

Life Tracks

MATURITY

Grow deeper
in Christ...

Instructor's Copy



*Let your roots grow down into Christ
and draw up nourishment from Him.
See that you go on growing in the Lord,
and become strong and vigorous in the truth.*

Colossians 2:7 (LB)

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Christ the King

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Life Tracks

MATURITY

We are not meant to remain as children but to grow up in every way into Christ (Ephesians 4:14-15)

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS

That you might have a clear understanding of what a mature believer looks like and the disciplines or habits he develops in his life in order to attain that level of maturity that brings fruitfulness in this life, commendation in the next life and glory to God.

"... that you may become mature Christians and may fulfill God's will for you." Col. 4:12b (Ph)

"We are not meant to remain as children ... but to grow up in every way into Christ..." Eph. 4:14-15 (Ph)

OUR FOCUS

We will focus on Three of the Seven Basic Habits of a Disciple...

- Studying God's Word for Growth
- Seeking God in Prayer
- Sharing Your Faith Story

The other four habits: Stewardship, Fellowship, Shape and Missions are covered in other Life Tracks.

- 1st Class: What is Spiritual Maturity and How to Start and Maintain Good Habits
- 2nd Class: Studying God's Word for Growth
- 3rd Class: Seeking God in Prayer and Sharing your Faith Story

This class on maturity assumes some basics about your faith:

1. That, at some point in your life, you made a decision to personally believe in and put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
2. That you believe in the basic statement of faith North County Christ the King adheres to (covered in the Membership Life Tracks).

Goal of This Class: That I will commit to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.

TABLE TIME

Define maturity. How do you recognize it?



WHAT IS “SPIRITUAL MATURITY”?

“..In the unity of common faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity - the measure of development which is meant by ‘the fullness of Christ.’” Eph 4:13(Ph)

Spiritual Maturity is **being like Christ**_____.

“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him ... should become like His Son....” Rom.8:29(LB)

FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. IT IS NOT AUTOMATIC.

“You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead ... you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life ... He's still a baby Christian!” Heb. 5:12-13 (LB)

2. IT IS A PROCESS.

“Learn to be mature.” Prov. 8:5 (GN)

“Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18 (GN)

3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE.

“Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.” 1Tim. 4:7b (Ph)

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”(NASB)

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Mature believers are called **disciples**_____.
2. I cannot be a disciple without being **disciplined**_____.
3. The more disciplined I become **the more God can use me**_____.
4. The mark of a disciple is **cross bearing**_____.

(Jesus) “Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.” Luke 14:27

5. How often am I to do this? **daily**_____

(Jesus) “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23

6. What is involved in “cross bearing”? **whatever it takes**_____ to give Christ first place in my life!



OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER

Step One:

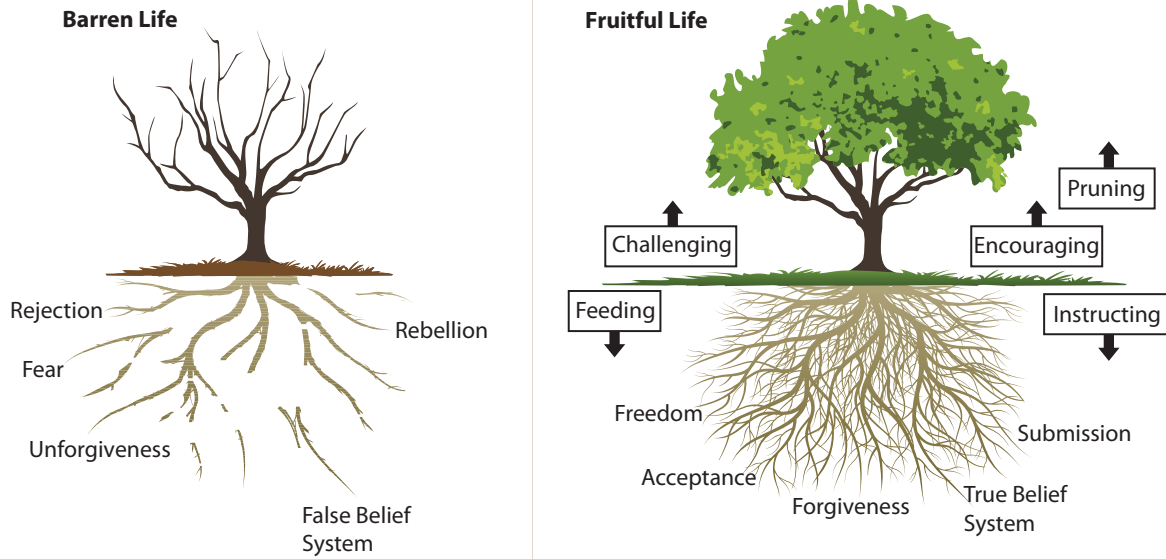
Stop **any behavior** _____ that's inconsistent with the new person I've become in Christ. I don't do what I used to do because I am not the person I used to be. I am a new creation, so I will live like who I am. I will imitate my Father like Jesus did.

Be Imitators of God

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma..." (Ephesians 5:1-10 NASB)

Step Two:

Deal with **roots** _____ that cause barrenness.



1. Rejection

"So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family." (Ephesians 2:19 NLT)

2. Fear

"Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love." (1 John 4:18 NLT)

3. Unforgiveness / Bitterness

"...and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us." (Matthew 6:12 NLT)

"Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many." (Hebrews 12:15 NLT)

4. Rebellion / Pride

"Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18 NLT)

"Evil people are eager for rebellion, but they will be severely punished." (Proverbs 17:11 NLT)

5. False Belief Systems

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." (Romans 12:2 NLT)

Step Three:

Simply **believe** _____ how much God loves you; not because of anything you have done but because He is love; He created you and redeemed you.

"This is real love - not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other." (1 John 4:10-11 NLT)



PERSONAL INVENTORY

Mark the position where you think you fall on the following scales:

FEAR 0 |-----|10 FREEDOM

REJECTION 0 |-----|10 ACCEPTANCE

UNFORGIVENESS 0 |-----|10 FORGIVENESS

FALSE BELIEF 0 |-----|10 TRUE BELIEF

REBELLION 0 |-----|10 SUBMISSION

HOMEWORK

1. Review all material and re-read scriptures.
2. Review your personal inventory.
3. After you meditate on the scriptures and your inventory, write down what God reveals to you as actions for you to take.

COMMITMENT

By the grace of God I will _____ deal with the root(s) that have caused me barrenness.



Life Tracks

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

TABLE TIME

What are some of the ways you've learned important lessons?

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

STEP ONE: **Desire** _____.

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only halfheartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: **Decide** _____.

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. You don't slide into a new habit. "One of these days" never arrives. You must have a starting point. It's easier to break a bad habit today than it will be tomorrow!

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Eccl. 11:4 (LB)

STEP THREE: **Declaration** _____.

Announce your intentions publicly. Make a covenant or resolution. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing.

"Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them." Ps. 76:11

STEP FOUR: **Determination** _____.

Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. A single slip unwinds many turns at first. Continuity and success at the start is essential. Never be swayed by "just this once". The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes 3 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another 3 to 4 weeks (doing it daily) for it to become a part of your life.

IT TAKES **7 TO 21** REPETITIONS TO LEARN SOMETHING!

STEP FIVE: **Just Do It** _____.

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit - DO IT THEN! Don't wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit. Those feelings will not last, so whenever you feel inclined to perform your new habit, do so!

STEP SIX: **Double Up** _____.

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you, especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

"Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over each other, studying how we may stir up and stimulate each other to ... helpful deeds and noble activities." Heb. 1:25 (Amp)

"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up." Eccl. 4:9-10 (GN)

STEP SEVEN: **Depend on God** _____.

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you to develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ, so he will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!

"For the Spirit of God has given us ... fills us with power, love, and self-control." (2 Tim. 1:7 GN)

"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose." (Phil. 2:13 Ph)



SOME ADDITIONAL WISDOM ABOUT HABITS

If we realize the extent to which we are mere walking bundles of habit, we would give more heed to their own formation. - William James

A bad habit takes twenty-one days to break; a good habit takes twenty-one days to make.

The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. - Samuel Johnson

In his book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey describes the breaking and making of habits to the launch of a spacecraft like Apollo 11. To get to the moon, writes Covey, those astronauts "literally had to break out of the tremendous gravity pull of earth. More energy was spent in the first few minutes of lift off, in the first few miles of travel, than was used over the next several days of travel half a million miles."

Habits, too, have tremendous gravity pull - more than most people realize or would admit. Breaking deeply imbedded habitual tendencies such as procrastination, impatience, criticalness, or selfishness that violate basic principals of human effectiveness involves more than a little willpower and a few minor changes in our lives. 'Lift off' takes tremendous effort, but once we break out of the gravity pull, our freedom takes on a whole new dimension.

- Habits are either the best of servants or the worst of masters.
- We first make our habits, or our habits make us.
- Bad habits, man's mortal enemies, must be slain or they will slay him.
- The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.
- Habit is the deepest law of human nature.
- Bad habits are like comfortable beds - easy to get into, but hard to get out of.
- If you don't master your habits, they will master you.
- One of the best freedoms is freedom from bad habits.
- We build our lives each day with the bricks of habits we have made.
- A bad habit is like good bread - better broken than kept.
- It's easier to prevent bad habits than to break them.

PERSONAL INVENTORY

1. What habits do I have that are hurting me or others (over eating, smoking, bad language)?
2. What habits do I have that waste my time or resources (TV, reading, shopping)?
3. What good habits do I have (exercise, family time, eating healthy, rest)?

HOMEWORK

1. Re-read the material.
2. Prioritize your habits from worst to best.
3. What actions do you need to take to deal with your bad habits?
4. What action plan do you need to take in order to replace the bad habit with the good habit?

COMMITMENT

1. By the grace of God, I will NOT do _____ for 21 days.
2. By the grace of God, I will DO _____ for 21 days.



Life Tracks

**STUDYING
GOD'S WORD
FOR GROWTH**

TABLE TIME

In what ways have you heard God's voice?

I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

"Faith comes from hearing the Word of God." Rom. 10:17

Ways to Hear God's Word:

- The Bible on tape
- Church services & studies
- Sermon tapes
- Radio/TV teachers

PROBLEM: We forget **95** % of what we hear after 72 hours.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING

1. Be ready and eager to hear God.

(Jesus) "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 8:8

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103

2. Deal with attitudes that prevent you from hearing God. (Luke 8:4-15)

"Consider carefully how you listen ..." Luke 8:18

- **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
- **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- **A Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

3. Confess any sin in your life.

"... Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word..." James 1:21

4. Take notes on what you hear.

"We must pay more careful attention to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!" Heb. 2:1

5. Act on what you hear!

"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!" James 1:22

"Whoever ... does not simply listen and then forget, but puts it into practice - that person will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25 (GN)



II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

"Happy is the one who reads this book ... and obeys what is written in it!" Rev. 1:3 (GN)

How often should I read God's Word? **daily** _____

"(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. He must read from it everyday of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of His commands." Deut. 17:19 (LB)

SUGGESTIONS

- Read it systematically.
- Read it in different translations.
- Read it aloud quietly to yourself.
- Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

A BIBLE READING PLAN THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 30 DAYS

1. Matthew 1-9
2. Matthew 10-15
3. Matthew 16-22
4. Matthew 23-28
5. Mark 1-8
6. Mark 9-16
7. Luke 1-6
8. Luke 7-11
9. Luke 12-18
10. Luke 19-24
11. John 1-7
12. John 8-13
13. John 14-22
14. Acts 1-7
15. Acts 8-14
16. Acts 15-21
17. Acts 22-28
18. Romans 1-8
19. Romans 9-16
20. 1 Corinthians 1-9
21. 1 Corinthians 10-16
22. 2 Corinthians 1-13
23. Galatians - Ephesians
24. Philippians - 2 Thessalonians
25. 1 Timothy - Philemon
26. Hebrews
27. James - 2 Peter
28. 1 John - 3 John
29. Revelation 1-11
30. Revelation 12-22



HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

DEFINITION: "A quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer."

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were **created** _____ to have fellowship with God.
"So God created man in His own image ..." Gen. 1:27, 2:7, 3:8

"Look! I've been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone ... opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with Me." Rev. 3:20 (LB)
2. Jesus **died** _____ to make a relationship to God possible.
"God ... has invited you into this wonderful friendship with His Son, Christ our Lord." 1 Cor. 1:9 (LB)
3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' **source of strength** _____.
Mark 1:35, Luke 22:39, Luke 5:16
"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."
4. Every person who has been effective in **service** _____ for God developed this habit.
 (Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc.)
5. You cannot be a **healthy** _____ Christian without it!
"Man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks." Matt. 4:4 (GN)

"... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12 (NAS)

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to Your Word." Ps. 119:9 (Mof)

PERSONAL INVENTORY

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Have you ever read through the whole Bible? | Yes / No |
| 2. How often do you read the Bible? | Never ----- Daily |
| 3. How much time do you read? | 1 Minute ----- 1 Hour |
| 4. Do you have a specific time? | Yes / No |
| 5. Do you have a place? | Yes / No |
| 6. Do you have a plan? | Yes / No |



II. THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. TO GIVE **devotion** _____ TO GOD.

"Give to the Lord the glory due to His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness." Ps. 29:2

"(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did ... he did in a spirit of complete devotion to his God." 2 Ch. 31:21 (GN)

God deserves our devotion! (Rev. 4:11)

God desires our devotion! (John 4:23)

2. TO GET **direction** _____ FROM GOD.

"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me ..." Ps. 25:4 (LB)

2 Things To Do In A Quiet Time:

Consider your way: *"Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established." Pr. 4:26 (KJV)*

"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths." Pr. 3:6 (KJV)

Commit your day: *"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it and he will." Ps. 37:5 (LB)*

3. TO GAIN **delight** _____ IN GOD.

"Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart." Ps. 37:4 (KJV)

"... (God's) presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure." Ps. 16:11 (GN)

FACT: The better I get to know Christ, the more **I love Him** _____ .

The objective of your Quiet Time is not to study about Christ, but to actually spend time with Him!

4. TO GROW **more** _____ LIKE GOD.

"Jesus has the power of God, by which He has given us everything we need to live and to serve God. We have these things because we know Him. With these gifts you can share in being like God" 2 Pet 1:4 (NCV)

"When the council saw the boldness of Peter and John ... they were amazed and realized what being with Jesus had done for them!" Acts 4:13 (LB)



HOW TO BEGIN A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME.

The best time to have a quiet time is when I am **at my best** _____ !

Reasons for considering an early morning quiet time:

1. The example of Bible characters.
(Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Hannah, Job, Hezekiah, David, Daniel, Jesus.)
2. It seems logical to begin the day with it.
"The best time to tune your instrument is before you play the concert, not after!"
3. It demonstrates that meeting with God is your first priority. You give him the first part of your day!
4. You are likely to be more rested, your mind is less cluttered, and it's often the quietest time!

Whatever time you set, **be consistent** _____ .

How long should a quiet time be?

3 Guidelines:

- Start with 15 minutes and let it grow.
- Don't watch the clock!
- Emphasize quality, not quantity!

2. CHOOSE A SPECIAL PLACE.

"Jesus left the city and went, as He usually did, to the Mount of Olives ... to pray." Luke 22:39 (GN)

The Important Factor:

*"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where He prayed."
Mark 1:35*

3. GATHER THE RESOURCES YOU'LL NEED.

1. A Bible - with readable print.
2. A Notebook - to write down what the Lord speaks to you about, and to keep your prayer list.
3. A Song book - if you want to sing.

4. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

Reverence _____

"Be still, and know that I am God." Ps. 46:10

Expectancy _____

"Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Word." Ps. 119:18 (LB)

Obedience _____

"The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants" Mat 6:33 (NCV)

5. FOLLOW A SIMPLE PLAN



LIFE JOURNAL

Listen:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go." (Psalm 32:8 NASB)

Inquire:

"You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13 NASB)

Faith:

"...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness..." (1 Timothy 4:7 NASB)

Experience:

"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:17 NASB)

SOAP

Scripture:

Write out where you are reading. Read. Is there any particular verse that God is highlighting for you today? Write that verse out.

Observation:

What is this portion of scripture talking about?

Ask:

What did it mean to the original hearers? What is the underlying timeless truth?

Application:

What is God saying to me out of His Word?

Is there any: sin to confess, promise to claim, attitude to change, command to keep, example to follow, prayer to pray, error to avoid, truth to believe, something to thank God for?

Prayer:

Pray that God will help you to apply this specific word to your life, transform and mature you that you might bring glory to Him.

**For more information about the Life Journal and the SOAP method read the Divine Mentor by Wayne Cordeiro (www.divinementor.com or www.lifejournal.cc)*



TABLE TIME

What obstacles have kept you from having a consistent meaningful quiet time?

III. HOW TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS WITH YOUR QUIET TIME

1. THE PROBLEM OF DISCIPLINE.

Your first problem in establishing a quiet time will face you the moment you wake each morning: Am I going to get out of bed? (“The Battle of the Blankets”)

Suggestions:

1. Go to bed **on time** _____ .
2. Get up **immediately** _____ .
3. Be aware of quiet time **robbers** _____ .
4. Fall asleep thinking **spiritual thoughts** _____ .

2. THE PROBLEM OF DISTRACTIONS.

Satan will try to use anything to get your mind to wander during a quiet time.

Suggestions:

1. Get out of **bed** _____ .
2. Get thoroughly **awake** _____ .
3. Read and pray **aloud** _____ .
4. **Walk** _____ during your prayer time.
5. Keep a **note pad nearby** _____ .

3. THE PROBLEM OF DRYNESS.

Sometimes you will feel like you’re not getting anything out of your quiet time. (“The Battle of the Blahs”)

Never judge your quiet time by your **feelings** _____ .

Possible Causes of Spiritual Dryness:

1. Your physical condition.
2. Disobedience to God.
3. Rushing your quiet time.
4. Getting in a rut.
5. Not sharing insights with others.



IV. THE PROBLEM OF DILIGENCE

Your greatest problem will be your struggle to stay consistent. I find Satan fights nothing harder than my quiet time.

Suggestions:

1. Make a covenant or vow to God.
2. Schedule it on your daily calendar.
3. Be prepared for Satan’s excuses.
4. Leave your Bible open at night to the passage for the next day!

What if I miss a day?

Don't **get on a guilt trip** _____ .

Don't **get legalistic** _____ .

Don't **give up** _____ .

It takes **3** _____ weeks for you to become familiar with a new task. Then it takes another **3** _____ weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit.

“Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.” Gal. 6:9 (LB)

PRAYER

“Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with You. Thank You for making this privilege possible through Jesus’ death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with You in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I’m trusting in Your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

HOMEWORK

1. Review the material and resources.
2. Create an action plan that includes a time, place and materials for your quiet time.

COMMITMENT

By the grace of God, I will regularly study God’s Word using my plan.



SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY

“Dynamic Bible Study Methods” by Rick Warren (Victor Books)
12 different methods are explained in simple step-by-step instructions. (Tapes are also available)

Study Bibles:

The Best Personal Study Bible:
“The Life Application Bible” (Tyndale)

The Best Topical Study Bible:
“Thompson Chain Reference Bible - NIV (Kirkbride)

The Best Background Study Bible:
“The NIV Study Bible” (Zondervan)

The Best Doctrine Study Bible:
“The Disciple’s Study Bible” (Holman)

Bible Handbooks:

“Richard’s Complete Handbook” (Word)

“Haley’s Bible Handbook” (Zondervan)

“Eerdman’s Bible Handbook” (Eerdmans)

Other Important Study Tools:

As many different translations as you can afford.
(These can be purchased in parallel editions)

A complete concordance to match your translation.

A Bible on computer program such a “WordSearch” or “PCBible”.

“The New Bible Dictionary” (Eerdmans)

“The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible” (Baker)

“The New Bible Commentary” (Eerdmans)

“The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands” (Moody)



HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.
2. Say the reference before and after the verse.
3. Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
4. Break the verse into natural phrases.
5. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
6. Write down the verse and erase a word, one at a time.
7. Write out the verse on a flash card.
8. Carry some cards with you at all times for review.
9. Display your verses in prominent places.
10. Always memorize the verse word perfect.
11. Put the verse to music. Write a song!
12. Get a partner so you can check each other.

Suggested beginning rate: 2 new verses a week.

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING:

1. Review
2. Review
3. Review

We remember what is important to us.

"Your teachings are worth more to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver." (Psalm 119:72 NCV)

"Guard My words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart." (Proverbs 7:2-3 LB)

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. It helps me resist temptation.
"I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You." (Psalm 119:11 NLT)
2. It helps me make wise decisions.
"Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105 NLT)
3. It strengthens me when I'm under stress.
"... Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!" (Psalm 119:49 LB)
4. It comforts me when I'm sad.
"Your words are what sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me." (Jeremiah 15:16 LB)
5. It helps me witness to unbelievers.
"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)



SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

The following verses suggest a “balance” in Scripture Memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian Life and Christian Growth. Do not feel tied-down to this suggested list. This is only a tool to lead you in an understanding of the importance of memorizing “key” verses.

Live the New Life:

Christ the Center	II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Rom. 12:1; John 14:21
The Word	II Tim. 3:16; Josh. 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7; Phil. 4:6-7
Fellowship	Matt. 18:20; Heb. 10:24
Witnessing	Matt. 4:19; Rom. 1:16

Proclaim Christ:

All Have Sinned	Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6
Sin’s Penalty	Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Rom. 5:8; I Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12; Rev. 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	I John 5:13; John 5:24

Rely on God’s Resources:

His Spirit	I Cor. 3:16; I Cor. 2:12
His Strength	Isa. 41:10; Phil. 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lam. 3:22; Num. 23:19
His Peace	Isa. 26:3; I Peter 5:7
His Provision	Rom. 8:32; Phil 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Heb. 2:18; Ps. 119:9, 11

Be Christ’s Disciple:

Put Christ First	Matt. 6:33; Luke 9:23
Separate from the World	I Jn. 2:15-16; Rom. 12:2
Be Steadfast	I Cor. 15:58; Heb. 12:3
Serve Others	Mark 10:45; II Cor. 4:5
Give Generously	Prv. 3:9-10; II Cor. 9:6-7
Develop World Vision	Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20

Grow in Christ likeness:

Love	John 13:34-35; I Jn. 3:18
Humility	Phil. 2:3-4; I Peter 5:5-6
Purity	Eph. 5:3; I Peter 2:11
Honesty	Lev. 19:11; Acts 24:16
Faith	Heb. 11:6; Rom. 4:20-21
Good Works	Gal. 6:9-10; Matt. 5:16



Life Tracks

SEEKING GOD IN PRAYER

"Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain THE HABIT OF PRAYER." (Rom. 12:12 Ph)

HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

TABLE TIME

1. How satisfied are you with your prayer life?
2. What really helps you connect to God in prayer?
3. Do you feel like God hears and responds to your prayers? Do you hear and respond to God when you pray?
4. How do you respond when you feel God doesn't answer?

I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

(Matthew 6:5-8)

- BE **real** _____ .

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men." (vs. 5)

Don't try to **impress God** _____ .

Don't try to **impress others** _____ .

- BE **relaxed** _____ .

"But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (vs. 6)

- BE **revealing** _____ .

"Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, you Father knows exactly what you need before you ask Him! (vs. 7-8 LB)

II. USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US

Matt. 6:9-15 "This, then, is HOW you should pray ..."

THE SIX PARTS OF PRAYER

1. **PRAISE:** I BEGIN BY **expressing love to God** _____ .

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name .."

TWO KINDS OF PRAISE:

"ADORATION" - Praising God for who He is.

"THANKSGIVING" - Praising God for what He has done.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name." Psalm 100:4



HOW TO PRAISE GOD:

1st: As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. (See Prayer Guide 1)

Examples:

God is patient	Num. 14:18
God is merciful	Num. 14:18
God is forgiving	Num. 14:18
God knows everything	1 Sam. 2:2
God is loving	1 John 4:8

KEY: **God's character** _____ is the basis for our boldness in making requests in prayer. God answers the prayers that acknowledge who He is!

2nd: Remind yourself and affirm the promises God has made that are contained in the meaning of His names. (See Prayer Guide 2)

3rd: Make a list of all that you are thankful for and review them when you pray. (See Prayer Guide 3)

2. PURPOSE: I COMMIT MYSELF **to doing God's will** _____ .

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ..."

Pray for God's will to be done ... in my family ... my church ... my ministry ... my job ... my future ... my city ... the nation ... the world.

"Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him. This is the true worship that you should offer." Rom. 12:2 (GN)

3. PROVISION: I ASK GOD TO **provide for my daily needs** _____ .

"Give us today our daily bread ..."

What needs can I pray about? **All of them** _____ .

"God will supply all your needs from His riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us." Phil. 4:19 (LB)

"Since God did not spare even His own Son for us but gave Him up for us, won't He also surely give us everything else?" Rom. 8:32

"You do not have ... because you don't ask God!" James 4:2

THE KEY: **be specific** _____

Write down your requests, with a promise you are claiming from the Bible, and expect an answer! (See Prayer Guide 4)

"Don't worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Phil. 4:6



4. PARDON: I ASK GOD TO **forgive my sins** _____ .

"Forgive us our debts ..."

4 Steps to Forgiveness:

1. Ask the Holy Spirit **to reveal** _____ every sin.

"Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me"
Psalm 139:23-24

2. Confess each sin **specifically** _____ .

"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you." Prov. 28:13 (GN)

3. Make **restitution** _____ to others when necessary.

"When you remember your brother has something against you ... go at once to make peace with him, then come back and offer your gift to God." Matt. 5:23-24 (GN)

4. By Faith, **accept** _____ God's Forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness."
1 John 1:9

5. PEOPLE: I PRAY FOR **other people** _____ .

"... as we have also forgive our debtors."

"Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all He is going to do for them." 1 Tim. 2:1 (LB)

If you want to know how to pray for others ...

Look at Paul's prayers _____ .
Eph. 1:15-19, Col. 1:3-12, 1 Th. 1:2-3, 2 Th. 1:11-12

Make a list of people you want to pray for. You might pray for different people on different days of the week. (See Prayer Guide #5)

6. PROTECTION: I ASK FOR **spiritual protection** _____ .

"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." (vs. 13)

Believers face a spiritual battle everyday. Satan wants to defeat you through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day.

"The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world." (1 John 4:4 GN)



PRAYER GUIDE

A.C.T.S. ACROSTIC

A. Adoration: Begin praying by focusing on God; praising Him for who He is and the good things He has done.

C. Confession: Confess the truth. Confess where you have sinned. Confess what you believe.

T. Thanksgiving: Give thanks in all things.

S. Supplication: Ask God to supply all your needs: needs for wisdom, forgiveness, provision and love.

PERSONAL INVENTORY

Evaluate yourself in the following categories on a scale of 0-10.

- 1. How often do I recognize God has answered something I have prayed about? 0 |-----| 10
- 2. How much time do I spend in prayer daily? 0 |-----| 10
- 3. Am I praying for...
 - myself (purpose, provision, pardon, protection)? 0 |-----| 10
 - my family? 0 |-----| 10
 - my church? 0 |-----| 10
 - the lost or hurting? 0 |-----| 10
 - the U.S.? 0 |-----| 10
 - other nations? 0 |-----| 10

HOMEWORK

Spend 15 minutes to a half hour in prayer 5 days this week. Use the prayer guides to help you. At the end of the week email Steve (steve@ncctk.com) or Anne (anne@ncctk.com) your prayer plan.

COMMITMENT

By the grace of God I will (write out your prayer plan; include where, when, how long and how).



PRAYER GUIDE 1

ADORING GOD FOR WHO HE IS - GOD'S NATURE

God's Goodness:

The goodness of God is that which disposes Him to be kind, cordial, benevolent, and full of goodwill toward men. He is tenderhearted and quick to sympathize. His unfailing attitude toward all moral beings is open, frank and friendly. By His nature He is inclined to bestow blessedness, and He takes total pleasure in the happiness of His people.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. (Psalm 84:11 NASB)

God's Sovereignty:

The sovereignty of God is that which separates the God of the Bible from all other religions, truth claims, or philosophies. When we say God is sovereign, we declare that by virtue of His creatorship over all life and reality, His all knowing, all powerful, and benevolent rule, that He is in fact the Lord of all lords, King of all kings, and in absolute control of time and eternity. Nothing will come into my life today that He did not either allow or decree for my ultimate good.

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28 NASB)

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. (Genesis 50:20 NASB)

God's Holiness:

"We know nothing like divine holiness. It stands apart: unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine. Only the Spirit of the Holy one can impart to the human spirit the knowledge of the holy." (A.W. Tozer)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." (1 Peter 1:14-16 NASB)

God's Wisdom:

"The wisdom of God tells us that God will bring about the best possible results, by the best possible means, for the most possible people, for the longest possible time." (Dr. C. Ryrie)

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things to Him be the glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36 NASB)

God's Justice:

God is just. That means all He is and all He does is accomplished with perfect integrity, fairness, righteousness, and impartiality. Justice is not a standard God follows; He is the standard. Though full of goodness, infinite love, and merciful to the repentant, God's justice demands moral equity and eternal retribution for deeds done. In the final analysis, I can trust that He will one day balance the scales.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (Romans 12:17-19 NIV)



God's Love:

God's love is His holy disposition toward all that He has created and compels him to express unconditional affection and selective correction to provide the highest quality of existence, both now and forever, for the object of His love.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 NIV)

God's Faithfulness:

"Upon God's faithfulness rests our whole hope of future blessedness... Only as we have complete assurance that He is faithful, may we live in peace and look forward with assurance to the life to come." (A.W. Tozer)

And so today, I choose to place my hope in you, Lord Jesus; because you have promised to "come through for me" 100 percent of the time in any and every situation forever.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 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. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him." (Lamentations 3:21-24)

PRAYER GUIDE 2

THE NAMES OF GOD

Did you know that God has several names? They are all in the Bible and each name describes a facet of his character. You can take each of these 8 names and focus individually on what God is really like! Pray the names of God as affirmations of praise!

8 HEBREW NAMES OF GOD - DECLARE WHO GOD IS

Jehovah-Shammah- "God is Present with me" (Ezekial 48:35)

You are here! I am never alone!

Jehovah-Rohi- "God is my Shepherd" (Psalm 23:1)

You lead me and feed me and protect me!

Jehovah-Jireh- "God is my Provider" (Gen. 22:14)

You see what I need before I even ask!

Jehovah-Rophe- "God is my Healer" (Exodus 15:26)

You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships!

Jehovah-Tsidkenu- "God is my Righteousness" (Jer. 23:6)

You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

Jehovah-M'Kiddish- "God is my Sanctification" (Lev. 20:8)

You make me holy and like Jesus!

Jehovah-Shalom- "God is my Peace" (Judges 6:24)

You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

Jehovah-Nissi- "God is my Banner" (Exodus 17:15)

You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

Think on the implications of these names and you'll have plenty to praise God for!



PRAYER GUIDE 5

PEOPLE I'M PRAYING FOR

Family: _____

Christian Friends: _____

Friends I'd like to see become Christians: _____

Spiritual Leaders: _____

Government Leaders: _____

Others: _____



Life Tracks

**SHARING OUR
FAITH STORY
(EVANGELISM)**

TABLE TIME

1. Tell about a time you got to share your faith with someone in word or deed. How did it make you feel?
2. What hinders you from sharing your faith?

THE 7 “L’S” OF POWERFUL PERSONAL WITNESSING

1) **Love** _____ for Lost People! Jesus still loves lost people and wants none to perish. Everyone is precious to Him - adults, teens and children of every tribe, tongue and nation. So does the Holy Spirit who lives in you. He wants to fill your hearts with a love and compassion for lost people that moves you out of your comfort zone, overcomes your fears and compels you to reach out to lost people in your own unique style of personal witnessing. There are so many ways to witness effectively but witnessing begins by being controlled by the love of Christ for lost people.

Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 NLT)

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NLT)

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that He was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

So Jesus told them this story: "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away! (Luke 15:1-7 NLT)

2) **Look** _____ for opportunities to share Christ with others in word and deed and seize them when they come your way. Make that a top priority in your life and expect God to give you divine appointments. Believe that the Holy Spirit will give you all you need to touch that person positively for Christ, and you will find great joy and satisfaction in sharing Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink." He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food. The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." "But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? And besides, do you think you're greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?" Jesus replied, "Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." "Please, sir," the woman said, "give me this water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to get water." (John 4:7-15)

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about His mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. (Colossians 4:2-6 NLT)



PERSONAL INVENTORY

1. When was the last time you prayed for a lost person?
2. When was the last time you had the opportunity to share Christ in word or deed?
3. How strongly do you believe that people apart from Christ are going to hell (on a scale from 0-10)?

0 |-----| 10

4. Have you ever lead someone to receive Christ? Do you know how?

3) **Liberal**ly _____ sow God's Word and His truth trusting God to use it to move people from wherever they are on the Engel's Scale toward receptivity to Christ. Understand that salvation is a process of working with God to move people from resistance to receptivity. You may not know where they are, but gladly share what the Holy Spirit puts on your heart to say or do and entrust the results to God.

Release yourself from expecting to close the deal in every evangelistic contact. Just ask the Holy Spirit to show you what you need to sow, i.e. hope, love, faith, forgiveness, clarity, humility, apology and/or understanding. Believe in the power of the seed sown in faith and don't measure your effectiveness by an initial response. There are four types of soil, and just because there isn't an initial, visible impact doesn't indicate failure. We only fail when we fail to give God's Word a chance by sowing it freely in faith.

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" (Mark 4:3-8 NLT)

Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" (Mark 4:13-20 NLT)

4) **Listen** _____, **listen** _____ and **listen** _____ to the people He brings into your life so you can learn what they believe, what they think, what they need and where you can connect them to their need for Christ. Seek first to understand then to be understood. This is especially true in cross cultural witnessing. Don't assume you understand the person you are talking to. People want to know how much you care before they are willing to listen to what you know. Listening says, "I care." Ask how you can pray for them. Tell them you are praying for them and then follow up and ask how they are doing.

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. (James 1:19 NLT)

Listen also to what the Holy Spirit wants you to say or not say, as others share with you what is going on in their lives.



5) **Look** _____ for something you share common. This opens opportunities to share what you would like to have in common - Christ!

Here are some great launching points for increasingly meaningful conversations:

1. Shared interests or passions
2. Shared roles: parent, spouse, son, daughter
3. Shared pain or problems
4. Shared experiences or background
5. Shared dreams or desires
6. Shared vocations or career challenges

Even though I am a free man with no master, I have become a slave to all people to bring many to Christ. When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. (1 Corinthians 9:19-22)

6) **Learn** _____ leading questions that make for great conversation starters and transition your conversations to deeper issues. Asking the right question at the right time can lead people to see their need for Christ better than telling them. Leading questions help turn the lights on for "self discovery" which the Holy Spirit uses to convict people of their need for Christ. People change best when change comes from reflective repentance not external persuasion.

- What are your dreams?
- What do you want most out of life?
- Are you happy with your life?
- What have been your deepest disappointments in life?
- What do you love to do?
- What would you love to change about your life?
- What do you think God is really like?
- How do you feel about going to church?
- Have you been hurt by Christians? How?

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?" The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked. The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy." Then Jesus said, "Yes, now go and do the same." (Luke 10:25-37 NLT)



7) **Live** _____ in such a way that you draw people to Christ. Live your biblical convictions consistently with compassion for those still in darkness. Be righteous in Christ - not self-righteous. Whet their appetite for Christ. Point the way.

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. (Matthew 5:13-16 NLT)

You are the messenger someone is praying for. You are the one God wants to use to be the answer to someone's prayer for their lost friend or loved one.

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" (Romans 10:13-15 NLT)

You have beautiful feet when you bring the good news.

HOMEWORK

Load your heart and mind with key scriptures and personal testimonies of what God has done in your life so you are ready whenever God gives you an opportunity to share.

- What was your life like before knowing Christ?
- How did you come to Christ?
- How has knowing Christ changed your life?
- How have you seen Christ meet your financial needs?
- What pain or problem did Christ touch in your life?
- What crisis did Christ get you through and how?
- How has knowing Christ helped your marriage and parenting?
- What hurt, habit or hang-up has Christ helped you overcome?
- Know where to find helpful key scriptures so you can meaningfully address needs that surface in conversations.

COMMITMENT

By the grace of God I will...

1. pray for _____ to accept Christ
2. pray for and look for opportunities to spend time with them and/or help them practically.
3. think of some leading questions that help to discover where they are spiritually or minister to their heart.



ENGLE SCALE OF EVANGELISM

People moving from resistance to receptivity to reborn to reproduction.

- 10 Awareness of the supernatural
- 9 No effective knowledge of Christianity
- 8 Initial awareness of Christianity
- 7 Interest in Christianity
- 6 Awareness of basic facts of the Gospel
- 5 Grasp of implications of the Gospel
- 4 Positive attitude to the Gospel
- 3 Awareness of personal need
- 2 Challenge and decision to act
- 1 Repentance and faith
- 0 A disciple is born!
- +1 Evaluation of decision
- +2 Initiation into the church
- +3 Become part of the process of making other disciples
- +4 Growth in understanding of the faith
- +5 Growth in Christian character
- +6 Discovery and use of gifts
- +7 Christian life-style
- +8 Stewardship of resources
- +9 Prayer
- +10 Openness to others / Effective sharing of faith and life



THE ROMAN ROAD TO SALVATION

This is a group of Bible verses from the book of Romans in the New Testament. If you walk down this road you will understand how to be saved.

- **Admit that you are a sinner.**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 NASB)

We all have sin in our hearts. We all were born with sin. We were born under the power of sin's control.

- **Understand that you deserve death for your sin.**

...The wages of sin is death... (Romans 6:23a NASB)

Sin has an ending - the result is death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. But a worse death is spiritual death, because it alienates us from God and will last for eternity. The Bible teaches that there is a place called the Lake of Fire, where lost people will be in torment forever. It is the place where people who are spiritually dead will remain.

- **Ask God to forgive you and save you.**

... but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23b NASB)

Salvation is a free gift from God to you! You can't earn this gift, but you must reach out and receive it.

- **Give your life to God**

His love poured out in Jesus on the cross is your only hope to have forgiveness and change. His love bought you out of being a slave to sin. His love is what saves you - not religion or church membership. God loves you!

God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us! (Romans 5:8 NASB)

When Jesus died on the cross He paid sin's penalty. When He took all the sins of the world upon Himself on the cross, Jesus paid the price for all sin. He bought us out of slavery to sin and death! The only condition is that we believe in Him and what He has done for us - understanding that we are now joined with Him and that He is our life. He gave Himself for us because of His great love for us.

- **Call out to God in the name of Jesus!**

Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved! (Romans 10:13 NASB)

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

If you know that God is knocking on your heart's door, ask Him to come into your heart.



WHERE TO TURN

When you are anxious
 When you need guidance
 When you feel sorry for yourself
 When you are jealous of other's success
 When you doubt that God wants to hear from you
 When you need to know the ABC's of prayer
 When you feel like giving up
 When you faith feels insufficient
 When you fear failure
 When you experience a power shortage
 When your hopes are dashed
 When trouble comes in wave after wave
 When you doubt your worth
 When reading the scripture seems dull
 When people misread your intentions
 When you doubt that God is able
 When you are angry
 When you see evil people prosper
 When you are tempted to look out only for #1
 When you carry a heavy load
 When you need direction
 When you worry
 When selfishness gets you in its grip
 When you suffer from doing right
 When you doubt that God loves you
 When you think that God owes you mercy
 When the evil in the world seems overwhelming
 When evil seems greater than God
 When you don't feel at peace with God
 When someone has harmed you
 When God seems to delay
 When you need wisdom
 When you are tempted to look down on others
 When there are troubles with your wife
 When there are troubles with your husband
 When you are tempted to commit sexual sins
 When God does not seem to act
 When you seek assurance of God's purpose for you

1 Peter 5:7
 Proverbs 3:5-6
 Psalm 102
 Proverbs 14:30
 Luke 18:1-8
 Luke 11:1-4
 Luke 11:5-13
 Mark 9:14-24
 Psalm 37:23-24
 Ephesians 1:19-20
 Psalm 34:18
 James 1:2-4
 Psalm 139:13-18
 1 Thessalonians 2:13
 Matthew 5:11-12
 Ephesians 3:20
 Ephesians 4:26-27
 Psalm 37:1-3
 Luke 12:13-21
 Matthew 11:28-30
 Psalm 25:9
 Matthew 6:34
 Matthew 16:25
 1 Peter 1:6-7
 John 3:16
 Romans 2:4
 Romans 8:28
 Revelation 19:6
 Romans 5:1-5
 Matthew 6:14-15
 John 11:1-44
 James 1:5-8
 Matthew 7
 Ephesians 5:25-30
 Ephesians 5:22-24
 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
 Luke 24:13-35
 Psalm 138:7-8



WHERE TO TURN

When you are blue
 When tempted to do wrong
 When you face physical danger
 When you are discouraged
 When you are bored
 When nothing seems to be going right
 When you worry about having enough of life's necessities
 When you are afraid
 When you are lonely
 When you are anxious for those you love
 When you sin
 When you need forgiveness
 When you are feeling shame
 When you feel no one understands
 When you are tempted to be stingy
 When you plan your budget
 When you have to leave home
 When you are tired
 When friends seem to go back on you
 When you lose a loved one
 When you are afraid of death
 When you want to take revenge
 When God seems far away
 When you have failed God
 When you feel abandoned
 When you need more than human help
 When your past haunts you
 When you need to get your head on right
 When you think you are the only one being tempted
 When you need to know how to stay on the right path
 When temptations seems stronger than you are
 When the devil comes after you
 When you are sick
 When you feel weak
 When you experience trouble
 When you have left God
 When you are feeling bitter
 When someone has wronged you

Psalm 42:5
 Matthew 4:1-11
 Acts 27:13-26
 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
 Psalm 103
 Psalm 37:1-4
 Psalm 37:25-26
 Psalm 27
 Psalm 13
 Psalm 107
 1 John 1-9
 Psalm 51
 Proverbs 28:13
 Hebrews 4:14-16
 Proverbs 11:15
 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
 Psalm 121
 Psalm 127:1-2
 Psalm 55
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 Psalm 23
 Romans 12:19
 Psalm 139
 2 Timothy 2:13
 Hebrews 13:5
 Psalm 46
 Colossians 1:21-22
 Philippians 4:8
 1 Corinthians 10:13
 Psalm 119:9-11
 Ephesians 6:10-18
 James 4:7
 James 5:14
 2 Corinthians 12:9
 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
 Luke 15:11-32
 Hebrews 12:15
 Colossians 3:13



NORTH COUNTY CHRIST THE KING STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe...

- 1) The Scriptures in the Old and the New Testaments are the Inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings. It is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
- 2) In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- 3) That Jesus Christ is both the true God and the true man having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins according to the scriptures. Furthermore, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
- 4) That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, and during this age to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
- 5) That man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
- 6) That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and, thus, become children of God.
- 7) That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as a means of salvation.
- 8) That the true Church is composed of all such persons who, through saving faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head.
- 9) That only those who have received Jesus Christ shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
- 10) That Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the responsibility, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
- 11) In the personal coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
- 12) In the bodily resurrection of the dead: the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious separation from God.

