

Volume

2

WE CARE MINISTRIES AFTER CARE MANUAL



MINISTRIES

LETTER TO MYSELF



“A Letter to Myself”

(Date)

Dear (your name)

At the time of baptism, I understood the Gospel to be:

I confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, repented of my sins and was baptized because:

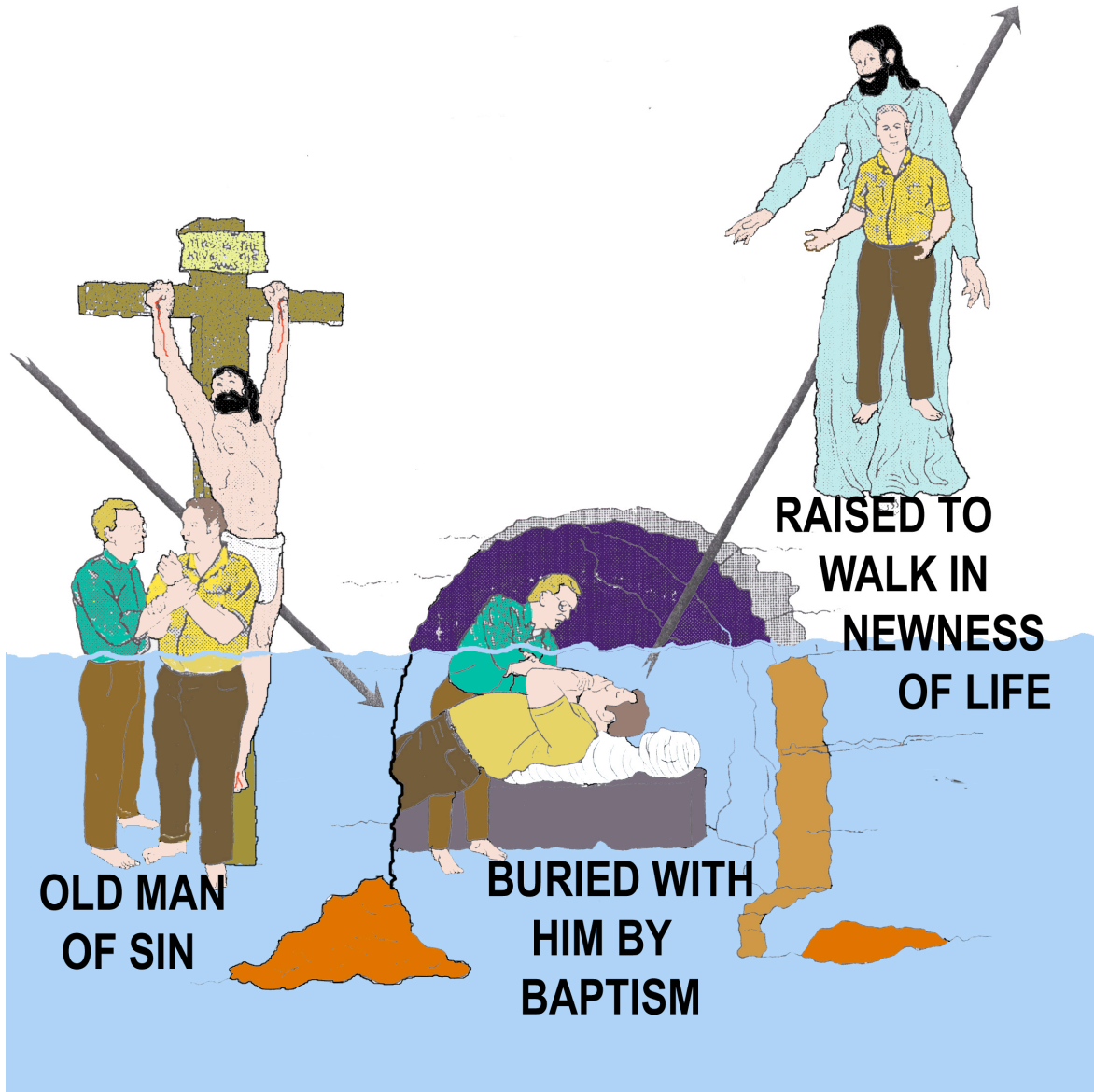
At the time of my baptism, I felt:

The Scriptures that caused me to obey the Gospel were:

With the rest of my life, I plan to do the following for Christ because He has done so much for me:

Sincerely,

Post Natal Lesson



Now That I Have Obeyed The Gospel

Lesson 1: "I Am A Child of God"

When you made the choice to obey the Gospel of Jesus, your relationship to your Heavenly Father changed. You are now a part of His Family and one of His Children. He has blessings He wants to give you as well as promises He will keep to you.

A. Acts 11:26

1. What were the disciples called?
2. The disciples made up what body of people?

B. Ephesians 1:3-5

1. What does your Heavenly Father want you to enjoy and possess in verse 3?
2. According to verse 4, what did He do for you?
3. Since you are now in Christ, what is your relationship to God?

C. Ephesians 1:13-14

1. Because you obeyed the Gospel, what has God's Holy Spirit done to you?
2. What does God promise to you in verse 14?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Make it your goal this week to thank God every day for His forgiving grace and love.
2. Thank Him for adopting you as His Child and for adding you to His precious Family.

Lesson 2: "What Does God Want of Me?"

As a Christian, I am going to be doing some new things in my life. They will be different and sometimes seem strange to me. As a new Christian -- a babe in Christ -- God wants me to understand His ways are different from the ways of the world.

A. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. God's Word is to be my new value system – my guide – my standard.
2. Note what God's Word provides for me.
 - a) Doctrine
 - b) Reproof
 - c) Instruction in Righteousness – (training and disciple)

B. Philippians 4:8

1. What things does God want me to meditate (think) on?
2. Why is this so important for me?

C. Colossians 3:12-17

1. What are some of the new ways I am to act toward others?
2. How are these actions different from my old life?

D. 1 Corinthians 15:33

1. Those I choose as my friends will influence every aspect of my life.
2. What can my old friends do to me now that I am a Christian?
3. What kind of friends does God want me to associate with? (Romans 12:16)

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think about your past life. What was your standard for making decisions?
2. What motivated your thinking?
3. What guided your actions?
4. How much did your friends influence the way you lived?
5. Pray every day God will help to make the new changes He wants for you.
6. Seek out those in your new Christian Family you feel at ease with and ask them to help you in your new walk with the Lord.

Remember the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.

Lesson 3: "My Family of God"

The relationships in God's Family are unlike the world's relationships. The relationships within the Kingdom are based on purity, respect and honor. Relationships within the Church encourage us to remain faithful to the Christian calling, help us correct our wrongs when correction is needed, challenge us to grow when a challenge is needed, and provide support when things get tough. The Bible is the standard for great relationships. Man's relationship with God and man's relationship with his fellow man are themes that run deep within the pages of the Bible.

A. Mark 3:31-35

1. Who did Jesus consider His true relatives?
2. Do you see God's Church as your spiritual family?

B. Romans 12:10-15

1. What does the word "honor" mean?
2. Do people in your life feel honored and respected by you?
3. How do you feel when somebody treats you with dishonor? Or with disrespect?
4. How can you express honor and devotion to your brothers and sisters in the Lord?
5. What does "practice hospitality" mean?
6. Can you rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep if you don't get to know them and spend time with them?

C. I Peter 1:22-23

1. What is "sincere love"?
2. How can you love your brother or sister in Christ deeply from the heart?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Make it your goal this week to spend time with two or more Christians that you haven't fellowshiped with.
2. Honor the Family of God and be devoted to the brotherhood of believers through phone calls, visits, e-mails, and fellowships.
3. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*We're part of the Family that's been born again.
Part of the Family whose love knows no end.
For Jesus has saved us and made us His own.
Now we're part of the Family that's on its way home!*

*And sometimes we laugh together, sometimes we cry.
Sometimes we share together heartaches and sighs.
Sometimes we dream together of how it will be
When we all get to Heaven---
God's Family!!!*

Lesson 4: "I'm Saved Completely"

What God has done for you through your baptism into Christ is truly amazing! As you enter the first day of this series, take time to begin and end each lesson with prayer. Ask God to help you understand what you are about to read and ask Him for insight. Also, give Him thanks and praise for all He has done for you!

A. Colossians 2:1-13

1. According to verse 12, at what point did Jesus circumcise (cut away) your sins?
2. From verse 13, what has God done for you?
3. Read Colossians 1:21-23
 - a) What was your relationship with God before your baptism?
 - b) What had you done to make God your enemy?
 - c) What does it mean to be holy, without blemish, free from accusation?
 - d) What condition is there to staying saved (see verse 23)?

B. Hebrews 9:27-28

1. What has Jesus' sacrifice done for you?
2. When Christ returns, what will He bring to you?

C. Jude 1:24-25

1. List the things that God, through Christ, is able to do for you?

D. Psalm 103:1-5

1. This passage encourages us to never forget God's benefits.
 - a) From this passage, what are the benefits that God has given you?
 - b) What other benefits has God given you that are not listed in this passage?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write a thank you prayer to God. Keep it in a special place to re-read later.
2. Never forget His benefits!

Lesson 5: The Holy Spirit – “My Free Gift from God”

A. Acts 2:38

1. What is the ONLY way for someone to receive God's free gift?

B. Ephesians 1:13-14

1. What role does God ascribe to the Holy Spirit in this scripture?

C. Galatians 5:5

1. According to this scripture, this free gift of God helps us in what way?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Know you received God's Holy Spirit at baptism. You accept this by faith in God's promise that He gave it to you.
2. **Remember:** His Holy Spirit has sealed you. You belong to Him.

Lesson 6: 'I've Been Given The Grace of God'

A. Ephesians 2:8-10

1. From verse 8, how is "grace" defined?
2. Did you earn your salvation?
3. From verse 10, what does God's grace lead you to do?
4. Read Romans 6:23.
 - a) As a sinner, what did you earn?
 - b) As a Christian, what gift did God give you through Jesus Christ?

B. Romans 5:6-11

1. How did God prove His incredible love for you?
2. From this passage, list the things Christ's death has done for you.

C. Titus 2:11-14

1. Has God's saving grace been teaching you to say "No!" to what is ungodly?
2. Read Jude 1:4. What does false "grace" lead to?

D. I Corinthians 15:9-10

1. How did Paul show his gratitude towards the grace given him?
2. How are you showing your gratitude towards the grace given you?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write down (and do) three things that will express your gratitude towards God's grace.
2. Each day, show your appreciation of God's grace by doing what is good and pleasing in His sight.

Lesson 7: "I Will Be Tested and Tempted"

A. Matthew 3:16-4; 11

1. What happened to Jesus after his baptism?
2. What should you expect after your baptism?
3. List the ways Satan has tempted you since your baptism?
4. What did Jesus use to fight Satan's temptations?
5. Read Psalm 119:11.
 - a) Satan's goal is to get you to fall into sin. Satan tried to get Jesus to sin, but Jesus kept quoting Scripture to him. What is Psalm 119:11 instructing you to do and why?

B. Ephesians 6:10-17

1. List some ways Satan may scheme against you?
2. Many will persecute you because of your faith. Judging from verse 12, who is the battle really against? People or Satan's spiritual force?
3. From verse 17, what is our "defense weapon" against Satan?

C. I Timothy 4:1

1. Another way Satan tempts us is by seducing us to accept things taught by demons. How can you protect yourself from falling into false teachings?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Expect to be tempted and decide to be open about it. Talk with your Mentor or a mature Christian today about your temptations and pray together.
2. Study your Bible daily and store the Word of God in your heart so that you will be able to recognize and expose Satan's schemes. For starters, memorize Psalm 119:11.

Lesson 8: "How Do I Pray?"

A. Luke 11:1-13

1. Why do you think prayer needs to be learned?
2. From verse 2, to whom should we be addressing our prayers?
3. From verses 2-4, what four things should we include in our prayers?
4. From verses 5-13, what else does Jesus want us to understand about prayer?

B. Philippians 4:6-7

1. When you are stressed and worried, what should you do?
2. And from verse 7, what will be the outcome?
3. Do you feel at peace after you pray?

C. 1 John 5:14

1. If your prayer request is in accordance to God's will, will He grant your request?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
 - a. Paul made a request to the Lord but the Lord answered "No."
 - b. Sometimes God answers with a "Yes," "No," or a "Wait awhile."
Remember, Father knows best. His answers are always right! So do not get discouraged if He answers with a "No" or a "Wait awhile." ☐

D. Ephesians 6:18-20

1. The opposite of "spirit" is "flesh". The works of the flesh are sinful (Galatians 5:10-21). So what does it mean to pray in the Spirit?
2. Who and what should we be praying for?
3. Do you pray for yourself (and for others in the kingdom) to be bold and effective in the sharing of the Gospel?

**** A simple outline for prayer is:
A.C.T.S. – Adoration (praise), Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication (requests).

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray following the pattern set by Jesus in Luke 11:2-4 or using the **A.C.T.S.** format.
2. Make a prayer journal and write down your prayer requests. See how God answers them.
3. Pray for the saints of God, that they be effective soul-winners and pray for those who are lost and are being studied with, that they come to know the grace of God.
4. Read the Psalms to learn how to really praise God in prayer.

Lesson 9: "I Need to Grow Roots"

A. Luke 8:13

1. What happens to Christians who don't grow roots?

B. Acts 2:41-47

1. What did these disciples do to develop strong roots with the Lord and His Church?
2. From verse 42, to what four things did they devote themselves?
3. Are you devoting yourself to the same things they did?
4. Write down ways you can deepen your relationship with God and His people.

C. 2 Thessalonians 1:2-10

1. From verse 5, what does it mean to have "deep conviction?"
2. How can you develop deep conviction?
3. Who should you imitate? In what way?
4. Are you becoming a "model" to others? If so, in what way?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Spend time this week with Christians you can imitate and learn from.
2. If you have the means, invite a few Christians over for dinner and/or fellowship. Get to know other Christians and develop strong relationships in the church.
3. Devote yourself to the Word of God. Study the Word of God on a daily basis as the Bereans did in Acts 17:11.
4. Pray often to the Lord. You may want to follow Daniel's example in Daniel 6:10.

Lesson 10: The Holy Spirit – “How the Holy Spirit Helps Me”

A. Ephesians 2:18

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us approach God?

B. Romans 8:2

1. The Holy Spirit has freed us from what two laws?

C. Romans 8:26

1. What does this scripture say about help we receive from the Holy Spirit?
2. What other action of the Holy Spirit do we see revealed in this scripture?

D. 2 Corinthians 3:17

1. According to this scripture, who is the Holy Spirit?
2. According to this scripture, what does the Holy Spirit bring to the Christian?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray! Pray! Pray every day. God’s Holy Spirit is there to help you.
2. **Remember:** You may not know what to pray for or how to ask God. But His Holy Spirit is there help you. He wants to hear from you!

Lesson 11: 'I Can't Keep the Gospel to Myself'

A. 2 Kings 7:3-11

1. These four lepers were starving and had no hope. Before you were baptized, how were you like these four lepers?
2. How is the kingdom of God like an unlimited feast?
3. In verse 9, these men thought it wrong to withhold the Gospel to themselves. Do you tend to keep the Gospel (the power of salvation) to yourself? See Mark 16:15.

B. Romans 10:1-4, 14-21

1. Do you feel like Paul does about the lost?
2. Who does God send to preach?
3. Why is it essential to share the Gospel of Jesus to others?
4. Will everyone accept the Gospel? If not, why not?
5. Why is it important to preach no matter what response you receive?

C. Acts 4:23-29

1. These disciples prayed to God for boldness in sharing the message of salvation. Do you ask God to enable you to speak with boldness the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

D. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

1. In what manner should you share the message of truth to the lost?
2. Is it right to argue or lose patience with those who reject the truth?
3. From verses 25-26, after you shared the truth, what should you be hoping for?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Share your faith with your family, friends and coworkers. Be determined to not allow yourself to be discouraged by people's poor reaction to the Gospel!
2. Pray to the Father for boldness and effectiveness in sharing your faith.
3. If you are new to street evangelism, ask your Mentor or another mature disciple to go evangelizing with you.
4. If you get a person who is interested in learning more about the Bible, get their phone number and set up a study date with them. Take a mature Christian with you to the study.

Lesson 12: I Have Hope of Glory”

A. I Corinthians 15:51-58

1. What is the mystery Paul tells us?
2. Why do people normally fear death?
3. Why should we, as disciples, no longer fear death?
4. Why should we devote ourselves fully to the work of the Lord?

B. Colossians 3:1-4

1. Since you have been raised with Christ in baptism, what should you be thinking about from now on?
2. What things should you stop thinking about so much?

C. Hebrews 10:32-35

1. Did these early disciples put their trust in the things of this world?
2. Why did they joyfully accept the confiscation of their earthly possessions?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think for a while about what heaven will be like. And don't forget to thank God every day for the opportunity to go to Heaven!

Lesson 13: "I Will Have Trials of Many Kinds"

A. James 1:2-4

1. List the reasons why God allows us to go through trials.
2. What should your attitude be towards the trials that come your way?
3. What trials do you have in your life right now?

B. James 1:12-15

1. How can you persevere through trials and stand the test?
2. Where do temptations come from?
3. What things tempt you?
4. Have you talked about your temptations with God? If you need prayers and encouragement, share your temptations with your Mentor or with a mature Christian.

C. 1 Peter 1:3-9

1. Why should we rejoice in trials?
2. How can you know if your faith is genuine or not?
3. How can you prepare today for trials you may face later?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Talk about the trials and temptations you face with your Mentor or with a mature Christian. Feel free to discuss your attitude about the trials you face.
2. Have a positive mindset towards the trials you face. Put your faith in God, for He will see you through all your trials!
3. Learn to pray to the Lord in this manner, saying: *"Father, do not take away my trials, rather, help me through them. May my life glorify Your name. Amen"*

Lesson 14: "I Am A Christian But I Still Sin"

As a new Christian you will still have to deal with sin in your life. It will be a battle for you as long as you live. Every Christian needs to know that sin is real, even in the life of those who follow Jesus. Thanks be to your Heavenly Father, He deals with sin so you can continue to walk in forgiveness.

A. 1 John 1:5-10

1. To have fellowship with Heavenly Father, in verse 6 what does He want you to practice daily?
2. According to verse 7, in what must you walk or live?
3. What does it mean to you to walk in the light?
4. What does the blood of Jesus do for you when you walk in the light, in verse 7?
5. In verse 9, what is required of you daily to be pleasing to God and to be assured He has forgiven you?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Know for sure God deeply loves you.
2. Know by walking in the light (God's truth) you are pleasing God.
3. Be willing each day to ask God to forgive you of those things that would displease Him.
4. Ask God to help you to replace the bad habits in your life with the character of Jesus.
5. Remember as God's Child you are trying, with His help, to become more like His Son Jesus, who is our example. 1 Peter 2:21

Lesson 15: "I Will Pray Like Jesus"

A. Mark 1:32-39

1. Despite a busy evening of helping others, Jesus got up early to pray. What excuses could He have made to not pray?
2. Do you ever make excuses not to pray?
3. How has your prayer time been the past 10 days?

B. Mark 14:33-36

1. When Jesus was in distress, what did He do?
2. Did Jesus pray for His own will to be done or for His Father's will to be done?
3. When you pray, should you be praying for your will to be done or the Father's will to be done?

C. Hebrews 5:7-9

1. What kind of prayer life did Jesus have?
2. Why were His prayers heard?
3. Besides dying for our sins, what things would have been difficult for Jesus to obey?
4. What things are difficult for you to do as a Christian?
5. Have you been praying with loud cries and tears for God to help you be obedient?
6. What situations in your life do you need to pray more about? Make a list and be specific.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Spend time today praying about the things you wrote about on your list. Be specific in your prayers.
2. Try praying out loud and talking to God as if you could see Him. Tell Him how you feel about these things and what is difficult and why it is difficult. Be real and open with God.

Lesson 16: "I Will Hold On to the Truth"

A. 2 Timothy 2:14-19

1. Why do some people like to quarrel about words and spread their own ideas around?
2. Do you ever quarrel about words? If so, have you talked about it with another Christian?
3. How can you train yourself to be an approved workman of God?
4. How can you avoid godless chatter?

B. 1 Timothy 1:18-20

1. How can you fight the good fight?
2. How can a Christian "shipwreck" their faith?
3. Read about Hymenaeus (2 Timothy 2:17-18) and Alexander (2 Timothy 4:14-15).
 - a. What is the outcome of people who turn away from the faith?
 - b. What are some ways false brothers may harm others?

C. 1 Timothy 4:15-16

1. Have people been noticing positive and progressive changes in you?
2. Are you watching your life and doctrine? In other words, are you practicing what you preach?

D. 2 Timothy 2:23-26

1. What should your attitude be toward those who oppose your teaching?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Discuss with your Mentor any questions about doctrine or the church that you do not understand.
2. Study the Word of God on a daily basis and never let go of the truth you learn from the Holy Scriptures. As Jude 1:3 says, "*contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints!*"

Lesson 17: "I Will Do Good Things"

A. Ephesians 2:10

1. What has God created for us to do?
2. Make a list of some good works that you could do.

B. 1 Peter 4:8-11

1. How does love cover over many sins?
2. Have you been offering hospitality to other Christians?
3. How can you improve in this?
4. Why do you think God wants you to be giving to others?

C. Galatians 6:9-10

1. Who does God want us to help?
2. Who in the Church has special needs right now that you could help?

For Your Encouragement:

1. If you see needs you can meet, meet those needs this week. If you don't know how you can help, seek advice from a mature Christian. Always keep this in mind – we are family; we need each other!

Lesson 18: "I Am Saved to Serve"

A. Matthew 25:31-46

1. When we serve those who are hurting in the kingdom, who are we really serving?
2. Which of the six things listed in verses 35-36 have you done recently?

B. Deuteronomy 15:7-10

1. What does it mean to be "hard-hearted" or "tight-fisted"?
2. What kind of giving does God expect from you?
3. Who are some of the poor and needy around you – and how are you going to help them?

C. Matthew 10:40-42

1. God rewards a simple act of kindness like offering a cup of cold water to a weary soul. What are some ways you can help the needy, even if you have little money?

D. Hebrews 6:10

1. From this passage, how is your love for God expressed?

E. 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Thessalonians 3:13

1. Sometimes it is a challenge to continue doing what is right, especially when it appears that nothing positive is resulting from it. However, why should you never tire from doing what is right?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Who can you help today? Why not help them now?
2. Make plans with other Christians to help those who are in need this week.

Lesson 19: "Sharing My Faith"

A. 2 Timothy 2:1-2

1. Paul the apostle commanded Timothy, the young preacher, to share with others the Gospel that had been given to Him.
2. Thus we learn the Gospel and the Christian way of life so we can pass it on to future generations.

B. Matthew 10:32-33

1. Jesus wants you to speak His name and His way of life to those you know and meet while here on earth.
2. You cannot be ashamed of whom He is or the principles and way of life He wants you to live before others.

I Need To Be Aware!

3. Satan will do all He can to keep you from being what Jesus wants in your life.

C. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

1. You obeyed the Gospel. (Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus)
2. You have knowledge God wants you to share with others.

D. Mark 16:15-16

1. Jesus gave you this responsibility.
2. When you realize how much God loves you and saved you through Jesus' blood, you will want to share that Good News with others.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray to God for courage to speak the name of Jesus to your friends and loved ones.
2. Practice the flow chart and Gospel presentation that was used with you when you became a Christian.
3. Pray to God to open your eyes to see the opportunities He is giving you at that moment.

Lesson 20: "I Will Be in the Pursuit of Holiness"

A. 1 Peter 1:13-23

1. Now that you are a child of God, from verse 15, what are you called to be?
2. Why does God call you to be this way?
3. From verse 14, to what does Peter contrast "holiness"?

B. 1 Peter 4:1-5

1. Define each item listed in verse 3.
2. How will people in the world react to your choosing to live a holy life?

C. Acts 19:18-19

1. From verse 19, how did these new disciples express their desire to be holy?
2. Do you have any books, CDs, tapes, videos, clothing or any other paraphernalia that is offensive to God that needs to be thrown away? If so, get rid of them now and pray to God, thanking Him for salvation and freedom from sin.

D. Psalm 119:9-16

1. How can you keep your way pure?
2. From verse 11, what encouragement does God's Word offer you and why?
3. Do you – on a daily basis – study and meditate on the Word of God?

E. Romans 8:13-14

1. God's children are led by whom?
2. As a child of God, by what power are you able to put to death the evil deeds of the flesh?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Ask your Mentor – or mature Christian -- who know you well – if they see any worldly attitudes or habits in your life that you need to change.
2. Be receptive towards their critiques and thank them for their desire to help you become more like Jesus

Lesson 21: "I Have the Hope of Heaven"

A. Revelation 20:11-15

1. Take time to imagine what Judgment Day will be like! Who will be there?
2. How will everyone be feeling?

B. Revelation 21:1-8

1. Who is the Bride of Christ?
2. Describe heaven.
3. Who will suffer the second death?

C. Revelation 22:1-6

1. What other eternal joys will be in heaven?
2. Why does God want us to know these words are trustworthy and true?

D. Revelation 22:14-15

1. Why are you such a blessed person?
2. Who will be shut out from the presence of God?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray about what God promises in heaven and be thankful for salvation!
2. When you're asked, "How are you?" tell that person: ***"I am blessed!"***

Lesson 22: "I Am Saved to Save"

A. Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Peter 2:9-10

1. God calls all His disciples to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ:
 - a) What does it mean to be a royal priesthood?
 - b) What message are you called to declare?
 - c) Are you declaring God's praises with the lost or just giving out an invitation?

B. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

1. How can you tell if you're living for yourself or living for Jesus?
2. Go to the dictionary and look up the word "ambassador."
3. What does it mean to be Christ's ambassador?
4. What does MAKE AN APPEAL and IMPLORE mean?
5. What attitude should you have toward the lost?

C. Acts 17:16-34

1. Why was Paul distressed?
2. What are some sights around your city that distress you?
3. Why did Paul begin his message by commending the Athenians for being very religious?

D. 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

1. How did Paul use his freedom in Christ?
2. How are you using your freedom? Are you impacting others for Jesus Christ?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write at least 4 things you have learned today about evangelism from this study.
2. Make a spiritual "hit list" of those whom you are in contact with. Pray to God to use you to help them come to know Him. Try to set up a Bible study with those on your spiritual "hit list".

Lesson 23: 'I'm Either Distracted or Devoted'

A. Luke 10:38-42

1. Why was Martha distracted?
2. How was she feeling?
3. What things have you allowed to distract you this week?
4. Which of these two are you like the most?
5. What did Mary choose and why was it better?

B. Luke 8:14

1. What does it mean to be "choked"?
2. What will being "choked" produce?
3. Are there any worries that are hindering your growth at the moment? If so, what are they?

C. Luke 12:35-40

1. Why do we need to stay alert and ready for Jesus?
2. How does Jesus feel when we get distracted from our purpose?

D. Acts 2:42-47

1. Why were these disciples effective?
2. List the things they were devoted to.
3. The Scriptures encourage us to imitate that which is good (3 John 1:11). Have you been imitating that which is good?

For Your Encouragement:

1. If you have been distracted or wasting time, try writing a personal schedule every day. Use a planner or other media, such as a palm pilot, as an aid. If you need assistance, ask your Mentor or another mature Christian to help you.

Lesson 24: The Holy Spirit – “How the Holy Spirit Helps Me”

A. Ephesians 2:18

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us approach God?

B. Romans 8:2

1. The Holy Spirit has freed us from what two laws?

C. Romans 8:26

1. What does this scripture say about help we receive from the Holy Spirit?
2. What other action of the Holy Spirit do we see revealed in this scripture?

D. 2 Corinthians 3:17

1. According to this scripture, who is the Holy Spirit?
2. According to this scripture, what does the Holy Spirit bring to the Christian?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray! Pray! Pray every day. God's Holy Spirit is there to help you.
2. Remember you may not know what to pray for or how to ask God. But His Holy Spirit is there help you.
He wants to hear from you!

Lesson 25: "I Will Learn from Others"

A. Matthew 18:1-4

1. What kind of heart does God want us to have?
2. What qualities of children do we need to imitate?

B. Matthew 28:18-20

1. From verse 20, what are disciples called to do with younger disciples?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:12:
 - a) Can a Christian be young in age yet be mature in the Lord?
 - b) What should your attitude be when you are being taught, Mentored or corrected by a mature Christian who is younger in age?

C. Ephesians 4:11-13

1. From verse 11, from whom do other disciples learn?
2. Where do we find the teachings of the apostles and prophets? In what book?
3. Evangelists are preachers, pastors are elders, and teachers are those who instruct, counsel or Mentor others. From verses 12 – 13, list the reason(s) why we are to learn from such persons?

D. Hebrews 13:7, 17

1. Do you submit to the authority of those who lead and teach you?
2. Do you imitate the faith of those who lead and teach you?
3. Are you a pleasure to teach?

E. Psalm 32:8-10

1. Why does God's Word encourage us not to be as horses and mules when it comes to learning what is right?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Seek mature disciples out and ask them questions.
2. If you are a mature disciple yet younger in age, be a great example to all believers!
3. If you are a young disciple yet older in age, do not look down on anyone because of their physical age. Rather, learn from those whom God has given insight.

Lesson 26: "I Will Have Powerful Prayers"

A. 1 Chronicles 17:16-22

1. What was David feeling as he prayed to God? Why?
2. How has the Lord blessed you with undeserved honor and blessings?
3. What attitude toward God does this prayer express?

B. Genesis 24:10-27

1. Why do you think the Lord answered this prayer so quickly?
2. The servant's prayer was simple, but he had great faith. How can you tell?
3. What was the servant's first response to the answered prayer?
4. Are you remembering to thank God for every answered prayer?

C. James 5:15-18

1. What makes prayer powerful and effective?
2. Do you pray eagerly and earnestly?
3. Do you pray with great faith?

D. Luke 18:1-8

1. What is Jesus teaching you here in regards to prayer?
2. What should our prayer life be like?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Make your prayer very special today. Pray with faith and gratitude!

Lesson 27: "I Will Be Tempted by the World"

A. Psalm 73:1-14

1. What was the psalmist feeling as he looked at the wealth and prosperity of the unsaved around him?
2. Why did life seem unfair to him?
3. Have you been envying the lost around you? If so, have you confessed this to God?

B. Psalm 73:15-22

1. What did he realize about their final destiny?
2. How is the "good life" like a dream that will end on judgment day?
3. How was the writer thinking when he was envying them?

C. Psalm 73:23-28

1. What did the psalmist realize about his relationship with God?
2. Memorize verses 25-56.

D. 1 John 2:15-17

1. What things in the world are you supposed to hate?
2. Are there any worldly things still attracting you? If so, be determined to hate them.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Talk with your Mentor or a mature Christian about your feelings about the world. Discuss with that person what temptations you have been having and pray about those temptations.
2. When temptation attacks you from within, always remember to go to God in prayer!

Lesson 28: "I Will Rejoice in Persecutions"

A. Matthew 5:10-12

1. What should make us rejoice in persecutions?
2. Have people insulted or spoken evil of you because of Jesus?
3. How did you feel?
4. Who else was treated this way?

B. John 15:18-23

1. How should you expect to be treated?
2. Why does the world hate true Christians?

C. Acts 4:13-22

1. What made Peter and John so bold?
2. Has anyone tried to stop you from teaching, speaking or worshipping Jesus?
3. If so, how did you respond?

D. Acts 5:17-29

1. Jesus was persecuted out of envy (see Mark 15:10); the apostles were arrested out of jealousy. Why will you be persecuted or slandered?
2. What was the apostles' reply when they were told to stop?

E. Acts 5:40-42

1. What made the apostles happy?

F. Romans 12:12-21

1. What is the Lord telling you here as to how to respond to those who persecute and mistreat you for your faith?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Let Acts 5:42 be your theme for today and every day.

Lesson 29: "I Will Have A Giving Living"

A. John 13:1-17

1. How did Jesus show the full extent of His love?
2. What was He trying to teach His disciples?
3. How can you and I obey verse 17 today? Give specific examples.

B. Acts 9:36-42

1. Why was Tabitha so well loved by many?
2. If you were to die today, how would you be remembered?
3. What can you learn from Tabitha's life?

C. Philippians 2:19-24

1. What made Timothy different from the other disciples?
2. How is a genuine interest in the welfare of others shown?
3. How can you be more like Timothy?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think of a practical way to show another disciple that you truly care. Why not do it today?
 - a) Might we give you some suggestions:
 - i. Send them a card or an e-mail of encouragement.
 - ii. If they are sick of going through trials, call them and pray with them.
 - iii. Call them and let them know how appreciative you are of them.
 - iv. If they are in need of food or clothing, go to the store and get what they need and leave it at their doorstep. Do this anonymously!

Lesson 30: "I Will Confess My Sins"

A. Psalm 32:1-7

1. How did the Psalmist feel when he was hiding his sin and not confessing them to God?
2. When he confessed them, what happened?
3. Are there any sins you have been afraid to confess? If so, why not follow the example of the Psalmist? See 1 John 1:9

B. Proverbs 28:13; James 5:16

1. Can we conceal our sins from God?
2. What effect will concealed sin have in our life?
3. Who do we need to confess our sins to besides God?

C. Psalm 66:18-19

1. The word "cherish" according to Webster's means "to hold dear, feel or show affection for." A second definition is "to entertain or harbor in the mind deeply and resolutely." What happens if we conceal or cherish sin?

D. Luke 8:17; 1 Corinthians 4:5

1. Why is it foolish to try to keep sins hidden?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Take some time to think about any sins – whether attitudes, action, or thoughts –that are troubling you and confess them to God and renounce them today.
2. Feel free to confess these sins to either your Mentor or to another mature Christian and pray with that person. Our brother James, in James 5:16, encourages us to confess our sins to one another and to pray for one another that we may be healed. The prayers of righteous men are powerful and effective! **Amen!!**

Lesson 31: "I Will Have Family Pressures"

A. Mark 3:20-21

1. Why do you think Jesus' family was upset with Him?
2. What would have happened if Jesus had agreed with them?
3. Has anyone in your family ever tried to stop you from serving God because they thought you were becoming too fanatical?

B. John 7:1-9

1. What did Jesus' own brothers think about Him?
2. Why didn't Jesus do what His family wanted?

C. Matthew 10:34-39

1. List some examples of ways we can "love" our families more than Jesus.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray for your family and continue to show them the love of God. If need be, discuss any family pressures you are experiencing with your Mentor or with a mature Christian.

Lesson 32: "I Will Be Open and Honest"

A. Psalm 32:2

1. What does it mean to have a "deceitful spirit"?

B. John 1:47

1. What type of man was Nathaniel?
2. Write down the characteristics that Nathaniel must have possessed?
3. Would Jesus say the same things to you?

C. John 15:15

1. What did Jesus share with His disciples?
2. Are you this kind of a friend to other disciples?
3. Do you share your life with those whom you are closest to in the church?

D. 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

1. What was Paul trying to encourage the Corinthians to do?
2. What does Paul mean when he said, "We have spoken freely to you" and we "opened wide our hearts to you?"
3. Are you "speaking freely" and "opening your heart" to others, especially in your Mentorship group?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Spend some time today writing down some feelings, pains, or struggles that you haven't been sharing with others. Discuss these things with those in your Mentorship group or with a mature Christian whom you are close to.

Lesson 33: "I Will Need to Deal with Doubts"

A. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 11-14

1. Paul preached the Gospel to these Corinthians. At first, they believed what Paul taught them but later on, they started to doubt what they once believed. What were they beginning to doubt?
2. Do you doubt on any doctrinal issues that you once believed in after your response to the Gospel? If so, write them down.

B. Galatians 1:6-9; Galatians 2:4; Galatians 5:2-10

1. The Galatians, like the Corinthians, believed the Gospel preached to them. However, later on they started to doubt what they were taught at first. Who was responsible for creating these doubts?
2. How did Paul help restore these Christians back to the true Gospel?

For Your Encouragement:

1. If you have any questions or doubts regarding doctrinal issues, discuss them with your Mentor or a mature Christian who is seasoned in the Word of God.

Lesson 34: 'T'll Be True, Humble and Obedient'

A. Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46; John 14:15; John 15:14

1. These four passages give us insight as to what it means to make Jesus Lord and Friend of our lives. How is our friendship, love and service to Christ expressed?

B. Deuteronomy 26:16

1. What does it mean to "carefully observe" His commands?
2. How does one "carefully observe" them with their heart and soul?
3. Read 2 Chronicles 25:1-2, 14-15, 26-27
 - a) Did King Amaziah observe the Word of the Lord at first?
 - b) What caused him to eventually go after other gods and compromise the Word of the Lord?
 - c) A heart that is not fully devoted to God's Word is a heart that is not fully devoted to who?

C. Joshua 1:8

1. What does the word "meditate" mean?
2. Do you find yourself merely reading the Word of God or do you meditate on it?

D. 1 Samuel 15:1-24

1. King Saul gave into the crowd and disobeyed the Word of the Lord. Why did King Saul suffer displeasure from the Lord?
2. Why is obedience to the Lord better than sacrifices made to Him?
3. Disobedience is a form of rebellion and arrogance towards God. According to verse 23, what is rebellion and arrogance compared to?

E. 2 Timothy 4:3-4

1. What must we be careful of never doing?
2. What does it mean to have "itching ears?"

F. James 1:21-25

1. How is the Word of God to be accepted?
2. What is God teaching you in this passage?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Respect the Word of God with all your heart and soul. Meditate on it on a daily basis. Never turn from it; never compromise it! Strive to humbly obey it!

Lesson 35: "I Will Experience Disputable Matters"

A. Romans 14:1-8

1. What are some disputable matters among Christians today?
2. Apart from the clear doctrinal truths the Bible teaches, what should your attitude be toward those who see these things differently than you?

B. Romans 14:16-23

1. Are you doing anything that could cause others to stumble?
2. What is the Kingdom of God about?
3. What is God teaching you in verse 19?
4. Is God being glorified with the way you are living now?
5. Write down your insights on the meaning of verse 23.

C. 1 Peter 3:3-4

1. What makes a woman beautiful to God?
2. Although this passage is addressing the women in the Kingdom, the principle applies to men as well – especially in today's society. In your own words, write down what you think these passages are teaching you about clothing and godliness.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Do you have questions about what is right and wrong for a Christian? Find out from your Mentor or from a mature Christian whether these are disputable matters and come to your own decisions.

Lesson 36: The Holy Spirit – “God’s Power Source”

A. Romans 8:11

1. What will the indwelling Holy Spirit do for you when Christ returns?

B. Romans 15:13

1. The power of the Holy Spirit will help increase the _____ of the Christian.

C. Ephesians 3:16

1. What critical ingredient does the Holy Spirit supply to the maturing Christian?

D. 2 Timothy 1:14

1. What “good thing (NKJV)” will the Holy Spirit help you keep?

For Your Encouragement:

1. God has given you His Holy Spirit. Know that every day in living the Christian walk you have His power given to you to help you make right decisions.
2. Pray every day that you will allow God in your life.
3. **Remember:** You choose each day what you will or will not allow in your life.

Lesson 37: "My Jesus Is Coming Soon"

A. 2 Peter 3:3-14

1. Look up the word "scoffer" in the dictionary.
2. Why do some people scoff at the promise of Christ's return?
3. What will the "day of the Lord" be like?
4. Are you living as though Jesus could come back today?

B. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. Compare this passage to 2 Peter 3:7-10. Will there be any "second chance" for those who are not ready to meet the Lord?
2. Why will this day be like "a thief in the night?"
3. What does it mean to be alert and self-controlled?

C. 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

1. When the Lord returns, will there be a "second chance" for those who weren't ready to meet the Lord?
2. What will Jesus do to those who were not ready?

D. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

1. How does Paul feel about facing the Lord on Judgment Day?
2. Why is living for Jesus like fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith?

For Your Encouragement:

1. *Live each day like it is your last.*

Lesson 38: "I Will Stand United"

A. Psalm 133:1-3

What is unity and why is it so important to have it in the church?

B. Ephesians 4:1-3

1. Explain the meaning of each virtue mentioned in verse 2.
2. If we do not possess these virtues, what will happen?
3. Why does it take every effort to keep unity?

C. Philippians 2:1-5

1. What does it mean to be one in spirit and purpose?
2. How can you consider others better than yourself?
3. What was Jesus' attitude? Is your attitude the same as His?

D. Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-17

1. According to Jesus, how are you to resolve conflicts and disagreements with one another?
2. To whom should you go first?
3. Is there anyone in the church with whom you need to go and settle a problem?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think about your relationships. Pray to be unified with all your brothers and sisters.

Lesson 39: "I Will Deal with Discouragement"

The prophet Elijah had just experienced some tremendous victories from God: The destruction of 450 false prophets and the first rainfall in 3 ½ years because of his earnest prayer (See 1 Kings 18:1-40 and James 5:17-18). But then he became afraid and discouraged.

A. 1 Kings 19:-8

1. Why did Elijah feel so overwhelmed?
2. What are some things that have made you feel like giving up?
3. How did the angel of the Lord encourage Elijah?
4. What does this lesson teach you? How can you overcome discouragement?

B. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

1. There is a saying that says "there is strength in numbers." How would the teaching of this passage benefit you when you are discouraged?

C. Psalm 103:2-12

1. When you are discouraged, remember His benefits! As an old hymn says, "Count your many blessings! Name them one by one! Count your many blessings see what God has done!"

For Your Encouragement:

1. When you feel discouraged, do the following:
 - a. Pray. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you."
 - b. Counting your blessings and...
 - c. Keep busy in the work of the Lord. Galatians 6:9 says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
2. And above all, remember the words of Jesus in John 14:1, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God..."

Lesson 40: "I Will Imitate God By Loving Others"

You will bring glory to God, your Heavenly Father, when you imitate the love He has for you with others. The word love ("agape" in the Greek) means "to seek the other's highest good." Looking for the good in others and bringing it out is very difficult at times. Loving a person in this way is so vital not only to their well being but yours as well.

A. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

1. Love acts and behaves to seek the other's good.
2. When you practice this kind of love, you honor and imitate God's love toward others.

B. Ephesians 4:25-31

1. God commands you to make what changes in your life?
2. If you do not change these things in your life, how can you be what Jesus said in Matthew 5:16?

C. Ephesians 4:32

1. How does Godly love treat others?
2. Is this verse a suggestion or a principle you must put into your life?
3. What did God do for you in Jesus His Son?
4. Because of God's love, you must be willing to do the same.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray God will help you to understand how much he loves you
2. Pray God will help you share that love with others.
3. Find someone whom others have little to do with because they may be different from others. Show them God's love as you understand it now and see how they respond. You will be glad you did.

Lesson 41: Holy Spirit: "My Body Is Its Temple"

A. I Corinthians 6:19-20

1. What are four "impacts" this scripture has for the Christian?
2. According to these scriptures, what is the primary use of my Holy Spirit filled body?

B. I Corinthians 3:16-17

1. Our body is made _____ because of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
2. What is the penalty of defiling God's temple?

C. Galatians 4:6

1. What is proven by the fact that the Holy Spirit dwells in our heart?
2. How does this indwelling affect our relationship with God?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Each day find a way to improve the temple of God.
2. You have a responsibility to God to use your temple—your body—to God's glory. Each day use it to please Him. (Romans 12:1-2)

Lesson 42: 'I'll Want to Walk Like Jesus Did'

A. 1 John 2:5-6

1. Think back since you became a Christian. Are you walking like Jesus?

B. Mark 1:21-28

1. What was different about the way Jesus taught?

C. Mark 1:29-34

1. How late do you think Jesus worked that night?
2. Do you think He felt tired?
3. Why did He work so hard?

D. Mark 1:35-39

1. Jesus got up very early the next day. Why?

E. Mark 2:13-17

1. What kinds of people did Jesus make friends with and why?
2. How do you treat "sinners?"
3. Are you making new friends to share the Gospel?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write down the things you've learned from this study and apply them to your life today.
2. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

Lesson 43: 'I'll Be Shining Like Stars'

A. Philippians 2:14-16

1. How does a disciple "hold out the word of life" to others?
2. What kind of example do you need to show those around you?
3. Have you had a complaining or argumentative spirit lately?

B. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1. How can you be a slave to everyone? Give examples.

C. Matthew 5:13-16

1. What is the purpose of salt?
2. What is the purpose of light?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said you are the "salt" of the earth and the "light" of the world?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Ask the Lord to use your life to impact those around you to His glory

Lesson 44: 'I'll Take Correction'

A. Galatians 2:11-16

1. What was Peter's sin?
2. How did his bad example affect others?
3. Why did Paul correct him publicly and not privately? (See Timothy 5:20 and Matthew 18:15).

B. 2 Corinthians 7:8-13

1. How did the Corinthians respond to Paul's loving correction?
2. What is the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow?
3. How does God want you to respond to correction?
4. Has anyone corrected you lately? If so, how did you respond?
5. Were they encouraged by your response?

C. Proverbs 15:31-32

1. What does correction bring?

D. Proverbs 10:17

1. Those who receive correction have the potential to what?
2. Those who hate correction have the potential to what?

E. Psalm 141:5; Proverbs 9:8; Proverbs 27:6

1. Why is a righteous person's correction a kindness?
2. How do you respond to those who correct you? Does your love for them increase?
3. Who are your true friends?
4. What will an enemy do?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Correction is designed to help your walk in Jesus. Do not allow yourself to feel "unloved" when you are corrected. It's for your benefit. When you are being corrected, you are actually being loved and cared for.

Lesson 45: "I Will Be Worthy of the Name"

A. 1 Peter 4:12-19

1. What kinds of insults and sufferings have you endured for Jesus?
2. What should your attitude be towards suffering?
3. What does Satan want you to think and do when you are being persecuted?

B. Hebrews 10:32-35

1. Have you gone through suffering like this?
2. What are you doing to encourage other Christians who are going through insults and persecutions?

C. Hebrews 11:32-40

1. These disciples suffered tremendous persecutions for the Lord's sake. Have you ever experienced harsh persecutions for Jesus' sake?
2. How did God regard these people?

D. 2 Corinthians 11:24-27; Romans 8:18

1. What kind of life did Paul live for Christ?
2. How did he feel about his sufferings?
3. Have you been rejoicing or complaining as a Christian?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Would Jesus say you are worthy of the name "Christian?"

Lesson 46: 'I'll Give Graciously' – Part 1

God has always demanded from His children they return to Him in some monetary way an expression of their love for Him. We are given that opportunity each Lord's day when the collection plate is passed.

As you mature in the Lord and your love for Him increases, you will want to increase your expression of love to Him. **Giving is one way.**

A. 1 Kings 17:1-16; Luke 21:1-4

1. These poor widows gave all they had, regardless of their circumstances. How did God bless them and why?
2. Do you depend on God to meet all your needs? Do you fully trust God to meet all your needs?
3. What are the lessons the Lord is teaching you in these two stories?

B. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

1. The Macedonian churches gave sacrificially. List at least 4 other characteristics of their giving.

C. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

1. The Greek word for "cheerful" is "hilaros" by which we get the word "hilarious" from, which denotes a "joyous time!" Have you been giving in this manner?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Sweet Brothers and Sisters, let's make a decision to what you will give on a weekly basis and honor that promise to God.
2. Be consistent and joyful in your giving. Trust in God to provide all your needs (Philippians 4:19).
3. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

It is in giving that we receive, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Make me an instrument of Your peace, I want to know what it's like to follow You.

*When men look at me I want them to see **The Light of the World** inside!*

Lesson 47: 'I'll Give Graciously' – Part 2

A. Job 29:11-17; Job 31:16-22

1. What type of a man was Job?
2. What lessons can you learn from his example?

B. Luke 3:10-11

1. Do you, on a personal level, use your finances and/or resources to meet the needs of those who are hurting around you?

C. James 2:14-17

1. How does true, saving faith express itself?

D. 1 Chronicles 29:11-14

1. Where do all good things come from? To whom does it really belong?

For Your Encouragement:

1. It is good to be aware of your surroundings. If you know people who are in need, and if you have the resources to help them out, do so.
2. Everything you possess comes from God and belongs to God. Your resources are given to you as a loan from God. Manage His gifts well and glorify God with them!
3. If you see a need in the church, meet that need with what God has given you.

Lesson 48: "I Can Shine For Jesus"

Every person has talents or abilities. God wants you to find yours and use it to His glory. Your "personal ministry" must always be focused on one thing – *getting people to Heaven*.

A. Matthew 25:14-30

1. God gives us only what He knows we can handle according to verse 15
2. You have abilities (teaching, caring for others, being a listener, a friend, etc.). There is a part of you God wants you to use for Him.
3. Jesus came to do what His Father wanted. John 4:34
4. You are to imitate and follow Jesus. 1 Peter 2:21

B. Matthew 25:26-28

1. Saying "I don't know enough!" or "I can't!" is not acceptable to God.
2. The reward for using your one talent will be the same as those with 5 or 2 talents when used for serving God.

C. Matthew 5:13-16

1. You have the task to help others go to heaven.
2. Use your abilities for Jesus. This is not an opinion but a command.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Find something you like. Enjoy doing that something--it will benefit others.
2. Pray daily you can be an influence on others for the cause of Christ.
3. Regardless of your abilities (little or great) Jesus can and will use you if you will let Him.
4. Remember Jesus took 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes and fed 5,000. He can and will take your talent or ability, however small, and use it to the glory of your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 14:17-21)