

Discipleship Training

**A Venture in
Training and Accountability**

Level 3

SCHEDULE OF DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING 3

Week	Lesson	Assignment
1	Accepting Ourselves as Created	Daily Quiet Time (DQT) Self-acceptance Worksheet Scripture Memory: Philippians 1:6, 2:13 Bible Study Prayer Partner
2	The Fruit of the Spirit	DQT SM: Galatians 5:22-23 Bible Study Prayer Partner
3	Knowing God's Will	DQT Read <i>How to Know God's Will</i> and answer the questions SM: Philippians 1:20-21 Bible Study Prayer Partner
4	Discerning Good from Evil	DQT SM: Philippians 2:5-7 Bible Study Prayer Partner
5	Setting Priorities	DQT SM: Philippians 2:8-11 Bible Study Prayer Partner
6	Personal Problem Solving	DQT Read 2 Kings 19:1-18 and review the lesson SM: Philippians 3:10-11 Bible Study Prayer Partner
7	Resolving Conflicts	DQT Experiment with Matthew 18:15-18 SM: Philippians 4:13,19 Bible Study Prayer Partner
8	How to Give a Testimony	DQT Write out a 3-minute testimony SM: Matthew 6:33 Bible Study Prayer Partner
9	Checkup & Evaluation	SM: review all the verses in Level 3 Bible Study Prayer Partner

Tip for Memorizing Scripture

- Week 1 Read the verse 5 times each day.
- Week 2 Read a new verse 5 times each day.
Repeat the verse from Week 1 3 times each day.
- Week 3 Read a third verse 5 times each day.
Read the second verse 3 times each day.
Read the first verse 1 time each day.
- Week 4 Read a new verse 5 times each day.
Read the third verse 3 times each day.
Read the second verse 1 time each day.
Read the first verse only on Monday.

This process will be continued until you have filled each day of the week with the review of 5 verses. At this point you can begin to review verses only on a monthly basis, then yearly basis.

Accepting Ourselves as Created

“But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?” (Romans 9:20-21)

If you could recreate yourself, what changes would you make? In my library there is a book *The Part of Me I Don't Like*. If you had written that book, would you have found a little or a lot of material?

Take time to list those things about yourself which you have had difficulty in accepting:

- physical features
- mental qualities
- personality traits

Rate Yourself

Overall do you see yourself as having a positive or negative self-concept?

0	5	10
Negative		Positive

What things are at work in how you see yourself?

Negative

- parent/child relationships
- sin/guilt
- wrong beliefs about God
- wrong thought patterns
- past experience of rejection, criticism, and failure
- social influences

Positive

- good family situation
- growing relationship with God
- belief that success cannot always be measured outwardly
- close friends
- job satisfaction
- ministry to others

Cautions

1. A negative attitude towards the creation is a negative response to the Creator. (Romans 9:20-21)
2. The "comparison game" is commonly played but fruitless in its outcome—unless you care for rotten fruit. (2 Corinthians 10:12)
3. Your self-concept affects your:
 - emotional well-being
 - behaviour

Cures

1. _____. (Romans 12:3) J.B Philips –"have a sane estimate of your capabilities"

*"God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference."*
2. _____. Let people know the real you. Their acceptance of you then becomes their responsibility not yours.
3. _____. (Matthew 10:39) Sharing yourself with others is the art of loving.
4. _____. (Galatians 6:2) Ask God for good friends, a spiritual family who knows and loves you.
5. _____. (Philippians 4:13 – created, loved, redeemed, gifted, empowered by Him.)

Dr. John Powell in *Why Am I Afraid to Love?* says, "The one thing every human being must do to be fully alive is to accept himself as he is."

Remember – The Holy Spirit lives within you and is at work in you to bring healing and renewal.

What cautions and cures do you need to pay attention to? Pray about this with your prayer partner.

SELF ACCEPTANCE WORKSHEET

What things do you see in your life that show a good positive self-concept?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Things I wish I could change

Physical Features		Mental Qualities		Personality Traits	

In the narrow columns to the right, code mark each with a "C" or "U", changeable or unchangeable.

Do you recognize any outside influences which make you not accept yourself?_____ If yes, identify:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Out to the side of each, list what can be done to get rid of the bad influences.

Write down your memory verses for this week.

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:13

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DQT							
Scripture Memory							
Meet with prayer partner							
Application of Scripture Reading							
Bible Study							



The Fruit Of The Spirit

What do the following passages tell us about the Fruit of the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22-23 (fruit – singular in number)

Philippians 1:11

Colossians 1:10

Hebrews 13:15

The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives. Fruit bearing is a possibility and responsibility for every Christian in contrast to the gifts of the Spirit which are distributed to particular individuals according to God's sovereign will.

Biblically, the fruit of the Spirit:

- shows up true teachers from false ones (Matthew 7:16-20)
- being produced depends on our receiving God's Word (Matthew 13:8, 23)
- results from remaining in Christ, the Vine (John 15:1-16)

The classic passage of Galatians 5:22-23 gives us the nine fruits of the Spirit. Paul shows the difference between them and the unfruitful works of darkness. Paul presents them in three groups:

- The first, concerned mainly with the believer's relationship _____
(love, joy, peace)
- The second, concerned with the believer's relationship _____
(patience, kindness, goodness)
- The third, concerned with the _____
(faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control)

Love	the capacity to be just as concerned about the happiness, well-being, and feelings of others as we are about ourselves
Joy	a deep inner sense of well-being even when having troubles and conflict
Peace	being free from any disturbance in our relationship with God, our neighbors and ourselves
Patience	enduring wrong without anger or vengeance. "A mature person is able to endure another's immaturity."
Kindness	being a good, understanding person, easy to talk to, and not harsh in manner or attitudes
Goodness	being honest, just, and kind to others
Faithfulness	desiring trustworthiness and able to trust others; reliable, dependable
Gentleness	maintaining a mild, gentle, and kind spirit under pressure, agreeable when disagreed with. "Meekness is courage grown tender"
Self-control	mastering our appetites, temper and passions; so in control of ourselves we are fit to be servants of others

Personal

"Fruit Inspection" – Which of the fruits are:

Most developed in you?

Are least ripe in your life?

In what spirit do you wait for the perfection of fruit in your life?

"by _____ produce a crop." Luke 8:15

What can you do to help “ripen” the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

Galatians 5:24, 25

Matthew 13:8, 23

John 15:1-16

Keep working at it. Continue to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in your life.

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HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

By Bill Bisset

There are three things which you must be sure of before you begin to seek God's will for your life.

- You must know God. It is necessary to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- You must be obeying Him. A close relationship with God is broken by disobedience to Him.
- You must be willing to accept His will for your life. It is useless to seek God's will if you are not going to do it.

God has created each one of us. He knows us better than we know ourselves. His will for us is rooted in this truth. God's will is therefore surely for our good. We should not fear His will for us. God's will for us will always agree with the moral law which we find written in His Word. God's moral law teaches us right and wrong and how God wants us to live. If something breaks His revealed moral law, it cannot be His will for us. This also means that the rules are the same for everyone. God does not have some special cases where His laws can be broken.

Finally, God's will is not a once in a lifetime experience. It is a process of discovery which lasts all the way through our lifetime. As we honestly seek God's will, He will reveal it to us. God has work for each of us to do for Him. God has a plan for you and your life as shown in Ephesians 2:10.

There are a number of myths which have become associated with knowing the will of God. Knowledge of God's will is not reserved for only a special few of God's people. In John 15:16 Jesus tells his disciples that they did not choose Him but He chose them and appointed them to go and bear fruit. God has something for each of us as Christians to do for Him. He has "fruit" that only we can bear.

The Bible is our guide for living the Christian life. However, it is wrong to seek guidance in making a decision by simply letting the Bible

fall open to a chapter, closing our eyes and pointing our finger to a verse, and then taking that verse as God's leading for us. This is mocking God. Another myth is that we should not consider our own interests in seeking God's will. Wisdom and common sense should always be used in making our decisions and in seeking God's will.

The talents and abilities which God has given us should help to guide us in finding His will for our lives. If our minds are being renewed and controlled by God, we should also use them in judging what God would have us do.

Many Christians like the story of Gideon and want to "put out a fleece" to find what God's will is for them. Gideon already knew what God wanted him to do. He simply didn't trust God completely. It is dangerous to put God to the test by "putting out a fleece". We must also be very careful about letting life's circumstances show God's will to us.

Knowing God's will and doing it does not guarantee a Christian a trouble free life. To believers this is to misunderstand suffering, Satan, and God's means of grace. It is also wrong to think that when you know God's will in a matter all your questions will be answered. Many questions about events in life will not be answered until we get to heaven. God uses various means to communicate His will to Christians. A very important means is His Word. Many times God speaks to a Christian through a particular verse or passage of His Word. There should be a daily reading of God's Word in an attitude of expectation that He will speak through it.

Other Christians are often used by God to direct His people. The Holy Spirit has used many missionaries and preachers in guiding others into His will for them. Even the biographies of great Christian men and women have been used by God to speak to people's hearts. The counsel and advice of other godly Christians can often be a help in finding God's will in a matter. As we have already said, common sense and our minds must be used in

knowing God's will. The talents and abilities we have should also help to guide us. God gave them to us to use for Him.

God's will for our lives is not a great mystery or difficult puzzle. As we walk closely with God in obedience and trust, He will show us His will for our lives. God's Word and the Holy Spirit will guide us. As we walk in obedience to God there is actually a great deal of freedom of

choice, especially in the daily decisions of life. We must only be careful to follow God's revealed moral law.

Do not fear God's will for your life. He has made you as you are and wants to use you to fulfill the abilities and potential in your life. Allow Him to control you and work in and through you. That is the key to knowing and doing God's will.

How To Know God's Will

Read the article on *How to Know God's Will*. Study it and then answer the 20 true/false questions.

True	False	1. God's will for us is rooted in the fact that as our Creator He knows us better than we know ourselves.
True	False	2. God's will and His Word are not always the same.
True	False	3. It is possible that God makes different rules for some.
True	False	4. Knowing God's will is not a one time situation but a life time process of discovery.
True	False	5. God will not permit anyone who honestly seeks His will to miss it.
True	False	6. God has a plan for you!
True	False	7. The final, great confirmation of His will is His peace.
True	False	8. Knowledge of God's will is kept only for a special few of God's chosen.
True	False	9. Allowing the Bible to fall open by itself and with eyes closed pointing to a verse is a good way to discover His will.
True	False	10. One should never consider his own interests in seeking to know what God desires.
True	False	11. There is no connection between what God wants of us and the talents and abilities we have.
True	False	12. We dare not ever trust our own judgment in making important decisions.
True	False	13. "Putting out a fleece" is a "perfect" method.
True	False	14. Committing oneself to the will of God assures one of trouble-free living.
True	False	15. When one knows God's will concerning a matter, all questions are answered.
True	False	16. Biographies of great Christians are of little value in discovering His will because we are all so very different.
True	False	17. Counsel from other people is always good as long as they are well-educated.
True	False	18. God reveals His will in order for one to consider whether or not they care to follow it.
True	False	19. We should be afraid of what God's will is for us.

We have freedom within God's moral law to make many decisions.

List 5 ways God communicates His will:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

List 3 things you must do before you know God's will:

1.

2.

3.

What are some areas in your life in which you are seeking to know the will of God?

What have you learned which can help you to find God's will in these matters?

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Discerning Good From Evil

“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.” Philippians 2:12

Who’s right?

1. Alphonse has three wives. One day he hears the Gospel message and accepts Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. He wants to please God and do what is right. Should he divorce his last two wives and only keep one? Should he keep all three wives?
2. The office Christmas party begins with the cocktail hour. Some say Christians should go, not drink and be a witness. Others say “avoid all appearance of evil”. Who’s right? To go or not to go?
3. John is accepted to go to Bible School to train to be a pastor. He is married and has two little children. Should he take his wife and children to live with him where the school is located? Should he leave them at his home area and only see them during vacation time?

Problem: The issue is what is right and what is wrong in these situations. The Bible does not give complete guidelines for all areas of life. Discuss Philippians 2:12.

Possible Mistakes in Deciding Good from Evil

1. _____ to consider the _____ of local customs and cultures of the period when the Bible was written when interpreting Scripture. (e.g. the washing of feet).
2. Taking _____, not considering a verse with the verses around it. (e.g. “it is a shame for a man to have long hair” – 1 Corinthians 11:14)
3. _____. Obeying some laws but not others. (e.g. condemning alcohol abuse while ignoring overeating and obesity).
4. _____. “Legalistic” means keeping the strict letter of the law but not the spirit of the law.

Allow Good Principles to Govern Your Choices

Remember your responsibility to:

1 Corinthians 8:13 _____

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 _____

2 Peter 3:18 _____

2 Corinthians 5:20 _____

There is always the danger of being so separated from the world we remove our light from the darkness and have no valid witness. On the other hand, we can fail to be distinct from the world so that people see no difference in our lives and the lives of others who do not know Christ. Can the world tell a difference in you?

Exercise

Take the three situations shared by your discipler at the beginning of class and try to apply the above principles. Also suggest which mistakes need to be avoided.

Situation	Principles which Apply	Mistakes to Avoid
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Alphonse and
his 3 wives

Office Christmas party

John taking his wife and
children to school with him
or leaving them at home

If you were being tried in a court of law for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

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Setting Priorities

Definition

A priority is _____.

There are basically 5 major areas of your life which at all times are trying to get your attention:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Which area is the most important? Often one of the Christian’s hardest jobs is keeping the priorities right.

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

Attempts have been made to provide an unchanging list that men can follow which would be right each time. Such a listing is not possible. God’s priorities are dynamic, ever-changing. Your relationship to His purpose is the determining factor. A Christian sets his priorities by allowing the Holy Spirit to show what is best in each situation so as to see God’s will, not one’s own selfish interests, accomplished.

At any time any one of the five areas may need to come first. There are times when one’s family must come before one’s church. There are other times when one’s church could rightly come before one’s family or recreation.

First Steps for Determining Priorities:

- 1. Absolute honesty before God.
- 2. Common sense in examining circumstances.

3. A sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading.
4. A willingness to obey His leading no matter what the cost.

Misplaced Priorities

By one's own choice and basic selfishness, a rearrangement of priorities can take an area of one's life out of God's divine purpose and will.

Exercise: for class discussion

1. A father receives an urgent message from his son. "Dad I must talk to you as soon as possible, it's urgent". The father has a luncheon appointment and a committee meeting all afternoon.

Which comes first, his family, or his job?

2. A football game is being shown on T.V. tonight. Your son has asked you to help him with his homework for class tomorrow.

Which comes first, entertainment or family?

3. A football match at Nyayo stadium is scheduled on Sunday afternoon. At the same time is the weekly Bible Study at church.

Which has priority, football game or Bible Study?

4. A lady has volunteered to help in a community project on Saturday afternoon. Her lady friends invite her to a tea party at the same time.

Which has priority, the community project or tea party?

5. There is a Christian music concert in town. It is the same time as the church youth group meeting.

Which should have priority, the Christian music concert or the church youth group?

Exercise: on your own this week

List some situations this week in which you were forced to choose priorities. Share with a fellow disciple and see if they agree with your choice or if they can give you better advice.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Personal Problem Solving

Read 1 Kings 19:1-18

Historical Background

From Mt. Carmel to Mt. Horeb via the juniper tree, the man of God who had stood tall in the presence of very great dangers now runs for his life because of the rumour of Jezebel's threats.

Elijah's Mistakes

In dealing with his problem, Elijah made 4 serious mistakes:

1. "Elijah was afraid and ran for his life". (vs. 3) cf "and spread it out before the Lord". (1 Kings 19:14).
2. The temptation is always first to use up all human effort then turn it over to the Lord. Start with laying it before Him.
3. After traveling a day's journey, he sat down in physical tiredness and looked at the situation. We often do not see the power of the body over the mind. When God helped him, He took care of his physical needs first.
4. He has the wrong facts – "I am the only one left" (vs. 10) "Yet I reserve 7,000 in Israel. (vs. 18) Only missed it by 6,999. "But except what is common to man." The devil often convinces us that we are alone in experiencing difficulties.

Paul's prayer for his thorn in the flesh and this event in Elijah's life are the two great examples of unanswered prayer in the Bible.

How would this principle apply to a man desiring a new job because of the unchristian place in which he has to work?

It is different in Hebrews 11 where it is said of Moses "...He persevered because he saw Him Who is invisible".

Do what lies within your power and leave the rest to God.

God's Response – a new and fresh revelation of Himself

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How then do we handle life's problems?

1. In quietness we commit it to the Lord in prayer.
2. Make sure we are at our best physically before making any serious decisions.
3. Allow God to change us first and then He can use us as an "agent of change".
4. Walk with faith in the power of His grace and allow Him to reveal His will in the middle of the difficult circumstances.

What do you usually do to take care of your personal problems? What do you normally do first? How well do you do in problem solving? Are you ever called on to help others solve their problems?

APPLY THESE PRINCIPLES to a specific problem in your life this week and be ready to share the outcome next class session.

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Solving Conflicts With Others

In Matthew 18, we find Christ's principle for solving conflict between people:

"If your brother sins against you..." Matthew 18:15-17

Steps to Follow

1. _____. Don't just keep it locked up inside yourself. Putting it into words helps us to examine not only the offense but also ourselves to see if our motives are pure. First put it into words in prayer.
2. _____ and "show him his fault" (in the spirit of Galatians 6:1). Discuss possible ways of approaching him.

Do it "just between the two of you" – Sharing our complaint with others:

- casts doubt on the realness of our love for our brother.
- tempts the listener to sin against him as well
- hinders solving the problem

Checking out the facts (hearing his side of the story) first may keep us from spreading an untruth we would later be sorry for.

3. _____ (Galatians 6:1).

If your efforts fail, Jesus suggested two other steps:

1. _____ to confirm that you truly have a complaint. Obviously, Jesus made Christian unity the responsibility of every Christian. We are called to be peacemakers.
2. If that fails, _____. Get their help in solving the problem.

Christ's approach accomplishes 3 goals:

1. _____ the offender
2. _____ the fewest number of people

3. _____ one to examine his life before approaching another

In the church it also:

1. _____ gossip and slander
2. makes Christian conversation _____ rather than destroy
3. helps the church's _____ to an unbelieving world

Where to Begin

1. Dr. A. W. Tozer in *Five Vows for Spiritual Power* wrote: "Never pass on anything about another that would ultimately hurt them." Commitment to that principle is most important.
2. Practice Matthew 18:15-17 in your own life and in the life of your family.
3. Lovingly encourage other Christians to practice it too. When someone approaches you with a report of an offense of another, tell them you would rather not hear it. Challenge them to go and see the brother personally.
4. What changes can you make in your life to put this biblical principle into practice? Do you really care enough to speak personally to others lovingly? Are you among His "peacemakers"?

Be ready to give a report of some application to the above truth to your life next week.

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How To Give A Testimony

Few Christians have ever taken the time to sit down and write out their personal testimony of how they came to know Christ and what He means to them now! Such an exercise will help in sharing one's witness later under many and different situations. A testimony carefully and prayerfully prepared and organized on paper can be drawn upon by the Spirit for effective communication of one's witness for Christ.

Following the suggestions below, write out a three-minute testimony. You will be given opportunity to share in public in the near future.

"Do's"

Use three basic points: "My Life....."

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Begin with _____.

Be very _____. Help hearers identify with your experiences.

_____ as many times as necessary to make it easy to understand.

_____ enough so as to be able to share it without your notes.

"Don'ts"

Do not be too _____ or use too many _____.

Do not tell too much of the _____. Do not tell in detail how bad you used to be.

Do not make it sound too _____, as if you had the greatest experience of salvation.

Do not use too many _____ words.

Do not mention joining the _____. Do not speak unkindly about any other individual or group.

Do not give the impression that the _____ will solve all of life's problems and make life free from all trouble.

When Giving It Publicly

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you power for the sharing.
2. Speak loudly so that all may hear easily. Share, don't preach.
3. Do not use nervous movements or repeat things.
4. Smile. Show enjoyment in sharing Christ with others.
5. Review it often. Let it become so much a part of you that you share it easily and naturally.

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Examples of a Personal Testimony

(For one converted as an adult)

Area: Fear of death

"BEFORE I received eternal life I had a fear of death. Though I was brought up in a church-going family, this had not given me an answer about what would happen with my life when I died. I tried many ways to remove my fear of death, but I failed. I even consulted witch doctors who gave me charms and promised me that as long as I kept them, they would protect me from the fear of death.

For a time, I based my hope in those charms and things seemed to be going well. But one day a friend of mine, with whom I worked, went out with a company lorry to deliver goods. Thirty minutes later I heard that he had died in a car accident. I could not believe it until the day of the funeral. When I looked at my friend in the coffin, the fear of death started again. Although I had my charms, they could not help me anymore.

Sometime later *I received eternal life* when I happened to go to a crusade.

AFTER I received eternal life, the fear of death was gone. The faith I had in charms is no more since I have thrown them all away. I know my fear has been conquered because when my sister died suddenly and was buried before I had the news that she had passed away, I was able to thank God for the fact that my sister was with Him. People could not understand why I reacted as I did. But I told them that to me the fear of death was no more.

I am glad to know that I have eternal life and that I will go to heaven when I die. May I ask you a question?"

(For one converted as a child)

"I am glad I know that I have eternal life, because I have no fear of death.

Not long ago I was riding in a mini-van. Many people were squeezed in. The driver was speeding and we wondered if on the next curve the van would turn over. Well, it did. The van was turned on its side. People inside were screaming, afraid they were going to die. Though I did not want to die, I could have died. But God gave me complete peace, knowing that even if I were to die, I would go to heaven. I had peace and confidence as I faced death, and it is the same today.

I am glad to know I have eternal life and that I will go to heaven when I die. May I ask you a question?"

PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

(FOR ONE CONVERTED AS AN ADULT)

Part 1 – the “BEFORE”

- a. State in a sentence one negative area in your life before you received eternal life (e.g. fear of evil spirits, jealousy, etc.)

- b. Illustrate this negative concept with a clear example from your life experience.

Part 2 - “Then I received eternal life.”

Part 3 – the “AFTER”

- a. State in a sentence one positive result of receiving eternal life, which is the opposite of the “BEFORE” (e.g. freedom from these fears, love, etc.)

- b. Illustrate this positive concept with a clear example from your life experience.

Part 4 – Always conclude by saying:

“I am glad to know I have eternal life and that I will go to heaven when I die. May I ask you a question?”

PERSONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHEET

(FOR ONE CONVERTED AS A CHILD)

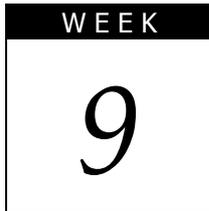
Part 1 – *“I’m glad I know that I have eternal life, because.....”*

(complete this sentence with one positive benefit of eternal life, e.g. peace, love, security, etc.)

Part 2 – Illustrate this positive concept with a clear example from your life experience.

Part 3 – Always conclude by saying:

“I am glad to know I have eternal life and that I will go to heaven when I die. May I ask you a question?”



Check-Up And Evaluation

Number in order of their usefulness to you (1-most useful, 8-least useful):

_____ Accepting Ourselves as Created

_____ The Fruit of the Spirit

_____ Knowing God's Will

_____ Discerning Good From Evil

_____ Setting Priorities

_____ Personal Problem Solving

_____ Resolving Conflict with Others

_____ How to give A Testimony

The nine fruits of the Spirit are:

"But seek first His kingdom..." is found in _____.

In what ways has the study of Philippians been helpful to you?

List at least 3 rules for "discerning good from evil":

In what way have you been helped to discovering the will of God in your life?

How do you rate Level 3?

_____Of little value

_____worthwhile

_____very helpful

_____best yet

Classics in Christian Literature

Devotional/Spiritual Life

(Editor's note: This sheet is designed to allow the discipler to share some of the books of higher quality which have been helpful to him in his spiritual growth. If the books are available, the disciple might want to scan them to see if he would want to read any of them in their entirety).

KNOWING GOD

Philips, J.B.	Your God is Too Small
Tozer, A.W.	The Knowledge Of The Holy

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Bunyan, John	Pilgrim's Progress (1684)
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	The Cost of Discipleship

DEVOTIONAL

Carmichael, Amy	If
Cowman, Mrs. Charles	Streams In The Desert (1925)
Jones, E. Stanley	The Word Became Flesh
Kempis, Thomas	The Imitation of Christ (15th century)

PRAYER

Bounds, E.M.	Power Through Prayer
Lawrence, Brother	The Practice of His Presence
Murray, Andrew	With Christ In The School of Prayer

DEEPER LIFE

Brengele, Samuel Logan	The Quest Of The Soul (1934)
Jones, E. Stanley	The Divine Yes
Nee, Watchman	The Normal Christian Life
Smith, H. Whitehall	The Christian's Secret Of A Happy Life

OUTREACH

Bonar, Horatius	Words To Winners Of Souls (1934)
Coleman, Robert	The Master Plan Of Evangelism

Philippians

Blocked by the Spirit of God from going into Asia and Bithynia, Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking him to come to Macedonia and help the churches there.

Confident that God had given him direction, Paul sailed with Timothy and Luke from Troas on a second missionary journey. Philippi, in Macedonia, basked in the fact that it was also a Roman colony which ensured its citizens all the benefits of Roman citizenship.

As was his custom, when Paul reached a city he sought out the Jews. While there were not enough Jews living in Philippi to form a synagogue, the Jews there met for prayer on the Sabbath. Little did Paul realize that he would end up in prison. God knew there was a Roman jailer and his family who needed Jesus.

The events of that day inaugurated the beginning of the church at Philippi, the church Paul addressed as he took pen in hand around the year A.D. 61 or 62.

General Instructions

As you read Philippians chapter by chapter, do the following:

- Under "Author" on the Observations Chart, note where Paul is, why he is there, and what his attitude is in the midst of his difficult circumstances.
- In a distinctive way, mark in the text each key word (and its synonyms and pronouns) that is listed on the Key Words Chart. This will help you discover the themes of each chapter and of the book itself. Watch for other key words which are not listed but which may be emphasized in a particular chapter of Philippians.
- List what you learn from the text about each key word.
- List each of the instructions Paul gives to the Philippian saints. As you list these instructions, evaluate your life in the light of each one.

Week 1

- Read the entire book at one time.
- Look for the verses in chapters 1 and 4 which tell where Paul is as he writes.
- Historical setting: read Acts 15:35 – 17:1. This is Paul's first visit to Philippi. After his third missionary journey, Paul went to Jerusalem, where he was arrested. From there Paul was taken by a Roman guard to Caesarea, the Mediterranean seaport where the Roman consulate often went to escape the heat and confines of Jerusalem. After remaining a prisoner in Caesarea for over two years, Paul, who as a Roman citizen had appealed to Caesar, was sent to Rome, where he lived under house arrest. Read Acts 28:14-31 and note how long Paul remained a prisoner of Rome. How does this compare with where Paul was when he wrote Philippians?

Week 2

- Read Chapter 1 again.
- Fill in the chapter theme on the chart on the next page.
- Write down in the segment divisions what you see to be Paul's example.

- Write down what the chapter says about who or what Jesus Christ is in relation to the believer.
- Write down a command to believers that correlates with the theme of the chapter.

Week 3

- Read Chapter 2 and follow the same steps as last week.

Week 4

- Read Chapter 3 and follow the same steps.

Week 5

- Read Chapter 4 and follow the same steps.

Week 6

- List and explain 5 things about Paul found in Chapter 1.

Week 7

- Do a study of the character of Timothy using these references: Philippians 2; Acts 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Corinthians 6:10, 11; 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 3; 1 Timothy 1:2.

Week 8

- List at least 7 principles found in Chapter 3.

Week 9

- List several items of spiritual counsel Paul gives to the church in Chapter 4.

Philippians

Theme of Philippians:

Segment Divisions			
	Command to:	Paul's Example	Chapter Themes
Author:	Jesus is:		
Date:	My Life 1:21		1
Purpose:			2
Key Words:	Follow Paul's Example 3:17		3
Christ Jesus joy (rejoice) mind (attitude) gospel		Learned to be Content in his Circumstances 4:11	4

