew 3:1-17

According to verse 6, what accompanied the water baptism of these people?

In verse 8, what does it mean to produce fruit in keeping with repentance?

In verse 11, why did John say he baptized with water?

Why was Jesus baptized when he had never sinned?

How many members of the trinity were present at Jesus' baptism?

Galatians 5:16-25

The fruit of the Spirit is the best evidence that we are walking in the Spirit. List the 9 fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

In conclusion, we should continuously seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We can simply go to God in prayer and ask Him to fill us with His Spirit as we surrender our lives to Him. God wants the best for each of His children and desires for us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for service. God also desires that the fruit of the Spirit be evident in our lives.

Acts 10:34-46

Does God show favoritism?

How did the Jewish believers know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured upon the Gentiles?

Speaking in tongues is the Biblical pattern for those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience will provide you with a new power for Christian service. While there is only one baptism in the Holy Spirit, there are many fillings.

Ephesians 5:18-20

What are we commanded to be filled with?

When a person is drunk, they are said to be under the influence or control of alcohol. In contrast, what is the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 28:19-20

Who commands those who believe the gospel to be baptized?

When was water baptism performed according to Acts 2:37-41?

Romans 6:3-4

In what way does water baptism allow us to identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?

In conclusion, every person who repents (turns from their sins and asks for forgiveness) and places faith in Jesus, should be baptized in water. Water baptism is a step of obedience that pleases God.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian. The Bible also teaches that we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive an extra amount of power for service. Let's look at what the Bible says on this topic.

The Holy Spirit in the new covenant

Acts 1:1-8

What new baptism did Jesus refer to in Acts 1:5?

What do we receive when the Holy Spirit comes on us?

Acts 2:1-13

What happened to the disciples when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Acts 2:14-21

Who does God promise to pour out His Spirit on in the last days?

Acts 2:37-39

What are the conditions to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Was the promise of the Holy Spirit only for that generation?

Acts 8:14-21

Why did Peter and John pray for the new believers in Samaria?

How do we know that there was a visible sign of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Samaritans?

Why did Peter say that Simon could have no part in the act of laying on of hands?
