

CHRISTIANITY

EXPLAINED & EXPERIENCED

CLASS 1: JESUS, THE SON OF GOD



INTRODUCTION

- This class is intended to accomplish 2 things:
 - 1. Teach fundamentals to non-Christians and new Christians
 - 2. Equip mature Christians with skills to teach these basics
- Goal is to lead people **to** Christ & mature people **in** Christ



PRINCIPLES

- Each lesson will only focus on **one** point.
 - A frequent misstep when teaching new people
 - Object is to go slow and ensure clarity (new people need time to process the information)
- The study has a measurable time table
 - So non-Christians can know how much they are committing to
- The course has two sections:
 - 1. Explaining Christianity (6 lessons)
 - 2. Experiencing Christianity (7 lessons)
- There will be reading homework (The Gospel of Mark)



CONTENT

- Explaining Christianity
 - Foundation: Jesus Christ
 - 1. The Son of God
 - 2. The Crucifixion
 - 3. The Resurrection
 - Connection: Becoming One with Christ
 - 4. By Grace
 - 5. Through Faith
 - 6. In Obedience



CONTENT

- Experiencing Christianity
 - The Gifts from God:
 - 7. Holy Spirit
 - 8. Scripture
 - 9. Worship
 - 10. Serving
 - The Path to Walk:
 - 11. Discipleship
 - 12. Repentance & Confession
 - 13. Fruitfulness



FOUNDATION: LESSON 1

Jesus, The Son of God

- Begin with the first statement from Mark:
*“The beginning of the **gospel** of Jesus Christ, the **Son of God**”* – Mark 1:1
- Two Key phrases:
 - 1. ‘Gospel’ – The good news. This is a declaration about something you need to know.
 - 2. ‘Son of God’ – That which came directly from God. With His mission and His **authority**.



FOUNDATION: LESSON 1

Jesus, The Son of God

- Authority means - Full delegated power
- Jesus, as God's Son, came with authority
- Let's see His authority in action
 - 1. Mark 1:21-28 – As a Teacher
 - 2. Mark 1:23-28 – Over Evil Spirits
 - 3. Mark 1:29-31 – Over sickness
 - 4. Mark 2:1-12 – To forgive sins
 - 5. Mark 4:35-41 – Over Nature
 - 6. Mark 5:3-42 – Over life & death



FOUNDATION: LESSON 1

Jesus, The Son of God

- Mark 1:16-20 – Authority over People
 - Jesus calls people to follow Him
 - These people are not extraordinary or unique. Normal, everyday people are called to follow Him.
 - Jesus authority is never resisted, except by the wills of human beings.
 - He is divine & has all authority. The question is, will we **submit** to Him?



FOUNDATION: LESSON 1

Jesus, The Son of God

“You must make the choice: Either this man was and is the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” - C.S. Lewis



FOUNDATION: LESSON 1

Jesus, The Son of God

- **Homework:** Summarize the main point(s) from the following readings:
 - 1. Mark 1:1-28
 - 2. Mark 1:29 – 2:12
 - 3. Mark 2:13 – 3:6
 - 4. Mark 3:7-34
 - 5. Mark 4:1-41
 - 6. Mark 5:1-20
 - 7. Mark 5:21-43



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CLASS 2: JESUS, DEATH ON THE CROSS



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- The **Facts**: Mark 15:33-39
 - This is the central event of Christianity.
 - What key things took place:
 - Vs. 33 – Darkness
 - Vs. 34-36 – The Cry
 - Vs. 37 – His Death
 - Vs. 38-39 – The Curtain



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- The **Meaning**: Mark 15:33-39
 - Vs. 33 – Darkness
 - At minimum it was supernatural, not an eclipse (Passover on full moon and eclipse require new moon)
 - Demonstrated God's **lament** (Amos 8:9-10) & **judgement** (Exodus 10:21-23)



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- The **Meaning**: Mark 15:33-39
 - Vs. 34-36 – The Cry
 - Bearing the full weight of judgment for sin, Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1 in light of His experience.
 - Sin separates us from God – Col. 2:14
 - Hab. 1:13 – “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong”



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- The **Meaning**: Mark 15:33-39
 - Vs. 37 – Death
 - Jesus' crucifixion served to absorb God's wrath against our sin
 - He was our 'sacrifice' Jn. 1:29
 - Likewise, He was also our victor over the wages of sin – death (Rom. 3:23)
 - Hebrews 2:14-15 + Acts 2:22-24



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- The **Meaning**: Mark 15:33-39
 - Vs. 38-39 – The Curtain
 - The Temple was the place where God met with mankind. (Describe layout)
 - Court, Holy Place [**Veil**] Holy of Holies
 - Who could enter and how
 - Because of Jesus death we no longer are separated from God – Heb. 10:19-22



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- Words used to describe Jesus' death:
 - Ransom (Mk. 10:45)
 - Payment for release
 - Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19)
 - Effort made for relationship restoration
 - Substitution (1 Pet. 3:18)
 - One taking the place for another



FOUNDATION: LESSON 2

Jesus, Death on the Cross

- **Homework:** Summarize the main point(s) from the following readings:
 - 1. Mark 6:1-29
 - 2. Mark 6:30-56
 - 3. Mark 7:1-37
 - 4. Mark 8:1-38
 - 5. Mark 9:1-32
 - 6. Mark 9:33-10:16
 - 7. Mark 10:17-52



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**CLASS 3: JESUS, RESURRECTION FROM
THE DEAD**



FOUNDATION: LESSON 3

Jesus, Resurrection from the Dead

- Resurrection **Predicted**: Mark 10:32-34
 - On many occasions, Jesus foretold His own death and resurrection.
 - His disciples often didn't accept this
 - This prediction would serve as the basis for His credibility & their faith.



FOUNDATION: LESSON 3

Jesus, Resurrection from the Dead

- The **Facts**: Mark 16:1-8
 - Romans & Jews were aware of His prediction & took steps to prevent it (Matt 27:62-66)
 - Women went to the tomb to anoint His body & found Him missing (vs. 1-6)
 - They told the disciples and eventually connected with Him. (vs. 7-8)
 - His body was not just brought back to life, but was fully restored (Lk. 24)



FOUNDATION: LESSON 3

Jesus, Resurrection from the Dead

- The **Meaning**: Acts 10:39-43
 - 1. All people will be raised (Vs. 42)
 - 2. All people will be judged (Vs. 42)
 - 3. The risen Jesus is the judge (vs. 42)
 - 4. All divided in to 2 groups (Mt. 25)
 - Those welcomed in (Mt. 25:33-34)
 - Those cast away (Matt 25:41)
 - 5. This division is eternal (Lk 16:19-31)



FOUNDATION: LESSON 3

Jesus, Resurrection from the Dead

- The **Impact**: 1 Peter 1:3-9 & 1 Cor. 15
 - A power for our living hope
1 Peter 1:3
 - A perspective for our suffering
1 Peter 1:6
 - A purpose for our living
1 Corinthians 15:58
 - A permanence for our glory
1 Peter 1:7-9
 - A purification for our souls
1 Corinthians 15:17-19



FOUNDATION: LESSON 3

Jesus, Resurrection from the Dead

- **Homework:** Summarize the main point(s) from the following readings:
 - 1. Mark 11:1-33
 - 2. Mark 12:1-44
 - 3. Mark 13:1-37
 - 4. Mark 14:1-52
 - 5. Mark 14:53-15:15
 - 6. Mark 15:16-47
 - 7. Mark 16:1-20



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**CLASS 4: BECOMING ONE WITH CHRIST:
BY GRACE**



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- Begin with 2 questions:
 - 1. Do you know for certain that you have eternal life?
 - 2. Why should God allow you in to heaven?
- Only two options to question #2
 - 1. Salvation by *works*
 - 2. Salvation by *grace*



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- Salvation by *Works*
 - *Works*: Effort done by your own power
 - Salvation by works answers the question of “How I am getting in to heaven” with “*What I have done*”
 - How did you answer question #2?
 - Keeping the 10 commandments, giving to charity, reading the Bible & praying, etc...



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- Why can good works never get us into heaven? 2 main reasons:
 - 1. God's nature demands perfection
 - *Psalm 24:3-6, James 2:8-10, Matt. 5:17-20, Romans 3:23*
 - 2. Our sin is more than a behavior problem
 - Mark 7:20-23 - Evil is a heart issue. Behavior is a symptom of a deeper problem. The central problem is rebellion (Rom. 8:7)
 - Sin is desire to live apart from God & run our own life.



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- Salvation by **Grace**
 - **Grace**: An undeserved free gift
 - Salvation by grace answers the question of “How I am getting in to heaven” with “**What Christ has done for me**”
 - How did you answer question #2?
 - God became a man & died in my place for my sin
 - He rose from the dead defeating the power of sin & the grave (giving me hope that my sin is defeated and my grave is not final)



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- How does 'Salvation by Grace' work?
 - Ephesians 2:1-10
 - Vs. 1-3: Describe our **condition**
 - Vs. 4-7: Describe God's **action**
 - Vs. 8-10: Describe the **conclusion**
 - Objection: Won't people (I) just take advantage of God? Are good works useless?
 - Salvation produces good works
 - Good works don't produce salvation



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- Conclusion:

- Recall we started with question: How can you know you are going to heaven?
- It is not something we earn, but something that is gifted to us.
- Every gift must be *received*



CONNECTION: LESSON 1

Becoming One with Christ: By Grace

- **Homework:** Read and contemplate the following passages about *following* Jesus
 - 1. Mark 1:14-20
 - 2. Mark 2:13-17 & Mark 3:31-35
 - 3. Mark 4:35-41
 - 4. Mark 8:27-38
 - 5. Mark 9:43-48
 - 6. Mark 10:17-31
 - 7. Mark 16:15-16



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**CLASS 5: BECOMING ONE WITH CHRIST:
THROUGH FAITH**



CONNECTION: LESSON 2

Becoming One with Christ: Through Faith

- Look at stories from Mark that illustrate what faith is
- Mark 1:40-42
 - Based on this story, finish this sentence:
“Faith is....”
 - **Confidence**: “You can make me clean”
 - Faith is confidence that your savior is able



CONNECTION: LESSON 2

Becoming One with Christ: Through Faith

- Mark 2:1-12
 - Based on this story, finish this sentence:
“Faith is....”
 - Persistent**: “And when they could not get near him they removed the roof above him”
 - Built on the confidence you have in your savior, faith moves you to get to him any way possible



CONNECTION: LESSON 2

Becoming One with Christ: Through Faith

- Mark 4:35-41

- Based on this story, finish this sentence:
“Faith is....”

- Fearless**: “...Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

- Faith and fear are two aspects that do not co-exist. When fear is present, faith is lacking. When faith is present, fear is gone.



CONNECTION: LESSON 2

Becoming One with Christ: Through Faith

- Mark 5:21-24, 35-43
 - Based on this story, finish this sentence: “Faith is....”
 - **Taking Jesus at His word:** “Don’t be afraid, just believe”
 - Imagine how Jarius felt when he was told about his daughter.
 - Faith is not based on our feelings, rather a trust in the facts of what Jesus has said.



CONNECTION: LESSON 2

Becoming One with Christ: Through Faith

- Mark 10:13-16
 - Based on this story, finish this sentence:
“Faith is....”
 - Child-like Trust:** “Whoever does not receive the kingdom like a child shall not enter it”
 - Not childish faith, rather trust like a child has in his/her parents.
 - “I know, because of them, things will be ok”



CONNECTION: LESSON 2

Becoming One with Christ: Through Faith

- **Homework:** Read & contemplate the following passages about *faith in* Jesus
 - 1. Mark 1:29-34
 - 2. Philippians 3:4-11
 - 3. Romans 5:1-8
 - 4. James 2:8-26
 - 5. Hebrews 11:1-6
 - 6. Mark 10:46-52
 - 7. Mark 14:3-9



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**CLASS 6: BECOMING ONE WITH CHRIST:
IN OBEDIENCE**



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

- Hebrews 11:8
 - “By faith Abraham **obeyed** with he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance.”
- Faith is demonstrated by obedience.
 - James 2:14-18
 - Vs. 17 – Faith, by itself, is dead
 - Vs. 18 – Faith is demonstrated by obedience



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

- What is obedience? Mark 1:27 & 4:41
 - To be under authority, attentive to the one in charge, and compliant with orders given.
- 3 Elements involved:
 - 1. *Under authority* – No longer in charge
 - 2. *Attentive* – Posture of listening
 - 3. *Compliant* – Agreeing & obeying



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

- What does obedience do?
 - 1. *Demonstrates* our faith
 - What you obey is what you trust
Rom. 6:16, 1 Jn. 2:3, John 14:15
 - 2. *Develops* our faith
 - Obedience challenges us to grow in faith
Matthew 14:22-33



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

- Obedience and Eternal Life:

What does Jesus call us to obey to have eternal life?

- 1. **Believe in Christ** John 8:24
- 2. **Confess sin & faith in Christ** 1 Jn. 1:9
- 3. **Repent of sins & turn to Christ** Mt. 4:17
- 4. **Be baptized into Christ** Mark 16:15-16
- 5. **Walk in obedience to Christ** Mt. 28:19



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

Obedience is the natural response of your faith in the graciousness offer God to save you through Jesus Christ.

Obedience is not what saves you, it is what demonstrates you trust His grace.

If you are not obedient, you must ask:
“Do I trust God?” (*1 Jn. 2:3, Jn. 14:15*)



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

- What motivates obedience?
 - **Good**
 - **Merit** (I want to go to heaven)
 - **Fear** (I don't want to go to hell)
 - **Better**
 - **Wisdom** (God is wise, His commands are too)
 - **Trust** (God loves me & wouldn't mislead me)
 - **Gratitude** (B/C of what God did for me, I owe Him my obedience)
 - **Best**
 - **Love** (Obeying God to be one with God)



CONNECTION: LESSON 3

Becoming One with Christ: In Obedience

- **Homework:** Read & contemplate the following passages about *how to obey* Jesus
 - 1. Mark 3:32-34
 - 2. Colossians 1:3-14
 - 3. Philippians 2:5-11
 - 4. Romans 1:1-6
 - 5. I Peter 1:1-16
 - 6. II Thessalonians 1:8-10
 - 7. Acts 22:1-16



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CLASS 7: THE GIFTS FOR GROWTH
HOLY SPIRIT



CONTENT

Explaining Christianity

- **Foundation:** Jesus Christ
 - 1. The Son of God
 - 2. The Crucifixion
 - 3. The Resurrection
- **Connection:** with Christ
 - 1. By Grace
 - 2. Through Faith
 - 3. In Obedience

Experiencing Christianity

- The **Gifts** for Growth:
 - 1. Holy Spirit
 - 2. Scripture
 - 3. Worship
 - 4. Service
- The **Path** to Walk:
 - 1. Discipleship
 - 2. Repent & Confess
 - 3. Fruitfulness



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- We finished last session learning that obedience, by faith, to Jesus Christ has grants us access to receive God's grace for eternal life.
- Eternal life, like any other life, once born, must grow in to maturity. John 3:5 & 2 Peter 2:1-3
- God, as our perfect Father, has given us gifts that help us grow in spiritual maturity.



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- **First gift:** Acts 2:38 – *“And Peter said to them, “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.”*
- Forgiveness of sins is what removes the barrier of us being with God. Once removed, God’s presence is now able to be with us again.
- **2 Q’s:** Who is He? What does He do?



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- Who is He? **Key:** A “He” not a “What”
 - **His Attributes:**
 - Eternal (Heb. 9:14), Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7), Omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10-11)
 - **His Being:**
 - Emotions (Rom. 15:30), A Will (1 Cor. 12:11), Intellect (1 Cor. 2:11)
 - **His Nature:**
 - Truth (Jn 16:13), Life (Rom. 8:2), Grace (Heb. 10:29), Holy (Rom. 1:4)
- Based on this we conclude: **He is God**



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- What does He do?
 - *Dwells in Believers*: Acts 2:38, 1 Cor. 3:16
 - *Seals our Salvation*: Ephesians 1:13-14
 - *Reminds us of God's love*: Romans 5:1-5
 - *Leads us in the war against sin*: Romans 8:8-17
 - *Produces character change*: Galatians 5:22-23



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- How does He do this?

–John 16:7-14 –Through Conviction

- Sin (singular, non-believers)
- Righteousness (Where Christ is – I Jn. 2:1-2)
- Judgement (Who is the one judged?)

–II Timothy 3:16-17 –Through Words

- Words that are filled with power - II Pet. 1:21
- Words that are active in conviction – Heb. 4:12
- Words that are His sword – Eph. 6:17



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- What should we do?
 - *See Him as the gift of God to us*
 - *Anticipate all the ways He works in your life*
 - *Empower Him with the Sword – the Word of God*



GIFTS: LESSON 1

The Gifts for Growth: Holy Spirit

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Ephesians 1:11-23
 - 2. Romans 8:8-26
 - 3. John 16:8-15
 - 4. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - 5. Ephesians 3:14-19
 - 6. I Thessalonians 5:16-24
 - 7. II Timothy 1:7



CHRISTIANITY

EXPLAINED & EXPERIENCED

CLASS 8: THE GIFTS FOR GROWTH
SCRIPTURE



GIFTS: LESSON 2

The Gifts for Growth: Scripture

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

– *II Timothy 3:16-17*



GIFTS: LESSON 2

The Gifts for Growth: Scripture

- **Scripture's Source:**

“All Scripture is *breathed out by God...*”

- The **origin** is the mouth of God (2 Pet. 1:16-21)
 - Vs. 16-19 - Scripture is the same as the actual voice we heard speak to Jesus.
 - It was not a result of mankind's will, but God's who moved the mind of men to write.
- The **substance** is the Spirit of Life (John 6:63)
 - Like a seed, these words are full of life.



GIFTS: LESSON 2

The Gifts for Growth: Scripture

- **Scripture's Power:**

“All Scripture is...*profitable for*...”

- **Teaching** – Practical instruction on how to live life
- **Reproof** – Words that lead to inner conviction of sin
- **Correction** – Guidance to making things right again
- **Training*** – Process of shaping a person character
 - *In Righteousness – A person who has approval (well done)
- **Example: Being a person of peace**
 - Jn. 14:27 + Rom. 3:17 + Rom. 5:1, 8:6 + Phil 4:6-8 + 1 Pt. 5:7



GIFTS: LESSON 2

The Gifts for Growth: Scripture

- **Scripture's Purpose:**

“...that the man of God would *be complete*...”

- **Be Complete** – Ready because you are prepared
 - 1. **How:** ‘thoroughly equipped’
 - Perfect working condition due to having all you need
 - 2. **Why:** ‘for every good work’
 - *Good work* – accomplishing the tasks that come from God, are done by God’s strength, and for God’s glory.
 - Discover this is the main purpose of your life (Eph. 2:10)



GIFTS: LESSON 2

The Gifts for Growth: Scripture

- **Scripture's Point:**

“You search the **Scriptures** because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that **bear witness about me**, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” – *Jn. 5:39-40*

- **Jesus is Scripture in bodily form**

– He is the vision of a life lived right, His death is the source of conviction for our sin, His love is the power behind correction, and His resurrection is the hope that calls us in to training for every good work. - **2 Corinthians 3:17**



GIFTS: LESSON 2

The Gifts for Growth: Scripture

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about Scripture
 - 1. Acts 17:1-11
 - 2. Isaiah 55:6-11
 - 3. Matthew 22:23-33
 - 4. James 1:16-25
 - 5. Hebrews 4:11-13
 - 6. Psalm 119:9-16
 - 7. Isaiah 40:6-8



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CLASS 9: THE GIFTS FOR GROWTH
WORSHIP



GIFTS: LESSON 3

The Gifts for Growth: Worship

- Gift #3: **Worship**
- What is worship?
 - A response of reverence and adoration to that which you consider to be greater than all, that is expressed in what we say and how we live.
 - Because God has gifted us the Holy Spirit and His Word – the natural result of those two gifts working in your life is **worship of God**.
 - The Holy Spirit and Scripture testify to the greatness of God seen in Jesus Christ.



GIFTS: LESSON 3

The Gifts for Growth: Worship

- Why is worship of God a gift?
 - I. You are **wired to worship**.
 - The heart longs to adore, love, & serve something greater than itself. If not God, it will be something.
 - *“Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!” Rom. 1:24-25*
 - You cannot stop worshipping. You can only transfer it.



GIFTS: LESSON 3

The Gifts for Growth: Worship

- Why is worship of God a gift?
 - 2. You are **wired to worship God**
 - “For by Him *all things were created*...and all things were created through Him and *for Him*.” Colossians 1:16
 - Because we were made **by** Him, we were made **for** Him
 - Our worship is designed to be directed to Him.
 - God is the only being that can bear the full weight of your worship.
 - No one else can handle your expectation of perfection, your petition for salvation, your need to unfailing love & mercy. All others will fail.



GIFTS: LESSON 3

The Gifts for Growth: Worship

- How do we worship?
 - 1. From the right *place*
 - Without hypocrisy (Mt. 15:8-9)
 - Repenting of sin (Mt. 5:23-24)
 - Living truthfully with God, self, others (Jn 4:16-26)
 - 2. With the right *priority*
 - Honoring God's greatness > Satisfying your desires (Psalm 29)



GIFTS: LESSON 3

The Gifts for Growth: Worship

- How do we worship?
 - 3. With the right *principles*
 - God has guided us with proper avenues of worship
 - Prayer (Philippians 4:6-7)
 - Singing (Colossians 3:16-17)
 - Communion (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)
 - Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-4)
 - Proclaiming/Receiving the Word (2 Tim. 4:1-2)



GIFTS: LESSON 3

The Gifts for Growth: Worship

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about Worship
 - 1. Psalm 95
 - 2. Philippians 2:5-11
 - 3. Romans 12:1-2
 - 4. John 4:1-26
 - 5. Psalm 99
 - 6. Deuteronomy 12:5-7
 - 7. Revelation 4:1-11



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EXPLAINED & EXPERIENCED

**CLASS 10: THE GIFTS FOR GROWTH
SERVICE**



GIFTS: LESSON 4

The Gifts for Growth: Service

- When you become a Christian **2 things** happen:
- **I. Personally** – Ephesians 2:8-10
 - You are created in Christ **for good works**
 - Good works are: The tasks that come from God, serve God's will, for God's glory, done by God's strength (grace)
 - How are you **prepared** for this?
 - Christ, via the Spirit, **gifts** you for service (Eph. 4:7-8)
 - Scripture **trains** you for service (II Tim. 3:16-17)
 - Worship **fuels** you for service (Psalm 147)



GIFTS: LESSON 4

The Gifts for Growth: Service

- When you become a Christian **2 things** happen:
- **2. Collectively** – I Corinthians 12:12-27
 - You are created as a **member of a body**
 - There is one body, but many different members
 - Every member is essential – Rom. 12:1-8
 - Must avoid the pride of self-pity & self-exalting
 - How do you discover your place?
 - **Look in** (What are your gifts? See Romans 12:4-8)
 - **Look out** (What ministries are you drawn to?)
 - **Look up** (Prayer & leadership provide feedback & equipping)



GIFTS: LESSON 4

The Gifts for Growth: Service

- Why does God use a body for His work?
- **1. For Effectiveness** – “If all were a single member, where would the body be?” – 1 Cor. 12:19
- **2. For Genuine Growth** – “we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” – Eph. 4:15-16
- **3. For His Glory** – “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church...” – Eph. 3:20-21



GIFTS: LESSON 4

The Gifts for Growth: Service

- How is my serving a gift back to me?
- **1. Deepest Purpose** – “Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory...” – Isa. 43:7
- **2. Truest Identity** – “Let us make them in our image, according to our likeness.” - Gen. 1:26-27
- **3. Lasting Legacy**– “Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven...” – Matthew 6:21
- **4. Greatest honor** – “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord... You are serving the Lord Christ.” – Col. 3:23-24



GIFTS: LESSON 4

The Gifts for Growth: Service

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about Service
 - 1. Colossians 3:12-25
 - 2. Philippians 2:5-11
 - 3. Luke 17:7-10
 - 4. Ephesians 4:1-16
 - 5. Mark 10:35-45
 - 6. Romans 6:1-14
 - 7. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10



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CLASS II: THE PATH TO WALK
DISCIPLESHIP



REVIEW

- **Homework:** Readings about Service:
- **Recap:**
 - **Foundation:** What we stand on
 - Jesus, God's Son, Died & Rose again
 - **Connection:** Forgiveness & Freedom in Christ
 - By Grace, Through Faith, In Obedience
 - **Gifts:** From God to help us mature
 - Holy Spirit, Scripture, Worship, Service
- Since we are *on the foundation, connected to Christ, gifted by God* – we are ready to **walk the path**



PATH: LESSON 1

The Path to Walk: Discipleship

- Path Reality #1 – It is to be walked together

*“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one**” – John 17:20-21a*

- Now that you are a Christian, this means you are a **disciple** of Jesus.

– **Disciple**: *One who is committed to a lifetime of learning and obeying the master they follow.*

- More than a **follower** (Demands commitment)
- More than a **learner** (Demands obedience)



PATH: LESSON 1

The Path to Walk: Discipleship

- Practicing Discipleship is our first command

*“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them** to observe all that I have commanded you...” - Matthew 28:19-20a*

- ‘Make Disciples’ is Discipleship. **2 functions**:
 - **Sharing** the Faith (Baptize) – Acts 14:21
 - **Training** in the Faith (Teach) – 2 Timothy 2:2
- **Discipleship** – Walking alongside others, helping each to grow into the image of Christ.



PATH: LESSON 1

The Path to Walk: Discipleship

- **Goals** of healthy discipleship:
 - 1. Encouragement – Hebrews 3:12-4:1
 - 2. Mutual care for each other – Phil. 2:1-4
 - 3. Bring out the best in each other – Heb. 10:24-25
 - 4. To know & care for needs – 1 John 3:16-18
 - 5. Godly Confession & Accountability – Jms 5:16-20
 - 6. Teaching & Training – Titus 2:4, 2 Tim. 2:2



PATH: LESSON 1

The Path to Walk: Discipleship

- **Principles** of healthy discipleship:
Colossians 3:12-17
 - 1. Right Environment (internal & external)
 - 2. Scripture
 - 3. Guidance, correction, godly accountability
 - 4. Worship
 - 5. Gratitude
 - 6. Seeking submission & obedience to Christ



PATH: LESSON 1

The Path to Walk: Discipleship

- **Practicalities** of healthy discipleship:
 - 1. Pray about it – Luke 6:12
 - 2. Use Jesus' group size model
 - 3 people very close, 9 people close, 70 Connected and on mission, 120 in His Community
 - 3. Pour out & Be filled up (Invest & be invested in)
 - Include different ages in your life (Titus 2)
 - 4. Have a plan (Time, Place, Content)
 - Different groups have different plans. Be relaxed and intentional (focus on matters of significance)



PATH: LESSON 1

The Path to Walk: Discipleship

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about Discipleship
 - 1. Hebrews 3:12-4:1
 - 2. Ephesians 4:1-3
 - 3. Colossians 3:12-17
 - 4. Hebrews 10:19-25
 - 5. 1 Peter 4:7-11
 - 6. Philippians 2:1-12
 - 7. 1 John 3:11-18



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**CLASS 12: THE PATH TO WALK
REPENTANCE**



PATH: LESSON 2

The Path to Walk: Repentance

*“assuming you...were taught in him...to **put off your old self**, which belongs to your former manner of life... and to **put on the new self**...” – Eph. 4:21-24*

- This process is **repentance**.
 - **Two things must happen for true repentance**
 - **Heart** Change (your mind is different)
 - **Life** Change (your behavior is different)
 - To miss either side leaves us stuck in sin
 - Emotionally sorry for sin, but no life change
 - Modifying behavior without change of heart



PATH: LESSON 2

The Path to Walk: Repentance

- **Motivation** for Repentance

*“For **godly grief produces a repentance** that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.” – II Cor. 7:10*

- Godly grief is what produces repentance

- **Grief:** Sorrow that causes you to stop because of who has been hurt and/or what you have lost.

- **Godly:** The quality of being like God.

- Godly grief is the sorrow we have over sin because of the hurt we’ve caused God and the loss of our intimacy with Him.



PATH: LESSON 2

The Path to Walk: Repentance

- **Motivation** for Repentance

*“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas **worldly grief produces death.**” – II Cor. 7:10*

- Worldly grief is what produces death

- **Grief:** Sorrow that causes you to stop because of who has been hurt and/or what you have lost.

- **Worldly:** The quality of being like the world.

- Worldly grief is still sorrow over sin we have because of how we’ve been hurt, and what we have lost for ourselves.



PATH: LESSON 2

The Path to Walk: Repentance

- **Method** for Repentance:

“Repentance means turning from as much as you know of your sin, to give as much as you know of yourself, to as much as you know of God, and as our knowledge grows at these three points so our practice of repentance has to be enlarged.” - J.I. Packer

- To live as a Christian means to make Jesus Christ your King – To put Him first in my life



PATH: LESSON 2

The Path to Walk: Repentance

- **Method** for Repentance:

Awareness of sin - Heb. 4:12

Transformation
By grace
Titus 2:11-14

God

James 4:7-8

Confession of sin
I John 1:6-10

Repentance from sin - Matt. 3:8



PATH: LESSON 2

The Path to Walk: Repentance

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about Repentance
 - 1. Matthew 3:7-17
 - 2. 2 Corinthians 7:5-13
 - 3. 2 Peter 3:8-14
 - 4. Luke 13:1-5
 - 5. Acts 3:11-26
 - 6. Romans 12:1-2
 - 7. Ephesians 4:17-24



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**CLASS 13: THE PATH TO WALK
FRUITFULNESS**



PATH: LESSON 3

The Path to Walk: Fruitfulness

*“By this my Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit** and so prove to be my disciples.” – John 15:8*

- What does it mean to be fruitful?
 - Fruit is an illustration Scripture uses to describe the natural product of something.
 - Fruit is how we tell what something really is.
 - Fruit can be either good or bad - Matthew 7:15-20
 - Fruit is the result of what controls your heart
 - Matthew 15:19



PATH: LESSON 3

The Path to Walk: Fruitfulness

- **What** fruit is God looking for?
 - **Righteousness** – Philippians 1:10-11
 - **Character** – Galatians 5:22-23
 - **Benevolence** – 2 Corinthians 9:9-10, Mt. 25
 - **Good Works** – Titus 3:14, Colossians 1:3-8
 - **Praise to God** – Hebrews 13:15
 - **Winning Souls to Christ** – John 4:35-36



PATH: LESSON 3

The Path to Walk: Fruitfulness

- **How** is fruitfulness produced? John 15:1-11
 - *Abide in Christ*
 - Through trust, obedience, and love
 - *Submit to pruning*
 - *Discipline* (Hebrews 12:5-11)
 - *Priorities* (Matthew 6:33)
 - *Refinement* (Romans 5:1-5)



PATH: LESSON 3

The Path to Walk: Fruitfulness

- **How** is fruitfulness produced? II Peter 1:5-11

– *Supplement your faith*

- **Virtue** (Moral excellence), **Knowledge** (Moral wisdom), **Self-Control** (Mastering desires), **Endurance** (Consistency), **Godliness** (Devotion towards God), **Brotherly Kindness** (Family Love), **Love** (Self-Sacrifice)

– *This produces:*

- *Effectiveness, Fruitfulness, Awareness, Stability, Security*



PATH: LESSON 3

The Path to Walk: Fruitfulness

- **Warnings** with fruitfulness
 - ***Having the same perspective as God***
 - *What He counts as success (Mt. 25:14-30)*
 - *The timeline He uses (Judas & Peter)*
 - ***Blindness to a healthy Christian life***
 - ***Parable of the soils - Matthew 13:18-23***
 - *The third soil produced plants that lived a long time as full grown plants. However, they produced no fruit.*
 - *Cares of this life & deceitfulness of riches choked them out.*



PATH: LESSON 3

The Path to Walk: Fruitfulness

- **Homework:** Read the following passages about being fruitful
 - 1. Matthew 7:15-20
 - 2. John 15:1-11
 - 3. Philippians 1:3-11
 - 4. Hebrews 12:5-11
 - 5. Matthew 13:1-23
 - 6. 2 Peter 1:3-14
 - 7. Galatians 5:16-24

