EPHESIANS 4:12

FOR THE LEADER

A 25-DAY DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

After *Salvation*

Leader Guide

A companion for mentors and small group leaders walking alongside new believers.

RELATIONSHIP · COMMUNITY · MISSION · COMMITMENT

This guide belongs to:

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DAY 1 OF 25 · WEEK 1 · RELATIONSHIP

Salvation

Q1. Since we understand that sin is the reason we need salvation (Romans 3:23), what is sin (1 John 3:4)?

- Sin is failing to live according to the standard of a perfect and holy God. Anything less than His perfect standard qualifies as sinful.
- This includes both internal and external behavior, covering thoughts and desires that violate God's perfect order.
- 1 John 3:4 describes sin as lawlessness, meaning acting against God's revealed law and authority.
- Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, sin is consistently portrayed as rebellion against God's original design and order.

Q2. Describe Confess, Believe, and Surrender (C.B.S. in English), and explain why each word helps us understand what happens during salvation. *(Romans 10:9-10)*

- All three components are found in Romans 10:9.
- Confess means declaring Jesus as Lord by acknowledging that we are sinful (repentance) and that we need a savior (Mark 1:15, 1 John 1:9).
- Believe means that faith is required to be saved, so by faith we believe God raised Jesus from the dead (John 1:12, John 3:16).
- Surrender means making Jesus Lord, King, and Master of your life (Luke 9:23-24, Galatians 2:20, Colossians 2:6).

Q3. After we accept the truth of Jesus Christ, should we get baptized? Why or why not? *(Acts 22:16, Acts 10:47-48, Matthew 28:19-20)*

- Yes. The next step after salvation is baptism.
- Baptism is the first step of obedience to salvation, not a substitution for salvation.
- Water baptism symbolizes the death and resurrection of Jesus, the new life in which a Christ follower now walks, the cleansing and washing away of sin, and is a public step of obedience.
- Infant baptism does not substitute for genuine salvation; it requires a personal understanding of sin and Christ's work. The exception is those with mental disabilities or limited capacity, who are believed to inherit the kingdom of God because God is just (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Q4. If someone were interested in becoming a Christian, how would you guide them to make Jesus Lord of their life? *(Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10)*

- Walk them through Salvation Simplified Through Scripture.
- Romans 3:23 tells us sin has caused a separation between man and God.
- Romans 6:23 explains the penalty for sin is death and separation from God, but Jesus died to make us right with God and to give us eternal life.
- Romans 10:9-10 promises that if we confess and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead and make Him Lord of our lives, we will be saved.

DAY 2 OF 25 · WEEK 1 · RELATIONSHIP

Daily Living

Q1. How do we have a relationship with God? *(Jeremiah 29:13, Hebrews 4:12, Colossians 4:2, Acts 2:42-47)*

- Any relationship in the world takes work, and there is no difference in our relationship with God; we must put forth the effort.
- Jeremiah 29:13 says we will seek and find God when we seek Him with all our heart.
- There is no substitute for time; we must spend time with God because it is the only way to develop a real relationship with Him.
- Being obedient to what the Holy Spirit is teaching and actively living it out (1 John 2:16-17).

Q2. What is the difference between temptation and sin? How do we fight sin? *(James 1:14-15, 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 4:7-8)*

- Temptation and sin are not the same.
- Temptation is more like the attraction, desire, or suggestion toward sinful acts. Sin occurs when the temptation becomes actively pursued in thought or action.
- We fight sin by praying (Matthew 26:41, Matthew 6:9-13), walking by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), submitting to God and resisting the devil (James 4:7), and positioning ourselves wisely in our daily choices.
- We fight sin by hiding God's Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11) and using it out loud as Jesus did when tempted (Matthew 4:7).

Q3. What are the 4 core areas of After Salvation? (Hint: R.C.M.C.) How would you explain how they work within a maturing believer?

- The 4 core areas are Relationship with God, Community (the local church), Mission, and Commitment.
- We grow in our Relationship with God.
- We belong to a Community.
- We live on Mission.
- We maintain a Commitment to Christ that holds everything together.
- As we deepen our Relationship with God, participate in Christian Community, live on Mission, and stay firmly Committed, our faith is strengthened and maturity in Christ takes root.

Q4. How do footholds and strongholds affect a believer's life? Also, how do we become free from them? *(Ephesians 4:25-32, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)*

- Ephesians 4:27 says, "Do not give the devil a foothold," and Paul addresses specific sins like anger, slander, and stealing in Ephesians 4:25-32 that develop into patterns and become footholds in believers' lives.
- Strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4-5) are formed in our minds when we believe lies.
- We become free through confession, prayer, and repentance (1 John 1:9, James 5:16, Proverbs 28:13).
- Tearing down strongholds also requires spiritual weapons: the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) and Spirit-empowered self-control (Galatians 5:23).

DAY 3 OF 25 · WEEK 1 · RELATIONSHIP

Faith

Q1. What is faith? How does faith play a role in our salvation? *(Hebrews 11:6, Ephesians 2:8-9)*

- Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
- Hebrews 11:6 reminds us that without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
- Faith is the response we give to the gift of salvation.
- Since salvation is a gift of grace (Ephesians 2:8), faith is simply receiving what God offers. We do not earn a gift; we receive it.

Q2. What does James 2:19 mean, and how should this impact us as Christians?

- James 2:19 says, “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that, and shudder.”
- Genuine faith is not just talk or belief; it's walking out what you believe.
- It produces a desire in us to have a holy fear of God, to be in a relationship with Him, to pursue His ways, and to live like Jesus.
- 1 John 2:3-6 confirms this: whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.

Q3. Do good works/deeds save us? Why or why not? *(Galatians 2:16, Titus 3:5, Ephesians 2:8-9)*

- No. Neither your actions nor your deeds save you (Titus 3:5).
- Jesus has already completed the work of salvation; it is finished (John 19:30).
- Eternal life is yours by grace; you have been saved (Ephesians 2:8-9), and nothing else is required outside your commitment of faith in Jesus Christ.
- Galatians 2:16 says we know a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Q4. What is Grace? How does grace help us better understand our faith? *(Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-9)*

- The ESV Global Study Bible defines grace as “unmerited favor, especially the free gift of salvation that God gives to believers through faith in Jesus Christ.”
- Understanding His grace is the connection that places the desire inside of us to do good works.
- Many new or maturing believers feel like they have to do good things, but when we properly understand His grace and mercy in our lives, it changes to we desire to do good things because we want to honor and worship Him.
- Romans 5:1-2 tells us we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ and have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Engage

Q1. What are the three enemies that Christians face? Also, how do they work together against the believer? *(1 Peter 2:11, Ephesians 6:12, 1 John 2:15-17)*

- Every human has three enemies: the Sinful Nature, the enemy satan and the world.
- The Sinful Nature is described in Colossians 3:5, Romans 7:20, and 1 Peter 2:11, which says fleshly lusts wage war against the soul.
- The enemy satan is described in Ephesians 6:12, John 10:10, and 1 Peter 5:8, which says the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- The world is described in 1 John 2:15-17, Ephesians 2:1-3, Romans 12:2, which points out the influence of the world, which is corrupt and fallen.
- Since we still live in this world (which is fallen), and our soul dwells in the body and mind (which has the fallen nature), we have to acknowledge these opposing forces.

Q2. What are some daily goals we should have as believers? *(1 Corinthians 10:31, 1 Peter 4:1-4, Matthew 22:37-40)*

- We live daily to glorify God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. We are no longer just living for ourselves, but living to know and honor God under His Lordship.
- We live daily for God's will. 1 Peter 4:1-4 reminds us that we live for God's will rather than evil human desires. God reveals His will step by step through the Holy Spirit and requires us to walk in obedience to His guidance.
- We live daily to love God and love others. Matthew 22:37-40 commands us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Q3. What does it mean to become a living sacrifice? *(Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:2-3)*

- Romans 12:1-2 urges us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is our true and proper worship.
- To become a living sacrifice means we offer our lives to God for His glory.
- Colossians 3:2-3 reminds us to set our minds on things above, not on earthly things, for we died and our life is now hidden with Christ in God.
- If there is no commitment within this step on a daily basis, the spiritual journey will end very quickly, and the thought of God and the power of salvation will become just a nice thought, not a reality.

Q4. How do we renew our minds? *(Joshua 1:8, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, Galatians 5:25)*

- Scripture (Joshua 1:8).
- Worship (Psalm 150:6).
- Taking every thought captive (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25).
- Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

DAY 5 OF 25 · WEEK 1 · RELATIONSHIP

Prayer

Q1. Why do we pray, and why does prayer matter? *(Matthew 6:9-13, James 5:16)*

- Communication is key, and it is no different within our relationship with God.
- Prayer is simply talking to God, just like you would talk or communicate with any human on earth, except He is God, our Father, and we are His sons and daughters.
- James 5:16 says the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. So if you are in Christ and truly devoted to Him, He hears us.
- Jesus Himself sets the example for us in prayer; the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 teaches us to honor God, prioritize His will, depend on Him for daily provision, repent and forgive, and seek victory over the enemy.

Q2. When should we pray? *(1 Thessalonians 5:17, Matthew 26:41, James 5:13-16, 1 John 5:14)*

- Prayer should be the most common activity for the believer, and the nice thing is that God is with you wherever you go.
- Continuously: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, “Pray continually,” and Luke 18:1 says we should always pray and not give up.
- When battling temptation: Matthew 26:41 says, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
- In difficult times (health, sin, trouble): James 5:13-16 tells us to pray in trouble and sickness, confess our sins to each other, and pray for each other so that we may be healed.
- When seeking God’s guidance and will for your life: 1 John 5:14 says, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.”

Q3. How would you teach someone else how to pray? *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

- Use the Lord's Prayer as the template. From Matthew 6:9-13 we learn six key parts.
- Address God as Father (“Our Father in heaven”); He is personal, intimate, and we are His children.
- Honor God (“hallowed be your name”); hallow means to declare holy, so we approach God with honor and reverence, understanding His Lordship in our lives.
- Prioritizing God’s will (“your kingdom come, your will be done”); this acknowledges God’s will as a priority and redirects us toward His plans and purposes.
- Gratitude and thankfulness for His provisions (“give us today our daily bread”); everything that gives life comes from God.
- Repentance and walking with no offense (“forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”); repent from sin and forgive those who have sinned against us.
- See the schemes of the enemy (“and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”); we need God’s assistance through the Holy Spirit to combat attacks from satan and keep our sinful nature in check.

Q4. What part of the Lord’s prayer stands out to you the most? *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

- This is a personal reflection, so the answer will vary by person.
- The six parts of the Lord's Prayer to reflect on are: God as Father, honoring God, prioritizing God's will, gratitude and thankfulness for His provisions, repentance and walking with no offense, and seeing the schemes of the enemy and victory over him.
- Whichever part most resonates, the goal is to let it shape how you approach God daily.

DAY 6 OF 25 · WEEK 2 · RELATIONSHIP

Creation

Q1. If God created you on purpose, for a purpose, how does that shape the way you see yourself? *(Psalm 139:13-14, Psalm 57:2)*

- You were never a mistake; God knows and loves you.
- Psalm 139:13-14 says God created your inmost being and knit you together in your mother's womb; you are fearfully and wonderfully made.
- Psalm 57:2 says God will fulfill His purpose for you.
- Luke 12:7 reminds us that the very hairs of your head are numbered, and you are worth more than many sparrows.

Q2. Jesus says His burden is light; what heavy burden(s) are you still carrying that He never asked you to carry? *(Matthew 11:28-30)*

- This is a personal reflection question.
- Matthew 11:28-30 says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
- The reading reminds us that God cares about our worries and burdens and doesn't want us to carry the brokenness of this world.
- Encourage the person to honestly name what they are carrying and bring it to Jesus, trusting His promise of rest.

Q3. Since every person is made in the image of God, what does that say about the value of every human life, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or background? *(Genesis 1:27, Romans 2:11, Acts 10:34-35)*

- Every person carries inherent value because we are all God's image bearers.
- Genesis 1 says multiple times that what God created was “good,” and all created things are important in God's eyes, especially human life.
- No matter the stage of life, from conception through old age, every soul matters to God because He created us all.
- There are many ethnicities, but no race is superior; we are all equal (Romans 2:11, Proverbs 22:2, Acts 10:34-35, Genesis 1:27-28).

Q4. Since sin has affected human sexuality, what does Scripture teach about God’s original design for gender and marriage? *(Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-28, Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18)*

- When sin entered the world, sexual identities and many other aspects of human sexuality were distorted.
- This exclusive union between man and woman was formed but was broken through the fall of man.
- Scripture clearly states two types of genders, male and female, and sin has twisted that truth for unnatural relationships (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:26-28).
- Genesis 1:27 shows God made both male and female only, with no other variations.

DAY 7 OF 25 · WEEK 2 · RELATIONSHIP

The Trinity

Q1. How would you explain the Trinity to someone?

- Being is defined as “what” you are; for example, I am a human being.
- Person is defined as “who” you are; for example, I am Roger, that is my person.
- As humans, we are 1 being with 1 person.
- God is 1 being with 3 persons (Father, Son, and Spirit).

Q2. Since the word ‘Trinity’ never appears in Scripture how do we know the word “Trinity” is biblical? *(Hint: Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:21-22)*

- Although the word “Trinity” is not in Scripture, the doctrine is. We see all three persons together in Scripture.
- Luke 3:21-22 shows the Father in the voice from heaven, Jesus physically present at His baptism, and the Holy Spirit represented as the dove.
- Matthew 28:19 is Jesus Himself identifying all three parts: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Genesis 1:26 records God saying, “Let us make mankind in our image,” pointing to the Trinity, meaning that before the foundations of the world, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existed together.

Q3. What word means that we believe in one God? Where does Scripture show us that God is one, not three different Gods?

- The word is Monotheism: the belief that there is only one God.
- Scripture supports this in Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
- Isaiah 44:6 says, “I am the first and I am the last; besides me, there is no god.”
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 says, “Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

Q4. Why do you think God allows mysteries within our faith and what is the best way to respond when we don’t understand? *(Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 55:8-9)*

- There are elements of our faith that we must take by faith, and there are mysteries of God that we will never fully comprehend, and that is okay.
- If we understood everything God understood, we would not need Him and would rely on our full understanding.
- It keeps us dependent and trusting God (Deuteronomy 29:29, Isaiah 55:8-9). That is a reality we must embrace through faith.
- The Trinity is a component of our faith that is very complex and profound, making it difficult to fully grasp and understand.

Q5. What are the 4 core areas of After Salvation? (Hint: R.C.M.C.)

- Relationship, Community, Mission, Commitment.

DAY 8 OF 25 · WEEK 2 · RELATIONSHIP

Jesus

Q1. The Old Testament prophesied Jesus' birthplace (Micah 5:2), virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14), and His suffering (Isaiah 53) hundreds of years before He was born. How does this build your confidence that Jesus really is the promised Messiah, and that God's plan of salvation was set in motion long before the cross?

- The prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament provide evidence of the divine plan for salvation that extends throughout human history.
- They demonstrate that the coming of Jesus was not an afterthought or a random occurrence, but a fulfillment of God's promises and a part of His larger plan for redemption.
- The virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25) was a miraculous event that sets Jesus apart from all other human beings.
- It affirms His divine nature and His unique role as the Son of God who came to Earth to save humanity from sin and death.

Q2. Day 8 notes that over 500 eyewitnesses saw the risen Jesus, and even non-biblical sources confirm His crucifixion. Why does it matter that the resurrection is real history, and how does this shape how you defend your faith? *(Luke 24:1-35; 1 Corinthians 15:6)*

- Some skeptics say Jesus's disciples faked His resurrection, stole His body, and hid it.
- Others might dismiss it because "of course" His followers said they saw Him, but it's a completely different story to have over 500 individuals see the resurrected Christ (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- There is even non-biblical documentation of these events, including Josephus (Ant. 18.3), Tacitus (Ann. 15.44), Pliny (Ep. 10.96), Lucian (Peregrinus), and the Talmud (Sanh. 43a).
- Together, these confirm Jesus' existence and crucifixion and show that His earliest followers worshiped Him as divine.

Q3. In Scripture, it says that Jesus conquered (overcame) death. Why is this important to understand? *(Romans 1:4, Luke 23:46, Luke 24:1-35, Romans 8:11, Ephesians 1:19-20, 1 Corinthians 15:55-56)*

- Jesus died in His human state, but three days later rose from the grave through the power of the Spirit of God (Romans 8:11, Ephesians 1:19-20).
- When Jesus conquered death, this proved His divinity, meaning He was God.
- We have nothing to fear, not even death, for those who are in Him.
- We are now secure in our eternal life through Christ (1 Corinthians 15:55-56).

Q4. Many people today believe that all religions lead to the same God, or that being 'a good person' is enough. But Scripture is clear: Jesus is the only way to God (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5). If that is true, what is at stake for the people in your life who don't yet know Him, and what is the best way to approach them?

- What is at stake is eternity; without Jesus, we cannot be reunited with God the Father, we have no access to the Holy Spirit, and we cannot have eternal life (John 17:3).
- Jesus is the knot that ties our faith together; without Christ, it is impossible for our faith to hold together.
- The best way to approach those who don't yet know Him is not to shove Jesus into their face, but to meet people where they are and love them towards the Cross.
- Our job is not to save people, only to share what He has done in our lives and encourage others toward the cross.

DAY 9 OF 25 · WEEK 2 · RELATIONSHIP

Holy Spirit

Q1. What role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation? *(John 16:8, 1 Thessalonians 1:5)*

- The Holy Spirit plays a significant part in our salvation process.
- John 16:8 and 1 Thessalonians 1:5 show that the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, which leads us to know that we need a Savior, Jesus Christ.
- The Spirit is also part of our new birth (John 3:3-7, Titus 3:5).
- He is the evidence of our salvation, marking the believer with a seal as a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 John 4:13).

Q2. How have you seen the Holy Spirit leading, teaching, or changing you since you accepted Jesus? *(John 14:26, Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22-23)*

- This is a personal reflection, so the answer will vary by person.
- John 14:26 shows that the Holy Spirit teaches and reminds believers of Jesus' words.
- Acts 1:8 shows that He gives power to be witnesses.
- Galatians 5:22-23 shows the fruit of the Spirit growing in the believer's life.

Q3. Jesus told His disciples it was actually better for them if He left so the Holy Spirit could come. Why do you think having the Spirit living inside you is greater than having Jesus physically beside you? *(John 16:7)*

- John 16:7 (Amplified) says, “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you to be in close fellowship with you.”
- Having the Spirit inside is greater because the Holy Spirit now permanently rests within the believer, not just coming and going as in the Old Testament.
- This means God lives in close, continuous fellowship with us at all times.
- The Spirit empowers, intercedes, teaches, convicts, comforts, and produces the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's daily life.

Q4. Day 9 lists four marks of the Holy Spirit at work: obedience, the fruit of the Spirit, His presence, and His thoughts shaping yours. Which do you see most in yourself, and which is harder to see? *(1 John 3:24; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12)*

- When you desire and want to obey God's way (1 John 3:24).
- When we see the manifestation of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).
- When you sense His presence (Ephesians 3:16-19).
- When His words and thoughts start forming how we understand life (1 Corinthians 2:10-12).

DAY 10 OF 25 · WEEK 2 · RELATIONSHIP

Worship

Q1. Holy Fear is described as fearful wonder with deep respect for God. How does that redefine the way you approach Him daily? *(Proverbs 9:10, Hebrews 12:28-29)*

- Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
- This concept of fear is not in the sense that you should run and hide, but it's a high level of respect toward God, meaning reverence and awe.
- Hebrews 12:28-29 calls us to worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.
- The fear of the Lord doesn't drive us from God's presence; it draws us close to Him.

Q2. What are the three ways to worship God listed in Day 10? Which of the three areas has been the hardest for you to worship God in so far and why? *(Romans 12:1, Psalm 95:1-6, Matthew 6:19-21)*

- The three ways to worship God listed in Day 10 are with our lives, with our song, and with our resources.
- This is a personal reflection, so the answer will vary by person.
- Encourage the person to reflect honestly on which of these three areas has been the hardest to worship God in so far, and why.

Q3. Giving is an act of worship that demonstrates your faith and trust in God. What does your current relationship with money reveal about where your heart is? *(Matthew 6:19-21, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Deuteronomy 8:17-18)*

- Matthew 6:19-21 says, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- We do not give to men; if someone misappropriates funds, God will hold that person accountable.
- Giving is an act of worship; we give to God to spiritually demonstrate our faith, trust, and obedience to Him.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says God loves a cheerful giver, and each should give what they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion.

Q4. Worship through song should come from an overflow of the heart not just words on a screen. Does your worship feel genuine or routine, and why? *(Psalm 95:1-6, Ephesians 5:19-20)*

- Worshiping God in song is more than just singing words on a screen.
- The song should come out of an overflow of our hearts, understanding with gratitude, respect, and awe who God is and what He has done for us.
- Song is a way of communicating the sincerity of our hearts' affection toward God.
- Psalm 95:1-6 invites us to sing for joy and bow down in worship.

DAY 11 OF 25 · WEEK 3 · COMMUNITY

The Church

Q1. What does Genesis 2:18 teach us about our need for community? How does Galatians 4:4-7 deepen this idea?

- Genesis 2:18 (where God creates Eve to accompany Adam) teaches us we were never called to walk this life alone.
- God wants a relationship with us; that is why we are here.
- Galatians 4:4-7 deepens this by showing that in your new life through Christ, you are now adopted into a new family, a spiritual family called the body of Christ, which is made up of many different types of people.
- Even if you never had a biological brother or sister, you now have many brothers and sisters stretched across the earth.

Q2. Jesus promised the gates of Hades would not overcome His church. What does that promise mean to you about the community you now belong to? *(Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 1:22-23)*

- Matthew 16:18 records the moment when Jesus declares that He will establish this community of people that will not be defeated by the works of the enemy nor the flesh, and they will be called the church.
- We are His people because He is the only way back to the Father, so He is our leader and our Lord.
- Ephesians 1:22-23 tells us God placed all things under Christ's feet and appointed Him head over everything for the church, which is His body.
- This means the community you belong to is unbreakable; it is led by Christ Himself and cannot ultimately be defeated.

Q3. Your body is a temple, meaning you carry God's presence everywhere you go, because you now have the Holy Spirit. How does that truth affect your daily life? *(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God; you are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.
- As believers in Christ, we are actually hosting the Holy Spirit within our physical bodies.
- Since this is true, we can have fellowship with God continuously, because we are made perfect through the blood of Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit has the ability to rest within the believer permanently because we have been purified and made holy by accepting Christ as Lord.

Q4. The church is not a building, but a global body of believers unified under Christ. How does that change the way you think about your role within it? *(Ephesians 4:4, Ephesians 2:19-20)*

- The church is not just a physical location where believers come together in a building; it is deeper than that.
- The church is a collective group of Christian believers under the authority of Christ.
- Although there are many people who make up the church stretched all over the world, we are one, unified by Christ Himself and through the Holy Spirit.
- Ephesians 2:19-20 says we are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

DAY 12 OF 25 · WEEK 3 · COMMUNITY

Fellowship

Q1. Day 12 warns that a dangerous church removes Jesus as head and places a man there instead. What are some signs you would look for to know whether a church is healthy or not? *(Ephesians 1:22, Acts 2:42)*

- Two main signs from Acts 2:42 and the Day 12 reading.
- First, look at who is the head of the church. There is a real danger if a man tries to place himself as the sole leader of the church, removing Jesus as head (Ephesians 1:22) and placing himself as the point of importance rather than God.
- Second, examine how the church teaches. Are they teaching ideas from themselves, more self-help than biblically focused, or are they teaching from the Word of God?
- A healthy church culture keeps Christ as the head and teaches the Word of God.

Q2. Gossip and pride are the two things that destroy unity fastest. What can we do if we see this in others or find it happening within ourselves? *(Ephesians 4:3, Acts 2:44)*

- Unity can only be accomplished if we are really for one another.
- Gossip and pride are encouraged by the enemy and give way to the fallen nature.
- Three of the fruits of the Spirit are love, peace, and self-control, so pray that the Spirit helps us as individuals to be mindful of the tactics of the enemy and flesh.
- Unity begins with you.

Q3. Consistency in meeting together produces greater focus and encouragement. What is currently keeping you from being consistently connected to a church community? *(Acts 2:46)*

- Acts 2:46 says, “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.”
- Consistency in our spiritual lives is a must and is tied to the idea of Commitment, which is one of the 4 core areas of After Salvation.
- To be committed to something means having consistency within that commitment.
- This question is for personal reflection on what is hindering your consistency, with the encouragement to address it.

Q4. The early church’s generosity made it stand out in the world. In your own life, how does this challenge you? *(Acts 2:45, Luke 10:27)*

- Acts 2:45 says, “They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”
- Historically, generosity is what made the church stand out in the world; the early church fed those who were hungry, clothed those who needed clothes, and provided resources to those in need.
- The church is a place of selfless individuals who see people through the lens of Christ, meaning that people matter to God, so they matter to the Christian.
- Can we truly call ourselves followers of God if we leave a child or brothers or sisters in need?

DAY 13 OF 25 · WEEK 3 · COMMUNITY

Spiritual Gifts

Q1. What are spiritual gift(s), and should everyone have at least one after salvation? *(1 Corinthians 12:11, 1 Corinthians 12:7)*

- A spiritual gift is a gift or endowment characteristic of the presence or enabling of the Holy Spirit.
- God supernaturally gives and enables gifts to humans for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Yes, every believer has at least one. When you become a Christian, you receive the Holy Spirit, who is the one who gives the gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 12:11 says, “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

Q2. What should we be careful of when understanding our spiritual gift(s)? *(1 Corinthians 12:15-26)*

- We must be careful not to become prideful about gift(s) that God has given to us.
- Remember that the spiritual gift(s) and the assignments God assigns to you are for His Glory, not yours.
- Stay humble; no matter how many people God enables you to reach for His name's sake, this is all for His glory (1 Corinthians 12:15-26).
- Also be cautious about leaning too heavily on a spiritual gifts test before seeking God in prayer and self examination.

Q3. How does understanding and using spiritual gifts contribute to the overall health and mission of the church? *(1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 1 Corinthians 12:7)*

- Spiritual gifts were given to God's people for two purposes.
- First, to demonstrate the truthfulness of God, as seen in Acts 2:14-18 when Peter used Joel's prophetic words.
- Second, to assist and empower the believer to accomplish God's will on earth (1 Corinthians 12:7, given for the common good).
- Spiritual gifts are given by God to build the church and to accomplish His will.

Q4. Take time to pray about your specific spiritual gift(s), and ask the Lord to help you identify yours. What are you sensing from God?

- This question is meant to be answered through personal prayer and reflection.
- The reading lists the spiritual gifts as a starting point: Administration, Apostleship, Discernment, Evangelism, Exhortation, Faith, Giving, Healing, Hospitality, Knowledge, Leadership, Mercy, Miracles, Shepherd, Prophecy, Service/Helps, Teaching, Tongues (and Interpretation), and Wisdom.
- There may be more gifts than this; the Bible describes spiritual gifts as a supernatural enabling of a person by the Spirit for the glory of God, so other ways God moves may fall under service or helps.
- Seek God in prayer first and ask Him to reveal the gifts He has given you.

DAY 14 OF 25 · WEEK 3 · COMMUNITY

Gatherings

Q1. How does the enemy use deception and past hurts to prevent Christians from gathering with the church? *(Ephesians 4:32, 2 Corinthians 2:10-11)*

- The enemy commonly uses two attacks.
- First, money: stories of churches misusing funds (or even pastors pressuring people about tithing) are used to make it seem every church is like that.
- Second, hurt: if you stay in church long enough, someone will fail you because the church is made up of human beings, and we are all flawed (2 Corinthians 2:10-11).
- The Lord's Prayer prepares us in advance that offense will come, and we must be careful not to offend others, walk in love, and forgive quickly.

Q2. How can believers maintain unity despite different expressions of worship and theology? What is one thing to be cautious about? *(1 Corinthians 1:11-17, Philippians 2:3-5)*

- There will be different expressions of the body of Christ until Jesus comes.
- On one end of the spectrum are fundamentalists, less emotional and more logically based; on the other end are charismatics, sensitive to the emotional side of spirituality but still rooted in Scripture.
- There is nothing wrong with either, as long as Christ is anchored within these expressions and the Word of God is your foundation.
- The caution from 1 Corinthians 1:11-17 is to avoid quarrels of “I follow Paul,” “I follow Apollos,” because Christ is not divided.

Q3. Proverbs 18:1 says isolation leads someone to break out against sound judgment. What’s the difference between healthy time alone and unhealthy isolation? What happens when we are isolated for too long?

- Proverbs 18:1 (ESV) says, “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.”
- Human interaction is healthy mentally, emotionally, and spiritually; it's vital for true spiritual health.
- Being by yourself is not a bad thing, but consistent isolation can feed into things such as depression and hopelessness.
- The enemy wants to keep us isolated, away from the body of Christ, because isolation creates environments of vulnerability where the enemy can attack our thoughts (Genesis 3:1) and discourage our faith (John 10:10).

Q4. Hebrews 10:24-25 commands us not to give up meeting together. Why do you think the writer felt he had to command this? What pulls believers away from gathering?

- Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “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.”
- The writer commanded this because believers were already in the habit of giving up meeting together.
- The two main pulls identified in the reading (believing the church just wants your money, and being hurt by someone at church) are traps the enemy uses to push believers away from the body of Christ.
- The command exists because gathering together produces love, good deeds, and encouragement, all of which the enemy is trying to disrupt.

Q5. What are the 4 core areas of After Salvation? (R.C.M.C.)

- Relationship, Community, Mission, Commitment.

DAY 15 OF 25 · WEEK 3 · COMMUNITY

Friendships & Accountability

Q1. What should you do if your current friendships are unhealthy? Should you completely cut ties, or should you try to win them to Christ? *(James 1:5, John 16:13)*

- It depends on the situation.
- If you find that you have negative influences in your life, the first step is to pray for them and encourage them toward Christ, believing in their salvation.
- If you start talking about your relationship with God more, you will quickly find out if that draws them closer to you or away.
- The suggestion is, with love, to place greater relational distance between you and unhealthy relationships.
- Sometimes a friendship requires a complete break, such as gang affiliation, drug abuse, or alcohol abuse; regardless, we must guard the inner circle of our life.

Q2. Proverbs 18:24 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 show us the importance of strong, godly relationships. Do you have at least one brother or sister like that in your life? If not, how can you begin pursuing that kind of relationship?

- Proverbs 18:24 says one who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
- The reading lays out four levels of friendship: acquaintances, casual friends, friends, and inner circle.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment on the types of friendships you have.

Q3. Why should we have a spiritual mentor? Also, do you currently have a mentor? If not, create a list of potential mentors and reach out to find one. *(Proverbs 27:17)*

- We need brothers and sisters in our lives who help us to grow toward maturity.
- Authentic accountability and mentorship are displayed when that person is willing to tell you the truth with grace and love, to make you better, not to hurt you.
- Be very careful with this selection; examine the person closely before opening up.
- Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Q4. The reading asks, “Who is influencing your life?” Name the top three people you spend the most time with, and honestly ask whether they are pulling you toward Christ or away from Him. *(1 Corinthians 15:33)*

- This is a personal reflection.
- The principle is from the reading, quoting Jim Rohn: “You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, “Do not be misled: bad company corrupts good character.”
- Be selective about whom you spend time with and intentional about who you allow to influence your life.

DAY 16 OF 25 · WEEK 4 · MISSION

The Mission

Q1. What does Matthew 28:18-20 teach us about our mission as believers, and how should that shape our everyday lives?

- Matthew 28:18-20 is the Great Commission, where Jesus gives us the famous command to “Go and make disciples of all nations.”
- Jesus could have said anything in His final address, but He chose to give us a clear directive toward a mission He wanted us to accomplish with His assistance and guidance.
- As believers, we are all part of this rescue mission and called to engage in the mission of God.
- This means in everyday life we share the good news, guide new believers to understand their newfound faith, and help them mature so they can disciple others.

Q2. What does Matthew 13:23 teach us about what a healthy believer’s life should look like?

- Matthew 13:23 says, “But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”
- A healthy believer hears, understands, and multiplies.
- Acts 6:7 confirms this pattern: the word of God spread, and the number of disciples increased rapidly.
- After salvation, we have the responsibility to guide new believers to understand their newfound faith.

Q3. What are two things Acts 1:8 teaches us? How is relying on the Holy Spirit’s power different from trying to do the work of ministry or mission in your own strength?

- Acts 1:8 says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- Receive Power: when you become a Christian, you receive the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the helper and power you need to be successful in the mission Jesus has called us to (John 16:7).
- Witnesses: a witness is someone who testifies to what God has done in their life. Our job is not to save people, but to share what He has done in our lives.
- Trying in our own strength means we try to convert people ourselves, which is not our job and leads to burnout.

Q4. As you read Proverbs 24:11 and 1 Corinthians 9:22, how should the reality that souls are at stake shape our mindset? What is one practical way you can take part in God’s mission today?

- Heaven and hell are on the line for the souls that surround you each day (1 Corinthians 9:22, Proverbs 24:11).
- You never know how much time you or the person next to you has (Job 14:2).
- There must be a certain sense of urgency in the believer's life for those around them (Romans 13:11-12).
- One practical way to take part today: identify someone in your circle of influence, pray for them, and look for the Lord's open door to share what He has done in your life.

DAY 17 OF 25 · WEEK 4 · MISSION

Disciple

Q1. What is a disciple? How closely does your life align with that definition? *(John 8:31)*

- The term “disciple” is derived from the Greek word mathētēs, meaning a student who adheres to (and travels with) a teacher in the form of a teaching relationship (John 8:31).
- The same model applies to us today; we are called to walk with Jesus daily.
- The only difference is that we don't have Jesus in physical form; we have two other things, Scripture (which is His words) and the Holy Spirit.
- We can successfully have the relationship the disciples had through these two things active in our lives.

Q2. What are the 7 indicators of authentic disciples? *(Matthew 4:19, Luke 9:23, John 14:23, John 15:8, John 13:35, Matthew 28:19, John 8:31-32)*

- A person who believes in and follows Jesus Christ (Matthew 4:19).
- A person who daily surrenders and prioritizes God's will over their own (Luke 9:23, take up your cross daily).
- A person who is consistent in their obedience (John 14:23, anyone who loves Jesus will obey His teaching).
- A person who produces good fruit (John 15:8, bearing much fruit shows you are His disciple).
- A person who loves others (John 13:35, everyone will know you are His disciples if you love one another).
- A person who continues in the Word (John 8:31-32, if you hold to Jesus' teaching, you are really His disciples).
- A person who is truly committed to God's rescue mission of making other disciples through multiplying (Matthew 28:19).

Q3. Is making disciples solely the responsibility of pastors? What does Ephesians 4:11-12 teach us?

- No. As believers, we are all called to participate in the advancement of the kingdom.
- Ephesians 4:11-12 says Christ Himself gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.
- The true role of church leaders is to equip or train the church for the work of the ministry (to make disciples).
- When this proper alignment happens, the church (you) can go make disciples along with the church leaders, and an Acts 2 movement will take place.

Q4. What are the five key things we discussed for making disciples effectively? *(Matthew 4:19, Matthew 28:20, Colossians 1:28, Acts 9:31, Luke 6:13)*

- We Invite (Matthew 4:19). Jesus invited people to follow Him; we should be aware of spiritual hunger and open hearts and look for opportunities to invite people into our lives.
- Keep It Small (Luke 6:13). Jesus had a small group of disciples and ministered one on one; small group and one on one interaction grows the believer the most.
- Have A Plan (Matthew 28:20). Jesus taught with intentionality; After Salvation is one such plan to help build the foundation of a new believer.
- Commit To Spiritual Maturity (Colossians 1:28). The goal of discipling someone is to present everyone fully mature in Christ.
- Challenge Them To Replicate/Reproduce (Multiply). Jesus poured out His life into the 12 disciples and then empowered them to reproduce what they experienced with Him (Acts 9:31).

DAY 18 OF 25 · WEEK 4 · MISSION

Spiritual Warfare

Q1. Do you truly believe there is an "unseen" spiritual battle occurring? Explain your answer. *(Ephesians 6:10-13, 1 Peter 5:8)*

- Yes. There is a real active force fighting within the spiritual realms that we cannot see.
- Ephesians 6:10-13 tells us our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
- 1 Peter 5:8 warns to be alert and of sober mind because the enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- This battle exists because eternity is on the line; souls will end up in heaven or hell.

Q2. Today we learned we fight "out of a place of victory, not defeat" (Romans 8:37-39, 1 Corinthians 15:57). Do you actually live like someone who has the victory, or does the enemy still convince you you're losing?

- We as believers are fighting out of a place of victory, not defeat.
- The truth is that the enemy doesn't want us to understand the power, freedom, authority, and victory we now possess.
- Romans 8:37-39 says we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 says God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q3. How does the enemy use our sinful nature against us, and what steps can we take to resist temptation? *(Romans 7:14-25, Matthew 6:13)*

- Romans 7:14-25 describes the pull or bend in our human nature toward sin: what I want to do I do not do, and what I hate I do.
- The enemy uses our nature against us by exploiting that pull.
- The good news (verse 25) is that we have deliverance through Jesus Christ.
- Like a soldier showing up to battle in full gear, we should put on our spiritual armor every day and have the awareness that the battle is raging daily.

Q4. What is spiritual armor, and why is spiritual armor so important? *(Ephesians 6:14-17)*

- Ephesians 6:14-17 lists the spiritual armor God provides.
- The Belt of Truth: the truth of God's Word holds us together like a belt, forming stability, integrity, and honesty in the believer (John 17:17).
- The Breastplate of Righteousness: just as the breastplate covered the soldier's vital organs, Christ's righteousness covers us; we rely on His righteousness, not our own, and put it on daily (Matthew 6:33).
- Feet Fitted with the Gospel of Peace: like the soldier's sandals, we stand ready to bring the good news of Jesus to those in spiritual struggle, letting His peace guide us.
- The Shield of Faith: mobile, protects all angles of attack; trust in God extinguishes all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
- The Helmet of Salvation: protects the believer's mind and thoughts with the assurance of salvation and our secure identity in Christ, guarding against the enemy's thought-casting (Genesis 3).
- The Sword of the Spirit: the Word of God, the only offensive weapon, used out loud as Jesus did against the enemy (Matthew 4:1-11).
- Armor is essential because the battle is daily.

DAY 19 OF 25 · WEEK 4 · MISSION

Kingdom & Calling

Q1. What does it mean to be an Ambassador of Christ? What do your daily life, your work, your conversations, and your social media say about the kingdom you represent? *(2 Corinthians 5:20)*

- An ambassador is a high ranking diplomat who represents a state or government, usually assigned to another sovereign state.
- In plain terms, just as ambassadors represent their respective countries or governments, Christians represent Christ here on earth.
- 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, “We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.”
- God desires that humans become His representatives here on earth to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Q2. What truth does John 16:33 teach us about our current circumstances, and how should we face this challenge?

- John 16:33 says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
- Jesus is honest with us: trouble is part of this world. But He has already overcome it.
- We face challenges from the position of victory through Christ.
- Romans 8:31-32 says if God is for us, who can be against us?

Q3. What is so powerful about 2 Peter 3:9? Also, how does this verse help us defend our faith?

- 2 Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”
- What's powerful is that it reveals God's heart: He wants no one to perish but everyone to come to repentance.
- This helps defend our faith against the common objection that a loving God would not allow people to be lost.
- The verse shows God's patience is precisely because of His love.

Q4. The reading says “everyone has some type of circle of influence,” small or big. Who specifically is in your circle right now (family, coworkers, classmates, neighbors) that the Lord may be calling you to pray for and encourage toward Him? (Matthew 25:21) Let me encourage you, go and spiritually fight for your circle to know Christ!

- This is a personal reflection.
- The truth is everyone has some type of circle of influence; some are small, some are big.
- Regardless, be faithful to those the Lord has placed in front of you and contribute toward their spiritual growth.
- You do not need a seminary degree to make disciples; you just need the desire, boldness, and commitment to step out in faith and do it.

Q5. Without looking, what are the 4 core areas of After Salvation?

- Relationship, Community, Mission, Commitment.

DAY 20 OF 25 · WEEK 4 · MISSION

Testimony

Q1. What is your testimony? *(1 Peter 3:15)*

- This is meant to be written out personally.
- Origin Story: what was your upbringing like? Who were your parents and siblings, and what were the early years of your life like? What were your family dynamics? How did your early childhood affect who you became? What did your family value? Was church a part of your life?
- Life Before Christ: what specific moments built up to you accepting Christ? Was it a crisis, curiosity, upbringing? Give great detail about the build up to that point.
- Life After Christ: what has changed since you accepted Christ? How would you describe your life with Jesus? Why would you encourage others to make the same decision?

Q2. Did you really write your testimony out? YES / NO

- This is a personal accountability check.
- The encouragement is to actually write it down, not just think about it.

Q3. Who will you share your testimony with?

- Personal accountability.
- Share it with your mentor or small group as the reading challenges.
- Sharing your testimony should be a normal rhythm of the believer's life.

DAY 21 OF 25 · WEEK 5 · COMMITMENT

Commitment

Q1. What does Commitment mean? How do 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and Galatians 2:20 tie into this core area?

- Christ centered means everything (actions, decisions, worldview, and more) is now filtered through our newfound relationship with and understanding of Jesus Christ.
- We commit to and obey His ways through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit and His Word, the Bible.
- Galatians 2:20 reminds us our lives are now hidden with Christ.
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 reminds us that it is Christ, through His Spirit, who sustains us and gives us the capacity and ability to live with strong spiritual commitment.

Q2. John 15:4-5 describes the vine and branches as deeply connected, showing that our strength comes from remaining in Christ. But what happens when we begin to drift from that connection? How do we return to a place of spiritual strength in Him?

- John 15:4-5 says to abide in Christ; apart from Him, we can do nothing.
- When we drift, we will not be able to see the blessings and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) manifest in our lives.
- We return by re engaging the will to be committed to His ways through Scripture and the Holy Spirit.
- We return through quickly repenting and turning back to God.

Q3. After reading today, you should realize that after salvation, you still have personal responsibility in your faith. How does 2 Peter 1:5-8 help us see that?

- 2 Peter 1:5-8 affirms our personal responsibility to put forth the effort that leads to spiritual maturity and to continual worship and love of God.
- Although our salvation is secure in Christ (John 10:28-29), we cannot neglect our personal responsibility within our faith.
- We should desire to honor God as authentic believers, and if we never desire to pursue godly things, we should ask why and examine whether our faith in Christ is genuine (2 Corinthians 13:5).
- We have help to break the cycle of our sinful nature, which comes from the power of His Word and Spirit, but we still have to engage our will.

Q4. Now that you understand the 4 core areas of After Salvation, how do they work together, and what should be the outcome? (R.C.M.C.)

- The core areas tie together this way: if you have a Commitment to your Relationship with God, in your Community (the local church), and to the Mission of God, spiritual maturity will follow.
- This is how Commitment ties it all together: spiritual maturity grows as our lives stay centered on Christ and empowered by the Spirit.
- Relationship: Jesus modeled the perfect example of life with God.
- Community: Jesus established His community, the church, through His disciples, who carry the “Good News” to the world (Matthew 16:18).
- Mission: Jesus had a mission to die on the cross for our sins so that we could be saved and our relationship with the Father restored (Matthew 20:28).
- Commitment: Jesus was committed to relationship, community, and mission, and so we must model the same.

DAY 22 OF 25 · WEEK 5 · COMMITMENT

Radical

Q1. What does Deuteronomy 6:5 teach us, and how do we know if an idol is in our lives?

- Deuteronomy 6:5 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
- Combined with Exodus 20:3 (“You shall have no other gods before me”), Scripture calls humans to complete devotion to God.
- An idol is anything we worship and place a higher value on than God.
- The sinful nature tends to place everything but God in its rightful spot.

Q2. What is Scripture teaching us in Deuteronomy 18:10-11 and Isaiah 47:13-14, and why is this important for those who follow Christ?

- Deuteronomy 18:10-11 prohibits sacrificing children, divination, sorcery, omen interpreting, witchcraft, casting spells, mediums, spiritists, and consulting the dead.
- Sorcery and fortune telling are idol worship.
- These passages matter for the Christian because they make clear that any practice that turns to other powers, or to created things rather than the Creator, places us in spiritual danger and dishonors God.
- Idolatry in any form draws our hearts away from total devotion.

Q3. What is Jesus teaching us in Luke 14:25-35, and how could people misunderstand this passage?

- Luke 14 is a strong call about the cost of following Jesus, pointing out three realities:
- Your love and commitment toward God should not have any equals.
- There is a cost to truly follow Jesus.
- We must constantly gauge how we're prioritizing God in our lives.
- Jesus uses “hate” comparatively; in comparison to our love and devotion to God, we love less everything else, including family.
- People can misunderstand this as actually hating family, when Jesus is showing that loyalty to Christ must outrank every earthly relationship.

Q4. There is a cost to following Jesus, and we know that for the believer, heaven is our future. But we also find Scripture like John 10:10 that makes a very strong promise to us for the here and now. How do we experience this life to the fullest?

- When you have radical commitment, you are trusting Jesus above all things, and nothing holds a higher value in your life.
- For most people, there are four main priorities: family, friends, career, and possessions.
- These should come secondary to the One who gave you all these wonderful gifts in the first place.
- Following Jesus is a true sacrifice, but in return, we will have life, and we will experience it to the fullest (John 10:10).

DAY 23 OF 25 · WEEK 5 · COMMITMENT

God's Will

Q1. Identify and explain the three dimensions of God's will. Sovereign Will: (Isaiah 46:9-10) Moral Will: (Matthew 22:37-40) Personal Will: (Psalm 32:8)

- Sovereign Will (Isaiah 46:9-10): What God is going to do no matter what, such as sending Jesus. God's sovereign will controls the direction of universal history without fail.
- Moral Will (Matthew 22:37-40): Shown in Scripture through commands, principles, and teachings. God lays out His desire for obedience to His standard of righteousness, expressed through biblical commands. Unfortunately, we as humans tend not to follow them.
- Personal Will (Psalm 32:8): The specific leading of God in an individual's life. This is God's detailed plan for the individual believer, which is not revealed in Scripture and may or may not be accomplished depending on the individual's obedience.

Q2. What does Matthew 7:21-23 mean?

- Matthew 7:21-23 says not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of the Father.
- This means not everyone who believes in God will be saved.
- Just because someone believes that God exists doesn't mean they have truly made Jesus Lord (master/king) of their life.
- Verse 22 shows people doing impressive works (prophesying, casting out demons, miracles), yet Jesus says, "I never knew you."

Q3. Proverbs 3:5-6 calls us to trust the Lord with 'all your heart,' not 60% or 95%. Are there areas in your life you are still holding back from full surrender, and what is keeping you from being all in?

- Trust in the Lord: communicates faith and belief in God and His ability to provide all we need.
- With all your heart: demonstrates we are fully committed in every area, not 60% or 95%, but all in.
- Do not lean on your own understanding: shifts our priority from trusting ourselves to trusting God fully.
- Submit to Him: the surrendering of our thoughts, ideas, desires, will, and actions before the Lord.

Q4. The reading argues that God's will is a journey, not a destination, and that we cannot inherit it from others. What can we learn from this?

- Some view God's personal will as a destination or a title, meaning once they marry that person or get that specific role, they are finally in God's will.
- God's will is not a destination nor a title; it is a journey.
- Eugene Peterson's book A Long Obedience in the Same Direction speaks to how one should pursue God's will.
- God's will for you will look different from your friends, family, and spiritual leaders.

DAY 24 OF 25 · WEEK 5 · COMMITMENT

Maturity

Q1. Hebrews 5:12-14 distinguishes between milk and solid food in the spiritual life. What is the passage teaching us about spiritual maturity?

- Hebrews 5:12-14 shows the importance of spiritual maturity by relating it to milk and solid food.
- Milk represents elementary teachings; solid food represents the deeper teachings of Christ.
- Believers should be progressing from milk toward solid food.
- 1 John 2:14 identifies three stages of spiritual maturity: children, young men, and fathers.

Q2. The reading lists four additional areas of focus for maturity: Consistency, Awareness, Relentless Resistance, and God's Will. Which of these four is currently the hardest to understand and/or follow?

- Consistency: spiritually mature believers are consistent (not perfect) in their connection to God, His church, and His mission; this is one of the hardest spiritual disciplines to develop.
- Awareness: as we mature, we become more aware of our need for God and the power of the Holy Spirit, and of the spiritual and fleshly battles around us; awareness comes through processing knowledge, life events, and obedience.
- Relentless Resistance: making commitments to die to self daily, resisting the devil with relentless and unwavering commitment, putting on the full armor of God, taking sin seriously.
- God's Will: a Kingdom focused mindset, knowing that the most important thing is being obedient to God's direction and purposes.

Q3. James 1:2-4 says the testing of our faith produces perseverance, which produces maturity. How can trials actually shape our maturity in Christ?

- James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
- The verse breaks down the process: testing of faith produces perseverance, and perseverance finishes its work so that we may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- Trials connect to Day 24's "Relentless Resistance": spiritually mature believers make commitments to die to themselves daily and resist the devil with relentless and unwavering commitment.
- Trials also develop "Awareness": we become more aware of our need for God and the power of the Holy Spirit, and of the spiritual and fleshly battles around us, by processing knowledge, life events, and obedience.

Q4. Over the last 5 weeks, we learned the 4 core areas of After Salvation. They are Relationship, Community, Mission, and Commitment. How do these work together, and what should they produce within us?

- Spiritual maturity can happen when you have a Commitment to your Relationship with God, your Community (the local church), and the Mission of God, with your life centered on Christ.
- Spiritual maturity will follow.
- The core areas don't operate independently; Commitment is the binding force that holds the other three together over a lifetime.
- The 4 core areas of the Christian life are there to help you gauge these areas consistently in your spiritual life.

DAY 25 OF 25 · WEEK 5 · COMMITMENT

Remember

Q1. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever,' yet we often feel God's love shifts based on our performance. Why do we struggle with this, and what does God actually desire from us instead?

- Some say, "I missed one day reading my Bible, my day is going terribly, so God must be mad at me."
- That is inward guilt convincing us we need to perform for God's love and favor, which is an incorrect way of viewing God.
- Be careful of the "good and bad scale" mindset.
- God operates out of grace and consistency. He is just (Deuteronomy 32:4) and He knows our heart's intentions (Psalm 139:2-3); His love for you doesn't change based on your emotional state.

Q2. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, "Do not quench the Spirit," and the reading asks a serious question: if the Holy Spirit is not leading, who is? How do you recognize when your flesh is leading instead of the Spirit, and what does it look like to course correct?

- To quench the Holy Spirit means we stop listening to the correction and guidance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- The tension comes when believers become out of balance in their spiritual life.
- If the Holy Spirit is not leading, our flesh is, and the danger is that this drives us further from God and directly affects our walking in His will.
- Course correction means becoming faithful and aware of the leading of the Holy Spirit again, not drowning out the voice of God.

Q3. The reading says hard seasons either push us to greater faith in God or drive us away from Him. Looking back at a difficult season in your life, which direction did it move you, and what made the difference? *(John 16:33, Hebrews 6:19)*

- The reading affirms life will have good and bad seasons (Ecclesiastes 3:1).
- The Lord is our anchor (Hebrews 6:19), and Jesus tells us in John 16:33 that in this world we will have trouble, but to take heart, He has overcome the world.
- Difficult seasons affect us in one of two ways: they push us to greater levels of faith in God, or drive us away.
- We cannot control all events and circumstances; what we can control is staying connected and committed to God and relying on the Spirit for help and strength.

Q4. Now that you have completed After Salvation, do you feel equipped to lead someone else through it? If so, who is one person you feel could benefit from it?

- This is a personal accountability question that closes the journey.
- The hope and intent of the curriculum is that having completed all 25 days, you would feel equipped and this would encourage you to lead someone else through it.
- The reading throughout has emphasized that After Salvation was created so that Christians could have a game plan to make other disciples.
- Identify one person in your circle of influence who would benefit, pray for the right time, and offer to walk through it with them.