

CHECKOUT FOR LESSON THREE

To complete this lesson I will: (check when completed)

PREPARATION

- 1. Prepare to give from memory Revelation 1:8.
- 2. Read one chapter a day - John 1 - 7. (See page 35)
- 3. Make application of "My Response" at end of Lesson Two.
- 4. Take notes on the Pastor's sermon. Use the Message Outline.
- 5. Complete all material in Lesson Three, "Communicating With God."

TO BE COMPLETED WITH DISCIPLER

- 1. Briefly review main points of Lesson Two. Enjoy the excitement of knowing our great God!
- 2. Discuss application of "My Response" Lesson Two.
- 3. Quote from memory Revelation 1:8.
- 4. Check reading of John 1 - 7.
- 5. Discuss notes taken on Pastor's sermon.
- 6. Review Lesson Three. Emphasize the importance of a regular daily time with God.
- 7. Go over "Checkout for Lesson Four". "Preparation" assignment is to be completed before we meet next time.

Date _____ Time _____ Place _____

- 8. Close in prayer using your "Much Prayer-Much Power-Much Praise" prayer sheet.

DYNAMIC

--- Discipling ---

Lesson Three

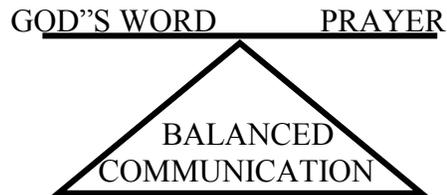
COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

In our last study we learned who God is and what His character is like. In this lesson we will learn how to grow in our relationship with God through Bible study and prayer.

In this lesson we will learn the step by step process of communicating with God. Any relationship is developed over a period of time and in a variety of situations. We will learn how to have daily times alone with God.

GOD'S WORD AND PRAYER

*"Revive me, O Lord,
according to Thy Word"*
Psalms 119:107



"Prayer and the Word of God are inseparable, and should always go together in the quiet time of the inner chamber. In His Word God speaks to me; in prayer I speak to God. If there is to be true communication, God and I must both take part. If I simply pray, without using God's Word, I am apt to use my own words and thoughts. What really gives prayer its power is that I take God's thoughts from His Word and present them before Him. Then I am enabled to pray according to God's Word. How indispensable God's Word is for all true prayer!"

"When I pray, I must seek to know God aright. It is through the Word that the Holy Spirit gives me right thoughts of Him. The Word will also teach me how wretched and sinful I am. It reveals to me all the wonders that God will do for me, and the strength He will give to me to do His will. The Word teaches me how to pray - with strong desire, with a firm faith, and with constant perseverance. The Word teaches me not only what I am, but what I may become through God's grace. And above all, it reminds me each day that Christ is the great intercessor, and allows me to pray in His name."

"O Christian, learn this great lesson, to renew your strength each day in God's Word, and so pray according to His will. Then we turn to the other side - prayer. We need prayer when we read God's Word - prayer to be taught of God to understand His Word, prayer that

through the Holy Spirit I may rightly know and use God's Word - prayer that I may see in the Word that Christ is all in all, and will be all in me.

"(In my) blessed inner chamber - where I may approach God in Christ through the Word and prayer - I may offer myself to God and His service, and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, so that His love may be shed abroad in my heart, and I may daily walk in that love."
Andrew Murray

Communication with God starts with a desire to get to know Him.

PERSONAL WORSHIP - Daily Times With God

The following steps will assure you of a meaningful time with God, resulting in effective living that will give glory to God.

PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

Set a definite time and place where you can meet alone with God each day. What did Jesus do? Mark 1:35

Be sure you are filled with the Holy Spirit and that you have no un-confessed sin in your life. (Psalm 66:18) Effective fellowship with God will produce powerful results!

What does God promise about His Word?

Isaiah 55:11 _____

What does God promise about prayer that is in accordance with His will?

I John 5:14-15 _____

Because of this potential for good, Satan our enemy will do all he can to keep us from spending time with God. What is our struggle against?

Ephesians 6:12-13 _____

Read the following verses and describe some of the things that hinder our communication with God.

James 4:2-3 _____

I Peter 3:5-7 _____

Job 35:12-13 _____

I John 3:21, 22 _____

James 1:6, 7 _____

Matthew 5:23-24 _____

Matthew 6:5 _____

We must be willing to confess any of these wrong attitudes and claim Christ's forgiveness. Then we can come to God boldly.

Read Hebrews 4:15-16. Why can we come to God with confidence?

(v.15) _____

Come to God with expectancy as you anticipate meeting with Him.

HOW TO SPEND TIME WITH GOD

1. GOD'S WORD

READ GOD'S WORD - THE BIBLE

How will knowing God's Word benefit your life? Psalm 119:9-11

How valuable is the Word to us? Psalm 119:72 _____

What did the Psalmist do in order to understand God's Word?

Psalm 119:73 _____

It is good to begin your devotional time by reading a Psalm of praise or thanksgiving. Worship God as you think about who He is and all that He has done.

STUDY GOD'S WORD - THE BIBLE

What should be our goal in studying the Bible? II Timothy 2:15

See sample "My Time Alone with God" worksheet at the end of this lesson. Turn to a book of the Bible that you will be studying on a regular basis i.e.; the gospel of John.

- Read a few verses or a chapter each day and study them carefully.
- Choose one verse or phrase that is particularly meaningful to you.
- Ask: What impresses me? What do I learn about God, myself, others, life, etc.?
- Meditate (think deeply) on that new insight.

PRAISE GOD

As you meditate on what you have learned pause to praise and thank Him for who He is and for each truth that applies to you as His child. There is so much to praise Him for. You may want to sing or play taped music to help you worship.

APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE

- Consider what God is teaching you. After you have considered what you have learned, remain quiet before God; listen for His instructions. Write them down,
“God is teaching me. . .”
- Respond. What will be my response? How will I apply this truth to my life? When will I apply it? How will it affect my attitude toward God, others and myself?
“My Response is. . .” (use Sample Worksheet in this lesson.)

MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

The better you know God's truth the more effective you will be in living to glorify Him.
What did the Psalmist say we should do with God's Word?

Psalm 119:11 _____

Why? _____

To treasure it in your heart is to memorize it and make it yours. You will remember what you memorize.

What did Jesus do when He was tempted by Satan?

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 _____

How was He able to do that? _____

To be able to use God's truth when you need it, make it a regular practice to memorize scripture.

Follow a systematic Bible memory plan.

1. Read the verse.
2. Repeat it over and over.
3. Understand it (visualize it).
4. Explain it to someone else.
5. Review it regularly over a period of time.
6. Share it with a friend from memory.
7. Apply its truth in your life.

2. PRAYER

In light of what God has said to you through His Word about you and your life, spend some time praying for the things that concern you.

WE SHOULD PRAY FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

Why should we pray for others? I Timothy 2:1-4 _____

What do these verses say we should ask for others?

Colossians 1:9-12 _____

Colossians 4:2-4 _____

Matthew 9:37-38 _____

PRAY FOR OUR OWN NEEDS

Does God want us to ask Him to meet our own needs? John 15:7

If we are abiding in Christ what can we ask Him for?

Give two reasons why God wants us to ask. John 16:24
_____ and _____

Read I John 5:14-15. What is necessary if we are to ask and have confidence that God will grant us our request?

Keep a record of your requests and answers on the Much Prayer, Much Power, Much Praise sheet. (See sample in this lesson.)

PRAY WITH AUTHORITY!

If you are co-buried, co-resurrected, co-ascended and co-seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father, you are in a position of authority. Therefore, you should pray as one with that authority. If you do not believe that God will answer you, you are wasting your time. Pray, believing that God will answer, and pray claiming the authority that you have in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the shed blood of Christ.

WE CAN PRAY CONFIDENTLY KNOWING IT IS GOD'S WILL IF WE:

Abide

In John 15:7 Jesus says:

"If you _____ in _____ and My words _____ in _____, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."

To abide in Christ is to let the Holy Spirit empower you to live as Christ would live. To let His words abide in you is to know and understand God's Word so that you will not ask for anything that is contrary to His will. God will be pleased to answer your prayers if you are abiding.

Ask

What did Jesus tell us to do? Matthew 7:7, 8 _____

John 14:14 _____

To ask with confidence what should our motive **not** be? James 4:2b, 3

What should our motive **be**? _____

Trust God

What is the promise in Matthew 21:22? _____

To trust God is to believe or have faith in who God is and what He has said. How does our faith develop? Romans 10:17

What if we doubt God? James 1:6, 7 _____

We will only trust God to the extent that we know Him. How do we get to know God?

John 14:21 _____

Expect Results

If you have met God's conditions which are:

- Abiding in Christ and letting His Words abide in you,
- Asking with the desire to glorify God,
- Trusting God because of your love and confidence in Him,

If so, you can live in anticipation of your prayers being answered.

Thank God

Even before you see the answer to your prayer, begin to thank Him.

What does God promise us if we pray with a thankful heart?

Philippians 4:6, 7 _____

Be sure to always praise and thank Him when you do see the answer to your prayers.

APPLICATION

Apply what we have learned. This week study the following sample "My Daily Time With God" sheet (below). Apply this method to your study of the gospel of John chapters 1-7.

Use the prayer sheets for your Bible study and prayer time.

MY DAILY TIME WITH GOD	
Week of <u>March 15</u> to <u>21</u> <u>20</u> <u>05</u>	
This Week's Memory Verse: (Review each Day)	
<u>"I am the Alpha and Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and</u> <u>who is to come, the Almighty"</u>	
Reference <u>Revelation 1:8</u>	
<hr/>	
Day 1 Bible Reading Reference	<u>John 1: 1-51</u>
Most Meaningful Verse	<u>John 1: 29</u>
What Impressed Me Was	<u>Jesus was the sacrificial "Lamb" for my sins.</u>
<hr/>	
God is Teaching Me	<u>That He loves me so much that He died to free me</u> <u>from my sins.</u>
My Response Is	<u>I will show my love for Him by living today as one who is forgiven</u> <u>and set free.</u>
<hr/>	
Day 2 Bible Reading Reference	_____
Most Meaningful Verse	_____
What Impressed Me Was	_____
<hr/>	
God is Teaching Me	_____
<hr/>	
My Response Is	_____
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MY DAILY TIME WITH GOD

Week of _____ to _____ 19 ____

This Week's Memory Verse: (Review Each Day)

_____ Reference: _____

Day 1 Bible Reading Reference _____

Most Meaningful Verse _____

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

Day 2 Bible Reading Reference _____

Most Meaningful Verse _____

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

Day 3 Bible Reading Reference _____

Most Meaningful Verse _____

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

Day 4 Bible Reading Reference _____

Most Meaningful Verse _____

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

Day 5 Bible Reading Reference _____

Most Meaningful Verse _____

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

Day 6 Bible Reading Reference _____

Most Meaningful Verse _____

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Topic _____

Date _____ Speaker _____

Scripture Reference _____

List Main Points and Key Thoughts for Each

What Impressed Me Was _____

God is Teaching Me _____

My Response Is _____

CHECKOUT FOR LESSON FOUR

To complete this lesson I will: (check when completed)

PREPARATION

- 1. Prepare to give from memory Psalm 119:9 & 11.
- 2. Read and study John 8 - 14 using "My Daily Time With God" sheet. Make application of responses to God's Word.
- 3. Take notes on the Pastor's sermon. Use the Message Outline.
- 4. Complete all material in Lesson Four, "Acknowledging Jesus as My Lord."

TO BE COMPLETED WITH DISCIPLER

- 1. Briefly review main points of Lesson Three.
- 2. Quote from memory Psalm 119:9 & 11.
- 3. Discuss your Bible Study and Prayer Time and any applications or answers to prayer.
- 4. Discuss notes taken on Pastor's sermon.
- 5. Review Lesson Four. Emphasize committing yourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- 6. Go over "Checkout for Lesson Five". "Preparation" assignment is to be completed before we meet next time.

Date _____ Time _____ Place _____

- 7. Close in prayer using your "Much Prayer-Much Power-Much Praise" prayer sheet.