

# SEEKING THE SAVIOR STUDY GUIDE

An Evangelistic Bible Study Series



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# STUDY #1 - SEEKING GOD

## Study Goals:

- **To communicate God’s desire to bless your student through a through a close, personal relationship with Him** (Jeremiah 29:11-14, John 10:10).
- **To give hope by showing that God has arranged this “time and place” to provide your student with a future filled with hope** (Acts 17:26, 27, Jeremiah 29:11).
- **To clarify what seeking God with all their heart involves** (Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 13:44, Acts 8:26-40).

## READ:

**Jeremiah 29:11-14** -----

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

**NOTE:** This passage was written at a time when God's people were enslaved. Israel had forsaken God in almost every way imaginable and as always they paid an incredible price for their disobedience. Even so, God had not given up on them. They had rebelled against God, but there was (is) hope!

**v. 11** -----

**? From the verse we just read what do you think God wants your future to be like?** (prosperous, protected, an hopeful)

**? Do you have a hard time believing that God wants to bless you or that He has great plans for your life? Why?**

**NOTE:** One's personal history can make it hard to believe that God loves them and wants a relationship with them. Be sure to reiterate that this

passage is speaking to people whose behavior had been incredibly evil! The person you are studying with must understand that their rebellious or embarrassing past will not prevent God from giving them an exciting future. He is more concerned with their future than their past.

**MENTION:**

**John 10:10** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

- Remind your student that Jesus came to give them a full life! Jesus has no desire to destroy our lives, he wants to bless them.

**Jeremiah 29 vss. 12, 13, 14 -----**

- God's promises are always have a premise therefore the student must understand God's premise to enjoy God's promise.

**? What promises does God offer in this verse?**

- "I will listen to you."
- "You will find me."
- "I will rescue you."

**? What are the premises? (I will do this if you...)**

- You will find me when...  
... you seek me with ALL your heart.

**? What does God mean when he asks you to "seek him with all your heart?"**

**? Ask "What is something that you have sought after with "all your heart"?"**

**NOTE:** This kind of "seeking God: is rare and probably foreign to your student. Helping them understand what it means to seek God with all their heart in a practical way is difficult but essential. It is safe to assume that while they have never committed to God in this way they have committed whole heartily to athletics, education, achievement, being popular, or to a dating relationship. Use whatever "whole heart" commitment you discover that they have made to clarify their understanding of what it means to seek God with all their heart.

**? How could someone tell that you were “seeking  
\_\_\_\_\_ with all your heart?”**

- It was my first priority.
- I thought about it all the time.
- I talked about it a lot.
- I hung around people who shared the same goal or interest.
- I gave up other stuff for it.
- I persisted, refusing to give up.
- \_\_\_\_\_

**? How does this relate to the way you seek God?**

- God wants me to seek Him like I sought \_\_\_\_\_

**READ:**

**Matthew 6:33** “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

**NOTE:** Jesus’ promise to take care of our daily needs is predicated on our willingness to “seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness.”

**? We have discussed seeking first, that is “seeking with all your heart” but what do “his kingdom and righteousness” mean?**

- To seek his kingdom I seek his ruler-ship in my life, seeking his righteousness I seek to do right the things he wants.

**NOTE:** Allowing Jesus to control your life is an exciting, positive thing. He wants to bless you, knows how to bless you, and has the resources to bless you. Jesus can and will bless your life if you will allow him to “call the shots.” Remember God cannot bless that which he cannot control. This next verse discusses just how valuable Christ’s ruler-ship in our lives is.

**READ:**

**Matthew 13:44** -----

“<sup>44</sup> The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”

- ? **What did this man give up in order to get the field?**
- ? **Why would anyone do what he did? Was it a sacrifice?**
- ? **What might this man’s friends or family have thought about his radical actions?**

**NOTE:** This man sold everything because he knew that the treasure he had found was more valuable than all he had. In the end he comes out ahead. If he didn’t put the treasure first, he would lose the treasure! If he did not “sell out” he would have missed out. Let your student know that others may think your new found priorities are over the top simply because they don’t realize what a treasure you have found.

**READ (use a Bible):**

**Acts 8:26-40** -----

**NOTE:** Set the stage that in this passage we see God pulling Philip the Evangelist away from a very successful Samaritan revival that was reaching multitudes so that he could teach one individual. Why? Because God had a promise to keep: “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you declares the Lord.” In this passage we find an incredible example of a “with all your heart” God seeker. This man can help move your student from concepts about seeking to practical application of those concepts. Before you begin to read the text ask the person you’re studying with to stop you whenever he/she notices something that shows that the Ethiopian was seeking God with all his heart.” Many times your student will see only the very obvious, if that. Let them know that you will add any seeker traits that they might miss. This may result in this part of the study being more of a monologue than a discussion. Be sure to emphasize personal application of this section. Your student must know how to be like the first century Eunuch in this century. Remember the goal is transformation not simply information.

**The Ethiopian seeker gives us four imitable traits.**

# A "whole heart" seeker of God will...

v. 27 -----

## **#1 ...Sacrifice to get close to God.**

- This 'God seeker' travels approximately 1300 difficult miles (one way) and will not get to enter the temple courts. (see Deuteronomy 23:1 )

**? How could this trait show up in your life?**

v. 28 -----

## **#2 ...Read / Study his /her bible on his own.**

- Not just doing it as an assignment or requirement!
- Not just relying on a teacher's words or effort.

**? How could this trait show up in your life?**

vs. 31-34 -----

## **#3 ...Be humble enough to ask for help.**

- "How can I..." "Come help me." Great Humility.
- More interested in learning than looking good.

**? How could this trait show up in your life?**

v. 36 -----

## **#4 ...Quickly do whatever God wants him /her to do.**

- Doesn't procrastinate but obeys immediately!

**? How could this trait show up in your life?**



**NOTE:** The eunuch was reading Isaiah 53 as he traveled on his long journey. One could assume that the Ethiopian continued to read from Isaiah after his encounter with Phillip and conversion to Christ. If this assumption is correct imagine how excited and honored this man must have been to discover the following text only a few pages ahead of where he had been reading.

**Read:**

**Isaiah 56:4-5** -----

<sup>4</sup> "For this is what the LORD says:" To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—<sup>5</sup> to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off."

- Though this eunuch may have felt that God had no plans for his life, the opposite was actually true. The Ethiopians' heart, his love for God allowed God to do the incredible things in his life that he had always wanted

**Read:**

**Acts 17:22-27**-----

<sup>22</sup> Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him..."

**v. 22-25** -----

**? How could someone who was/is "very religious" not have a true relationship with God?**

- By not knowing about the true God (god of our fathers =

tradition)

- By not being willing to seek Him out.

v. 26-27 -----

**? What did Paul think was the reason those in the Areopagus had been given the opportunity to hear his message?**

- God wanted a relationship with them & was giving them an opportunity to seek Him.

**NOTE:** Paul did not think that his presence at the Athens was an accident or coincidence, he believed God arranged it!

**? Why do you think that we met?**

- God wants a relationship with you & is giving you an opportunity to seek and find him.

## **CLOSE**

CLOSE EACH STUDY BY CALLING THE STUDENT TO A COMMITMENT AND A CHALLENGE.

**Commitment:** Will you commit to seek God "with all your heart"?

**Challenge:** Set the date and time to study again. \_\_\_\_\_?





## STUDY #2 – THE WORD OF GOD

### Study Goals:

- **To help you student understand that the Bible is from God (inspired) and is not just any book** (2 Timothy 3:16a, 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- **To show the Bibles purpose, that it is “useful” and relevant to their life and problems** (2 Timothy 3:15-17, Hebrews 4:12,13).
- **To help the student see the result of ignoring, rejecting, or replacing it with human tradition** (John 12:47-50, 1 Timothy 4:16).
- **To create a commitment to knowing and obeying the word of God** (James 1:22-25, Acts 17:10-12).

### READ:

#### 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17 -----

<sup>15</sup> “...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

#### v. 15 -----

? **How does this passage say that Timothy was able to know about his salvation?**

**NOTE:** The Bible says that by knowing the scriptures Timothy could know about his salvation. Ones relationship with God must be based on objective truth (“the holy scriptures”), not subjective opinion (ones personal feelings). John says basically the same thing in the following verse.

### MENTION:

**1 John 5:13**, “I am writing this to you so that you may know that you have eternal life...”

- ? Are you certain that you and God are "OK" (If you died today you would go to heaven)?
- ? What reason would you give for your answer?
- ? Is your answer based more on how you feel (emotion) or what God's word says (Scripture)?

## COMPLETE SPIRITUAL TIMELINE NOW

**ILLUSTRATE:** A Spiritual Time Line is a record of your student's religious experience. It will be used later, (to compare N.T. conversion with your student's conversion) but completing it now provides an unbiased record of your students' spiritual journey. Let your friend know that you are doing the time line so that they can compare what they did to become a Christian with what the scriptures teach. If the comparison matches up, GREAT! If not, they can make adjustments to better correspond with God's word.

**BIRTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **PRESENT**  
 Born?                      Started going to church?                      Saved?                      Baptized?

v. 16 -----

**NOTE:** Knowing what something is designed to do is essential to it being useful. That's why all cars, stereos, computers, etc. come with instruction manuals. The Bible is God's instruction manual to man. Paul tells Timothy (and you and I) what the bible is to be used for. It might be helpful to check out the New Living Translation's uncomplicated and concise take on 2 Timothy 3:16.

- **The Bible is "useful" (good) for...**
  1. **Teaching - What do you think this means?**
    - Providing new information.
  2. **Rebuking - What does this mean?**
    - Pointing out errors in what I believe or do.

3. **Correcting - What do you think this means?**

- Showing me how to correct my errors, putting me on the right path, to align me with truth.

4. **Training in righteousness - What does this mean?**

- Providing the "how to" live and stay on the right path.

**NOTE:** Inform your student to expect one or more of these to occur during this Bible study. Encourage them to not freak out but to allow God's word to do what it is intended it to.

**v. 17** -----

**? God made the Bible "useful for" these four things for a reason. What do you think He wants to happen as a result of our study?**

- To see your life changed

**MENTION:**

**2 Timothy 3:17** (NIV) "...so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

"Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us." **2 Timothy 3:17** (The Message Paraphrase)

**NOTE:** Dream! It's never too early to cast a vision of what God wants to do with your student. He wants to save them and He wants to set them apart, equipped to serve and save others. Salvation is only the beginning! He has great plans for their life!

**READ:**

**1 Timothy 4:16**-----

"Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

**? Which do you think Paul means when he says "watch your life"?** ("Keep a close watch on how you live." NLT)

? **Which do you think Paul means when he says “watch your doctrine”?** (...and on your teaching.” NLT)

? **Which do you think is more important: Life or doctrine?**

? **Which does the Apostle Paul seem to emphasize?**

**NOTE:** BOTH ARE ESSENTIAL! Watching your “life” (how you live) **and** “doctrine” (what you believe and teach) is essential if you want to be saved and want to save others.

- Let you student know that the rest of the study will look at two major concerns of God, Helping you know what is right and helping you do what is right.

**READ:**

**Mark 7:5-9, 13** -----

<sup>5</sup> The Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" <sup>6</sup> He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.<sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." <sup>9</sup> And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!

<sup>13</sup> Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

? **What happens if we allow tradition to supersede truth?**

- (Our worship to God becomes worthless)

? **How could this happen?**

? **What can be done to make sure it doesn't happen?**

**READ:**

**2 Peter 3:15-16** -----

<sup>15</sup> "Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. <sup>16</sup> He writes

the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction."

? **What does it mean to "distort" something?**

? **What does Peter say is the result of distorting the scriptures?**

**Note:** One can distort "hard" and easy passages ("...the other scriptures")!

**READ:**

**James 1:21-25** -----

<sup>21</sup> "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. <sup>22</sup> Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does."

**v.21** -----

? **What does being humble have to do with your studying the Bible and being saved?**

- Being humble allows me to **admit my faults** and admitting my faults allows me to **get help**.

? **Is just reading the word of God enough to insure that a person will be blessed?**

- The word of God can bless me if I will allow it to **penetrate and change** us. The next verse stresses this.

**v.22** -----

? **How could reading, listening or studying the Bible cause one to be deceived?**

- It can fool us into thinking that **knowing** what is right is as good

as **doing** what is right.

**vs. 23, 24** -----

**NOTE:** The imagery of “looking into a mirror and doing nothing” is perfect to stress the uselessness of hearing the word of God but doing nothing with it. Who would get out of bed, look in a mirror, see their less than impressive appearance and go to work without making changes. Make sure the student knows that information with out application is useless.

? **What’s the point of looking in a mirror?**

? **What’s the point of looking in the mirror of God’s word?**

- To see the areas that need addressing and to make the necessary changes

**v.25** -----

? **How can you make sure you get good stuff (blessed) from your time in the Word?**

- By studying seriously and by “doing what it says.”

**READ:**

**Matthew 7:24-27** -----

<sup>24</sup> “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

? **What things do the wise man and the foolish man share in common in this passage?**

? **What is different beside the outcome of their building?**

**NOTE:** The wise man does what God says while the fool “does not.” The



difference in salvation and destruction is trusting enough to obey. God gives me His word so that I can be protected and secure, both of which require me to do more than “just hear” or know the word.

**READ:**

**Hebrews 4:12-13** -----

“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

**v. 12** -----

**? What does the description “living and active” mean?**

- It is relevant to today’s life and problems.

**NOTE:** The Bible is not like an out of date medical or science book. Its message remains pertinent to today's problems. People tend to think of their problems as new and exceptional. In reality all “modern problems” are directly or indirectly dealt with in the Bible. The word of God has the answers for the person you are studying with. It can take care of their problems directing them to a great life and greater eternity!

**? This passage says that the word of God is sharp and cutting.**

**? How do you normally feel about being cut?**

**NOTE:** No one likes to be cut, but “purpose determines permission.” The following can illustrate this point to your student. If I were to pull out a hunting knife and ask, “Would you let me make a 9 inch, really deep cut in your chest?” you would (should) say “no way!” and then run. However your response would (should) be different if I were your trusted, skilled, and respected doctor and came to you in the hospital and asked, “Can I do surgery? I will need to make a 9 inch cut in your chest. Your arteries are blocked and you need a bypass. It will be a painful surgery but if we do it, you will live; if we don’t, you will die.” You still wouldn’t like it, but you would allow it. “Purpose determines Permission!” **God is interested in changing your inside not your outside. He is a cardiologist not a cosmetic surgeon, and all**

**cardiologists have to cut their patients.**

**? What will happen if you refuse to be open to God and refuse to allow His word to cut you?**

- God will not be able to help you because you refuse to let Him.
- Much like a person who refuses to have surgery. **I Die!**

**v.13** -----

**? The Bible pictures God as a judge. What standard do you think he will use to judge you?**

- The word of God - not feelings, mom or dad's opinion, or religious tradition.

**READ:**

**John 12:47-48** -----

<sup>47</sup> "If anyone hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge that person. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."

**NOTE:** During Jesus 33 years on earth his purpose was not to pronounce judgment but to offer salvation. There will be a time when each of us will be judged as saved or condemned. Jesus said the "word He spoke" would be the ultimate and final standard.

**? How can you make sure to avoid being condemned?**

- Accept God's word as your standard or how to live and what to believe.

**CLOSE - THE WORD STUDY: COMMITMENT AND CHALLENGE.**

**READ:**

**Acts 17:11** -----

<sup>11</sup> "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

**Commitment:** I commit to allow the word of God to be the only authority regarding how I will live and what I will believe.

**Challenge:** Be like the Bereans!

1. Eager to study.
2. Careful to check the accuracy of the message.
3. Quick to obey any newly discovered truth.





## STUDY #3 - SIN

### STUDY GOALS

- **To help your friend know what sin is** (Rom. 7:7, 1 John 3:4, Gal. 5:19-21, James 4:17).
- **To help show what their sin does to them (to anyone). Conviction and urgency are created by identifying, personalizing and showing the negative effects of sin/sinfulness** (Rom. 7:8-25, Gen. 2:17, Isa. 59:1, 2, Rom. 3:23).

**NOTE:** Explain that today's study will use Romans 7 as a foundation. It's the jumping off point for the entire sin study. To ease transition to and from Romans you can have your student use a book mark.

### READ:

**Romans 7:7-25**-----

***v. 7 - I would not have known what sin was except through the law.***

**? How can one determine if something is right or wrong?**

- In this verse Paul says that the only way he could do so was by looking at God's word, the Bible. He also says that this also true for you and I.

**? How would you define the word/term sin?**

### MENTION:

**1 John 3:4** "Everyone who sins breaks God's law, because sin is the same as breaking God's law."

**? How does the Apostle John define sin in this passage?**

- John says that sin is the breaking any of God's laws. It doesn't matter what I think or feel, God's word is the ultimate and final identifier.

**NOTE:** Explain that you will now look at a couple of passages that list

specific sins. Sin generally falls into one of two categories: Doing wrong things or not doing right things. Remember the purpose of this segment is to help them realize what sin is and that they are guilty of sin (i.e. a sinner).

**READ:**

**Galatians 5:19-21** -----

<sup>19</sup> "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

**NOTE:** The student must see that he/she is a sinner if this study is to be successful. Make it clear that in God's eyes no one sin is bigger than another. **Sin is sin!** Accomplishing this will require you to go through Paul's list of sins, (you may want to use Mark 7:20-23 also) explaining each one (see [appendix](#) at end of this segment) and asking the student about specific struggles or involvement. This is awkward but necessary. Being open with your sin struggles can make it easier for your student to be open with theirs. Be open remembering that student and teacher are included in the "all" of Romans 3:23 as you ask the following questions.

? **(For each) Do you know what \_\_\_\_\_ is?**

? **(For each) Have you struggled with \_\_\_\_\_?**

? **Are any of these a surprise or shock to you? Which**

? **What do you think God was trying to prove by placing "orgy" next to "getting drunk" or placing "being a witch" in the same sentence as "hating someone"?**

- God wants us to know that **sin is sin**. It is never "my sin is bigger or littler than your sin," it is always "my sin is the same as your sin."
- God wants us to see that all sin is **destructive**. "Big sin" and "little sin," have the same effect if not dealt with.

**NOTE:** After carefully walking your student through Gal. 5 you are ready to proceed to "sin category 2" the **right things we don't do**. (Omit rather than commit)

**READ:**

**James 4:17** -----

<sup>17</sup> "If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

**? Have you ever known the "right thing to do" but for what ever reason not done it?**

- If so, you have sinned... and welcome to the club, you are a sinner!

**BOTTOM LINE:**

**MENTION:**

**Romans 3:23** "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

**ILLUSTRATE:** In the first part of the study we have tried to show what sin IS. The purpose of the next segment is to show what sin DOES to the sinner if it is not dealt with. It is helpful to illustrate the effects of sin with a drawing like the following one. Start by re-creating the illustration below. As you identify (from Romans 7) what sin does (each effect) your list should look similar to the completed one below it.

<b>YOUR FRIENDS NAME</b>		<b>GOD</b>
_____	<b>S I N</b>	_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____

<b>YOUR FRIEND'S NAME</b>		<b>GOD</b>
<b><u>DECEIVED</u></b>	<b>S I N</b>	<b><u>ENLIGHTENED</u></b>
<b><u>DEAD</u></b>		<b><u>ALIVE</u></b>
<b><u>ENSLAVED</u></b>		<b><u>FREED</u></b>
<b><u>HOPELESS</u></b>		<b><u>HOPEFUL</u></b>
<b><u>LOST</u></b>		<b><u>SAVED</u></b>
_____		_____

**NOTE:** Leave your bookmark in Romans 7 - you will look at a couple of others passages but mostly will remain in Romans 7.

**READ:**

**Romans 7:11a** ----- *Sin...DECEIVED me.* -----

**Sin is dangerously deceptive.**

**Note:** Explain that sin is so deceptive that it can destroy ones life before it is ever identified as evil. Adam and Eve sinned because they were deceived by Satan. He was and is a master deceiver and now he wants to deceive you!

**READ:**

**Romans 7:11b** ----- *SIN...PUT ME TO DEATH.*-----

SIN CAUSES THE SINNER TO DIE.

? **What does the author mean when he said, "I died"?**

? **How would you define die or death?**

- In Bible language these word mean, "**to separate**" (Our language too, "That relationship is dead.")

**NOTE:** Let your student know that the Bible consistently stresses that sin kills, separates man from God. This concept is found in the beginning of the Bible (Genesis), the middle of the Bible (Isaiah), and toward the end of the Bible (Romans). The following passages reinforce this. Cover each passage stressing that when one is separated from God they are separated from the blessings of God. God deeply longs to bless your student but their sin will obstruct His ability to bless.

**READ:**

**Genesis 2:16-17** -----

"The LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

**? Did Adam or Eve die physically when they ate the fruit?**

- The word translated death in the Bible means “a separation.”

**? In what way did sin “kill” Adam and Eve?**

- They were **separated** from God and separated from His blessings when they were forced out of the garden.

**READ:**

**Isaiah 59:1-2** -----

<sup>1</sup> “Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”

**? These people thought that God was too old or too weak to save them. What was the real reason God was not helping them?**

- Their “iniquities” (sin) had **separated** them from God. Their **sin** had made God turn away refusing to listen to or assist them.

**READ:**

**Romans 6:23** -----

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**? What are wages?**

- The pay one receives for what one does.

**? What wage is God going to pay you and me for our sin if it is not taken care of?**

**NOTE:** In Romans 7 Paul is painting a picture of sins destructive nature. In the next verse (13) Paul blurts out the reality that we are trying to convey in this the sin study. Incredible things will happen if you can help your student grasp and personalize Paul’s (and Christ’s) attitude toward sin.

**READ:**

**Romans 7:13b**----“so that... **SIN MIGHT BECOME UTTERLY SINFUL.**”



The New Century Version says it this way: "... This happened so that I could see what sin is really like; the command was used to show that **sin is very evil.**"

**? Do you think most people believe that "sin" is totally evil?**

**NOTE:** Paul, in Romans 7, mentions several damaging consequences of sin. His purpose in doing this is to help people see how bad sin really is. People, often take "sin" very lightly. You must help your student grasp the destructive dangerous nature of sin. The next scripture calls on Jesus' graphic imagery to help accomplish this.

**READ:**

**Matthew 5:29-30**-----

<sup>29</sup> "If your right eye causes you to sin, take it out and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body than to have your whole body thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell."

**? Is this verse to be taken literally, that is do you think Jesus wants a bunch of one-eyed one-handed followers?**

- Of course not! The problem with lust and stealing is a heart / mind problem, not an eye/hand problem. Any person can lust with one eye!

**? What point is Jesus trying to make?**

- Sin must be viewed as very serious! Remember it is extremely deceptive and destructive!!!
- If we don't adopt the Jesus' view of sin it will deceive us and separate us from God and his blessings!

**READ:**

**Romans 7:14** ----- "*I am... sold as a SLAVE TO SIN*"-----

SIN ENSLAVES

**? What do you think Paul mean when he describes**

## himself as "a slave to sin"?

- In the beginning we choose our desires and habits, but in the end we are controlled\_by our desires and habits.

### MENTION:

**Proverbs 5:22** "The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast."

### READ:

**Romans 6:16** -----

<sup>16</sup> "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness."

**NOTE:** Paul is saying that we cannot choose if we have a master, only which master. By choosing our master we choose our fate.

### READ:

**Romans 7:24** ----- "*What a wretched man I am!*"-----

SIN DESTROYS HOPE

### READ:

**Romans 7:24b-25** -----

<sup>24b</sup> "...**who** will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

## **JESUS CHRIST**

- Paul asked **who** will save me ... NOT **what**
- Paul understood that the solution to his and our sin problem involves a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- He also understood that he had to make a choice.

**NOTE: This is a good time to refer to the illustration/drawing. Remind your student that Jesus came to take care of his or her sin problem. Let them know that more than anyone Jesus knows how destructive sin is and he longs to protect you from it.**

**NEXT: The sin study is discouraging and alarming! Let your friend know that the next study (The Cross) will deal with what Jesus did to establish the relationship that can rescue us from the death sentence of sin.**



## Galatians 5:19-21 Sin List With Greek Definitions

**NOTE:** The New Testament we read was originally written in Greek. It is often helpful to look at the definitions of the original words used in order to attain the best understanding of what the biblical writers intended to say.

***"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious ...***

1. **Sexual Immorality (GREEK: *porneia*)** – sex outside of heterosexual marriage; any type of sexual relations with anyone other than your spouse in your heterosexual marriage.
2. **Impurity (GREEK: *akartharsia*)** – a state of moral corruption; immorality, especially in terms of sexual sins; sex outside of marriage, porn, cybersex.
3. **Debauchery (GREEK: *aselgeia*)** – lack of self-constraint which involves one in conduct that violates all bounds of what is socially acceptable; lack of self-control, especially with regard to sexual sin.
4. **Idolatry (GREEK: *eidololatria*)** – worshippers of other gods, other religions; things in your life more important to you than God; putting things of this world in front of God's will for your life; putting your own wants and desires in front of God's wants and desires for you.
5. **Witchcraft (GREEK: *pharmakeia*)** – ancient witchcraft where drugs were involved; magic potions; illegal or recreational drug use (weed, cocaine, meth, pills, etc.)
6. **Hatred (GREEK: *echthra*)** – enmity (hatred) towards God and other people.
7. **Discord (GREEK: *eris*)** – Engagement in rivalry, strife, discord; constantly being a jerk to other people; causing problems everywhere you go in life because of your bad attitude.
8. **Jealousy (GREEK: *zelos*)** – intense negative feelings over another's achievements or success; envy; covetousness; being discontent with what you have and constantly wanting more.
9. **Fits of Rage (GREEK: *thymos*)** – outburst of anger; losing your temper; being abusive; abusive to children, spouse, etc.
10. **Selfish Ambition (GREEK: *eritheia*)** – selfishness; self-centeredness; making yourself god by putting self in the place of God (a form of idolatry).
11. **Dissensions (GREEK: *dichostasia*)** – quarrelsome; quick to fight; a cause of division; a constant troublemaker.
12. **Factions (GREEK: *hairesis*)** – literally, a faction is a group that holds tenets distinctive to it (sect, party, school, faction). This word is not always used in a negative sense in the Bible as it is in Galatians 5:20. Being in a faction becomes sinful when **1)** the group is more important to you than Jesus, **2)** when the group's agenda is contrary to Jesus', or **3)** when the group is a heretical sect spreading a false gospel.
13. **Envy (GREEK: *phthonos*)** – Basically the same as *jealousy*. See above.
14. **Drunkenness (GREEK: *methe*)** – recreational intoxication; getting drunk.
15. **Orgies (GREEK: *komos*)** – drunken revelry; a sexual encounter with many people.

***... and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."***



## STUDY #4 - THE CROSS

### STUDY GOALS

- **To help your friend know what their sin did to Christ and what Christ did to take care of their sin** (Isaiah 53, 2 Corinthians 5:21).  
**Note:** Showing them how much Christ loves them is the first step to their loving and obeying God (see 1 Jn. 4:10, Jn.14:15, 2 Cor. 5:14). Remember to tell them what Jesus has done for them before you tell them what they need to do for Jesus.
- **To influence the student to follow Christ as they come to realize the depth of God's love for them** (2 Corinthians 5:14, John 14:15).

### STUDY PREP

In this study your focus will be on what our sin did to Jesus and what he did to rescue us from sin's destructive consequences. The study simply reveals Christ's love by looking at the price Christ paid for our sin. Explain to your student that Isaiah 53 is a foundation of the cross study like Romans 7 was for the "sin" segment.

In the next study, Discipleship, you will call your student to make a radical, life changing commitment. The difficult decision to follow Christ requires a strong *compelling* motivation. Christ's love for the student is that compelling motivation (see 2 Corinthians 5:14). **Before you tell the student what they need to do for Jesus (discipleship) make sure that you have clearly told them what Jesus did for them.**

Also be aware that the nature of this segment will require you to do more of the talking. During "The Cross" study you will read all of Isaiah 53 two times. In the first reading you will explain the passage in a general way (what it meant to the eunuch of Acts 8 and the Jews). The second reading is all about personal application. The intent is to make the student feel both guilt and gratitude; guilt for causing Christ's death and gratitude for the incredible and personal love of God.

In the second reading it is especially vital that you read slowly and clearly.

Isaiah 53 allows you to “preach Christ and Him crucified,” (1 Corinthians 1:23, 2:2) in a very personalized way. To communicate Christ’s love effectively it is essential that you connect with the emotion of the passage. **The key to this connection is a personal understanding of Christ’s love for you and your student.** In the days before the study take the time to study, meditate and pray about the passages in this segment of the study. Do not begin the study until you have reflected on the passages in a personal manner!

Remember to explain the context of this passage before you begin to read it. Isaiah’s prophecy about Jesus was written approximately 600 years before his birth. Isaiah 53 shows that the cross was not an accident, but a part of God’s plan.

You can also remind the student that this is the same scripture that the Ethiopian eunuch was reading when he encountered Philip and subsequently became a follower of Christ. The conversion of the Eunuch clearly demonstrates that the truths contained in Isaiah 53 have the power to propel the God-seeker through every obstacle or excuse they face in becoming a Christ follower. Know the passage well!

## **READ:**

### **Isaiah 53** -----

#### **vv. 1-3 -- Points to make:**

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

- Before Jesus came, He knew that many of the people would not even believe what he had to say.

<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

- God the father was watching Jesus, but Jesus was in a vulnerable position.
- Jesus came into the world as an ordinary, even unattractive person not a superstar.
- Jesus can relate to people who feel “down and out.”

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- Jesus knew that the people (you and I) would reject him and even be ashamed of him.
- I have at times been ashamed of Jesus (give personal examples). Have you?
- Could the Ethiopian Eunuch relate to Jesus feelings of rejection? Yes! And Jesus could understand how the eunuch felt!

**vv. 4-6 -- Points to make:**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

- Even though Jesus realized how people would treat him, He still came to save them.
- The Jewish people thought that Jesus was cursed by God (see Deuteronomy 21:23) and that he was getting what he deserved for his crimes.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

- Jesus was not receiving the punishment for His sin, he was receiving punishment for our mankind's sin.

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- Even while Jesus was loving like that they (we) didn't care!
- And Jesus still willingly paid the price... for their (our) sin.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

- Lambs were not slaughtered because they are guilty they are slaughtered because of someone else's guilt. In the OT they were

sacrificed for the sins on people (Ex. 12:21)

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

- Jesus would never have any children ( physically – The eunuch of Acts 8 could relate to this pain)

<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

- This specific prophecy was fulfilled and is verifiable. A reason to believe that the Bible is not just another book.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

**NOTE:** At this point it can be beneficial to look at the N.T. fulfillment of this passage; the crucifixion. Ask your student to leave a bookmark at Isaiah 53 and turn to Matthew 27.

### **READ (use a Bible):**

**Matthew 27:22-50** -----

The New Testament reveals that Jesus experienced *physical, emotional, and spiritual* pain for those he would redeem. Communicating this can allow "*the love of Christ to compel*" them.

#### ➤ **Physical Pain:**

- v.26 "...But he had Jesus flogged.." Jesus was flogged 39 lashes with a 'flagrum'- A leather whip with bone chips, rock and iron woven into it. Many died during this process.
- v.29 "...twisted a crown of thorns and set in on his head."
- v. 35 "When they had Crucified him..." Jesus was nailed at a pressure point in the wrist (considered part of the hand)

#### ➤ **Emotional Pain:**

- v. 22-23 "Crucify him!"... He was rejected.
- v.29 "...and mocked him. Hail, king of the Jews!"
- v.30-31 "They spit on him, took the staff and struck him."



- v.39-44 "... hurled their insults at him..."
- v.50 "with a loud voice he dies..."

➤ **Spiritual Pain:**

- v.46 "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"
  - It was God's will that Jesus be "**crushed.**"
  - God's just nature demands that sin be paid for. Jesus death was the price for our "**guilt!**"

**READ:**

[Medical Account of the Crucifixion](#) attached to the end of this document.

**READ:**

**Isaiah 53:11-12** -----

<sup>11</sup> After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

- Something would occur after Jesus death that would make it all worth it, something would "satisfy" him.
- People choosing to embrace him and accept his forgiveness would make his death meaningful and satisfying.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Second Reading:**

**Isaiah 53** -----

**NOTE:** To make the passage personal read the text substituting Jesus in place of "He" and the persons name in place of "we," "man," "our," and "us."

"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

<sup>2</sup> Jesus grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. Jesus had no beauty or majesty to attract \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus, nothing in Jesus appearance that \_\_\_\_\_ should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> Jesus was despised and rejected by \_\_\_\_\_, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom \_\_\_\_\_ hide their faces he was despised, and \_\_\_\_\_ esteemed him not.”

- This prophecy has been fulfilled with many people, even Christians being ashamed or embarrassed about Christ and his teachings.

<sup>4</sup> Surely Jesus took up \_\_\_\_\_ infirmities and carried \_\_\_\_\_ sorrows, yet \_\_\_\_\_ considered Jesus stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But Jesus was pierced for \_\_\_\_\_ transgressions, Jesus was crushed for \_\_\_\_\_ iniquities; the punishment that brought \_\_\_\_\_ peace was upon him, and by Jesus wounds \_\_\_\_\_ is (can be) healed. \_\_\_\_\_, like sheep, have gone astray, \_\_\_\_\_ of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Jesus the iniquity of \_\_\_\_\_.”

- Let your student know that Jesus knew that he/she might not accept Jesus because they want to do their own thing. But he loves them so much that he died to give them a chance.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; Jesus was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so Jesus did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment Jesus was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of \_\_\_\_\_ he was stricken.

<sup>9</sup> Jesus was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush Jesus and cause Jesus to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, Jesus will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in Jesus hand.

<sup>11</sup> After the suffering of his soul, Jesus will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify \_\_\_\_\_, and he will bear \_\_\_\_\_ iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give Jesus a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because Jesus poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For Jesus bore the sin of \_\_\_\_\_, and made intercession for the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **CLOSING QUESTIONS:**

**? Isaiah (v.10) states that it was "Gods will" for Jesus to suffer. Why would he want that?**

- Because God *loves you and wants a relationship with you.*

### **MENTION:**

**2 Corinthians 5:21** "God made him no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might be the righteousness of God."

- God gave Jesus and Jesus sacrificed himself so that we could have a relationship!

**? Verse 11 (of Isaiah 53) implies that your response**

**can give Christ a sense of satisfaction in his suffering on the cross. How do you think you can do that?**

- Jesus will be satisfied if you commit your life to following Him (like the Ethiopian).
- You can also make it "all for nothing" as far as you are concerned by rejecting Jesus.)

**Commitment:** Will you, in gratitude, commit to taking a radical approach to dealing with sin in your life.

**Challenge:** Be open and honest with your personal sin struggles. Openness allows God to forgive you and disciples to help you.



# Medical Account of the Crucifixion

Truman Davis, M.D., M.S.

Reprinted with Permission from *Arizona Medicine*, March 1965

The physical trauma of Christ begins in Gethsemane with one of the initial aspects of His suffering the bloody sweat. It is interesting that the physician of the group, Luke, is the only one to mention this. Luke's biblical account tells of Jesus suffering: *"And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."*

Though very rare, the phenomenon of hematidrosis (*he-ma-ti-dro-sis*), or bloody sweat, is all documented. Under great emotional stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, thus mixing blood with sweat. This process alone could have produced marked weakness and possible shock.

After the arrest in the middle of the night, Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the High Priest. One of the soldiers struck Jesus across the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas. The palace guards taunted Jesus to identify them as they each passed by, spat on Him, and struck Him in the face.

In the early morning, Jesus, battered and bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted from a sleepless night, is taken across Jerusalem to the Praetorium of the Fortress Antonia. It was there, in response to the cries of the mob, that Pilate ordered Barabbas released and condemned Jesus to scourging and crucifixion.

Preparations for the scourging are carried out. Jesus is stripped of His clothing and His hands tied to a post above His head. The Roman legionnaire steps forward with the flagrum in his hand. This is a short whip consisting of several heavy, leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each. The heavy whip is brought down with full force across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs thirty-nine times.

At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper and deeper into the subcutaneous (sub-cu-taneous) tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles. The small balls of lead first produce large, deep bruises, which are broken open by subsequent blows.

Finally, the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped.

The half-fainting Jesus is then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with His own blood. The Roman soldiers see a great joke in the provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They throw a robe across His shoulders and place a stick in His hand for a scepter. A small bundle of flexible branches covered with long thorns is pressed into the scalp of Jesus.

Again there is copious bleeding (the scalp being one of the most vascular areas of the body). After mocking Him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from His hand and strike Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into His scalp. Finally, the soldier's tire of their sadistic sport and the robe is torn from His back. This has already become adherent in the clots of blood and serum in the wounds, and its removal just as the careless removal of surgical bandages, causes excruciating pain- almost as though He were again being whipped, and the wounds again begin to bleed.

Jesus is then led off to be crucified. The heavy beams of the cross are then tied to His shoulders, and the procession of the condemned Christ, two thieves and the execution detail, begins its slow journey. The weight of the heavy wooden beam, together with the shock produced by copious blood loss, is too much. Jesus stumbles and lacerates the skin and muscles of His shoulders. Jesus tries to rise, but His human muscles have been pushed beyond their endurance.

At Golgotha, the beam is placed on the ground and Jesus is quickly thrown backward with His shoulders pressed against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He then drives a heavy, wrought iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flexion and movement. The beam is then lifted in place at the top of the posts and the title reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" is nailed in place.

The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each. As Jesus pushes Himself upward to avoid the stretching torment, He places His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again there is the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the metatarsal (me-ta-tar-sal) bones of the feet.

As the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles, knotting them in a deep relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by the arms the pectoral muscles are paralyzed and the intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but not exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order get one short breath.

Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, Jesus is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in the life-giving oxygen. Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain, as tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the rough timber. Then another agony begins. A deep crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium (par-a-car-di-um) slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart. The compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues - the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp small gulps of air. The markedly dehydrated tissues send their flood of stimuli to the brain. Jesus gasps, *"I thirst."*

Jesus can feel the chill of death creeping through His tissues. With one last surge of strength, He once again presses His torn feet against the nail, He straightens His legs, takes a deeper breath, and utters His seventh and last cry, *"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."*

Apparently to make double sure of death, the legionnaire drove his spear through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. Immediately there came out blood and water. We, therefore, have rather conclusive postmortem evidence that Jesus died, not the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to the shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.

Thus we have a glimpse of the manifestation of evil which man can exhibit toward man and toward God. This medical description of what Jesus endured on the cross is apt to leave you hopeless and depressed. How grateful you can be that, *"He Did This Just For You"* showing you a glimpse into what God did to win your heart.





## STUDY #5 - DISCIPLESHIP

### Study Goals

- **To help the student know what a disciple is** (Acts 11:26, Luke 6:40).
- **To help the student understand what a disciple does** (John 12:47-50, John 13:34, 35, John 15:1-9).
- **To show them how the first Christians modeled these traits** (Acts 2:38-47).
- **To help the student grasp the depth and seriousness of the commitment that Christ calls the disciple to** (Luke 14).

### ? Give your understanding of following words...

- Christian?
- Disciple?
- Saved?

**NOTE:** The concept that most people (not all) have is that: A Christian is someone who is a member of the Christian religion (as opposed to Muslim, Hindu, or other religions) A disciple is simply a more committed, "practicing" Christian. A saved person is anyone who believes in God and lives a good life. After your student gives their definition of each word let the student know that these terms were all used to describe the same people in the N.T. If any person claims to be one of the above, they are claiming to be all of the above.

### READ:

**Acts 11:25-26** -----

<sup>25</sup> "Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup> and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

? **How could this verse change ones perception of what it means to be a Christian or saved?**



**NOTE:** In this verse we see that “disciple” and “Christian” are used interchangeably to describe the same person/people. Explain that disciple/Christian/saved are all descriptions of followers of Christ. When we study about the expectations or characteristics of a disciple we are studying the expectations or characteristics of a Christian, or a saved person regardless of which of the nouns are used. Explain that in this study we will be looking at Jesus' expectation for someone who claims to be saved/Christian/disciple. We will look at Jesus' favorite word when it came to describing his followers. That word is disciple.

**? How many times do you think the bible calls followers of Christ, Christians?**

- Only 3 times.

**? How many times do you think the bible calls followers of Christ, Disciples?**

- Over 120 times! If you include variations of the word, close to 270 times!

## **WHAT A DISCIPLE IS:**

**? Do you know what the definition of “disciple” is?**

- A **student** or **learner** who is endeavoring to be like the teacher.
- A non-religious word (used by most of the trade unions) that clearly conveys the meaning is **apprentice**.

**NOTE:** The word disciple was not originally a religious word. In Greek culture all great teachers (Socrates, Plato, etc.) had “*students trying to become like them.*” It is the specific word that Jesus chose to help us clearly understand our relationship to him.

### **READ:**

**Luke 6:40** -----

<sup>40</sup> “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

**NOTE:** The word Luke uses for student (GREEK: *mathetes*) is the same word that is used in each passage we will study (John 8:31, 13:35, 15:8, Luke 14:26). It is normally translated *disciple* even though it's translated *student* in Luke 6:40. The point is that it's the same word with the same meaning in all the passages we will look at. A disciple of Jesus is "a student or learner committed to becoming like Jesus."

**? Do you consider yourself a student of Jesus? Why or why not?**

**? What happens when you are a good student in a school?**

- Learn, become productive, enhance your future.

**? What happens when you are a good student of Jesus?**

- Learn, become productive, and become like Jesus.

**? What are some things that a good teacher does to help his/her student grow and develop?**

- Encourages, corrects, models...

**? How does this apply to your being a student of Christ?**

**NOTE:** Jesus will encourage and correct me through his word and through other people. The student must anticipate Christ's correction as a part of the learning process. It is a natural part of being a student in any area of life. Correction is designed to help your (and you) student fulfill their goal of becoming more like the teacher. It is not punishment.

## **Three Characteristics of a Disciple**

**NOTE:** Jesus revealed 3 specific marks/traits of His disciples. He clearly stated that anyone claiming to be His disciple should possess these traits. These aren't the only marks/proof of a disciple but they are the most prominent and easily identifiable marks. They are the major "marks of the Master" that a real Christ-imitator cannot ignore or minimize.

*Explain the traits are not those of "old" disciples or "mature" disciples,*

*but of any disciple. These characteristics should become more clearly visible with age and growth, but they should be present in a brand new disciple too. This idea will be supported as you look at the "baby disciples" in Acts 2. They'd only just committed to follow Christ, yet all the traits were present.*

*The next verse we'll look at reveals the first trait that God is calls us to have.*

## TRAIT 1

### READ:

**John 8:31** -----

<sup>31</sup> "If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

**? In this verse Jesus identifies what as mark of a disciple of His?**

- Trait #1 - Disciples "hold" to Jesus' teaching.

**? What does it mean to "hold to His teaching?"**

- To **study** and keep **obeying** his teachings.

**? What do the following verses have to do with this trait and your becoming a disciple?**

**NOTE:** During the discipleship study Acts 2 will be used to show that the first century followers displayed the 3 major traits of a disciple of Christ. Reiterate that these people were "baby Christians" yet devotion to God's word was already one of their identifying traits. Devotion to God's word was and is a part of the disciples basic DNA.

### READ:

**Acts 2:42** -----

<sup>42</sup> **"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."**

- Notice that these brand-new Christians were devoted to the apostles' teaching. The apostles were simply passing on the teachings of Christ (keep your bookmark here as Acts 2:42-47 will be used to illustrate each trait).

## TRAIT 2

### READ:

**John 13:34-35** -----

<sup>34</sup> "And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

### ? What does this verse say is a proof that one is a student of Jesus

- Trait #2 – Disciples "love one another"

**NOTE:** Jesus clearly implied that the love we have for one another would be something that others could see. This love is more than a feeling, it is an action. An old Christian rap song says "*Love is a Verb*", and it's right!

### ? When you love someone how does it show up?

- If I love the other disciples (church) I will...
  1. Spend time with them
  2. Sacrifice for them
  3. Try to help them when they are in trouble
  4. Encourage them
  5. Correct them if needed
  6. Listen to them

**NOTE:** Explain that before moving to the next trait of a disciple, you are going to look at a couple of verses to make the "*love one another*" point as specific and applicable as possible.

### READ:

**Hebrews 10:24-25** -----

<sup>24</sup> "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**? What do you think this verse has to do with the “loving one another” trait of a disciple?**

- As a disciple, **being part of church & church activities** is a priority. It's where you can spur others on to Christ-likeness and be spurred on yourself.

**READ:**

**1 John 3:16-17** -----

<sup>16</sup> "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"

**? What does this verse say about the kind of love disciples have?**

- Love involves **sacrifice**. Disciples willing to sacrifice to help the other followers of Christ.

**NOTE: Remember/reinforce Acts 2 connection.** From the moment of the disciples birth a disciple is to actively love other disciples.

**READ:**

**Acts 2:44-47** -----

<sup>44</sup> "All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together..."

**? From this verse what evidence do you see of this kind of love in these first century baby followers?**

## TRAIT 3

**READ:**

**John 15:1-6, 8** -----

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I

have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned...

<sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. This is to my Father's glory, that you **bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**"

**? What trait of a real student of Christ does this verse reveal?**

- Trait #3 – Disciples "bear much fruit".

**? What do you think Jesus meant by "bearing fruit?"**

**NOTE:** Most people you study with will have no idea what Jesus meant. Explain that there are two types of "fruit" mentioned in scripture.

## ***FRUIT #1 - The Fruit of the Spirit***

**READ:**

**Galatians 5:22-23** -----

<sup>22</sup> "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

**? What would it mean for you to bear this type of fruit?**

- Disciples will have change in their **lives & attitudes.**

## ***FRUIT #2 - The Fruit of Other Disciples***

**READ:**

**Philippians 1:22-25** -----

<sup>22</sup> "If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more

necessary for you that I remain in the body. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith..."

**? What would it mean for you to bear this type of fruit?**

- It would mean **producing other Christians and helping them mature.**

**NOTE:** Explain that like apples reproduce apples, peaches... peaches, grapes... grapes, and **Christians produce Christians.**

**? What do the following verses have to do with being a follower of Christ and bearing fruit?**

**READ:**

**Mark 1:16-18** -----

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

- One of the reasons Jesus calls me to follow him is that he **wants** me to learn to "**catch**" **people.**

**READ:**

**Matt 28:18-20** -----

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Not only does Jesus want me to make disciples, he **commands me** to make disciples.

**READ:**

**Luke 19:10** -----

<sup>10</sup> "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

- Being a disciple means becoming like Jesus. **Being like Jesus**

**means adopting Jesus purpose of “seeking and saving”.**

Claiming to be a disciple of Jesus while ignoring, excusing or minimizing the necessity of this trait is like professing to look like Fat Albert when one is skinny and white. It just can't be!

**NOTE:** Remember/reinforce the Acts 2 connection. From the moment of the disciple were saved they were reaching out to save.

**READ:**

**Acts 2:46-47** -----

<sup>46</sup> “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts... in their homes...<sup>47</sup>... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

**NOTE:** Once again we see the traits of a disciple in the first century baby Christians. The sharing of ones faith begins as soon as one makes a commitment to be a follower, a student of Christ. Again it is a part of the disciples spiritual DNA. Remove it and one ceases to be a “*student endeavoring to become lie the teacher.*”

## **THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT JESUS EXPECTS FROM DISCIPLES**

**READ:**

**Luke 14:25-33** -----

<sup>25</sup> “Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup> “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”



? **What do you think Jesus is trying to say in verses 25 and 26?**

- That He has to be **first** above everything else.

? **Of Jesus list which "challenger to the throne" could most threaten Jesus position of control in your life?**

? **What do you think Jesus meant when he said you will have to carry your cross to be a disciple?**

- Jesus meant that it will be hard to be a Christian sometimes. Discipleship is not always a 100 level subject. However you (we) must **"deny yourself"** and keep learning and following and becoming even when its difficult.

? **What did Jesus want you to understand from the "building" and "king" stories?**

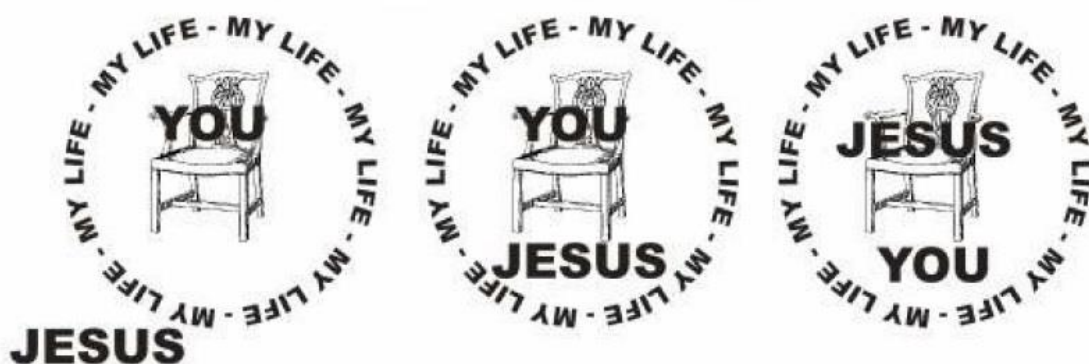
- Jesus wants me to be **serious** about becoming his follower.
- He wants his followers to be committed enough **finish** not just start.

**ILLUSTRATE:**

#1

#2

#3



Draw the above circles on a piece of paper and ask:

- ? Which of these best represents the commitment level a true disciple/Christian/saved person is to have - #1, #2, or #3?
- ? Which circle best represents your current commitment level?
- ? What do you need to do?

**CLOSE: DISCIPLESHIP: COMMITMENT & CHALLENGE**

**COMMITMENT** – “Will you commit to making following and becoming like Jesus your #1 priority?”

**CHALLENGE** – Start loving the other disciples by deepening your relationship with them and by consistently attending all the church activities for your age group.





# STUDY #6 - REPENTANCE & BAPTISM

## Study Goals:

- **To convey what repentance is and that it is a prerequisite to salvation/baptism** (Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30, 31).
- **To clarify that repentance involves being sorry, but it is much more than just being sorry** (2 Corinthians 7:8-11, Acts 26:19, 20)
- **To show that the "wall of sin" is removed (sins are forgiven) by God as we put our faith in Him at baptism** (Acts 2:38-42, Acts 22:16).
- **To lead to the surrendering of life to Christ in baptism. It makes no sense to "bury" someone who is not going to "crucify" self** (Romans 6:1-6).
- **To emphasize that new birth must result in living a "new life"** (Romans 6:6-12).

## REPENTANCE – What is it?

### ? What do think of when you hear the word "repent?"

**NOTE:** After asking this initial question let your student know that this study will be devoted to explain what repentance is. "Repent" has become a "christianese" word that is rarely used in every day conversations. Your role in this study is to explain repentance in a practical, biblical way and to expose common misunderstandings about repentance. Biblical repentance is **a change of mind/heart that leads to a change of behavior.** Begin by reading the following passage together. The NCV is included for the your benefit, to help you in explaining the background and meaning of the passage. *It can be helpful to read the NCV out loud to help clearly define the concept for your student.*

### READ:

**Luke 13:1-5**-----

(NCV) <sup>1</sup> At that time some people were there who told Jesus that Pilate had

killed some people from Galilee while they were worshipping. He mixed their blood with the blood of the animals they were sacrificing to God.<sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think this happened to them because they were more sinful than all others from Galilee?"<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you. But unless you change your hearts and lives, you will be destroyed as they were!<sup>4</sup> What about those eighteen people who died when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think they were more sinful than all the others who live in Jerusalem?"<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you. But unless you change your hearts and lives, you will all be destroyed too!"

**? Does Jesus seem to view repentance as optional or essential?**

**NOTE:** Explain that Jesus was speaking to "good" people who thought that bad things were happening to others due to their sinfulness. Jesus is trying to make these "good" people realize that a disastrous fate awaits them and anyone who is unwilling to have a change of mind that leads them to a change of action. The choice that God gives each of us is simple: Repent or die.

**? Why do you think Jesus would say the same thing twice?**

- It is very important that you and I understand the significance of repentance.
- The choice is obvious and serious; "repent" or "perish".
- One can't be saved without repentance! No exceptions!

**NOTE:** The following passage is good to read to clarify the essentials of repentance before moving on in the study. The message is simple; Repent of...or risk God's judgment!

**READ:**

**Acts 17:30-31** -----

<sup>30</sup> "In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice..."

**? What fate awaits the person who refuses to repent?**

- They will face God's judgment.
- One can't afford to be "ignorant" about repentance

## REPENTANCE – HOW IT SHOWS UP IN LIFE

**NOTE:** Make sure you explain the background of the next passage. Let your friend know that the Apostle Paul had at one time hated Christ and persecuted Christians. However Paul had a radical change of heart and mind that led to a radical change of his behavior. Explain that in this passage Paul is sharing his new found faith by telling King Agrippa the story of how he became a disciple and what God called him to do.

### READ:

**Acts 26:12-20** -----

<sup>12</sup>“On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup>About noon, King Agrippa, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup>We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

<sup>15</sup>“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. <sup>16</sup>‘Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. <sup>17</sup>I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

<sup>19</sup>“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. <sup>20</sup>First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

### ? What assignment was given to Paul?

“I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God...”

### ? In verse 20 Paul tells that he accomplished his task through preaching? What was his message to the people?

“I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their

repentance by their deeds.”

**? What would happen if the people Paul preached to, respond correctly to his message?**

“...that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

- Simply stated they would **be saved** .

**NOTE:** This is a good time to mention that repentance is simply an act of faith. If Paul’s audience truly believed his message, repentance would be a natural outcome. Repentance is simply a manifestation of life changing faith.

**? What does Paul’s message to Agrippa say to you?**

- If you are to receive the “forgiveness of sins,” you must commit to changing your life's direction. You must repent.

**NOTE:** The next passage is designed to make it completely clear that repentance requires life change. Being “sorry” is not enough. Once again it is essential that you explain the background of this passage. Explain that the Corinthian church had a member who was committing incest by having sex with his mom/step-mom. Originally the church did nothing, thinking that they were being gracious, accepting and non-judgmental. God, through Paul sent the church a letter telling them to confront the man’s sin. Paul’s God-inspired hard-hitting letter to the church hurt their feelings but saved their souls. He told them that by doing nothing about the man’s sin they were aiding Satan, dooming the sinner, and endangering their own souls (see I Corinthians 5 for specifics). Paul simply and plainly called the people to repent, to be sorry enough to change. The church responded, and in doing so left us with some valuable lessons about repentance.

**READ:**

**2 Corinthians 7: 8-11** -----

<sup>8</sup> “Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while— <sup>9</sup> yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. <sup>10</sup> **Godly sorrow** brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but **worldly sorrow** brings death. <sup>11</sup> See

what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.”

**? Why was Paul sorry, then happy about making the Corinthians sorry?**

- Hurting them was not Paul’s goal, helping them was. Helping them required hurting them.
- It was better for them to hurt now, for a short time, than to be lost forever in Hell.
- Paul was happy because “they became sorry as God intended.”

**NOTE:** There is a way of being sorry that is not pleasing to God. One must have the right kind of sorrow.

**? Paul mentions two kinds of sorrow - what are they?**

- Godly sorrow and Worldly sorrow

**? What do you think worldly sorrow is?**

- Sorry I got caught.
- Sorry, but not sorry enough to change (like the Devil, sorry enough to tremble but not enough to turn).

**MENTION:**

**James 2:19** – “Do you believe that there is only one God? Good! The demons also believe—and tremble with fear.”

- It’s demonic to claim to believe but not change my behavior!

**? What do you think Godly sorrow is?**

- Sorrow that leads to repentance, to a change of behavior.

**? What is the ultimate result of Godly sorrow?**

- Leads to salvation – You will be saved!

**NOTE:** Paul said that “Godly sorrow” is preceded by attitudes of the heart that result in a change of direction. Discuss these with the student asking if they possess the positive attitudes that bring about a change of direction. If not, it’s a sign they possess “worldly sorrow.” If so, further encouragement and study of the love and judgment of God is necessary. Remember, **Godly sorrow precedes repentance and repentance must precede baptism. If the student’s not sorry enough to change, the student’s not ready to be baptized!**

- **Earnestness:** A serious attitude toward sin.

*Are you really serious about changing?*

- **Eagerness to clear yourself:** Excitement about change.

*Are you eager to change?*

- **Indignation:** Being angry that you blew it.

*Do you blame others or accept personal responsibility?*

- **Alarm:** Being afraid enough of sin that you run from it.

*Are you ready to stay away from sin?*

- **Longing:** Wanting deeply to be different

*Down deep do you really want to change?*

- **Concern:** Bothered by my sin.

*Are you concerned or care-free about your sin?*

- **Readiness to see justice done:** Willingness to do right regardless of the cost.

**? Repentance starts with Godly sorrow on the inside and continues with change that is visible on the outside. What changes in you life would your friends first notice if Godly sorrow leads you to repentance?**



**NOTE:** Sharing your story of repentance can help your student make personal application. Things like:

- "I didn't go to church even on Christmas or Easter but now I wouldn't miss a week."
- "The first thing that my friends noticed was a change in the way I talked. My language was really foul until I became a Christian."
- "Before I would never, ever think about talking about Jesus. I believed that religion was one of those personal things you should be quiet about but I repented and started sharing my faith to any one who would listen."

Think of specific changes that you made that can help your student understand the broad nature of repentance.

**? Do you have *Godly Sorrow*? (Will you commit to changing your heart and life?)**

**NOTE:** If the *answer and evidence* is yes, you are ready to move on to the baptism segment. Remind the student that repentance, a change of direction is not a one-time decision for the disciple. It is a lifestyle!

## **BAPTISM**

**NOTE:** Is it important for you to explain the context of this passage to your student. Peter is speaking to the same people who'd made up the crowd been at Jesus' crucifixion. These were the people who'd shouted "Crucify him" and clamored for the release of the criminal Barabbas and the execution of the innocent Jesus. These people were guilty of murdering Jesus, the Son of God, and Peter's speech preceding this reading had convinced them of that.

**READ:**

**Acts 2:36c-40**-----

<sup>36c</sup> Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." <sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your

children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40  
With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.

**? What part of this verse might indicate that these people had experienced Godly sorrow?**

- "... they were cut to the heart!"
- This "cutting" on the inside led them to ask questions about what they needed to do on the outside.

**? What did Peter tell them to do in response to their question?**

- "repent and be baptized everyone of you..."

**? What benefits did Peter say they would receive if they chose to respond properly?**

- "...for the **forgiveness of sins**... And you will receive the **gift of the holy spirit**..."

**? From these verses does it seem that they would receive the benefits if they refused to repent?**

**? From these verses does it seem that they would receive the benefits if they refused to be baptized?**

**? Which comes first, repentance or baptism?**

**NOTE:** Explain that repentance precedes baptism in this verse and in the process of salvation. Baptism is a useless ritual unless the one being baptized is willing to repent.

**ILLUSTRATE:** In the [back of this study](#) is a baptism illustration. It is a model for you to recreate during this segment. At this time draw out the wall of sin part, reminding the student of the results of sin. Use Acts 2:38 passage to show that the wall of sin is removed when a person in faith turns to God and is baptized. Forgiveness, removal of the wall was promised at baptism.

The next passage tells the story of Saul's conversion. It ends with Saul being told to be baptized, to "wash away" his sins.

## READ:

### Acts 22:3-16-----

"Then Paul said: 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' 8 "Who are you, Lord?' I asked. "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied.

9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. 10 "What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. "Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.'

11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me. 12 "A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. 13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him. 14 "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? **Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away**, calling on his name.'

**NOTE:** Only mention if your student reads this passage in the New Living Translation (NLT). The NLT renders Acts 22:16, "*Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away **by** calling on his name.*" The word "by" is an addition to the Bible in the NLT – it is **not** in the Greek text English versions of the scriptures are translated from. The Bible links having sins washed away to baptism – not the act of crying out to God or praying for Jesus to come into one's heart. There is no need to bring this up unless your student is reading from the NLT.

### ? Why did Paul need to be baptized?

- To wash his sins away (To remove the wall!)

**NOTE:** The next passage tells us what our part is in Baptism. God washes away our sins and causes us to be born again. Romans 6 is about God's call for the student to "crucify" self. In Paul's words baptism is a death and burial of the old self and its way of life. If there is no commitment to "die to self," there is no reason for baptism. We only bury dead people! **In this segment you will once again do most of the talking. You are preaching Christ and Him crucified.**

**ILLUSTRATE:** You will draw out the rest of the baptism illustration to help communicate the truth of Romans 6.

**READ:**

**Romans 6:1-4**-----

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- Baptism is a reenactment of Christ's *death, burial, and resurrection.*

**READ:**

**Colossians 2:12**-----

"...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

**READ:**

**1 Peter 3:20b-21**-----

<sup>21b</sup> "... God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ ..."

**NOTE:** In this passage the author Peter uses the ancient floodwaters of Noah as an illustration for Christian baptism. Just like the ancient flood cleansed the earth of sin, baptism cleanses individuals of sin. Peter lets us know that it isn't the water isn't magic – removing sin isn't like removing dirt in a bath. Rather, we are saved because God honors our commitment to Christ. When we decide to be baptized,

we're making a "pledge" to follow Jesus for the rest of our lives. That word "pledge" is the same word used to describe the oath a Roman soldier would take to his commanding officer. That soldier was expected to do everything that commander told him to do – even if it meant running into a hopeless battle to die. Baptism is a public declaration that we are that committed to following the will of Jesus in our lives. It is a total giving over of ourselves to Jesus not only as Savior, but as our Lord for the rest of our existence. In baptism my only role is submission to Jesus.

### **BIG IDEAS FROM ROMANS 6:1-4**

- Like Christ died on the cross, our old self dies at baptism.
- Like Christ resurrection will occur after death.
- Like Christ I will rise to live a new life.
- Nicodemus' conversation starting in **John 3:15** about being "born again" can be used here too if needed. Being born again and having a new life are the same thing. Both connected with Spirit and water.

### **READ:**

**Romans 6:5-14** -----

**V. 5** "If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection."

- "If" is a conditional word: *If we die... we will resurrect.*

### **? What happens if we you do not die to self at baptism?**

- Make it a negative statement... "If I have not been united in death, I certainly will not be united in resurrection."

**V. 6-7** "For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin."

### **? What is essential, according to this verse, to me being freed from the slavery of sin?**

- Dying to self - "*old self being crucified.*"

**V. 8** "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him"

- Also true: “If we did **not** die with Christ, we believe we will **not** live with him.”

**? From what we’ve looked at so far, does it make any sense for you to be baptized if you are not ready to surrender your life?**

**V. 9-14** “For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”

- Your baptism is not only the time when your sins are forgiven; it is the time where you switch masters.

**DECISION TIME -----**

**? Are you ready to give God control of your life, committing to die to self and live for your new master, Jesus?**

**OTHER PASSAGES TO USE IF NEEDED**

- John 3:17
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 16:15-16
- Galatians 3:26-27

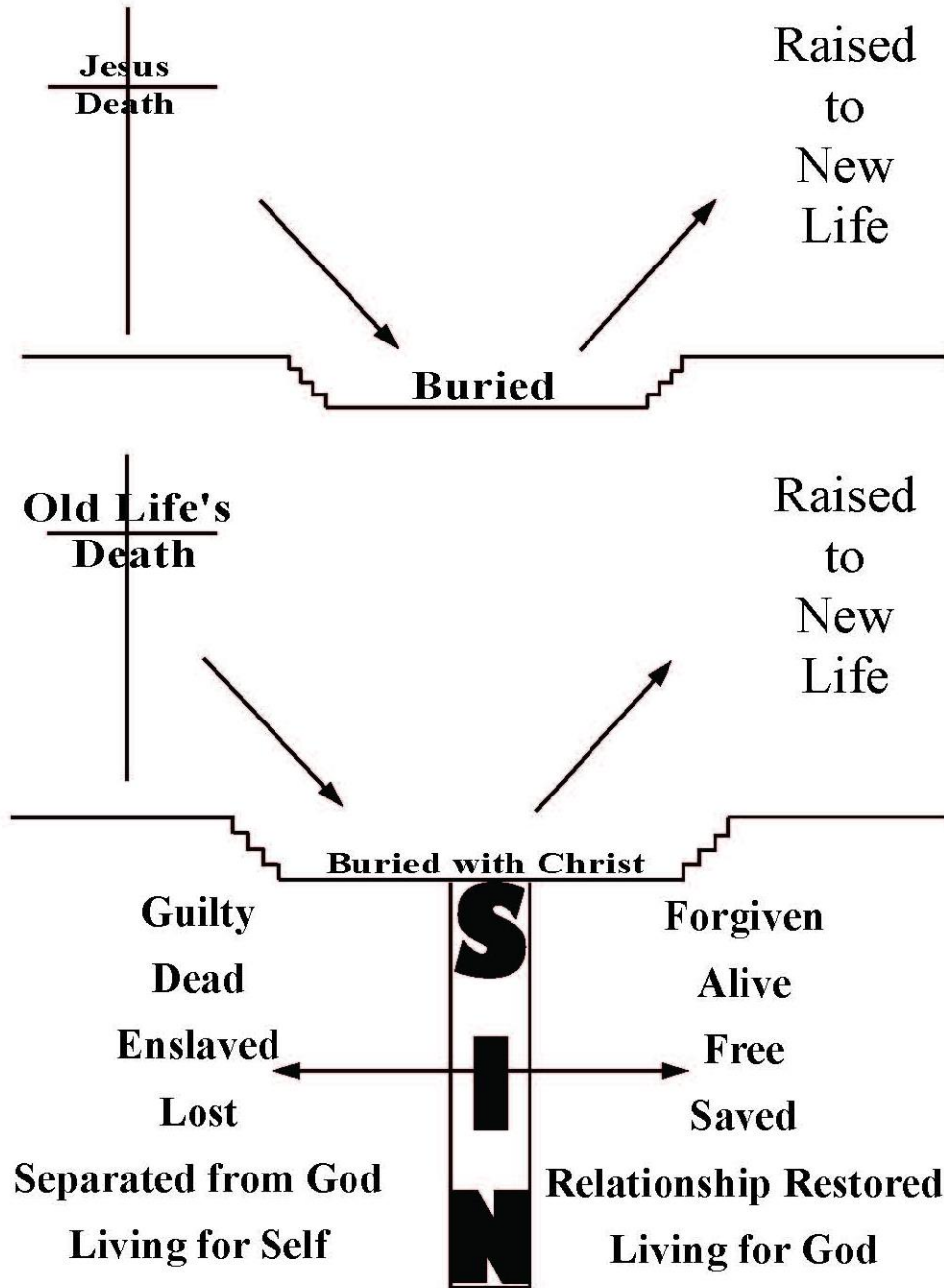
**OTHER CONVERSIONS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS**

1. Acts 2:26-47 In Jerusalem
2. Acts 8:26-38 The Ethiopian
3. Acts 16:23-24 The Jailer
4. Acts 18:24-26 Apollos
5. Acts 19:1-4 The Ephesians



# Baptism

*A participation in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:1-6)*



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