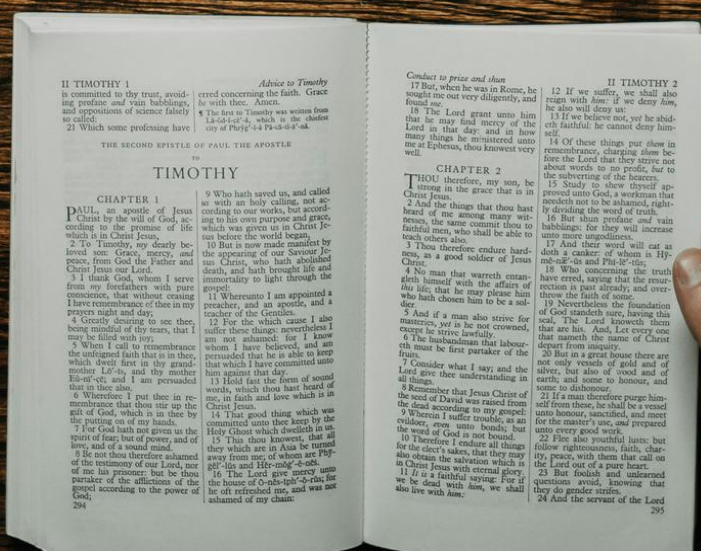




DISCIPLE MAKERS

BIBLE STUDY SERIES



II TIMOTHY 1
Advice to Timothy
concerning the faith. Grace
is with thee. Amen.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE
TO
TIMOTHY

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus.
2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.
4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy.
5 When I call to remembrance the undefiled faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.
6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
7 For God hath not given us the love, and of a sound mind, and of a clear conscience, which some have professed: but by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is in us, and which is not bound away from me, of whom thou art a partaker.
8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of my testimony of Christ Jesus, which is in me: for I am ashamed of none, inasmuch as I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
9 Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.
10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
11 Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.
12 For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.
13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.
15 This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me, of whom are Phileas and Hieronymus.
16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus: for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:
17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.
18 The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.

Conduct to prize and show
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THOU therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.
2 And the things that thou hast heard of the among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.
5 And if a man also strive for mastery, yet he is not crowned, except he strive lawfully.
6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruit.
7 Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.
8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:
9 Whom I suffer trouble, as an unbound man, unto bonds; but God is true, though it should make every man a liar.
10 Therefore I endure all things, for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
11 It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:
12 If we suffer, he shall be saved also with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us:
13 If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.
14 Of these things put thou in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearing.
15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
16 But shun profane and vain babblings; for they will increase unto more ungodliness.
17 And their word will eat as doth a canker, of whom is Hymeneus and Philetus:
18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.
19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.
21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be saved unto honour, sanctified, and ineer for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.
22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.
23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid: for they do gender strifes.
24 And the servant of the Lord

II TIMOTHY 2
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INTRODUCTION

STUDIES

1. SEEKING GOD
2. THE WORD
3. JESUS STUDY
4. DISCIPLESHIP
5. SIN
6. THE CROSS
7. REPENTANCE
8. BAPTISM
9. THE CHURCH
10. COUNT THE COST

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

1. HOLY SPIRIT
2. BIBLICAL CONVERSION
3. EXISTENCE OF GOD
4. ALTERNATIVE CROSS STUDY

RESOURCES

BIBLE STUDIES

The bible studies provided in this document are aimed at helping a seeker come to faith. They provide a basic outline of the foundations of faith to bring someone to salvation. Hebrews 6:1-3 details these foundations as follows; Repentance, Sin, Faith, Baptism, Holy Spirit, The Resurrection and Judgement. This study series covers all of these whether directly or indirectly.

As every person's journey is unique, it's important we learn to use the scriptures to help the person where they're at. This study series is designed to be a flexible tool rather than a formula to follow. It's important you learn and memorise these scriptures and others to help the seeker on their journey.

HELPFUL TIPS

- **Learn to ask great questions.** Jesus was a master of asking questions to expose a person's heart (Luke 6:45). We want the seeker to talk and reveal their heart so they can be healed by Jesus. Avoid "preaching" at the seeker. Instead, aim to ask questions about the scripture, how it applies to them and where they are at with that topic.
- **Get to know the person and build a trusting relationship with them.** Have other disciples in the bible study. This helps the seeker build friendships with others, also helps us teach and train others.
- **Help the person have access to a Bible so they can read for themselves.** It's recommended they start with one of the four gospels.
- **Take notes so that they can review the notes after you have left.** It's easy to forget parts of the study, so having someone take notes and send them to the person is very helpful.
- **Share from your life as much as possible.** This helps build trust and shows them a living example.
- **Pray for them to come to repentance and a knowledge of the truth.**
- **Prepare before going into the study,** not during it! Read each study thoroughly beforehand. Know the purpose, the questions and expected answers and goals for each lesson.
- **Bring someone experienced in.** Do your best to bring someone experienced in to help you. They can help you; before by talking about what would be best to look at, during by helping to steer the study and ask good questions and after by giving you feedback for next time.

PURPOSE

To provide reasons and inspire them to pursue a relationship with God.

SCRIPTURES

Acts 17:22-28 *God made us for a purpose, he wants a relationship with us, if we seek him we will find him*

- How does this scripture describe God? *Made everything, doesn't need anything*
- Why did God set up times and locations? *Seek him*. Can you see this personally?
- So, what does God want with us? *A relationship*
- What is his promise to us if we seek him? *We will find him*
- Is seeking God active or passive? *Active*
- What are some practical ways we can seek God? *Praying, reading the Bible*

Matthew 7:7-8, 13-14 *There are two paths in life, both with very different outcomes, to find eternal life we must seek God first*

- What is the difference between people on the wide road & those on the narrow road? *Seeking God first*
- Which road is easier to be on? & why? *The wide. Follow self*
- Which road have you been on up until this point?

Luke 13:22-30 *It's not as simple as just "being a Christian", it takes us making every effort*

- What is the key to entering through the narrow door? *Making every effort*
- What is the difference between "making every effort" and "trying"?
- What would it look like to make every effort?

Acts 8:26-40 *This is what it looks like to seek God with an open heart, whether we are religious or not, we all need help along our journey*

- What does this passage tell us about this man? *Intelligent, wealthy, religious*
- What is surprising about his response in verse 31? *He needed someone to help him*
- How does this man respond to what he is taught? *Immediate action, eagerness, humility*
- What would it look like for you to seek like the Ethiopian eunuch?

Practical Challenge: Are you ready and willing to "make every effort? Start praying, reading the Bible, coming to church, & commit to further Bible studies

Additional Scriptures:

Matthew 6:25-34, Jeremiah 29:11-13

PURPOSE

To make the bible their standard and inspire them to build their life on it.

SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *The Bible is the very words from God. It is highly useful, and we must use it to train in righteousness. It will get us ready to live the life that God wants.*

- What does God-breathed mean? *From God's Mouth. His Word.*
- How does it say that the Bible helps us? *Teaching, correcting, rebuking (exposing), training in righteousness*
- What is righteousness? *Doing what is right in God's eyes*
- Have you ever trained for anything in your life? What does it take? How can we use the Bible in this way?

Hebrews 4:12-13 *The word of God is alive and applicable to our lives today. It cuts us and heals us by exposing our hearts.*

- Why does it say that the word of God is alive and active? *It is always applicable*
- Why does this verse describe the word as a double-edged sword? *Very Sharp*
- What is the difference between soul and spirit? Joints and marrow? *Not much difference! The Bible is so precise when cutting our hearts.*
- How does verse 13 make you feel? Scared? Comforted? Both?

Acts 17:10-11 *The Bereans were a noble example to follow based on how they received and used the scriptures*

- What does this verse describe the Bereans as? Why?
- What do you think it means that they examined the scriptures? Why do you think they did that?
- How can you be like the Bereans this week? *3 E challenge: eagerly, examine, everyday*

John 12:47-50 *Jesus' words will either save us or condemn us. It's his word that counts!*

- What was Jesus' purpose in coming to the world? *To Save the World*
- What standard will we be held to at the last day? Whose Words? *Jesus' Words*
- Whose words do you/others listen to above God's word?
- Where do his commandments lead? How then should you follow them? *Life*

Practical Challenge: Continue praying, reading Bible & coming to church.

Additional Scriptures:

James 1:22-25, Matthew 7:24-27, Romans 10:17, 1 Timothy 4:15-16, John 7:17, John 8:31-32, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Proverbs 3:5

PURPOSE

To establish Jesus' divinity and character so they may know and believe in the true identity of Christ. This is a helpful study for someone who knows very little about Jesus.

SCRIPTURES

John 1:1-4, 14 *Jesus' divinity is established in this passage. He is the Word become flesh.*

- What are the different things we're taught about the Word in this passage? *At the beginning, with God, was God. Creation depends on the Word.*
- How can the Word both be with God and be God? *Idea of the Trinity*
- V14 - Who is the word that became flesh? *Jesus!*
- What is the relationship between Jesus and God then? *Father & Son. Jesus is God in the flesh*

John 6:35-36 *This is one of Jesus' divine claims, the bread of life. He fills and sustains us.*

- What does Jesus mean by claiming he is the bread of life? If we consume him, what will happen to us? *He is what fills and sustains us.*
- How can we allow Jesus to fill and sustain us today? *Believe in him. Come to him.*
- What is the significance of Jesus claiming "I am" the bread of life, and not just saying he has the bread of life or can lead you to the bread of life? *Jesus doesn't just have something we need, but he is what we need! It's a divine claim*

John 8:12 *Jesus is the light of the world. He provides clarity and direction in the world.*

- What does a light do? *Illuminates*
- What does Jesus do as the light of the world? *We will no longer walk in darkness*
- Have you been walking in the dark? What has been directing your life?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus? Let him be the light of your life?

John 14:5-7 *Jesus exclusively claims that he is the only way to the Father. We must know and follow him.*

- What does Jesus mean by him claiming to be the way the truth and life? *He is the way to God. His way, his life is the one to follow!*
- Can we get to God or heaven through any other teacher or way of life?
- In claiming "I am", what does this mean about the identity of Jesus? *Jesus is not just a teacher leading us to God, he is the only way to come to God.*

It's important to ask who they believe Jesus is. You can share C.S Lewis' Lord, Liar, Lunatic analogy. He cannot be just a good moral teacher!

Additional Scriptures:

John 10:7, John 10:11, John 11:25-26, John 15:1, 5

PURPOSE

To show what it looks like to really follow Jesus. Being a Christian, is not just about identifying as one, but actively following Him every day. This is a helpful study for someone who has grown up Christian.

SCRIPTURES

Acts 11:25-26 *A disciple and Christian are the same thing and the standard should be the same.*

- If you asked someone on the street, "Are you a Christian", what would be the typical answer? How about being a disciple?
- From the passage, what's the difference between Christian and disciple? *Nothing. They are the same thing.*
- Why do people think disciple and christian are different when they're meant to be the same?
- How many times is the word Christian (3 times) and the word disciple (270 times) used in NT? Let's go to the Bible to define what a Disciple/Christian is.

Luke 9:23-26 *Following Jesus takes total commitment; it isn't always easy, but it's worth it*

- What are the 3 aspects of following Jesus? What would that look like to live out? *Deny self, take up cross, follow him*
- What does it mean to save your life now, lose it later? How can we do that?
- What does it mean to lose your life now, save it later? How can we do that?

Mark 1:16-20 *Jesus wants us to be disciples: a student & follower of him*

- What does he mean to "follow him"? *To live like he did*
- Is it active or passive? *Active, it takes effort & commitment*
- What does it mean to become a "fisher of men"? *Helping people become Christians*
- What did they have to give up in order to follow him? *Their jobs, their family*
- Why were they so willing to give up these things to follow him?
- What are some things you might have to give up to follow Jesus?

Matthew 28:18-20 *This is our main mission we all have in life as disciples.*

- What are the three things that Jesus sends them out to do? *Make disciples, baptise them, teach them to obey*
- Who does it say will help us as we do these things?
- Is this your mission in life? What would you say your mission in life has been?

Practical Challenge: Set up a time to go evangelise together.

Additional Scriptures:

Luke 9:56-62, Luke 14:25-27, Luke 5:1-11, John 8:31-32

SIN PART 1



PURPOSE

To show the “bad news” of the gospel; that no one by their own righteousness can meet God’s standard & we are in desperate need of a saviour.

SCRIPTURES

Romans 3:19-23 *The law isn’t a step ladder to righteousness. It is a mirror that shows us we are helplessly sinful*

- What is the Law actually used for according to this passage? *To reveal our sin*
- Can any of us live up to God’s law? *No, we all fall short*
- Does it matter if we do “better” or “worse” than other people? *No, we all fall short*

Romans 6:23 *Because of our choice to sin, we rightfully deserve death*

- What is a wage? *Something we deserve because of our work*
- What is the wage for sin? *Death*
- What did God do so that we don’t have to suffer the consequences of our sin?
Jesus took what we deserved

Luke 7:36-50 *The sinful woman is a great example of someone who sees her own sin clearly. The more you see your sin, the more you will love Jesus*

- Which one is a sinner? *Both are*
- Which one needs Jesus more? *Both need Jesus*
- And yet, only one goes home saved? Why? *She was aware of her sin & so she went to Jesus for saving*
- When this woman acknowledges her sin, how does Jesus treat her? How will Jesus treat you when you admit your sin?

Mark 7:20-23 *We are responsible for our own sin. Sin not only affects our relationship with God, but defiles us (Other sin lists: Galatians 5:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)*

- Where does this passage say sin comes from? *Our own heart*
- If it comes from within, who is responsible for our sin? *Ourselves*
- Why do you think it starts the sin list with evil thoughts?
- Explain each sin.

End the study here and encourage them to write their own “sin list”.

Alternatively, if the person is very broken already and is ready to confess their sin, you can finish the whole sin study in one meeting.

Additional Scriptures:

James 4:17 , James 2:8-11, Romans 1:21-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

SIN PART 2



PURPOSE

After the seeker has understood and had time to think about sin and its consequences, it is then time for them to confess their sin and begin to find healing through Christ.

SCRIPTURES

James 5:16 *Confession is the first step in healing from our sin*

- Who are we called to confess our sins to? *Each Other.*
- What is the purpose of confession in this passage? *So we may be healed.*
- What could stop you from confessing your sin?

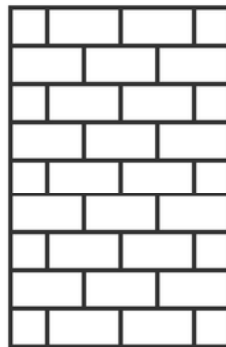
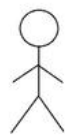
Choose another sin list to look at that you didn't look at last time and confess your sin together. It's important you and whoever is in the study confess their sin/past first helping them see we all need Jesus. Then encourage them to do the same.

Isaiah 59:1-3 *Sin builds a wall between us & God.*

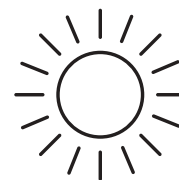
- What does sin do to your relationship with God? *Separates us from him*
- Who is responsible for ruining this relationship? *Us*
- According to this scripture, is there anything that God can't save us from?

DARKNESS

YOU



LIGHT



GOD

- What is your current standing with God?

Additional Scriptures:

Romans 1:21-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 John 1:5-10, John 3:19-21

THE CROSS



PURPOSE

To show what Jesus had to suffer because of our sins & to grasp the extent of God's grace & love for us

SCRIPTURES

Answering 3 important questions in the Cross study.

1. What did Jesus do for us on the Cross? *He paid the price of our sin*
2. Why did he die for us on the Cross? *He loves us deeply*
3. How do we respond to the Cross? *Die to sin, live for righteousness*

Matthew 26:36-46 *Jesus weeps in the Garden of Gethsemane as he asks God to take away the Cross before him. He fears taking on the punishment of our sin.*

- What is Jesus feeling here in the garden? *Overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.*
- What did he ask God 3 times to do in his prayer? What does the cup represent? *The Cross before him.*
- Why is Jesus so afraid to die? How is his death different from other people's deaths? *Jesus will have his eternal relationship with God separated because of sin.*
- Why was Jesus willing to have his relationship with the father separated for you? *Love!*

Matthew 26:55-68 *In Jesus' most difficult moment, facing the Cross, his disciples abandon him and he is falsely accused.*

- What did Jesus' disciples do in his most difficult moment? How does it feel to be abandoned?
- Jesus was falsely accused and false evidence was given. How does it feel when people accuse you falsely?
- Why was Jesus willing to die for those who abandoned and falsely accused him?

Matthew 27:15-26 *Jesus willingly died for these people as well, an infamous rebel, a rowdy crowd and a corrupt politician.*

- What does Barabbas deserve for murder and rebellion? *He is all of us, guilty!*
- Is Pilate innocent of Jesus' blood? Why did he have him killed? *People pleasing*
- Why was Jesus willing to die for murderers and people pleasers?
- Explain Flogging and Crucifixion

SCRIPTURES

Matthew 27:45-50 *As Jesus dies, we see the moment he feared, taking on our sin and experiencing the wrath of God.*

- Why does Jesus feel forsaken at this moment? What does forsaken mean? *His relationship with God has been severed, so God is distant now.*
- What does Jesus normally call God? Why does he not call him father now? *Father. His relationship with God is no longer Father-Son, but God-sinner.*

Romans 5:6-11 *The Cross is the evidence God deeply loves us.*

- How does this passage describe us before being saved? *Powerless, ungodly, sinners, enemies of God (go through & explain each one)*
- And so, why would Jesus die on the cross for us? *To show his love for us*

1 Peter 2:21-25 *How should we respond to such love, such sacrifice? Die to sin and live for righteousness.*

- Knowing what Jesus has done on the Cross, how does Peter call us to respond? *Die to sin and live for righteousness.*
- What does it mean to die to sin and live for righteousness?

Challenge:

This week, consider Jesus' sacrifice and love for you. Every time you are tempted, every time you sin, remember what Jesus did for you and how much he still loves you! Another helpful practical is to watch the Passion of the Christ movie.

Additional Scriptures:

Isaiah 52-53, Psalm 22, John 1:29

REPENTANCE



PURPOSE

To establish the biblical response to Jesus' sacrifice, a changed mindset which is proven by a new life.

SCRIPTURES

- Ask what they think repentance means. Define repentance. Metanoia – change of mind.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *Christ love compels us to no longer live for self but live for him*

- What does compel mean? *Motivated, pushed - greek word = control*
- What does Christ's love compel us to do? *Stop living for self & start living for Christ*

Luke 3:1-14 *The fruit of repentance is the evidence of a changed mindset.*

- Why didn't John baptize these people? *Even though they believed in God & wanted to be baptized, they hadn't repented yet*
- How could John tell? *You can see repentance; it bears fruit in your life*
- What does it mean to "produce fruit in keeping with repentance"? *Repentance is only real if it leads to change/action*
- John gives practical things for them to repent of, if you were to ask John today "what do I need to repent of?" – how might he respond to you?

Luke 13:1-9 *Repentance is required for salvation and Jesus expects to find fruit every time there is true repentance.*

- How important is repentance? *Jesus says without it we will perish.*
- Why do you think these people were bringing these hypothetical situations to Jesus?
- What is Jesus' response? *Don't worry about exceptional hypothetical situations - make sure you repent*
- Go through & explain parable - *Jesus is patient with us & does everything he can to help us repent*

2 Corinthians 7:8-11 *Merely feeling sorrowful does not equate to repentance. Godly sorrow leads to true mind change which produces fruits of repentance.*

- What did the sorrow lead the Corinthians to? *Repentance*
- What is worldly sorrow? What does it lead to? *Feeling sorry for your sin is not repentance!*
- What is Godly Sorrow? What does it lead to? *God focused sorrow. Salvation.*

Additional scriptures:

Luke 18:18-30, Luke 19:1-10, Acts 3:19, Acts 26:16-21, Acts 2:36-38, Luke 15:11-32

BAPTISM



PURPOSE

To show the seeker how to receive salvation from Jesus, by means of baptism.

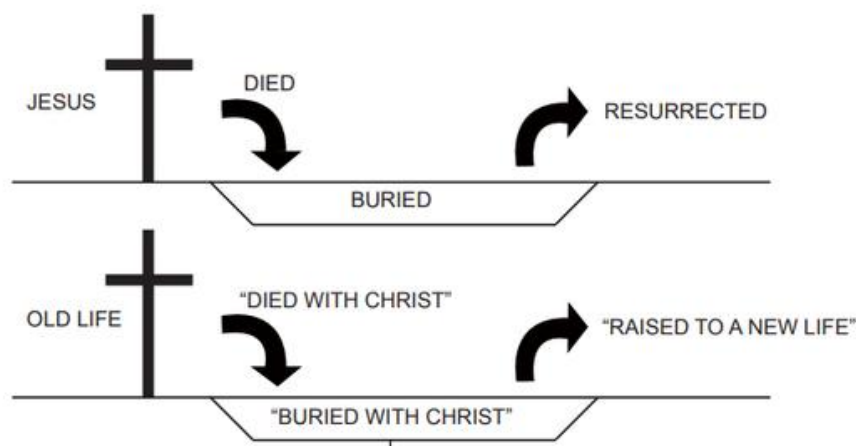
SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:36-41 *This scripture clearly lays out that repentance and baptism are required for forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- What does it mean Jesus is Lord and Messiah?
- First time the gospel is ever preached - what is their reaction? *Cut to heart - want to get right with God*
- What does Peter tell them they need to do? *Repent and be baptised*
- What do we receive when we do these things? How is this different to what you've been taught?

Romans 6:1-4 *Baptism is how we connect to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.*

- We are saved by Jesus' death, burial and resurrection - when do we connect to that according to this passage? Draw diagram of cross/baptism parallels



Acts 22:3-16 *Paul's conversion in many ways mimics our own journey to Jesus and reinforces that baptism is needed for forgiveness of sin.*

- This is the story of Paul's conversion. How does your story mimic this one?
- What are all the ways that Saul obeys? Even though he's obeyed, are his sins forgiven? When will your sins be forgiven?
- What are you waiting for? What's stopping you from getting baptized?

Additional scriptures: 1 Peter 3:19-22, Acts 22:6-16, Acts 8:26-40, Titus 3:3-7, Acts 16:25-34, Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:19, John 3:1-5

PURPOSE

To encourage the person that they will not be left to fend for themselves after baptism. Instead, Jesus baptises us into the body, the church to be joined by a family of like-minded disciples in our devotion to Him.

SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:40-47 *To be a part of God's church is to be devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread (communion) and prayer.*

- What does it mean to be devoted?
- What things were they devoted to? *Apostles teaching (the word), fellowship (church), breaking of bread (communion/ the gospel), prayer*
- Breakdown each one and ask what is practically looks like to be devoted to that thing.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 *The church is made up of distinct yet unified parts, like the human body. We all have a specific function in the body. We all need the body.*

- What is the metaphor this passage uses to describe the church? It is a body - how is it like a body? *The church consists of distinct yet unified parts, just like a human body.*
- When do you become a part of the body? *Baptism*
- What are attitudes that hinder us in the body? *V15 - Insecurity. V21 - Arrogance*
- How will you help build up the body of Christ?

Hebrews 10:23-25 *In order to hold onto our new faith we need to 'spur' and encourage each other to help us stay on course.*

- Is baptism the end or the beginning of our spiritual journey? *Just the beginning - we need to hold unswervingly to our faith*
- What does it mean to consider? What are we meant to consider?
- Does spurring always feel good? Why do we need it? *They need to spur others and be spurred themselves*
- Why is missing meetings of the body described as a bad habit? Why and when do we meet?

Additional Scriptures: Hebrews 3:12-13, Matthew 12:46-50, Ephesians 4:1-16, Colossians 1:15-18, 2 Corinthians 8:7

COUNTING THE COST



PURPOSE

To ensure the seeker has weighed up the costs of being a disciple & are ready to be a committed follower

SCRIPTURES

Luke 14:15-24 *There is no good excuse for rejecting Jesus' invitation*

- Breakdown passage - Those at the Messianic Banquet, the feast of all feasts, will truly be blessed! Many are invited (vv. 16, 17, 21, 23) and there is room for all (v. 22).
- Are their excuses good or bad things? *Good - field, oxen, marriage*
- So what was wrong with them? *They put them above God and his kingdom*
- What are some things in your life that might compete for that number 1 spot? Share personally

Luke 14:25-27 *Following Jesus is a total realignment of our priorities & relationships*

- Is Jesus being literal or hyperbolic? *Hyperbolic*
- What's the point he is trying to emphasize? *Our love for Jesus must transcend our love for anyone else, especially self (Mt 10:37)*
- In what ways can family/self stop us from following Jesus?
- What will be hardest for you?

Luke 14:28-35 *Following Jesus is a lifelong commitment. We should count the cost of this decision*

- First parable - what does the tower represent? *Our life and what we build for Christ with it* - what is his warning? *Rushing into it - not weighing up costs*
- Second parable - who do the two armies represent? What would you do in this situation? What's he wanting against? *Taking too long - not acting soon enough*
- Which one relates more to you? Why?
- Encourage them to weigh up costs and take action

HOLY SPIRIT

This study is helpful for those who are concerned they will not be able to live out the life of a disciple. Or to clarify the purpose of the Holy Spirit for a seeker from a more Pentecostal church. It is also helpful for a seeker who wants to understand who the Holy Spirit is.

BIBLICAL CONVERSION

If the seeker has grown up religious and is struggling to grasp the big picture of salvation by means of Faith, Repentance and Baptism, this study shows biblical conversion in the New Testament.

EXISTENCE OF GOD

For those who are wanting to seek God, but are struggling to believe God is real, this study explores different concepts and evidences from the Bible of God's existence.

ADDITIONAL CROSS STUDY

If the seeker already has a good understanding of the Crucifixion story, this study dives into the deeper significance of Jesus' death on the Cross. It explores more religious and Old Testament concepts.

PURPOSE

To encourage the person that they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at baptism & he will help them in various ways

SCRIPTURES

Acts 2:36-39 *Peter explains how to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

- What are we promised when we repent & get baptised? *The gift of the holy spirit*
- What does Peter mean when he says “this is the promise for you, your children, & all who are far off”? *This is the normative way to receive the gift of the holy spirit*

Ephesians 1:13-14 *The Spirit is essential for salvation. It is God’s way of guaranteeing we will be with him in heaven.*

- What is a seal? What is a deposit? *It is a way of claiming or guaranteeing something.*
- What does the Holy Spirit guarantee? *Our inheritance, being with God.*
- Who is the one putting down the deposit? *God claims and guarantees that we will be his.*
- Can you be in heaven with God without the Holy Spirit? *No*
- When you become a disciple, how certain can you be of your salvation? *Very Confident*

Romans 8:5-13 *Living according to the flesh is our old way of life, living by the Spirit is our new way of life. With the Spirit we can now live a life that pleases God.*

- What are the results of living according to the flesh? *Death*
- What happens when we live according to the Spirit? *Life and peace*
- How do we become no longer in the realm of the flesh? *Receiving the Spirit*
- Can you live a life that pleases God without the Spirit? *No V8*
- From this passage, how will the Spirit help you in your walk with God?

John 16:7-8 *The Holy Spirit convicts us and the whole world in order to live the life he wants. We are not left alone in our walk with God!*

- How helpful do you think it would be to literally have Jesus with us on earth today?
- Jesus says it is better that he leaves so the holy spirit can come - how important do you think the holy spirit is then?
- What does he say the spirit does?
 - Greek ‘Paracletos’ translated as – Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor or Encourager
 - Convicts or convince us with regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment

Additional Scriptures: Ezekiel 36:25-27, John 7:37-39, Ephesians 3:14-21, Galatians 5:22-23

PURPOSE

For some Seekers with a religious background, it can be difficult accepting that they may have been taught unbiblical conversion. This is a great additional study to use with a Seeker who is wrestling with how to receive salvation from Jesus.

SCRIPTURES

The Book of Acts is the only book in the bible we see someone become a Christian. In the gospels we see people follow Jesus, but they don't receive the Holy Spirit because Jesus has not yet died for their sins.

Major Conversions in Acts

1. Acts 2:36-47
2. Acts 8:26-40
3. Acts 16:25-34
4. Acts 9:1-22
5. Acts 22:3-16

In each passage ask the following questions:

- What was preached?
- What was the persons' response to the message?
- What was their response after baptism?

The pattern of conversion in scripture we see is as follows;

- Hear the word, Believe the word, Repent, Be baptised

There are 2 conversions that do not completely follow this pattern of conversion. But they are not the norm.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells the disciples that when they receive the Spirit, they will spread the gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. You see this progression of the gospel spreading in the book of Acts.

The first conversion in that area are as follows;

Jerusalem conversion – Acts 2:36-40

Judea – Acts 8:1

Samaria – Acts 8:4-25

Gentiles (ends of the earth) – Acts 10:1-48

The first Samaritan and Gentile conversions are not the normal conversion experience. The Holy Spirit had to “fall” on them due to the stigma from the Jews towards the Samaritans and Gentiles.

FALSE FORMS OF CONVERSION

“Pray Jesus into your heart” - This phrase is never mentioned in the Bible. People may use Revelation 3:20 about Jesus knocking at the door, however, you must examine the Scripture in context. This Scripture does not teach how to become a Christian and be saved, but how to come back to God after becoming lukewarm. It is addressed to disciples who already responded to Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

“Accept Jesus into your heart” - (Same teaching as praying Jesus into your heart just different terminology.) Based on Romans 10:9. You must look at Scripture in context. Paul is addressing the problem of the Israelites: unbelief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Read further on to Romans 10:13. When do you call on the name of the Lord? At baptism. (Acts 22:16)

“Infant baptism” - A baby cannot have faith, and since we are baptized through faith in the power of God (Colossians 2:12), babies cannot be baptised.

“Baptism does not save you” - 1 Peter 3:21 says that baptism does save you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Titus 3:3-7 teaches we are saved through the washing(the bath) of rebirth, aka at baptism. Acts 2:38 teaches that sin is forgiven at baptism - a person is saved at the point when sin is forgiven.

“Baptism is a work, yet we are saved by faith” - Colossians 2:12 teaches we are saved by faith-in the working of God at our baptism.

“Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace” - Romans 6:2-4 states that baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is not merely a sign, seal or symbol.

“Baptism isn’t important, after all, look at what Paul said about it in 1 Corinthians 1:17” -

Paul does not diminish the importance of baptism here. (Paul himself was baptized to have his sins forgiven in Acts 22:16.) In context (read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17), he makes the point that he does not want people following men (denominationalism). He mentions baptism several times in the passage.

FALSE FORMS OF CONVERSION

“The thief on the cross was not baptised and Jesus told him that they would see each other in paradise” – The Spirit had not yet been given as Jesus had not even died yet(John 7:39), and baptism is participating in his death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:2-4); also Jesus had the power to forgive sins when he was on earth. (Matthew 9:2-6).

“Believer’s baptism” - This is baptism as an adult, but is not done in conjunction with the understanding that one is being saved at this point in time (John 3:5, Acts 2:38).
“Retroactive understanding” is not sufficient for salvation.

Challenge:

Go home and read the book of acts. Take note of every conversion and the process of it. Hearing, believing, repenting and being baptised.

PURPOSE

When the seeker is searching to know if God exists, these ideas and passages may help them discover God.

SCRIPTURES

Creation: Romans 1:20

- How does this scripture say we can know there is a God? *Through nature/ creation*
- What are some things you see in creation that show God? *Beginning to universe, order of universe, beauty of world, consciousness*
- Illustration: Smart Phone - Take for example your phone - what characteristics of your phone lead you to thinking there is a creator? When you break your phone - who do you take it too to fix? Apple. If we are looking for meaning and purpose in life, who should we go to? Our creator

Origin: Genesis 1:1 & John 1:1-3

- What does the bible teach about the origins of the universe? *God created it - it had a beginning*
- Do you believe the universe has a cause? *Big bang*
- If time, space and matter had a beginning - what does that mean about what caused it? *Had to be outside of the universe - timeless, spaceless, metaphysical, intellectual (because of order and design), and uncaused - or God*

Moral Consciousness: Romans 2:12-16

- Do you believe in good and evil? *We all know there is good and evil (use extreme examples) This passage says there is a moral law written on all our hearts*
- Are these objective? *(true whether you believe in them or not)*
- Where do you think these objective morals come from? *They can't come from self or nature - because they are inherently subjective - self changes from person to person - nature is just survival of the fittest*
- Therefore it must come from something outside of self and outside of nature - God

Personal Experience: John 4:28-30; 39-42

- How did this woman come to know Jesus was God? *Because he changed her life*
- Share testimony / how Jesus changed your life
- Challenge: Come & see for yourself - ask others about their testimony

ALTERNATIVE CROSS STUDY

PURPOSE

This Cross study may be helpful for a religious person who knows and understands the gospel account of Jesus' crucifixion.

SCRIPTURES

Romans 6:23 *Salvation is a gift from God. We do not deserve it*

- What's the difference between a wage & gift? *One is deserved & one isn't*

Romans 3:20-28 *God has made a way for us to become righteous through Jesus*

- What does it mean that "apart from the law, righteousness has been made known"? *Even though we all fall short, there is a way for us to be declared righteous*
- How is this possible? *Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross*
- The scripture uses three words to describe this, redemption, atonement, justification. What do these mean? *Use three illustrations - slavery, temple/sacrifice, court of law*
- How do we receive this righteousness? *By faith in Jesus*

Romans 5:6-11 *Even though we are helplessly sinful & deserving of death, God loves us so much that he died for our sins*

- How does this passage describe us before being saved? *Powerless, ungodly, sinners, enemies of God (go through & explain each one)*
- And so, why would Jesus die on the cross for us? *To show his love for us*

Challenge:

- Read through the account of the cross (Mark 14:32-15:37). As you read through the account stop and consider along the way the two main points:
 1. He is enduring the punishment I deserve for my sins (Isaiah 53:5)
 2. He is enduring all of this because of his love for me (John 3:16)
- Think and pray about a 3rd question: How should respond to this loving sacrifice?

Galatians 5:19-21 - Sin List

Sexual immorality: πορνεία (porneia); fornication, sexual immorality, sexual sin general kind, that includes many different behaviors.

impurity: ἀκαθαρζία (akatharsia); immorality, sexual impurity.

debauchery: ἀζέλγεια (aselgeia); sensuality, debauchery, lewdness. Being unrestrained in moral attitudes and behaviors (gluttony, laziness, greed etc.)

idolatry: εἰδωλολαηρία (eidōlolatria); Worship of idols (greed in Eph 5), worshipping anything other than God.

witchcraft: θαρμακεία (pharmakeia); sorcery, witchcraft, black magic.

hatred: ἔτθρα (echthra); wishing harm for someone, looking down on anyone, bitter feelings, resentment, wanting revenge, murder.

discord: ἔρις (eris); strife, conflict ; quarrel, to speak discord, argue, rivalries.

jealousy: ζῆλος (zēlos); jealousy, possessiveness.

fits of rage: θσμός (thymos); fury, wrath, anger, rage, intense desire; in contrast with ὀργή (orgay) as settled indignation, thymos is used of anger that boils up and subsides again, swelling up of anger, hot temper, angry outburst

selfish ambition: ἐριθεία (eritheia); Denoting an attitude of self-seeking selfish ambition, self-interest, rivalry (PH 2.3)

dissensions: διτοζηαζία (dichostasia); division, disunity, rebellion

factious: αἵρεζις (hairesis); (1) Feeling superior to others, cliques, refusing to associate with someone because they are different or for another reason, racism, prejudice.

envy: θθόνος (phthonos); Desiring something someone else has, wishing you had it instead of them (wealth, status, ability, physical features, spirituality, relationships).

drunkenness: μέθη (methē); drunkenness

orgies: κῶμος (kōmos); originally festive procession in honor of the wine god, merrymaking; in the NT always in a bad sense carousing, revelry, excessive feasting

RESOURCES



English to Chinese Bible

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/%E5%9C%A3%E7%BB%8F%E5%92%8C%E5%90%88%E6%9C%AC%E4%B8%AD%E8%8B%B1%E5%8F%8C%E8%AF%AD%E6%96%87%E5%AD%97%E7%89%88hd/id647579214?platform=iphone>

Apologetics Playlist

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDM_mL-xuB_pjklFtpQ96Pj5i9X0h_TUO&feature=shared

Christian Basics (For those totally new to Christianity)

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDM_mL-xuB_oGRLz0kG225yPDeFleLt2b&feature=shared

Medical Account of Crucifixion

<https://www.douglasjacoby.com/a-more-accurate-medical-account-of-the-crucifixion/>