

Table of Contents

- Chapter 1: Your Heavenly Father
- Chapter 2: Jesus
- Chapter 3: The Holy Spirit
- Chapter 4: How to Know You Have Eternal Life
- Chapter 5: Biblical Fellowship



Finishing the Great Commission By Multiplying Disciplemakers

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Introduction

The purpose of this series of topical Bible studies is to help you lay a foundation for life change that will last for the rest of your life. Life change is about becoming more and more like Jesus.

Foundations follows the same process Jesus used to train His disciples:

1. Come

Come and get to know God and His people. This is the starting point of life change where we learn who God is and the importance of fellowship with other Christians.

2. Grow

Grow in your relationship with God. Learn how to grow spiritually through God's Word and prayer.

3. Serve

Learn about your spiritual gifts, abilities, and how to give to and serve God and others through your church family.

4. Go

Invest in the lives of others and invite them to know the Lord when they are ready. Then we make disciples by helping others go through this process.

This topical Bible study consists of questions that are answered by verses in the Bible. The verses are included for your convenience.

Please look up the verses in your Bible when you can. Write down the answers to the questions based on what the Bible verses say. Please do this before you come to the small group. During small group time, group members will have a chance to share with one another what they are learning.

The small group leader will not lecture, but will guide the discussion so that everyone learns from one another.

Additional bulleted questions are included to stimulate discussion and provide an opportunity to put into practice what you are learning.

A summary is provided at the end of each chapter to provide an opportunity to review what you have learned.

Pray and ask the Lord for understanding and to change your life to be more like Jesus as you study each of the chapters.

Chapter 1: Your Heavenly Father

God's Nature

1. What do the following verses teach you about God's nature?

a. Psalm 107:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

b. Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- What things does God work out for your good?
- What does "all" mean?
- Does this include the bad experiences in your life?
- How can good come from a bad experience? Give some examples from your own life.

c. Malachi 3:6

I the LORD do not change. So you, descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

- Why is it important that God doesn't change?

What is your response to these facts about God?

God is good. God works for my good. God never changes. I can trust that a good God who never changes and who works for the good of His children will work for my good.

God Created You With Inherent Value

2. What do the following verses teach you about how God made you?

a. How are we unique? Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...

- Why do you think God created us?
- What does it mean that you were created in God's image?
- What are some ways we are like God?

b. What position of authority did God give us? Genesis 1:26

...so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.

c. What is one important purpose God gave us? Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

- What does it mean to be fruitful and increase in number?
- Why do you think God wants us to be fruitful and increase in number?

God Loves You

3. What do you learn about God's love for you?

a. John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

b. Psalm 139:1-6

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

- How does it make you feel to know that God knows everything about you, including your thoughts?
- Why can you trust Him with total knowledge about you?

c. 1 John 4:9,10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

d. 1 John 3:1

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

God's Blessings to You

4. What are some of God's blessings to you?

a. Ephesians 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

- What does the word "every" mean?
- When did God give you every blessing in heaven?

b. Ephesians 1:7-9

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ...

- How has God made known to us His will?

c. 1 Corinthians 3:16

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in your midst?

- What is the significance of the fact that you are God's temple?
- Does this change the way you think about your body? Or what you do with it?

d. 2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

- What are some of the things God has given us?

e. Lamentations 3:22,23

Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Your Heavenly Father Summary

Read the summary and choose the one thing that means the most to you. Why is it important?

1. God's nature
 - a. God is good
 - b. God works for the good of His children
 - c. God never changes

2. God created you with inherent value
 - a. Unique: Created in God's image
 - b. Authority: Ruler over the earth
 - c. Purpose: Be fruitful and Multiply

3. God loves you
 - a. God sacrificed His Son for you
 - b. God knows you
 - c. God loves you anyway
 - d. God loves you as His child

4. God's blessings to you
 - a. Every spiritual blessing
 - b. Redemption, forgiveness, grace
 - c. Knowledge of the mystery of His will
 - d. The Holy Spirit
 - e. Everything we need for life and godliness
 - f. His blessings are new every morning and they never cease

Chapter 2: Jesus

Some say Jesus was just a great man; others say He was just a prophet. Jesus claims that He is God. If Jesus is not God, then He is a liar and deceiver.

Jesus is fully God and fully man. As God He had the power to pay the penalty for our sin by His death on the cross for all who will believe; and as a man He was able to communicate and empathize with us.

Jesus is God

1. What did Jesus say about Himself?

a. John 10:28-30

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

2. We learn much about Jesus' divinity in Hebrews chapter 1. What do you learn about Jesus?

a. Hebrews 1:2

...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

b. Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

c. Hebrews 1:12

You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

- What aspects of God's nature do you see in Jesus?

d. What does God call Jesus? Hebrews 1:8,10

But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom. He also says, “In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

3. How did Jesus show His supernatural power?

a. Matthew 8:3

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

b. Matthew 8:6, 13

“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.” Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very moment.

c. Matthew 8:16-17

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.”

d. Matthew 8:23-27

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

4. How did Jesus demonstrate that He is God?

a. John 11:39-44

“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people

standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

5. After being with Jesus, what did His disciples conclude?

a. Matthew 16:13-16

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

6. What did the angel say that lets us know that Jesus is God?

a. Matthew 28:5-7

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

From what you have learned from the Bible, why do people believe that Jesus is God?

Jesus was a Man

7. How did Jesus develop as a boy?

a. Luke 2:52

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

8. What aspects of being a man does Jesus show?

a. John 4:6

Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

b. John 4:7

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?”

c. John 11:35

Jesus wept.

9. What else do we learn about Jesus' humanity?

a. What has Jesus experienced that we all experience? Hebrews 2:10

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

b. What does Jesus call us? Hebrews 2:11

Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

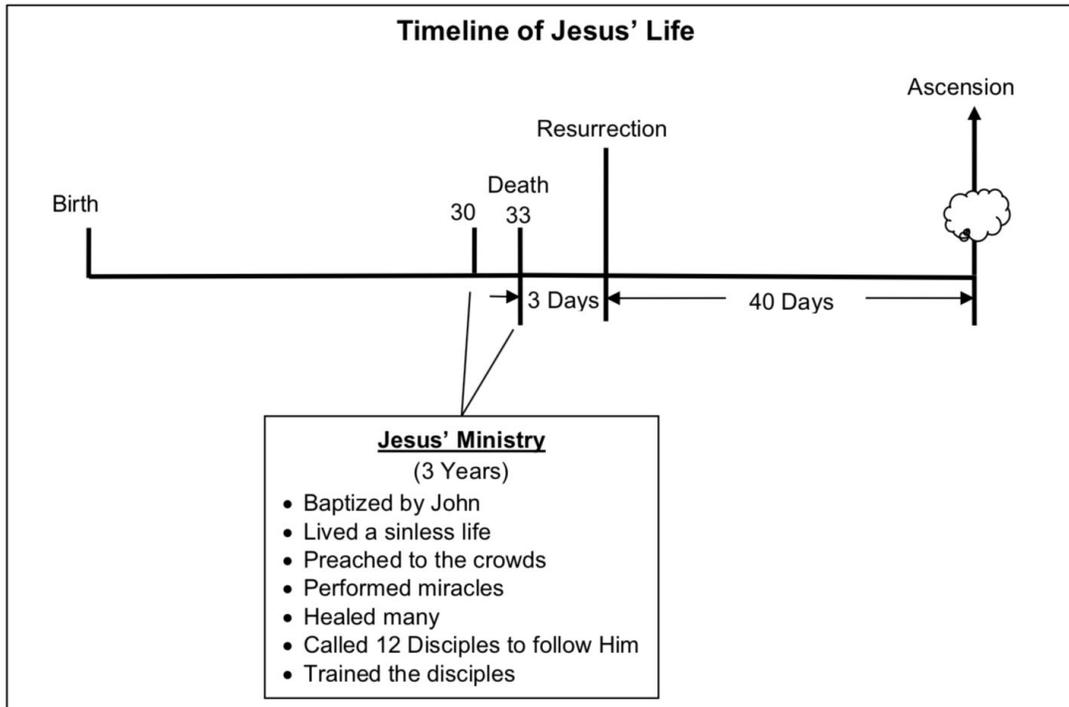
- What is the significance of Jesus calling you brother or sister?

c. Hebrews 2:18

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- Why is Jesus able to help us when we are tempted?
- What is temptation?
- How is temptation different than sin?
- How does it help you to know that God became a man and was tempted as you are?

What is your response to the fact that God became a man to show His love for you and to suffer and die to make you His child?



Review the timeline.

- Why was it necessary for God to become a human?
- How does Jesus' humanity help you relate better to God?

Jesus Summary

Read the summary and choose the one thing that means the most to you. Why is it important?

1. Jesus is God
 - a. Jesus said He was God
 - b. He healed and performed miracles
 - c. He lived a sinless life
 - d. He was resurrected from the dead
 - e. He ascended into heaven

2. Jesus was a man
 - a. Jesus developed as a normal boy
 - b. He grew weary, was thirsty, and wept
 - c. He suffered and was tempted as we are
 - d. We know that God understands us because He became one of us

Chapter 3: The Holy Spirit

Who has the Holy Spirit?

1. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit?

- a. Before Jesus ascended into heaven what did He promise God would do? **John 14:16 not NIV**
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever...

Counselor is also translated Comforter and means “advocate” or “helper.”

- b. What does the Holy Spirit do? **John 14:26 not NIV**
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2. What is true of every believer?

- a. 1 Corinthians 2:12
What we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.

- What is one thing the Holy Spirit does for you?
- What are some things God has given you?

- b. 1 Corinthians 3:16
Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

The Role of the Holy Spirit

3. What do you learn about the role of the Holy Spirit?

- a. What is the Holy Spirit doing in the world? **John 16:8-11 not NIV**
When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- Why should you not try to convict someone of their sin?

b. What is the Holy Spirit doing for you? John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

c. Whom does the Spirit glorify? **John 16:14 not NIV**

He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

- What does it mean to give glory to Jesus?
- How does the Spirit glorify God?
- What does this mean?

4. How does the Spirit help us?

a. Romans 8:6

The mind governed by flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

- How can you tell if your mind is not controlled by the Spirit?

b. Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- Why does the Spirit have to remind us that we are God's children?
- Why do you sometimes feel that you aren't God's child?

c. Romans 8:26-27

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

- Why does the Holy Spirit pray for us?

- What are some examples of things we need prayer help in?

5. What results can you expect in your life when you allow the Holy Spirit to be in control of your life?

a. Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- Why do we not experience this fruit in our lives?

Your Response to the Holy Spirit

6. What are the two conflicting powers at war in every believer's life?

a. Galatians 5:16-17 not NIV

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

- What are some examples of this conflict in us?
- What conflicts do you have?

7. What are the two types of Christians?

a. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 not NIV

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

- How do worldly Christians behave?
- How do Spiritual Christians behave?
- What is the difference?

8. All Christians behave as worldly Christians sometimes. The question is, then, how do Christians allow the Holy Spirit to control them and not their sinful nature?

a. Ephesians 5:18

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit...

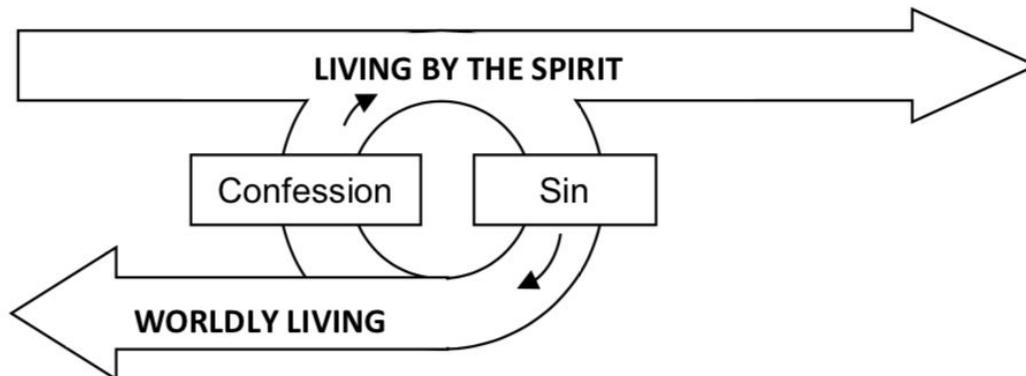
b. Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

To be filled with the Spirit is to choose to be controlled and empowered by the Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit is not about recommitment or turning over a new leaf or some kind of self-improvement program.

It is not a one time experience, but a moment to moment decision to obey God in specific situations rather than follow your sinful nature. When you do take control of your life back from God, which is sin, you need to quickly ask God's forgiveness and give control back to God. Remember that God loves you and knows what is best for you.

- Will someone describe the following illustration?



9. What are you warned about in your relationship with the Holy Spirit?

a. Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

10. What are some of the things that grieve the Holy Spirit?

a. Ephesians 4:31

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

- What is there in your life that grieves the Holy Spirit?
- What do you need to do in order to experience life change in this area?

The Holy Spirit Summary

Read the summary and choose the one thing that means the most to you. Why is it important?

1. Who has the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit as He ascended into heaven
 - b. The Spirit teaches us all things and reminds us of everything Jesus said
 - c. The Holy Spirit comes into every believer at conversion

2. The Role of the Holy Spirit
 - a. The Holy Spirit:
 - i. Convicts unbelievers of sin
 - ii. Guides you into truth
 - iii. Glorifies Jesus
 - iv. Gives you life and peace
 - v. Confirms that you are God's children and heirs of God
 - vi. Helps you in your weakness
 - vii. Helps you pray and intercedes for you with God
 - b. The results of a Spirit filled life are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

3. Your Response to the Holy Spirit
 - a. The Spirit and your sinful nature are in conflict
 - b. You must choose to allow the Holy Spirit to control and empower you moment by moment
 - c. When you take control of your life back from God, ask for God's forgiveness and give control back to Him
 - d. You should not grieve the Holy Spirit by such things as bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, and malice

Chapter 4: How to Know You Have Eternal Life

In this chapter you will see that God loved you even when you were going your own way and were not even interested in Him. God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die in your place to pay the penalty for your sin. All you have to do is to receive Jesus into your life for the forgiveness of sins in order to receive eternal life. You will learn that you have eternal life based on the trustworthiness of God and His Word and not because you deserve it or have earned it.

God's Plan

1. What kind of life did God create for us to live?

a. John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

- In the beginning there was God.
- God created mankind.

b. John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

c. **John 10:10b Not NIV**

...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- In a love relationship with him
- Eternal life
- Abundant life

The first part of the illustration:

MANKIND

GOD

1. God's Plan

- Love } John 3:16
- Eternal Life }
- Abundant Life } John 10:10

Our Problem

2. What is life in the world really like today?

- Instead of love there is hate.
- Instead of eternal life there is death.
- Instead of abundance there is poverty.

3. There is a separation between the way God created life to be lived and the way we now experience it. What causes this separation between God and mankind?

a. Romans 3:23

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- Sin causes the separation between God and mankind.

4. What are the results (wages) of our sin?

a. Romans 6:23

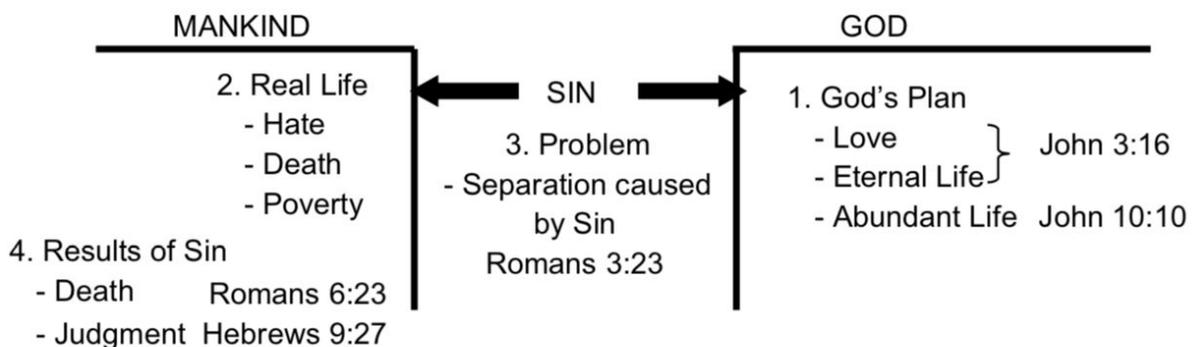
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

b. Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment.

- One result of sin is death.
- Another result of sin is judgment.

The illustration provides a summary so far:



5. People try many ways to reach God. What are some of the ways people try to reach God?

6. According to the Bible, how effective are our efforts to reach God?

a. Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God— not because of works, lest any man should boast.

- No works will save us from the results of our sin.

God's Solution

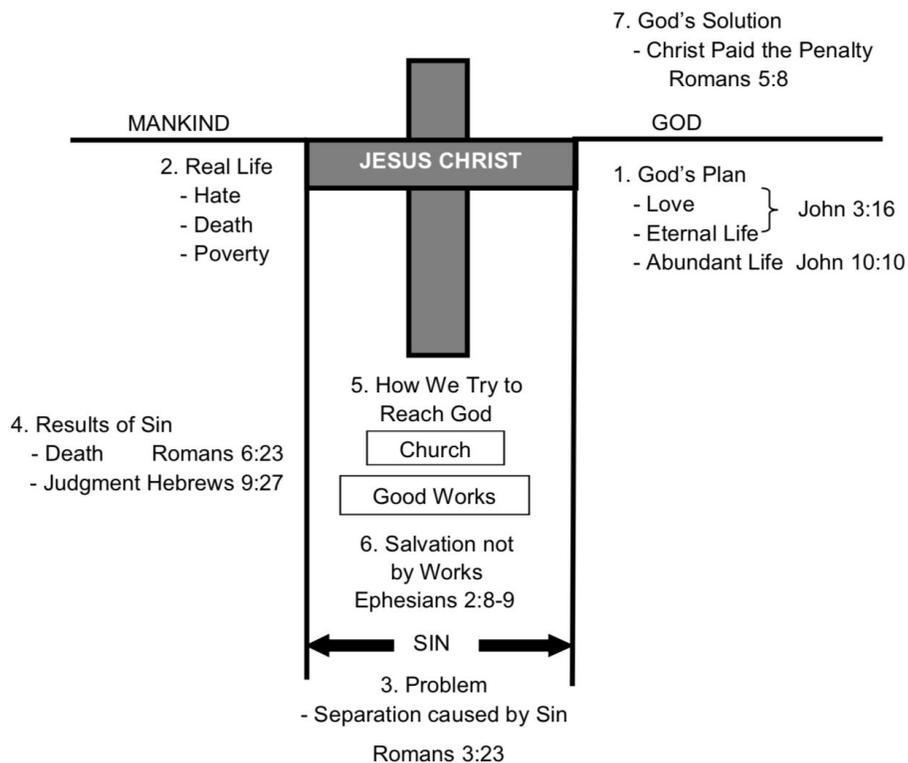
7. Our position looks hopeless. What we can't do for ourselves God has done for us. What is God's solution for our sin and separation from him?

a. Romans 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

- Christ paid the penalty for our sins to bring us to God.

Use the illustration to summarize the discussion so far.



Your Response

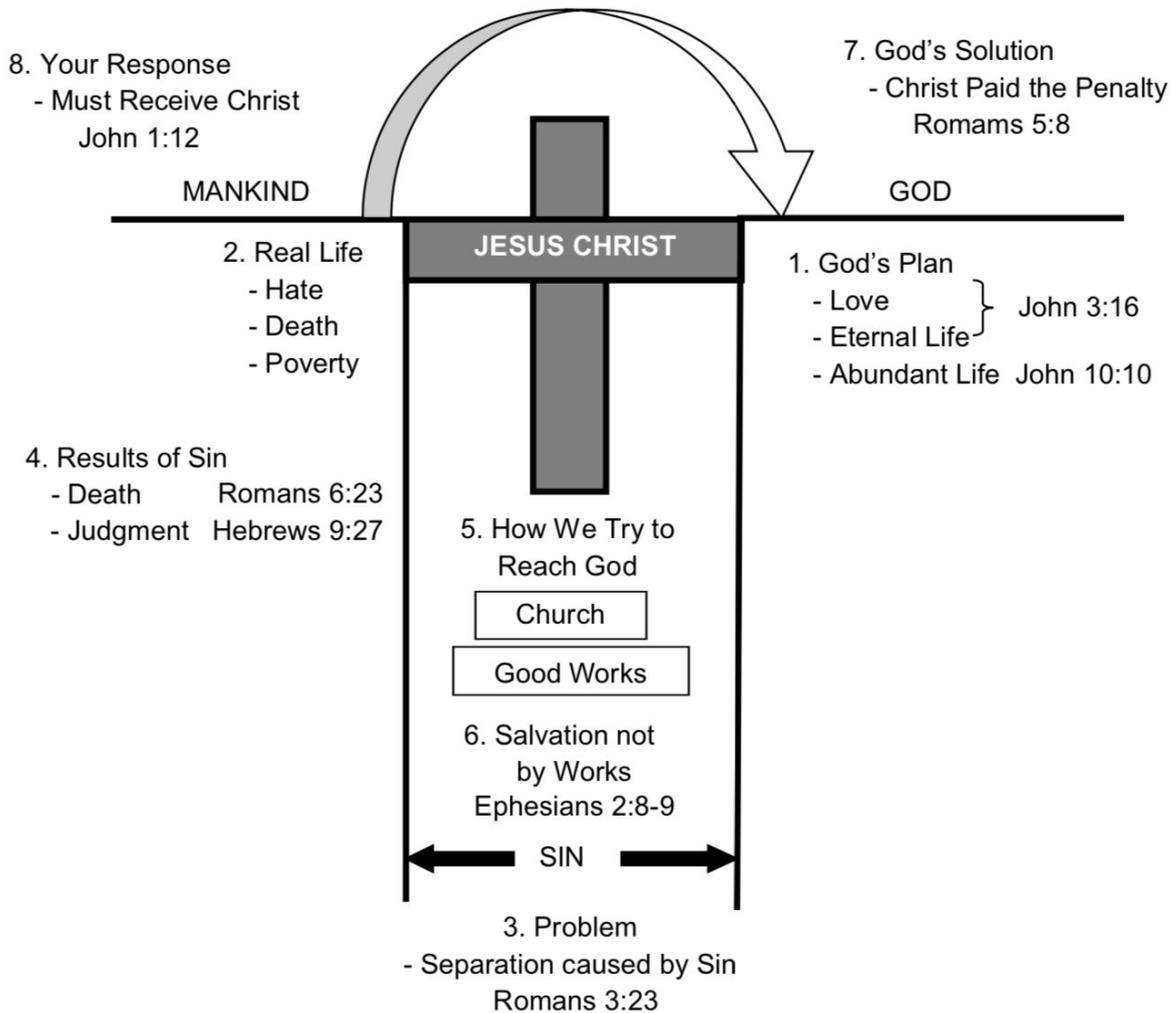
8. What is your part in all of this? What must you do to have your sins forgiven, to receive eternal life, and be united with God?

a. **John 1:12 not NIV**

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

- I must receive Christ.
- I must accept the bridge God offers and walk across by faith.

Place an X on the illustration where you see yourself.



9. To receive Christ, eternal life, and be on God's side of the chasm, simply ask Jesus to come into your life in prayer. If this is your desire, repeat the following prayer.

Dear Jesus,
I am sorry for my sins.
I believe that You died on the cross for my sins.
Please come into my life, forgive me, and give me eternal life with You.
Amen

Assurance of Salvation

We will learn that you can know that you have eternal life.

a. **1 John 5:11-13 not NIV**

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

- Who gives eternal life?
- Where is eternal life found?
- Who has eternal life?
- Can you know that you have eternal life?

10. What three things are the result of hearing and believing?

b. **John 5:24 not NIV**

... Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

11. If you were to die and go to heaven and God asked you, "Why should I allow you into heaven?" what would you say to Him?

12. How do you know that you have eternal life?

Assurance of Salvation

a. **1 John 5:11-12 not NIV**

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have
life.*

Memorize 1 John 5:11-12 to help you remember that you have eternal life based on God's Word.

NO SUMMARY FOR CHAPTER 4

Chapter 5: Biblical Fellowship

What is Biblical Fellowship?

1. Since God is our heavenly Father and all believers are His children, what is your relationship to other believers?

a. 1 John 3:1

See what great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

- How should brothers and sisters act toward one another?

2. Who is the central focus of biblical fellowship?

a. Matthew 18:20

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

3. What are some things we can do for each other as brothers and sisters?

a. 1 John 4:11

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

- How can we love one another in this group?

b. Galatians 6:2

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- How can we carry each other's burdens in this group?

c. James 5:16

... pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

- How can we pray for each other?

4. All believers are forgiven sinners, yet we still sin. None of us is perfect. What is your responsibility to your brother or sister when you have offended him or her?

a. Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

- What can you do to be reconciled?
- Is there someone you have sinned against? Who? What are you going to do?

5. What should you do when a brother or sister has offended you?

a. Matthew 18:15

If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

b. Galatians 6:1

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

- What qualifies you to go to someone about their sin?
- What does living by the Spirit look like?
- What is the purpose of going to someone about their sin, even if they have not sinned against you?

6. How should you show someone what they have done to you?

a. Ephesians 4:15

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

- How do you speak the truth in love?
- Is there someone who has sinned against you? Who? What are you going to do?
- Why does God want you to forgive?

If you ever have a problem with a relationship, you don't have to wonder who should make the first move. It is always you. However, you must rely on wisdom, timing, and love from the Holy Spirit. This cannot be done in the flesh.

- What did God do to be reconciled with you?

7. How is biblical fellowship different from other fellowship groups you have been associated with?

Biblical fellowship is a Christ centered gathering of spiritual brothers and sisters who love each other and are seeking to love God more and to become more like Jesus.

The Purpose of Biblical Fellowship

8. What are some of the aspects of Biblical fellowship?

a. Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

- How do we sharpen one another in this group?

b. Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

- How do we/can we spur one another on in this group?
- How do we/can we encourage one another in this group?

c. Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- How do we/can we do good to one another in this group?

9. What are some of the responsibilities we have to one another in biblical fellowship?

a. Ephesians 5:21

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- How do we/can we submit to one another in this group?

b. Colossians 3:16

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

- How do we/can we teach one another in this group?
- What does it mean to admonish one another?
- How do we/can we admonish one another in this group?
- How are we to teach and admonish one another? In all wisdom.

c. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

- How do we/can we build each other up in this group?

Our Fellowship Functions as the Body of Christ

10. God describes our fellowship with one another and with Christ in 1 Corinthians 12:14-27. How is our fellowship of believers described?

a. 1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

- How is our group like a body?

b. Who gave the parts of the body their functions? 1 Corinthians 12:18

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

c. What does God want for our fellowship? 1 Corinthians 12:25

...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

- What can we do to have unity in our group?

d. What can lead to division in the body? 1 Corinthians 12:15-16, 21

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

Comparison, feeling of no need of another part

- What are some other things that can cause division in our group?

e. Why are there no unnecessary members in the body? 1 Corinthians 12:20-22

As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable...

Each depends on the other

- How do we depend on each other in this group? In our church?

f. How does stubbing your toe demonstrate the truth? 1 Corinthians 12:26

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

g. Who is the head of our body of believers? Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Jesus won't force His leadership on our fellowship just like He won't force His Lordship on our life.

- Why should we eagerly follow His leadership in our fellowship?

h. What will preserve unity in the body? Ephesians 4:2-3

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

- Is there someone with whom we need to be humble? Gentle? Bear with them in love?
- How can we bear with someone in love?
- Why does it take effort on our part to keep unity in our fellowship?
- What is our common bond that binds us together?

Christian fellowship provides a safe environment where real life issues can openly be shared, and you can experience life change. You can share your hurts, habits, and hang ups. You don't have to pretend to be something you're not.

Biblical Fellowship Summary

Read the Summary and choose the one thing that means the most to you. Why is it important?

1. What is biblical fellowship?

- a. We are a fellowship of brothers and sisters.
- b. Jesus is the central focus of biblical fellowship.
- c. We love one another, carry each other's burdens, confess to each other, and pray for each other.
- d. It is always your responsibility to make the first move in restoring a relationship independent of whether you or the other person was to blame.
- e. Biblical fellowship is Christ centered and is about giving and receiving from one another.

2. The Purpose of Biblical Fellowship

- a. Our fellowship sharpens us, spurs us on to love and good deeds, and encourages us.
- b. We do good to everyone, especially to the family of believers.
- c. We submit to one another, teach and admonish one another, and build each other up.

3. Our Fellowship Functions as the Body of Christ

- a. Our fellowship functions as a body with Jesus as the head.
- b. God gave each member of the body an indispensable function.
- c. God wants no division in the body and that there should be equal concern for all parts of the body.
- d. God wants us to make every effort to maintain unity by being humble, gentle, patient, and bearing with one another in love.