

THE WORD OF GOD

The word of God is absolutely foundational .Any one who truly accepts it has an excellent chance of becoming a Christian. Its aim is to establish confidence in the Bible as the perfect and authoritative word of God and to create an obedient spirit.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 – 17

The BIBLE is the inspired word of God. It helps in:

- Correcting – showing the right direction.
- Rebuking – correcting harshly after many warnings
- Training in doing the right thing at all times
- Teaching- We use it to teach on any subject of life because it applies wholly to man's entire life.

HEBREWS 4:12 – 13

- The Bible cuts into our hearts and souls when reading it, telling us the truth we need to know. The truth hurts but it brings change.
- The Bible sets the distinction between what is godly and that which is not.

MATHEW 15:1 – 9

- Following tradition is not wrong but if it goes against the bible then God's word must reign supreme.
- Obey the bible only.

JOHN 8: 31-32

- Believing alone is not enough- you have to put into practice the word of God.

JOHN 12: 47 - 48

- The word of God (The BIBLE) will judge us on the last day.
- The standard is the Bible, live according to it.

ACTS 17: 11

- The response is to read enthusiastically

CHALLENGE: Start reading and studying the BIBLE every day and living according to it.

DISCIPLESHIP

The discipleship study is a powerful discussion whose aim is to show the standards that God has set for those who want to have a relationship with him, and the extent to which we must stretch to commit ourselves to him.

ACTS 11: 25 – 26

This is about 9-10 years after Jesus' death. This is the first time we see the word Christian being used in the Bible.

- What were the Christians called before this time?
- In Antioch was there any difference between a Christian and a Disciple?
- Should there be any difference today?
- How many times do you think the word Christian appears in the Bible?
- How many times do you think the word Disciple appears in the Bible?

POINT: The Bible stresses over and over again on being a **DISCIPLE**. Therefore to understand what /who a Christian is we must know what it means to be a **DISCIPLE**.

Let's look at some qualities / characteristics of a disciple.

MARK 1:16 – 20.

- What does it mean to follow Jesus?
- What does being a fisher of men mean?
- How long did it take for these men to respond to the call?
- Did these men make any excuses for why they couldn't follow Jesus?
- Did they have any excuses?

POINT: A true Disciple imitates Jesus' lifestyle, bringing others to Christ, obeys the Bible at once and doesn't make excuses for not following the Bible.

LUKE 9:23 – 26

- What does Jesus mean by denying yourself?
- What were crosses used for in those days? What does carrying your cross then mean?
- Is a Disciple concerned with this life or eternal life?
- Have you ever been ashamed of Jesus?

POINT: A Disciple puts aside his own interests and does what Jesus would do. A Disciple is ready to die for Jesus' cause and is never ashamed of Jesus.

LUKE 14: 25 – 33

- Is Jesus telling us to hate our families? (You may look at Mathew 10:32)
- What does counting the cost mean? Why does Jesus want us to count cost before following?
- How much of our lives do we have to surrender to follow Christ?

POINT: God is most important in the life of a disciple and not family. Jesus wants us to really think before deciding to follow him. He does not want us to simply make emotional decisions. We must be willing to surrender every aspect of our lives to JESUS.

JOHN 13:34

- Why is this command new?
- What is the mark of a true disciple?
- How do we show our love to one another?

MATHEW 28:18 – 20

- What is the purpose of a disciple? Why does Jesus want us to make others to be disciples?
- Who are some of your friends that you could start inviting to church?
- Why does Jesus want us to teach the young disciples everything?

POINT: A true disciple makes others to be disciples; a disciple is the only candidate for baptism and is taught to obey everything Jesus taught.

CONCLUSION

- According to these few verses, would Jesus call you one of his true disciples?
- Now that you know who a disciple is, do you want to be one?

CHALLENGE: Start living as a disciple by inviting your friends, neighbours and colleagues to church.

SIN

This is a highly personal discussion. Everyone has sinned and without specific conviction and specific repentance there can be no conversion. By the time you study sin and repentance with someone you should have built a good relationship essential at this stage because many of the things covered in this study are challenging and personal.

Aim of the study is to help people to:

- See themselves as God sees them-SINFUL
- Realize they need forgiveness
- Identify sins specifically thereby enabling them to repent

ISAIAH 59: 1 – 2

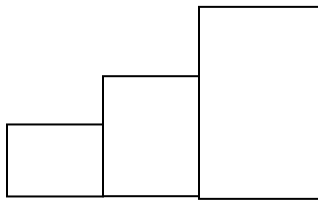
- What is the effect of sin in our lives?



POINT: Sin separates us from GOD. ANY KIND OF SIN!

ROMANS 3:23

- According to this verse how many people have sinned?



JANE TOM JOHN

*who is more separated from God; Tom, Jane or John?

POINT: It doesn't matter how many sins you have committed .The separation still remains.

JAMES 5:16

- Why does God want us to confess our sins to others?

POINT: If someone is not willing to talk about his or her sins, does he or she really want to change?

GALATIANS 5:19 – 21
(SINS OF COMMISSION)

Define each sin very quickly. Share about the sins you had to repent of in this list

Ask: Have you ever committed any of the sins on this list?

When was the last time you were involved with such sin?

How often do you commit this sin?

With immorality ask: Have you ever gotten any one pregnant or paid for sex?

- Have you had any abortions and how many?
- Were any of these people married when you slept with them?
- Were you paid to sleep with any of this people?
- Do you possess any pornographic materials?
- Do you watch pornography whether in movies or on internet?

2 Timothy 3:1 – 5 (SINS OF COMMISSION)

- Have you committed any of these sins?

JAMES 4:17 (SINS OF OMISSION)

- Failing to do the good that we are supposed to is also sin

REPENTANCE

ACTS 2:38

- What is repentance?

‘*Metanoia*’ in original Greek means complete change of mind.

180 degrees turn.

MATHEW 6:27-30

- What is the attitude of Jesus towards lust?

Jesus is radical towards sin, whatever causes you to sin must be cut off from your life.

LUKE 13:1 – 5

- If we fail to repent what will happen to us? Is repentance therefore a must?

POINT: Repentance means to change from our sinful ways.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:8 – 11

- Have you ever had this kind of attitude towards sin in your life before?

POINT: This is what is considered as true repentance. All these words (eagerness, alarm, concern, longing e.t.c) need to describe you.

ACTS 3:19

- What is the effect of true repentance in our lives?
- Brings refreshing times

ACTS 26:20

- How can people tell if I am indeed a changed person?

CHALLENGE: Go think some more about the sins in your life and make the decision to change. You may need to apologize to some people for having sinned against them.

THE CROSS

The aim of this study is to help people understand the agony and suffering JESUS went through for their sake. Its meant to help us understand how much JESUS really loves us. The heart of our message is lost when we rely on our own human wisdom and fail to focus on the cross. As Christians we should be moved Christ's death and the cross. Make sure you have your convictions right when leading this study and do not be afraid to show your emotions.

- Ask your friend to put himself in Jesus' place as you read through the following verses.

MATHEW 26:36 – 45

- How would you have felt if your best friends feel asleep during your time of need?
- Did JESUS have a bad attitude with his disciples for not staying awake?

MATHEW 26:47 – 50

- How would you feel if your best friend betrayed you to death?

MATHEW 27:57 – 68

- Did JESUS have the power to defend himself? Why didn't he strike back?
- How would you react if *mortal men you created* were slapping you and spitting on your face?

MATHEW 27:11 – 26

- Was Pilate innocent of JESUS' blood because he washed his hands?
- Are you innocent today of JESUS' death because you were not there?

MATHEW 27:27 – 31

- How does it feel when people are making fun and mocking you?
- Why didn't JESUS'S strike back as all these were happening?

MATHEW 27:32 – 44

- Did JESUS have the power to come down the cross?
- Why didn't he come down when dared to?

MATHEW 27:45 – 54

- From ISAIAH 59:1-2 we know that sin separates us from God. On the cross Jesus took upon himself all our sins. God had to turn away from him-- he carried my sins and your sins. He was all alone and he cried out. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

ISAIAH 59:1 – 10

- See how much pain and suffering JESUS went through on your behalf.

ROMANS 8:31 – 32

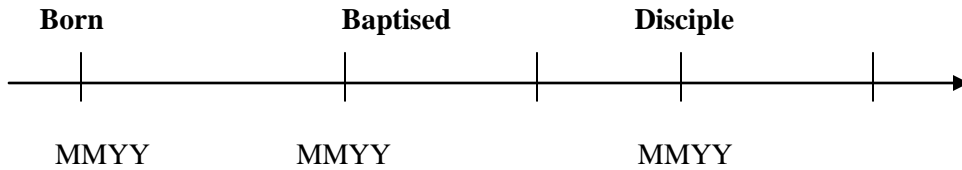
- **God gave you his most precious gift.**
- **We are all responsible for Jesus' death. This is the reason why you need to repent and become a true disciple of Jesus.**

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

Begin the study by asking the following questions?

- When were you born?
- When were you baptised?
- When did you become a disciple?

DRAW THE TIME LINE



1 PETER 2:9 – 10

- What two groups of people do you see?

DARKNESS	LIGHT
Not a people	People of GOD
No mercy	Have received mercy
Not a Christian	Christian
Lost	Saved
Hell	Heaven

- Is there middle ground?

ISAIAH 59:1 – 2

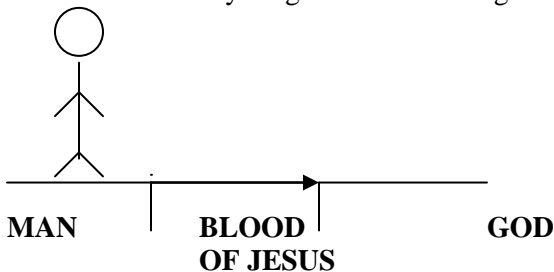
- What is the effect of sin in our lives?



- The aim of this study is to learn how to get rid of the barrier between God and us.

MATHEW 26:28

- What does the blood of **JESUS** do to us?
- Is there anything else that can forgive our sins?



- **Only the BLOOD JESUS can get us to the other side.**

ACTS 2:36 – 38

- What does it mean to make **Jesus** the Lord of your life?
- What is another name for Christ?
- **Jesus has to be both master and saviour .You cannot have a saviour without a Lord.**

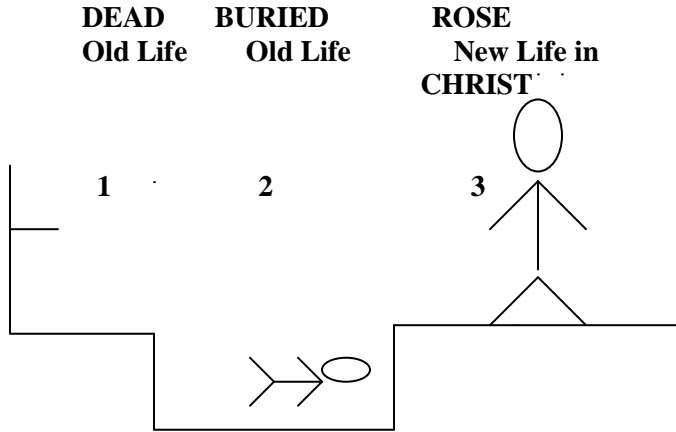
REPENTANCE + BAPTISM = SINS FORGIVEN + GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Suppose someone repents without being baptised .Is it right according to this scripture? Are his or her sins forgiven?
- How about getting baptised without true repentance?

POINT: REPENTANCE and BAPTISM are essential for SALVATION to take place.

ROMANS 6:1 – 4

- When someone is baptized what three things does that person do with **JESUS**?



- Where do the **old life end** and the **new life begin**? 1,2,or 3
- Where do we receive the **forgiveness of sins**? 1, 2 or 3.
- Where do we receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**? 1, 2 OR 3.
- Where do we come into contact with **the blood of Jesus**?

COLOSSIANS 2:12

- According to these verses how are we raised with **Jesus**?
- Can someone else's faith save us?

MATHEW 28:18 – 20

- Who is a candidate for **BAPTISM**?

*According to this verse how does someone cross from **DARKNESS** to **LIGHT**?

*How does this compare to what you have done as shown on your time line?

THE CHURCH

Today we are going to take a look at what the Bible teaches about **church**.

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “church?”

The word for “church” in Greek is “*ekklesia*,” ek (out of)-*kaleo* (call) which means simply *a crowd of people who have been called out*. The Christian church is thus the crowd of people who have been called by Jesus out of the world and into His kingdom.

Let’s look at several characteristics of Jesus church from the scriptures.

I. Head of the Church

Colossians 1:15-21

- *Who is the head? Christ.*

- He is the one in charge of his church; whatever he says, goes

II. Membership of the Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

- When a person is baptized into Christ, they become a member of his body, which is the church

- There are no requirements for membership in the Church of Christ beyond those of Jesus’ to be part of his body

- It is important to be a part of a church where the members are truly members of Jesus’ body; that is, they are true Christians

III. Relationships in the Church

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- Others need you

- You need others

- In the body there is a mutual dependence on each other, like a family

IV. Commitment to the Church

Hebrews 10:22-25

- Do not make a habit of missing church.

- Consider how you can help your brothers and sisters in Christ

Hebrews 3:12-13

- Am I my brother’s keeper in the church? Yes.

- How can I strengthen my brother? Through daily encouragement.

V. Support of the Church

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

- Your contribution pays for facilities, staff, helping the poor, supplies, etc.

- The Old Testament standard of giving was a tithe (10 % of their gross income.)

- The New Testament does not mention any specific amount, but does lift up the example of those whose “extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

VI. Leadership of the Church

Hebrews 13:17, 24

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

- God’s plan for the church includes human leadership. They play a crucial role in equipping disciples to be their best for God.

- It is important that we are all supportive and appreciative for their leadership.

VII. Mission of the Church

Matthew 28:18-20

- To make disciples of all nations, to his glory

- This is what the church should talk about and focus its resources on

Concluding Comments:

Let’s read a description of the very first church, in Jerusalem. Look for each of the characteristics of Jesus’ church that we have outlined here in this passage.

Acts 2:38-47

- Identify each of the characteristics.

- *Have you seen all these characteristics in our church?*

- Encourage them to be grateful and faithful to Jesus’ church.

COUNTING THE COST

VERY IMPORTANT: Every counting of cost needs to involve at least two members of the family group. One of the Christian present should be the one to disciple the person after their baptism.

Luke 14:28-30

Jesus wants us to count the cost before we build. We must fully understand the COMMITMENT Jesus is calling us to. It is a matter of life and death.

Role-play:

YOU ARE ACTING OUT AS THE LONG LOST FRIEND OF THE PERSON WHO IS COUNTING THE COST.

QN: Is that a bible you are carrying? **ANS:** Yes.

QN: Why do you read it and pray every day? **ANS:** It is the standard and God will use it to judge us.

QN: What are you reading now? **ANS:** One of the gospels.

QN: Tell me one of Christ's characters that you admire?

QN: What if you do not feel like reading or praying, what do you do? **ANS:** Help them see that they must work at putting God first in their life.

'With a married, pregnant, working mother, you may need to discuss about organising their time, so that they can see an available time for them to spend with God'.

QN: You mentioned that you are a disciple, what does it mean? **ANS:** Jesus is number one in my life. I follow Jesus, deny myself, fish men and ready to do anything for Jesus.

QN: What do you mean 'deny yourself'? **ANS:** Saying no to self and doing what Jesus would do instead.

QN: Whom have you shared your faith with?

QN: You keep talking about the Kingdom of God, what is it? **ANS:** Church of God. She should explain that people make up the church.

QN: What is a good reason for missing church? **ANS:** None, unless seriously sick or very far in another city.

QN: Which church service is important? **ANS:** All are important. (**Matthew 6:33, Hebrews 10:23-25, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Hebrews 13:17**). We need to hear God's word and to encourage one another.

*Discuss, different situations that can possibly come up when she is about to come to church. E.g. visitors; invite them to church, cooking lunch; plan, or ask ahead of time if she is the one cooking, single and at home. If so, then help her see she can cook the night before for Sunday lunch, wakes up early – help her come up with a solution, constantly thinking '**WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?**'

QN: What does repentance mean? **ANS:** Changing and turning away from sin.

QN: Which was the hardest sin for you to confess and repent of? Why – Discuss.

QN: Which sins have you not confessed of, repented? Why – Discuss, using scripture, help her see her need to be open, broken about sin, how the sin hurts God, the person sinned against and herself. Help her practically with her repentance and with scripture.

QN: Do you any boyfriend? They should have broken off by now. If haven't, ask WHY.

Let her tell you. Listen. Open the scriptures (**2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Corinthians 5 and 6:9-20, etc**).

QN: Are you saved? **ANS:** No. They should see and say that they are in the dark.

QN: What do you want to do? **ANS:** Get baptised.

QN: Why? **ANS:** Jesus died on the cross for me. Grateful and want to be a disciple. Want to serve God.

LOOK FOR THE HEART OF A DISCIPLE.

QN: What happens at Baptism? **ANS:** Participate in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus – Sins forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

QN: Who is saved and who is lost? **ANS:** Anyone who has faith in Jesus and in the Bible, who has made Jesus the Lord of his life by becoming a disciple, repented, baptised for the forgiveness of sins and has received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

LOST; anyone who has not done all of the above.

QN: Do you have any friends or family members that are saved by the above definitions?

QN: How do you feel about this? Do you see your responsibility in all this?

POINT: He must see that God wants him saved, so that in turn he can reach out and convert them.

*Look at their response; they must be Objective and not emotional.

Is their response based on biblical truth or personal feelings?

QN: How about all these churches that do not teach God's entire plan for salvation? (Belief, faith, discipleship, repentance, baptism for forgiveness of sins and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit).

QN: How does God feel about them? It hurts God. He condemns them.

QN: Are they saved or lost? **ANS:** Lost.

QN: What is your dream for the lost in Kenya, what do you want to do?

QN: Who are your best friends? **ANS:** It has to be disciples. If not, they are not tied into the fellowship, help them build up friendships, introduce him to brothers, arrange for tea or hangouts, praying together, sharing faith together, before baptism.

THIS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE SATAN ATTACKS THOSE WHO ARE WEAK IN THEIR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND ALSO, IT IS A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE.

QN: Do you have any questions? Answer any questions she brings up with scripture, if not sure, tell him you will look them up and set up for the next day.

SAY:

THERE ARE SOME PERSONAL QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK AND THIS IS IN CONFIDENCE.

QN: Do you have any debt?

Reason: so that you can discuss any possible way it can affect their Christian life. Satan's temptation is to look for easy way out by having a Sugar Daddy to pay for it etc.

Ask if she needs help with budgets – if you can help AWESOME, or, ask her to seek advice from qualified, professional disciples. (This should not stop her from getting baptised).

QN: HOW MANY ABORTIONS HAVE YOU HAD?

IF YES: ASK WHY DID SHE HAVE THEM? LISTEN.

Reason: To help her see that she needs to take care of her own responsibilities, either by her sending money or by her taking the child in with her. Especially now that she wants to get baptised, she should desire to raise up her child as a disciple.

If single mother and the father wants to take care money-wise with the baby, help her see that it is his baby too and he has the right to. But discuss ways that Satan could possibly tempt her into immorality. (This should not stop her from getting baptised).

QN: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DEPRESSED OR HAD MENTAL ILLNESS OR DIVORCED?

Reason: So that in case she falls back again into it, we can know what to do. DISCUSS THE SITUATIONS.

QN: HOW DO YOU FEEL? Comfort and encourage, whichever the case.

1Peter 3:21

Baptism is a pledge of a good conscience toward God (it is that little voice you hear when you have done something wrong).

QN: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU HAVE LIED ABOUT?

POINT: If someone gets baptized knowing they have lied about different things or were not completely open, their conscience cannot be clear before God. That baptism will not save you.

2Peter 2:20-22

QN: WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU FALL AWAY?

DISCUSS: Friends, family, work, men etc – We need to discuss this so that you are aware of Satan's plan for you to fall.

Revelation 12:10-12

Satan is filled with fury, he plans to destroy you, he is not happy about your decision to follow God.

QN: WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT SATAN WILL USE TO PULL YOU AWAY FROM GOD?

DISCUSS.

James 1:13-15

QN: WHAT IS YOUR SINFUL NATURE? – DISCUSS HOW SHE CAN BE AWARE OF IT AND HOW SHE CAN GUARD HERSELF AGAINST SATAN.

***IF SHE DOES NOT SAY ANYTHING, YOU POINT OUT A SINFUL NATURE THAT YOU HAVE NOTICED. HOW AND WHEN AND DISCUSS.**

Ecclesiastes 5:4-7

YOU ARE MAKING A VOW TO GOD TO BE A DISCIPLE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. ARE YOU SURE?

QN: WHEN DO YOU WANT TO GET BAPTISED? ANS: NOW!!!

***If not urgent:**

Acts 2:36-40, they asked what should they do, they were told and they did it.

Acts 8:26-40, he asked why shouldn't he get baptized—He went away happy.

Acts 16:11-15, Lydia, after she heard, they got baptized and did not hesitate.

Acts 16:16-34, when they spoke the word of God to him, they got baptized, no delay.

Mark 10:17-27, he wanted to but he did not obey what Jesus said. He went away sad. Don't walk away from Jesus. You will be sad.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2, Today, Now is the day, do not take it in vain.