

A 6 Week Bible Study

*Building an
Effective
Walk with
Christ*

Thursday Night at 7 PM

3PS CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

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In this study series, we will look at passages of scripture that will challenge us to be all that we can be for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Building something always by definition calls for work; as a matter of fact, it calls for hard work, diligence, persistence, dealing with ups and downs, etc., but the reward is great. I would encourage each one of us to make this an interactive study, search these scriptures, look up references, pray and ask the Lord to open up our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit.

May the Lord bless you in every aspect of your life, as the scripture so wonderfully states:

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

²⁷ So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.

Numbers 6:24-27 NKJV

Pastor Kermit R. Perry

Lesson One: Love God

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Background Text: Matthew 22:34-40

Discussion Starter: In what ways do you express your love for God?

To Love is to Obey - Deuteronomy 6:1-2

1 “These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy,

2 and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life.

Effective: successful in producing a desired or intended result.

Commands: to exercise a dominating influence over

Decrees: God's foreordained will

Regulations: an authoritative rule dealing with details or procedure

Discussion Questions:

- Who had the greatest burden, Moses or the people? Explain
- What does it mean to fear the Lord?

Listen to the Lord - Deuteronomy 6:3-4

3 Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4 “Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Discussion Question:

- How do we listen to the Lord; how do you determine if it is the Lord speaking to you?

Love the Lord - Deuteronomy 6:5-6

5 And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

6 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

Discussion Question:

- Since God loved us first, why is it so hard for people to see that and love him back?

Pass it On - Deuteronomy 6:7-9

7 Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

8 Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders.

9 Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Discussion Question:

- What is the danger of not teaching the Lord's precepts to the next generation?

Apply the Text

Before we can build on an effective walk with Christ, we must love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, when we do that we are ready and willing to obey Him and let the world know how great our God is.

Memory Verse

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV

Lesson Two: Developing a Working Knowledge of God's Word

2 Timothy 2:15-26 Background text: 2 Timothy 2:1-14

Discussion Starter: *Believers who ignore the Bible will certainly be ashamed of the judgment. Consistent and diligent study of God's Word is vital; otherwise, we will be lulled into neglecting God and our true purpose for living.* (comment from the Life Application Bible)

Do you agree with this statement?

Apply Yourself - 2 Timothy 2:15-18

¹⁵ Work hard (Study) so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth. ¹⁶ Avoid worthless, foolish talk that only leads to more godless behavior. ¹⁷ This kind of talk spreads like cancer, as in the case of Hymenaeus and Philetus. ¹⁸ They have left the path of truth, claiming that the resurrection of the dead has already occurred; in this way, they have turned some people away from the faith.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it so important for us to seek God's approval?
- How can we avoid useless and unfruitful arguments?

Sanctified - 2 Timothy 2:19-22

¹⁹ But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: The LORD knows those who are his, and All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil. ²⁰ In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. ²¹ If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

²² Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

Discussion Question:

- Our theme for this study is Building An Effective Relationship With Christ; how does verse 22 help us in that endeavor?

Instructions Reiterated - 2 Timothy 2:23-26

²³ Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. ²⁴ A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

²⁵ Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth. ²⁶ Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Discussion Question:

- If we see a fellow believer sharing the gospel and not using these instructions, how would we bring it to their attention?

Apply the Text

God's Word is living and active, exciting, informative, enlightening, encouraging, historical and so much more. Let's stay focused on studying and applying God's Word so that we can be effective and well-rooted, grounded, and ready to share the good news of the Gospel with gentleness and meekness. To God be the glory!

Memory Verse

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(2 Timothy 2:15 KJV)

Lesson Three: Walk-in Humility

1 Peter 5:1-11

Discussion Starter: *As believers, we are all leaders in one way or another. How important is it to lead in humility? What does that look like for you?*

Humility: freedom from pride or arrogance: the quality or state of being humble

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.”

Philippians 2:3 NLT

Leading with Humility - 1 Peter 5:1-5

1 And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ²Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.

³Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor.

⁵In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Discussion Questions:

- What is the reward for the believers who follow these instructions?
- When the Elders are following these instructions does that make it easier for the younger to follow these instructions? Explain

Humble Yourself - 1 Peter 5:6

⁶ So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

Discussion Question:

- How do we humble ourselves before God's mighty power?

Trust God - 1 Peter 5:7-11

⁷ Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. ⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

¹⁰ In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. ¹¹ All power to him forever! Amen.

Discussion Question:

- Does it seem hard sometimes to cast all of cares on the Lord? Is it always easy?

Apply the Text

Humility, meekness, lowliness, and modesty are all attributes that come with being a follower of Christ, lets put them into action and bring glory and honor to our Lord Most High. And all will see how great is our God.

Memory Verse

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Philippians 2:8 NKJV

Lesson Four: Understanding Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Discussion Starter: *Have you ever been hurt, misused, taken advantage of, lied on, or a victim of injustice, etc., by someone close to you? How did that make you feel?*

Forgive: To cease to feel resentment against an offender: to pardon

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

Matthew 6:14 NKJV

Forgive? - Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times? ²²No, not seven times, Jesus replied, but seventy times seven!

Discussion Question:

- Do we sometimes feel that we have done enough forgiving before we draw the line and say I'm done?

Mercy Extended - Matthew 18:23-27

²³ Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. ²⁴In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. ²⁵ He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. ²⁶ But the man fell down before his master and begged him, Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all. ²⁷ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.

Discussion Question:

- What do these verses tell us about the master?

Amnesia! - Matthew 18:28-30

²⁸ But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. ²⁹ His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. Be patient with me, and I will pay it, he pleaded. ³⁰ But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

Discussion Question:

- What do these verses tell you about the servant who was forgiven millions?

Conclusion - Matthew 18:31-35

³¹ When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. ³² Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you? ³⁴ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. ³⁵ That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.

Discussion Question:

- What is the essence of this parable, will it cause you to revisit your stance on forgiveness?

Apply the Text

Remember how much the Lord Jesus has forgiven us, when we were unlovable and lost in our sin He had mercy on us. Let us extend that same Grace and Mercy to others

putting our hurts, pain, and pride aside. We will then be able to fully appreciate the freedom that we have in Christ.

Memory Verse

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you.

Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:13 NLT

Lesson Five: Walk in the Spirit

Romans 8:1-17

Spirit: the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son

Condemn: to declare to be reprehensible, wrong, or evil usually after weighing evidence and without reservation

Freedom in Christ - Romans 8:1-4

¹So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

²And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you¹ from the power of sin that leads to death.

³The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature¹ So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

⁴He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

Discussion Question:

- “Not guilty”; what would those words mean to you if you were on death row?

The Sinful Nature vs The Holy Spirit - Romans 8:5-8

⁵Those who are dominated by sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

Discussion Question:

- What tools has the Lord given us to help to walk in the Spirit? What happens to us as believers when we don't use those tools He provided?

Spirit Controlled - Romans 8:9-11

⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all. ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.

¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Discussion Question:

- How do you know that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in you? Explain

New Life - Romans 8:12-17

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, Abba, Father.

¹⁶ For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷ And since we

are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Discussion Question:

- How can you share who you are in Christ with an unbeliever lovingly and humbly? Would it be different sharing that with a fellow believer?

Apply the Text

We now understand that we are free in Christ and all of our sins have been nailed to the cross. Let us, therefore, walk in the freedom that the Lord has bestowed upon us and continue to share the gospel with a lost world.

Memory Verse

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

Romans 8:1 NKJV

Lesson Six: Faith, Hope, and Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Faith: Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1 NLT

Hope: Joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation

Love: Agape, unconditional benevolence toward someone

What Does it Profit? - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

¹ If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. ³ If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Discussion Question:

- How can a believer allow himself/herself to forget love while using their spiritual gift?

Love in Action - 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

⁵ or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

⁶ It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Discussion Question:

- What aspect of love in these verses stands out to you?

A Change is Coming - 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

⁸ Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! ⁹ Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! ¹⁰ But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

Discussion Question:

- What perspective should we glean from these verses, do they help us to prioritize our lives?

Maturity - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13

¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. ¹² Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. ¹³ Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

Discussion Question:

- What can you do to show the love of Jesus to everyone that you come in contact with, saved or not?

Apply the Text

Faith, hope, and love are the three gifts that will be ours throughout all eternity. And agape love is the ultimate gift. God in His goodness gives us the privilege of

possessing these gifts today, and we look forward to having them remain with us forever. So let's walk daily in these gifts while giving God the glory!

Memory Verse

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.”

John 13:34 NLT