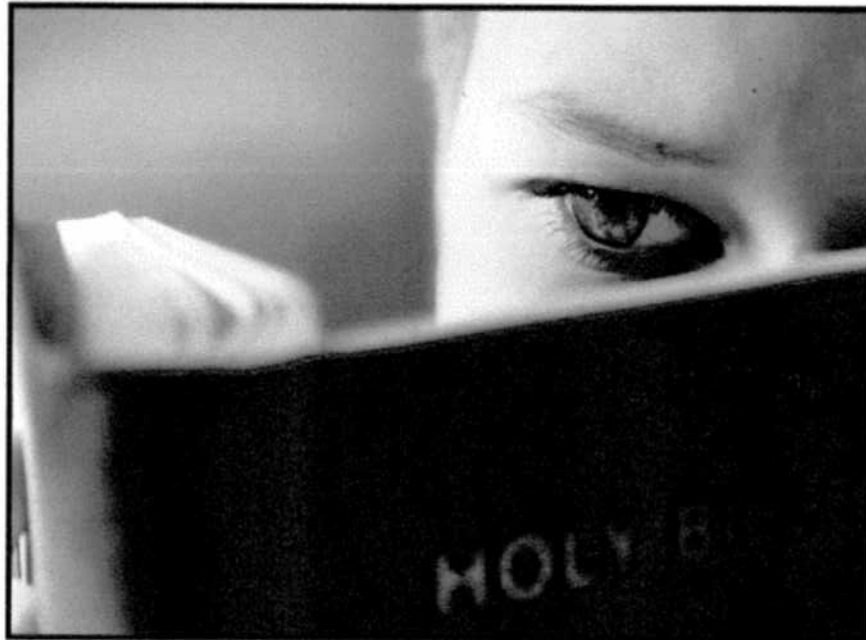


Walking With God



Summer Bible Study Series
June 18-22, 2012

West Side church of Christ

6110 White Settlement Road

Fort Worth, TX 76114

(817) 738-7269

westside@soundteaching.org

<http://soundteaching.org>

Walking With God

2012 Summer Bible Study Series

Teacher Packets

Purpose:

- To supply all teachers with source material and outlines for classes.
- **Note:** This is the general study. Each teacher is encouraged to adapt the material to their age group. This will include any decorations for the classes, bulletin boards, activities and class materials. The source material is designed to give sufficient substance from God's word to each teacher to fill the hour.
- Please check with Stan Cox regarding any questions about the curriculum. Talk with Brad Gallman concerning materials and other aspects of the Study Series. Brad is the deacon in charge of the study.
- It is our intent by getting this information to you at this early date to allow you sufficient time to adapt the material and prepare fully for the series. If you are struggling at all, please don't hesitate to request assistance!

Enclosed:

- **A full outline of each day's study.** The outline will cover the general points to be emphasized in each class, and contain numerous scriptures to use in discussing the major lessons for the day.
- **A resource sheet for each day's study.** This sheet contains possible character studies (Bible characters who illustrate a main point of the lesson in either a positive or negative way). Also, a memory verse, Fact questions for use in the auditorium following the classes, and discussion questions that may be used to elicit feedback from the student. (Note: Most of the teaching I have done is at the adult level. Do not take these suggestions as requirements. Teachers are encouraged to use their own experience and creativity in exercising discretion to make this as rich a learning experience as possible).

Note: The primary source material used for this curriculum is Mark Copeland's sermon series, "A Closer Walk with God" (Lessons designed to encourage a closer walk with God, and fruitful service as disciples of Jesus Christ). The material has been adapted to a series that will better serve the needs of a diversity of classes, from small children to adults. If you would like access to the source material, you can find it on the internet as a 53 page PDF file at the following address:

http://executableoutlines.com/pdf/cw_so.pdf

If you don't have access to the internet, and want the material, let Stan know and a copy will be supplied to you.

**The purpose of this material is to make things easier for you, not harder!
If you have any questions or needs, please let Stan and Brad know!**

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 - Outline of Lesson 1
 - Resource Sheet for Lesson 1
- **Lesson 2 - Worshippers of God (Worship)**
 - *One of the most important ways to walk with God is by worshipping Him. God deserves worship, and requires it of His disciples. It is important to know what kind of worship He wants, and how to do it. It is most important to be diligent in worshipping Him.*
 - Outline of Lesson 2
 - Resource Sheet for Lesson 2
- **Lesson 3 - Specialists of the Great Physician (Study & Development)**
 - *In medicine, specialists are doctors who try to learn as much as possible about one particular part of the body, or one particular type of medical skill. Jesus is called the Great Physician. He cures us of sin. It is important that we study to find out as much as possible about this disease, how it can be avoided, and how it can be cured.*
 - Outline of Lesson 3
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- **Lesson 4 - Enthusiasts of Spiritual Health (Overcoming Sin)**
 - *People who love a particular hobby are called enthusiasts. They are enthusiastic about their interests. Some people are physical fitness enthusiasts. They avoid unhealthy foods and activities. They only eat healthy food, and exercise. To be spiritually healthy we have to avoid sin!*
 - Outline of Lesson 4
 - Resource Sheet for Lesson 4
- **Lesson 5 - Activists of Godliness (Good Works)**
 - *People who are very dedicated to a cause are called activists. They volunteer their time, money and attention to things like building homes for the poor, curing cancer, or getting a politician elected. God expects for us to have the same dedication. After what Jesus did for us, he expects us to live lives full of good and righteous deeds.*
 - Outline of Lesson 5
 - Resource Sheet for Lesson 5

(Lesson 1) Students of the Master

Resource Sheet

Note: Teachers are encouraged to cover the material found in the outline. At least emphasize the following main points:

- Disciples are students of Jesus. They not only learn about him, but embrace what they learn as the way God intends them to live their lives. They become imitators of Jesus.
- We must put Jesus first in our lives, even if it means that we will suffer persecution.
- We become disciples when we are taught the gospel, and obey it. Baptism is a part of this. After we become disciples, we must continue to obey Jesus.
- By being disciples, we are blessed with having God as our Father, Jesus as our Lord, and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

In addition to the outline, below is some other material that may be used as a way of illustrating or teaching the principles found in the outline.

Memory Verse:

"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40).

Character Studies:

- **Samuel** (1 Samuel 1-3) Hannah, Samuel's mother promised God that if He gave her a son, she would dedicate him to His service. Samuel served and learned from Eli, the High Priest. God chose Samuel to be a prophet of Israel. (cf. 1 Samuel 3:19-21)
- **Elisha** (1 Kings 19:16-21) God instructed Elijah to appoint Elisha as his successor. Elisha left his life and followed Elijah, serving and learning from him.
- **Paul** (Philippians 3:1-11) He gave up all that he had and was to be a bondservant of Christ. He counted it as refuse. Note: He was a Pharisee, was an important Jew, and was a Roman citizen.

Discussion Questions *(Some of these more appropriate for older age groups)*

1. Discuss the difference between **just** learning about Jesus, and truly being His disciple.
2. What does it mean to forsake all to follow Christ? Give examples. (cf. Mark 10:17-22)
3. Discuss the part that baptism plays in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ.
4. What are some things that Christ requires we do (or not do) to continue as His disciples?
5. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be our Lord? Our High Priest?

Fact questions *(To be used after class in the auditorium)*

1. Who is a disciple of Jesus? *(Student, learner, one who obeys and imitates Jesus)*
2. Quote the memory verse *(Luke 6:40)*
3. Who is it that must come first in our lives? *(Jesus)*
4. What is it we have to learn to be a student of Jesus? *(His will, found in the Bible)*
5. Name one of the blessings we receive by being a student of Jesus *(There are three covered in the lesson: 1) God as Father; 2) Jesus as Lord and High Priest; 3) Holy Spirit as guide).*

Note: *Teachers of the classes are encouraged to meet together for brainstorming regarding any activities, bulletin board decoration, and other ways of illustrating these Bible truths and improving the experience of the Summer Series.*

(Lesson 1) Students of the Master

Synopsis: Explain what it means to be a disciple. Discuss the responsibilities and blessings that come from being a disciple or student of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20

Introduction:

- A. Jesus instructed his apostles to: "make disciples of all the nations" (Great Commission)
 - 1. The goal was to evangelize. To preach the gospel to all the world.
 - 2. But, what does it mean to be a disciple?
- B. Disciple (Gk. - *mathetes*) a learner. i.e. pupil: -- a disciple
 - 1. Vine's Expository Dictionary: "one who follows another's teaching"
 - 2. A disciple is not only one who learns, but also embraces teaching. He follows it, he imitates the teacher. A disciple of Christ is an imitator of Christ. He wants to be like Jesus.
 - 3. **Luke 6:40; Romans 8:29**
- C. A disciple is going to bear much fruit for his Master (John 15:1-8)
 - 1. If a disciple bears fruit, God helps him to become even more successful (vs. 2)
 - 2. God requires each of us to work hard for Him (vss. 2,6)

I. Some things that are required of Jesus' students (Luke 14:25-35)

- A. We must put Jesus first in our lives (vs. 26; Luke 9:23-25)
- B. We must be willing even to suffer for Christ (vs. 27; 2 Timothy 3:12)
- C. We must forsake all to follow Christ (vs. 33)
 - 1. This means that Jesus must be our King and Lord
 - 2. Nothing can come before Jesus. Not money, not family, not even ourselves. Because of this, many people are not willing to come to Jesus. Jesus doesn't try to attract people who are only interested. He wants dedicated students! (Matthew 7:13-14)

II. How do we become a student of Jesus? (Matthew 28:18-20)

- A. We learn (It is the job of Christians to teach others the gospel of Jesus Christ) cf. Romans 1:16
- B. We obey (This includes baptism, vs. 19)
 - 1. Baptism in water for the remission of sins is the act of obedience that puts us in contact with the blood of Jesus so we can be forgiven (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
 - 2. It is preceded by faith, repentance and confession (Acts 2:36-38; Acts 8:36-38)
 - 3. After we become students (disciples) continued obedience to Jesus is necessary (vs. 20)

III. We receive many blessings by being students of Jesus Christ

- A. God is our heavenly Father (1 John 3:1-3)
 - 1. He is the giver of blessings (James 1:17; Matthew 7:11)
 - 2. He has promised never to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6)
- B. Jesus is our Lord and High Priest (1 Corinthians 8:6; Hebrews 4:14)
 - 1. All are subject to Him (1 Peter 3:22), and yet, we are pleasing to Him
 - 2. He rules over the kings of the earth (Revelation 1:5-6), and calls us brethren (Heb. 2:11-12)
- C. The Holy Spirit is our guide (Ephesians 6:17)
 - 1. He grants us all that is needed to direct our steps (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 2. He gives us the means to fight against the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-26)

Conclusion

It is not enough to learn about Jesus. In order to please God we must imitate Jesus. We must learn what He has said is important, and obey His will. We must put Him first in our lives. We are fortunate that God has given us everything we need to be like Jesus. When we live for Him, we are blessed by God.

(Lesson 2) Worshippers of God

Resource Sheet

Note: Teachers are encouraged to cover the material found in the outline. At least emphasize the following main points:

- God deserves to be worshipped. He is our Creator. He is our Lord. He is powerful, wise, good merciful and He loves us. He has given us every blessing we have.
- We can worship God in a church assembly, at home, and even by ourselves.
- In order for our worship to please God, we must have both the proper spirit, and our worship must be in accord with God's will. (Spirit and Truth, cf. John 4:24).
- The five types of worship in the assembly: Prayer, Singing, Teaching, Lord's Supper, Collection.

In addition to the outline, below is some other material that may be used as a way of illustrating or teaching the principles found in the outline.

Memory Verse:

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24).

Character Studies:

- **David** (Psalms) David has been called the "*sweet psalmist of Israel*" (2 Samuel 23:1). The majority of the book of Psalms consists of songs of praise to God, written by him.
- **Daniel** (Daniel 6) Daniel was diligent to pray to God three times a day. He did this even when his actions caused him to be persecuted for his zeal and faithfulness.
- **Paul and Silas** (Acts 16:25) Paul and Silas did not allow the fact that they were imprisoned to keep them from worshipping God. Even while in chains the two of them sang hymns and offered up prayers to the Almighty.

Discussion Questions *(Some of these more appropriate for older age groups)*

1. Discuss the attributes and accomplishments of God which make Him worthy of our worship.
2. What does the phrase "worship God in spirit" mean?
3. What does the phrase "worship God in truth" mean?
4. Some say that everything we do for God is worship. What is wrong with that concept of worship?
5. Why should we be limited to worshipping God in ways specified in the new covenant?

Fact questions *(To be used after class in the auditorium)*

1. Who is it that we worship? *(We worship God)*
2. Quote the memory verse *(John 4:24)*
3. What are the five acts of worship in our assemblies? *(Prayer, Singing, Teaching, Communion, Collection or Giving)*
4. Where do we go to find out how to worship God? *(His will, found in the Bible)*
5. What are some things that could make our worship unacceptable to God? *(Hypocrisy, traditions of men, apathy,)*.

Note: *Teachers of the classes are encouraged to meet together for brainstorming regarding any activities, bulletin board decoration, and other ways of illustrating these Bible truths and improving the experience of the Summer Series.*

(Lesson 2) Worshippers of God

Synopsis: *God deserves to be worshipped. Discuss the importance of worship, and use scripture to establish the acts of worship and their purpose.*

John 4:21-24

Introduction:

- A. God is worthy of praise and worship (Psalm 8)
- B. We can worship him both individually and privately; and collectively at a worship assembly
 - 1. God commands us to assemble (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - 2. Some acts of worship are to be done in these assemblies: (Lord's Supper, Giving)
 - 3. Other acts of worship can be done in an assembly, among individual Christians or privately (Singing, Prayer, Teaching, Study and Meditation)
- C. Worship also serves to exhort and encourage Christians (Hebrews 10:24-25)

I. How can we be sure our worship pleases God? (John 4:24)

- A. Our worship must be with the proper spirit (Matthew 6:5-8)
 - 1. Hypocrisy and a desire to please men can make worship vain (Matthew 6:5-8)
 - 2. Sin can make worship unacceptable (Amos 5:18-24)
- B. Our worship must be in accord with truth (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - 1. We determine how to worship God by turning to His will (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - 2. We learn how to worship both by command, and by approved examples of worship

II. Worshipping God (Psalm 95)

A. Prayer

- 1. Praying together (Acts 4:23-32)
- 2. Instructions regarding prayer (James 1:5-8; 1 John 5:14; 1 Peter 3:10-12; 1 Thess. 5:16-18)
- 3. The Blessings of prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)

B. Singing

- 1. Commands to sing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 13:15)
- 2. Singing edifies (cf. Ephesians 5:19) and makes for a cheerful heart (James 5:13)
- 3. Singing is a way to praise God! (Psalm 7:17; 9:1-2; 13:6; 21:13; 30:1-5; 47:5-9; 89:1; 101:1)

C. Teaching

- 1. Teaching or preaching was a part of public worship in the early church (Acts 20:7)
- 2. By learning from the words of God we grow spiritually (1 Peter 2:1-3)
- 3. Teachers equip us to do God's work (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Peter 3:1-2)

D. Lord's Supper

- 1. Also called "breaking of bread" (Acts 2:42; 20:7) and "communion" (1 Corinthians 10:16)
- 2. It is a memorial feast instituted by Jesus, in which we remember and proclaim His death on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- 3. It is offered in the assembly on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 11:33-34; Acts 20:7)
- 4. It must be eaten in a serious and appropriate way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

E. The Collection

- 1. The example of a collection on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- 2. The money is used to do wonderful works like benevolence (Acts 11:27-30) and the support of gospel preaching (2 Corinthians 11:8-9; Philippians 4:10-18)
- 3. How we are to give liberally, cheerfully & with purpose (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:7)

Conclusion

We are to worship God because He deserves it. He deserves praise because He is our Creator, our Lord, and he is merciful and good. Worship to God encourages and edifies us. We must worship with a proper attitude and love for God, and do so as He instructs us.

(Lesson 3) Specialists of the Great Physician

Resource Sheet

Note: Teachers are encouraged to cover the material found in the outline. At least emphasize the following main points:

- Just as doctors must prepare through study and training, we must train in order to do the work that Jesus would have us to do in our lives.
- We must be diligent in studying the Bible.
- We must add the Christian graces to our character, as described in 2 Peter 1. Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness and Love.
- By growing in this way we avoid bad consequences (forgetfulness, unfruitfulness and stumbling), and secure for ourselves a home in heaven.

In addition to the outline, below is some other material that may be used as a way of illustrating or teaching the principles found in the outline.

Memory Verse:

""Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17).

Character Studies:

- **Hebrew Christians** (Hebrews 5:9 - 6:8) These Christians serve as a negative example. Because they were not diligent to study and grow they became weak, and were in danger of losing their souls.
- **Samuel** (1 Samuel 2:18-26) In contrast to Eli's corrupt sons, Samuel ministered to the Lord, even as a child, and grew in stature and favor with both God and men.
- **Jesus** (Luke 2:41-52) Jesus as a young boy was about His "Father's business." In verse 52 the text records that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." He serves as our ultimate example for good in all things.

Discussion Questions *(Some of these more appropriate for older age groups)*

1. How does the idea of a "Specialist" compare with our training as Christians?
2. Share with others some things that help you to be diligent in your Bible study.
3. In what way does the word of God "judge" us? (cf. John 12:48).
4. Does each Christian grace listed in 2 Peter 1 build upon the one that precedes it?
5. Explain why "spiritual myopia" is such a good illustration to describe an untrained Christian.

Fact questions *(To be used after class in the auditorium)*

1. Who did Jesus say needed a physician? *(The sinner, who needed to be called to repentance)*
2. Quote the memory verse *(John 17:17)*
3. What did a lack of knowledge do to God's people (cf. Hosea 4:6)? *(It destroyed them!)*
4. Name the 8 Christian graces listed in 2 Peter 1? *(Faith, Virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Perseverance, Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love)*
5. What will happen to us if we add the Christian "graces to our character? *(We will be granted an entrance into Heaven for an eternity).*

Note: *Teachers of the classes are encouraged to meet together for brainstorming regarding any activities, bulletin board decoration, and other ways of illustrating these Bible truths and improving the experience of the Summer Series.*

(Lesson 3) Specialists of the Great Physician

Synopsis: *In order to specialize, we have to learn a great deal, and develop ourselves. Just like a doctor studies and trains himself, Christians should too! We study the word of God, and we add to our persons the virtues God says are most important to being a righteous person.*

Luke 5:27-32

Introduction:

- A. Jesus used the idea of a physician healing the sick to illustrate his work in the world
 - 1. When sin is the disease, the righteous do not need a physician. The sinner does!
 - 2. Jesus called sinners "to repentance." He came to heal us from the disease of sin!
- B. Jesus also calls us to do the work of preaching (the gospel is the cure) (1 Corinthians 1:17-24)
 - 1. We have to study the Bible to know the cure for sin. In order to preach to others, we must prepare ourselves!
 - 2. Learning God's word and applying ourselves to it makes us stronger and more capable. It gives us the ability to save ourselves, and those who hear us. (cf. 1 Timothy 4:16).

I. Bible Study is Important (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- A. The Word of God has the power to sanctify us (separate us to holiness) (John 17:17)
- B. The Word of God has the power to preserve us (cf. Hosea 4:6; Acts 20:28-32)
- C. The Word of God has the power to save us (James 1:21) and judge us (John 12:48)

II. Practical Suggestions for Bible Study

- A. Set a regular time for individual study (this helps to make it a habit)
- B. Study together as a family (with the father leading the study). Make daily applications
- C. Pray at the beginning of (Psalm 119:18), during (vs. 5-6) and at the end of (10-11) your study
- D. Use Study Helps (Multiple translations, dictionaries, concordances, commentaries, brethren)
- E. Most important... Make your faith your own!

III. We must train ourselves, growing stronger spiritually each day! (2 Peter 3:18)

- A. Add the eight "graces" listed by Peter (2 Peter 1:5-7)
 - 1. **Faith** (conviction, strong assurance); **Virtue** (moral excellence, goodness), **Knowledge** (correct insight); **Self-control** (self-discipline); **Perseverance** (bearing up under trials); **Godliness** (godly character out of devotion to God); **Brotherly Kindness** (love toward brethren); **Love** (active goodwill toward others)
 - 2. Notice that the Holy Spirit expects us to "abound" in these graces (2 Peter 1:8)
 - 3. Notice that abounding in these graces takes "diligence" (2 Peter 1:5,10)
- B. Peter expresses several reasons for growing and maturing as Christians
 - 1. Grace and peace are multiplied to those who grow (2 Peter 1:2; cf. Eph. 1:2-3; Phi. 4:6-7)
 - 2. "Bare" and "Unfruitful" spiritual branches are avoided (2 Peter 1:8; cf. John 15:1-8)
 - 3. Spiritual Myopia (nearsightedness) is avoided (forgetfulness) (2 Peter 1:9)
 - 4. Stumbling is avoided (context: fall short of salvation) (2 Peter 1:10)
 - 5. An abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom is supplied! (2 Peter 1:11; 2 Tim. 4:18)

Conclusion

We want to be able to work for Jesus. He is in the business of saving souls. We must prepare ourselves to serve as Specialists in the work of soul saving. We must study God's word, because it is the ability to sanctify and save (it is the cure for sin). We must train ourselves, growing in faith, knowledge, self-control and love, that we may be suitable servants. If we do this, we will not fail!

(Lesson 4) Enthusiasts of Spiritual Health

Resource Sheet

Note: Teachers are encouraged to cover the material found in the outline. At least emphasize the following main points:

- Satan continues every day to try to get us to sin and be separated from God.
- The first stage of sins development is temptation. The second stage is the sin (action) itself. The third stage is the consequence of sin (Spiritual death).
- We can avoid sin by changing our desires, avoiding opportunities to sin, and exercising self control.
- If we do sin, we can ask God to forgive us as we repent, and He will forgive us.

In addition to the outline, below is some other material that may be used as a way of illustrating or teaching the principles found in the outline.

Memory Verse:

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin...." (1 John 2:1a).

Character Studies:

- **Josiah** (2 Kings 22) Immediately upon becoming King, he led the people away from sin, and the practices of his father and grandfather.
- **Simon** (Acts 8:5-24) A sorcerer who heard the gospel, and gave up his sin. But, Satan tempted him later, and he faltered. He repented and requested the prayers of the apostles.
- **Jesus** (Matthew 4:3-10) He overcame all of the temptations set before him by the devil while He was in the wilderness. In every case He had an understanding of God's will, and quoted scripture to show why he would not sin against God.

Discussion Questions *(Some of these more appropriate for older age groups)*

1. Name the 3 stages in the development of sin, as revealed in James 1:12-15.
2. Explain why it is not enough to just get baptized, and initially have your sins washed away.
3. Discuss Romans 12:1-2. What does it mean to be "transformed by the renewing of your mind"?
4. Discuss some places, types of people, and activities that Christians should avoid in order to stay away from temptation and sin.
5. Discuss some situations we may find ourselves in (despite our best efforts) where it will be necessary to exercise self-control.

Fact questions *(To be used after class in the auditorium)*

1. What is Satan compared to in 1 Peter 5:8? *(A hungry, roaring lion)*
2. Quote the memory verse *(1 Timothy 4:8a)*
3. What do Christians do when they sin to get forgiveness? *(Repent, and pray to God)*
4. Who will help us and make us stronger so we will not sin (cf. Philippians 4:13)? *(Jesus Christ)*
5. Is there anything wrong with not doing something we are supposed to do? *(Yes, James said it is wrong in James 4:17).*

Note: Teachers of the classes are encouraged to meet together for brainstorming regarding any activities, bulletin board decoration, and other ways of illustrating these Bible truths and improving the experience of the Summer Series.

(Lesson 4) Enthusiasts of Spiritual Health

Synopsis: People who are really interested in a particular hobby are called enthusiasts. Some are physical fitness enthusiasts. They avoid foods and habits that harm their health. To please God, we should be spiritual fitness enthusiasts. To be spiritually fit, we must avoid what harms us spiritually - sin!

1 John 1:5-10

Introduction:

- A. When we become Christians, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin (Acts 22:16)
- B. This doesn't mean our problem with sin comes to an end when we are baptized
 - 1. We can still be guilty of sin at times (1 John 1:8-10)
 - 2. Satan still works as hard as he can to cause us to sin! (1 Peter 5:8)
- C. In order to overcome sin, we must learn how to avoid temptation, and what to do if we stumble into sin (1 John 2:1-2)

I. How Does Sin Develop? (James 1:12-15)

- A. The first stage is temptation (desire + enticement) (1:14)
 - 1. Note: It is not a sin to be tempted. We must resist temptation
 - 2. Jesus was tempted, and he did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15; 2:18)
- B. The second stage is sin itself, when we succumb to temptation (1:15)
 - 1. Desire + Opportunity + **Action** = Sin
 - 2. The word "sin" has to do with missing the mark. We fail to do what God requires, or do what God forbids. (Romans 6:16-18)
- C. The third stage involves the consequences of sin - Death (1:15)
 - 1. This means that we die spiritually, because sin separates us from God (cf. Isaiah 59:2)
 - 2. But, if we die physically when we are separated from God, we will die a second, eternal death (Revelation 21:8)
 - 3. It is important that we avoid sin, so that we are not separated from God, and will be able to be with Him in eternity! (Revelation 21:6-7)

II. How do we overcome sin? (Revelation 21:7)

- A. We change our desires! (Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:24)
 - 1. Study of God's word can help to change our desires (Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:3-10)
 - 2. As we read of the consequences of sin, we learn to hate it! (Psalm 119:104)
- B. We can avoid the opportunities to sin!
 - 1. We can ask God for his providential help in this, through prayer (Matthew 6:23; 26:41)
 - 2. We can stay away from people, places and activities that may lead us into temptation (Psalm 101:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:33-34)
- C. We can exercise self-control! (Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 4:13; 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13)
- D. We can obtain forgiveness when we stumble and sin (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2)
- E. We can be active in doing good!
 - 1. More on this tomorrow, but remember, we can sin not only by doing things God does not want us to do, but also by not doing things that God requires.
 - 2. It is not enough to avoid sin, we must live righteously! (James 4:17)

Conclusion

It is important for us to enthusiastically and actively seek to avoid sin. It is spiritually unhealthy, leading to spiritual death. In contrast we are given the promise that if we avoid sin, we will "receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (James 1:12).

(Lesson 5) Activists of Godliness

Resource Sheet

Note: Teachers are encouraged to cover the material found in the outline. At least emphasize the following main points:

- We are saved by Grace, but we must be obedient to God to maintain our standing and fellowship with Him.
- Some good works are spiritual in nature (give examples); some are more physical in nature (give examples).
- Not only do we have individual responsibilities, but we all have responsibilities as members of a local church. The works a church are to do include evangelism, edification and benevolence.
- Every person has to do their part. Each of us has different gifts, and the church can be strong only if every part is working.

In addition to the outline, below is some other material that may be used as a way of illustrating or teaching the principles found in the outline.

Memory Verse:

" Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

Character Studies:

- **Job** (Job 1:1,8) Job was a righteous man. He maintained his righteousness before God, despite the terrible things that happened to him and his family. It is not easy to continue to do good no matter what.
- **Patriarchs** (Hebrews 11) Numerous examples could be given here to illustrate that those who had faith showed their faith by being obedient, and doing what God wanted them to do. One good way of illustrating this is by using Abraham and Rahab, and correlating the passage in Hebrews 11 with James 2, where we are told that they were justified by their obedience.
- **Cornelius** (Acts 10:1-2, 47-48) He pleased God by the good things he did (giving alms and praying). When he heard the gospel preached, he was obedient to it, and was baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins. He is a good example of an obedient man.
- **Note:** This is an easy one. Feel free to use any examples of those who have done good works before God.

Discussion Questions *(Some of these more appropriate for older age groups)*

1. Explain how good works are not the basis of our salvation, but are still necessary.
2. Give some real life examples of good works we can do.
3. Can a Christian fulfill his obligations to God without being a member of a local church?
4. Does the church have any limitations to the benevolent work it can do?
5. How is it that God gets the glory when we do good works?

Fact questions *(To be used after class in the auditorium)*

1. By what are we saved? *(We are saved by Grace)*
2. Quote the memory verse *(James 4:17)*
3. When we do good things, who gets the glory? *(God gets the glory)*
4. Name the three works of the church. *(Evangelism, Edification, Benevolence)*
5. If we do not do good works, is our faith dead or alive (cf. James 2) *(It is a dead faith).*

Note: *Teachers of the classes are encouraged to meet together for brainstorming regarding any activities, bulletin board decoration, and other ways of illustrating these Bible truths and improving the experience of the Summer Series.*

(Lesson 5) Activists of Godliness

Synopsis: *People who are dedicated to a cause are called activists. They are active in furthering their cause. In the same way, we should be activists in God's work. We must be dedicated and active in doing good works, both individually and as a part of the Lord's church..*

Ephesians 2:8-10

Introduction:

- A. We are saved by God's grace, it is the most wonderful of gifts.
 - 1. God sent His Son into the world to save those who believe (John 3:16)
 - 2. The grace of God teaches us to live active lives of godliness (Titus 2:11-12)
- B. The purpose of doing good works is not to earn our salvation
 - 1. We can not earn our salvation. We are saved by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - 2. However, God intends for us to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). Our refusal to obey Him constitutes rebellion, and can cause us to lose our standing with God. (James 4:17)
- C. By doing good works, we bring glory to God! (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:11-12)
 - 1. Our good works prove our faith is real and alive (James 2:14-17)
 - 2. By doing good works, we are like Jesus (Luke 6:46; cf. Acts 10:38)

I. What are Some Good Works We Can Do?

- A. Some good works are spiritual in nature...
 - 1. We can tell others about Jesus (1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:15)
 - 2. We can encourage other Christians (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25)
 - 3. We can restore weak brethren (Galatians 6:1-2)
- B. Some good works are more physical in nature...
 - 1. We can show benevolence to others (Luke 10:30-37)
 - 2. We can be hospitable (1 Peter 4:7-9)
 - 3. Women can be especially fruitful in this area, like Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39)
 - 4. These types of works are the mark of pure religion (James 1:27)

II. We have responsibilities as a part of our local congregation

- A. Like Paul, we should join a local church so that we can work together (Acts 9:26-28)
- B. We should go to worship, to be an encouragement to other Christians (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- C. The Lord's Supper is to be taken in the assembly (Acts 20:7)
- D. We are to recognize and submit to the elders of the church (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-2)
- E. There is work that the Lord gave the church to do
 - 1. Preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Timothy 3:15)
 - 2. Edify one another (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - 3. Give to needy saints (Acts 11:27-30; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

III. Every Christian has to do His Part!

- A. This is the only way that the church can be strong (Ephesians 4:15-16)
- B. We are all to do everything we can do, with the ability that God supplies (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- C. Each of us have different gifts and abilities (Romans 12:3-8)

Conclusion

It is not enough for us to stay away from sin. God expects us to actively work for Him and His cause. It is our responsibility to try to save ourselves, and others in the world. Some things we can do on our own, and some things we must do together. What is important is we always look to see what it is we can do, and then do it as best we possibly can.