



The Commands of Jesus

The Story of the Commands of Jesus Study

In a quest to find a small group Bible Study for committed Followers of Jesus who want to mature in their faith a search was made of existing studies.

Many of the existing small group studies were primarily evangelistic or targeted a specific topic or Book of the Bible. The scripture that inspired this particular study was *Matthew 28:18-20. Go into all the world - Make Disciples, - Baptize them - Teach them to Observe all that I commanded.*

A search was made for a study of the Commands of Jesus. A few were found but nothing that provided for an in-depth discussion of His commands in a small group setting. So a team of four businessmen met together weekly for 6 months to develop a curriculum. The team involved the president of a construction company, the partner in a real estate investment and management firm, the president of a global ministry, and a retired airline pilot and business owner.

The guidelines for the curriculum were to use the imperative verbs that Jesus spoke as the scripture references and to develop soul-searching, personal questions for the participants to examine their walk of Faith. All doctrine, beliefs and practices were avoided so as to make the content acceptable to all Believers.

The 11 lesson study of The Commands of Jesus was then tested in a small group Businessmen's Bible Study. It proved to be useful as the men were consistently engaged in the discussions of the scriptures and the personal questions. It was apparent that they grew in their faith during the months of meeting together over the study.

We offer the curriculum as a gift to all of God's people. It was given to us by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of making obedient Disciples of Jesus. The curriculum is presented in Word document form so that anyone may change it to fit their particular group's needs. All the information is available on the web.

Observe the Commands of Jesus

PREFACE

Jesus's final command is known as the *Great Commission*. He said in *Matthew 28:19-20*: *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.*

A team of four men accepted Jesus's command and developed this study as a tool to help make disciples and to teach them to observe all that He commanded. The eleven lessons were carefully and prayerfully discussed, and represent what the team believes are helpful scriptures and soul-searching questions for making obedient disciples of Jesus.

DEVELOPMENT TEAM GUIDELINES

Vision To become a participant in making obedient disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mission To produce a life-transforming Bible study of the Commands of Jesus so that His followers become consistent DOERS of the Word and FRUITFUL sons and daughters of God's Kingdom. To design a curriculum primarily for Believers who want to grow in their faith.

Goals To encourage God's people:

- By studying His Word
- By considering their walk of faith and commitment
- By learning to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit
- By acting on His commands as His Spirit prompts

Plan To develop a Commands curriculum of 9-12 lessons, one-and-a-half hours each, to be used by small groups.

- By focusing on selected key commands of the 382 spoken by Jesus which were in the imperative tense in the original Greek.
- By asking soul-searching questions to prompt participants to consider their attitudes and willingness to practice obeying Jesus's commands and how they apply them to their lives.

This study is offered in Word Document form so that anyone desiring to use it may easily produce a small group curriculum. The development team has sought to avoid specific doctrines, beliefs or practices. Simple, foundational, Biblical principles are offered as leads into the scriptures. Anyone using this study is free to include the beliefs and practices they desire to stress with their participants.

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics

Lesson Topics

Lesson 1: How Can I?

Lesson 2: Follow Me

Lesson 3: Believe in the Word

Lesson 4: Love and Forgive

Lesson 5: Worship, Pray and Fast

Lesson 6: Maturing in Christ

Lesson 7: The Universal Commands

Lesson 8: God's Purpose for us

Lesson 9: Go - Witness - Serve

Lesson 10: The World, the Flesh and the Devil

Lesson 11: End of the Age, Judgment and Heaven

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 1: How can I ?

Go . . . make disciples . . . teach them to observe all that I commanded you.

Matt. 28:18-20

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) There is a biblical way to become Jesus' follower. Receive Him as the Lord (in charge) of your life and trust Him. Faith in His name has power to save you. This requires repenting of your own ways and being spiritually reborn as God's child.

John 1:9-13; John 3:3; John 10:7-10; Mark 1:14-17

- a) Summarize these Scriptures in one sentence.
 - b) Record the circumstances of when you gave your life to Jesus' lordship.
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- 2) Only committed disciples of Jesus who hear and understand His words are motivated to obey His commands. A disciple is one who commits to follow another's teaching and imitates it.

Matthew 13:10-23; John 7:15-18

- a) In these levels of commitment which describes me best?
- b) How do I personally know that I am His disciple?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 1: How can I ?

- c) When I study the Bible, do I often believe God is speaking to me personally?
 - d) Am I willing to study the commands and practice them?
- 3) In our own understanding, we cannot fully accept the commands as they apply to us. It is only by the Holy Spirit's revelation that they become directive for our lives.

John 14:16-17; John 16:12-15

- a) Summarize the Holy Spirit's part in my spiritual life in one sentence.
 - b) List some times I was directed to do or not do something by the Holy Spirit's revelation.
 - c) List some times when I obeyed and things went well.
 - d) List some times when I didn't obey and wished that I had.
- 4) To observe Jesus' commands is not to make a "to do" list. Some of His commands are not possible for us, as broken humans, to keep in our own strength. That is why we are given the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-9

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 1: How can I ?

a) In one sentence describe the power you receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

b) What were some situations when I saw His supernatural hand in action?

c) Are there situations in my life now that I'm hesitant to entrust to the Lord and/or to act on?

5) Jesus said the first and foremost commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. Therefore, this should be first and foremost for us. One of the ways we show our love for Him is by our obedience. Another way is to worship Him. Love can only be shown by action.

Matthew 22:35-38; John 14:21-23; John 4:23-24

a) In what ways do I show my love for God in "spirit and truth"?

b) In what ways do I show my love and gratitude for the mercy and grace I receive from Jesus?

c) In what ways do I show my appreciation for the presence and help of the Holy Spirit?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 1: How can I ?

- 6) The only way we can know what Jesus wants us to do is to have a consistent, personal relationship with Him.

John 15:4-11

- a) What does abiding in Jesus look like in my life?
- b) How consistently am I spending my time in abiding?
- 7) What specific action steps can I now take to become a more obedient disciple of His as a result of this study?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 2: Follow Me

Jesus said, "Follow Me" 37 times! We follow Jesus because He is the only way to find reconciliation with the true God, the Creator of the world.

John 10:7-18, Matthew 7:13-14

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) In our pluralistic culture, it is a common belief that there are many ways to God; some even believe there are many gods.

John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

- a) How confident am I that Jesus is the only way?
 - b) When there is an opportunity to share my faith in Jesus, what do I normally do?
- 2) The call of Jesus is for His followers to be disciples. A disciple is a learner under someone's discipline—one who follows another's teaching and imitates it. There is always a cost for being a Disciple.

Luke 9:23-25; 57-62, Matthew 5:11-12; 10:37-39

- a) Summarize in one sentence how these verses describe a disciple.
- b) What does it mean in my daily practice to lay down my life, deny myself, and take up my cross?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 2: Follow Me

- c) What should I give up to be a disciple who follows Jesus?

 - d) Given that, am I willing to follow Him?
- 3) There are many promised rewards for following Jesus.
- John 8:12; 10:24-30; 12:26; 14:1-3,
Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 10:17-24*
- a) Which promises are most appealing to me?

 - b) What would an abundant life look like to me?

 - c) What would having the Light of life do for me?

 - d) What burdens would I like to have off of my back?

 - e) Heaven seems too far away to get excited about. Should heaven be what motivates me now?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 2: Follow Me

- f) In what ways would following Jesus now be more satisfying, or as interesting and exciting as the "good life" I have right now?

- 4) List some intentional steps that I will now take to follow Jesus more closely.

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 3: Believe in the Word—Living and Written

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.
Coming into the world, He enlightens every man.
As many as received Him, to them He gave the right
to become the children of God,
even to those who believe in His name.

John 1:1-13

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) We believe in Jesus because He clearly demonstrated that He is Lord. Everything about the Christian faith is in Him, through Him, and for Him. It is not about religious doctrine & practices. To believe in Jesus is more than acknowledging that He is who the Bible says He is. A true believer relies on, adheres to, and trusts in Jesus as His Lord and Master. Derivatives of the Greek word, "believe," are used 590 times in the New Testament.

John 3:16; 5:24; 6:35-40; 11:25-27

- a) Summarize these Scriptures in one sentence.

 - b) Why is my salvation not dependent on the strength of my belief in Jesus?
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- 2) A Disciple must know Jesus experientially by intentionally developing an active, personal relationship with Him. By learning about what Jesus said and did, we know what God the Father is like and what He expects of us.

John 10:1-15; 17:1-13; Mark 9:7-8

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 3: Believe in the Word—Living and Written

- a) Summarize these Scriptures in one sentence.

 - b) What steps can I take to get know Him better?

 - c) How can I tell if I'm hearing Jesus's voice?
- 3) As the Light of the world, not only do we see Jesus, but also by Him we see everything else more clearly.

John 12:35-36; 12:44-50

- a) Describe the things I see more clearly since I began following Jesus.

 - b) How consistently do I seek the Lord for guidance?
- 4) As the Prince of Peace, Jesus brings peace into our life. This is a fruit given by the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 9:6-7; John 14:27; 16:33; Galatians 5:22-25

- a) I believe in Jesus. Why am I not more peaceful?
- 5) In His name we have authority and power through His Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-8; John 14:11-14; Mark 16:14-20

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 3: Believe in the Word—Living and Written

- a) Have I asked for the power of the Holy Spirit?

- b) Do I pray expecting the promises in these Scriptures to happen?

- c) Do I pray for results that the world would see as miracles?

- 6) Study the written word—the Bible. As you meditate upon it, believe it is God speaking truth into your life. It was written by men, many of whom were eye witness to the acts and words of Jesus. The Bible was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:15-18; 8:31-36; 16:12-15; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- a) In your own words, summarize what these verses say to you about the Bible.

- b) What are the worries and distractions in my life that limit my time for studying the Word?

- c) What would help me believe the Scriptures are speaking to me for my own instruction and guidance?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 3: Believe in the Word—Living and Written

- 7) What action steps will I take to begin relying on and trusting in Jesus and His written Word?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 4: Love and Forgive

The first 3 lessons discussed our laying a foundation in Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith. Now we will address His commands concerning the essential spiritual disciplines necessary in order to obey His commands. They combine our human efforts with the Holy Spirit's empowerment to help us be obedient Disciples.

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) Jesus says the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. He also said to love our enemies and those who persecute us. The Greek word for God's love, *agape* (*ah-ga-pay*) is used 226 times in the New Testament. Agape love is not an emotion; it is a fruit of the Holy Spirit demonstrated by our attitudes and actions.

Mark 12:28-31, John 13:34-35, 15:9-17

Matthew 5:43-48, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- a) Why is this commandment the second greatest before all the other commands of Jesus?
- b) Compare and contrast these verses describing "love" with how the word "love" is commonly used in our culture.
- c) Loving myself sounds selfish. So, then, how do I love myself correctly?
- d) I love some people, but what attitudes and opinions need transformation - so I can show agape love to everyone?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 4: Love and Forgive

- e) If agape love were a feeling, then I couldn't be commanded to do it. If it is my choice, then how can I develop the discipline to choose to love, regardless?

- 2) If there is anything or anyone I desire, need or pursue more than Jesus, then that is my god. I have allowed it to become my idol.

Matthew 10:37-39, John 12:24-26, Luke 16:13,

- a) These verses are difficult. What do they say to me?

 - b) List the people and things in my life that are really important to me.

 - c) How do these people and things influence my relationship with Jesus.

 - d) How do all the good things in my life compete with Jesus for my heart?
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- 3) We are commanded to forgive. Like love, we choose to forgive as a decision of obedience. God has mercifully forgiven our sins through the sacrifice of Jesus when we didn't deserve it. Therefore, our unforgiveness has serious personal consequences.

Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-35

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 4: Love and Forgive

- a) Do these Scriptures give me the liberty to not forgive someone who has wronged me?

- b) Who benefits when I forgive someone who doesn't deserve to be forgiven?

- c) Why do I feel guilty about things I've done if Jesus has forgiven me?

- 4) What is one change I will commit to practice that will help me "love and forgive" -- so that Jesus is seen in me by others-and my life is more fruitful for His Kingdom?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 5: Worship, Pray and Fast

A disciplined life of worship, prayer and fasting draws us closer to God. The Lord's will and His purpose for us is often revealed when we pray and fast. These are activities which open us up to the Holy Spirit. Our prayers build our faith and trust and fortify our hope for the future. Through fasting and prayer God proves His faithfulness to His promises.

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) We worship God only. Worship may be understood as an active acknowledgement of God's nature, attributes, and ways by our praise, thanksgiving and deeds done in His Spirit.

John 4:23-24, Matthew 4:8-11, Luke 22:19-20, Psalm 95:1-8

- a) Describe worship as it is presented in these verses.

 - b) How can I go about my daily activities so as to be a pleasure to the Lord?
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- 2) Prayer is personal dialogue with God. It is simultaneously a conversation of intimate friends and a cry of dependence on Him who is greater- to do what we cannot. Pray for persons and situations that need His intervention and help. Pray the scripture: it is a very powerful means of declaring His truth and His will. Spiritual authority comes through the Word; both the Living Word, Jesus, and the written Word, the Bible. As we quietly listen to His Word, we are inviting His Holy Spirit to guide, teach, encourage, comfort, and correct us. To receive this, we must set aside focused time to read and pray as the Holy Spirit prompts us. In this quiet time we can hear His responses.

Matthew 6:5-15, 1 John 5:13-15, John 16:12-15, Mark 4:21-25

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 5: Worship, Pray and Fast

- a) Considering these scriptures, how would I describe my prayers? Are they truly sincere and heartfelt, or are they routine and ritualistic?

- b) Do I pray for others and for God's purposes in them and in the earth?

- 3) Pray in faith, believing God hears, understands, and will answer.

Matthew 7:7-11, Mark 9:23-24, 11:22-26

- a) Which of these verses best describes my prayers?

 - b) What would help me believe more in the power of prayer?

 - c) List some times when specific prayers were answered in a miraculous way.
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- 4) We ask in Jesus name. His name is powerful. His spiritual authority was given to us by the Holy Spirit residing in us.

John 14:10-15, 16:23-28,

- a) List the reasons we pray in Jesus name.

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 5: Worship, Pray and Fast

5) There is power in praying in agreement with others.

Matthew 18:18-20

a) Am I uncomfortable praying out loud with others? If so, why?

b) List some times when praying with others has seemed powerful.

6) We pray for His Kingdom purposes to be accomplished.

Matthew 6:10, 9:35-38, 1 Timothy 2:1-4

a) God's will is revealed in the Bible. Do I give thought to His plans as I study, and pray for them to be accomplished?

b) The other means of determining the Lord's will is by guidance from the Holy Spirit. When I pray, do I do all the talking? Do I listen for His answers?

7) Many find quiet time with the Lord and in prayer difficult.

Luke 10:38-42, 18:1-8, 21:33-36, Matthew 26:40-43

a) I can identify with all these hindrances to praying. How can I overcome them?

b) What must I change to develop a disciplined, regular time for prayer?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 5: Worship, Pray and Fast

- 8) Jesus endorsed fasting, and spoke about the motives of our heart when doing so.

Matthew 6:16-18, 9:14-15

- a) Should I fast?
 - b) For what reasons?
 - c) What should I give up?
 - d) How would fasting help me mature in my faith walk?
- 9) One of the purposes of fasting is to humble ourselves. Fasting is a denial of the natural appetites and desires of our flesh for the spiritual growth and maturity of His Spirit within us.

Matthew 18:1-4, 23:1-12, James 4:1-10, 1 Peter 5:5-11

- a) In what ways and in what situations can I humble myself?
- b) Humbling ourselves is also a protection from and defense against the attacks of the devil. Describe some spiritual experiences that seemed evil to me.

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 5: Worship, Pray and Fast

c) What steps will I take to more fully observe these Spiritual Disciplines?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 6: Maturing in Christ

The Bible teaches that we are chosen by God to be Disciples of Jesus. We are sanctified and set apart from our old way of life for God's purposes.

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) The goal is to become more like Jesus. The maturing process involves a gradual transformation of our character from the inside out. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us--as we yield to His disciplines.

John 17:6-26, 2 Peter 1:1-11

- a) Describe what these powerful verses say to me personally.
 - b) Describe what the words "transformation" and "sanctification" mean to me.
- 2) Jesus commanded His Followers to be like Him and to do what He did.

Matthew 5:13-16, 20:25-28, Luke 6:36-40, John 13:12-17

- a) Describe what these powerful verses say to me personally.
- b) What are some examples of times when I served others in these ways?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 6: Maturing in Christ

- c) Of the service opportunities open to me personally, which one(s) connect with these scriptures?
- 3) We are blessed when we live like Jesus.

Matthew 5:1-12

- a) Which of the beatitudes are not natural for me?
- b) Explain how being poor in spirit, or in mourning, could be a blessing.
- c) Explain how being insulted and persecuted because of righteousness could be a blessing.
- 4) When we are set apart from the world's attractions and from our old way of life we are transformed as we make choices in favor of God's purpose for us.

Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 3:14-21

- a) This process sounds pretty drastic. Am I willing?
- b) What am I doing now that doesn't glorify Jesus?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 6: Maturing in Christ

- c) What practices and resources would help me grow?

- d) Who would I want to share my weaknesses with to help me overcome them?

- 5) As we live by the Word of God, we will become more obedient and useful as servants for God's Kingdom..

Matthew 4:1-4, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Psalm 119

- a) In what ways has studying the Bible changed the way I live?

- 6) An eternal perspective will determine our priorities that shape our practices.

Matthew 16:24-27, John 6:26-29, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

- a) Do I give much thought to Heaven's great rewards?

- b) Do I give much thought to answering to Jesus for what I have done?

- c) What would help me live with an eternal perspective?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 6: Maturing in Christ

- 7) What practical steps can I take to allow the Holy Spirit to begin to change me?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 7: The Universal Commands

The commands of Jesus are universal and apply to all His Followers. His atoning grace has set us free from many of the Jewish ceremonial laws found in the Old Testament. However, Jesus said that He didn't come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it. Jesus had a high view of His Father's moral commands, and He paid the price to set us free from the penalty of having broken them in the past. Now, His life and words affirm that as His Disciples, we do have commands to observe.

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) The Ten Commandments came directly from God to Moses and were often quoted by Jesus. The issues they address are foundational to our faith.

Deuteronomy 5:1-22

- a) Which of the Ten Commandments is a struggle for me to observe?
 - b) Describe how you feel about a statement where God says "Do not"--even though He is really saying, "Do not hurt yourself!"
 - c) As I consider God's rules for living, do I feel they are helpful toward an abundant life for me, or that they limit my freedom?
- 2) Jesus had much to say about our attitudes and actions when relating to each other. In Matthew Chapter 5, He teaches about God's desired responses in specific situations.

Matthew 5:17-48

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 7: The Universal Commands

- a) Write the main point in each of the verses below
- v. **17-18** Jesus commitment to the commands
 - v. **19-20** - obedience to the commandments
 - v. **21-26** - anger at and reconciliation with a person
 - v. **27-30** - adultery and the serious consequences of sinful actions
 - v. **31-37** - divorce and making vows
 - v. **38-42**- abuse and yielding your rights and possessions
 - v. **43-47** - loving your enemies
 - v. **48** - being perfect (mature)
- b) In my own life, in which situation am I most likely to respond wrongly?
- c) How can I develop proper responses in my most difficult situations?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 7: The Universal Commands

- 3) Since we are made in the image of a lavishly generous God, we are called to be generous. Money and possessions are usually the major competition for Lordship in our lives to Jesus.

Matt 6:19-21, Luke 6:38, 14:33, 16:9-13, Acts 20:33-35

- a) What do these scriptures tell us re: our use of money and possessions?
- b) What attitudes or beliefs do I hold to that make it hard for me to give?
- c) God's promises of His blessing upon the generous are very specific and appealing. What steps can I take now to start giving more?
- 4) Jesus tells His Disciples to observe the Lord's Supper in remembrance of His sacrifice.

Luke 22:14-20, John 6:47-63

- a) During Communion do I focus on Jesus laying down His life for me, or is it an empty ritual?
- b) Why did Jesus command us to "Do this in remembrance of Me"?
- 5) To become more obedient to His commands, what should I ask the Holy Spirit to change in me this week?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 8: God's Purpose for Us

If we have sincerely surrendered our lives to Jesus, in Spirit and in truth, we are choosing to live under His Lordship. We are called to pursue His purpose for our lives. As we mature in our walk with Jesus, He will reveal His purpose for choosing us.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) Each one of us is given gifts, talents and resources with which we are to accomplish God's specific purpose for our life. Our primary purpose is to love, know and serve God. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit, as the presence of the Lord Jesus in us, to teach us His ways and His Word. We must learn to recognize His voice so that He can guide us daily and effectively. Everything we do for God must flow out of this relationship for it to have eternal significance.

John 15:1-17, 16:12-15, Colossians 1:9-13

- a) Summarize what these verses say to me.

- 2) Jesus' obedience to His Father's will is our model. We want a "to do" list. Our challenge is to listen to the Spirit; so that as there are opportunities, we speak and take action as He directs.

***John 6:38-40, v63, Luke 6:46-49,
Ephesian 5:14-18, Romans 8:12-14***

- a) Summarize what these verses say to me.

- b) Should I seek guidance from the Lord on a daily basis? Why?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 8: God's Purpose for Us

- c) When visiting with someone, how would my words and actions be different if I actively invited the Holy Spirit to control what I do and say?

 - d) Assuming you feel led by the Holy Spirit; explain the difference between an interruption in your plans and an opportunity for ministry.
- 3) God's desire and command to us is to be a witness for the Gospel. Jesus's last words called us to be disciples that make disciples. In being intentional about these commands, we find our purpose.

Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 2:1-2

- a) How should I apply these commands to my daily life?

 - b) Why and in what way would Jesus consider me His Disciple?

 - c) List specific individuals I am committed to disciple in my family, my work, and in my community.
- 4) Our personal calling helps guide our involvements. As we seek the Lord's guidance He will begin to direct our actions in order to accomplish His desires.

Proverbs 3:5-8, John 10:1-6, Romans 12:4-8

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 8: God's Purpose for Us

- a) Am I truly involved in Kingdom work to any extent at all, or just busy?

- b) What is my calling now, at this time, in the different areas of my life?
Prayerfully consider this important question, write it down, and answer below.
 - i) In my family

 - ii) In my workplace

 - iii) In my church

 - iv) In my community

- 5) Laying hold of God's purpose should motivate us, but we tend to pursue worldly passions rather than spiritual purposes.

Matthew 13:1-9. 18-23

- a) Which type soil am I?

- b) What can I change now to be more fruitful for the Lord and His Kingdom?

- 6) What would the Lord have me do it this week? How will I start?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 9: Go - Witness - Serve

Many of the Commands of Jesus tell us to "Go - witness - and serve".

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis as it relates to this lesson and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) The authority and power of the Holy Spirit resides in us to transform us and empower us to share our faith. We are called and commanded to take the Good News that God, through Jesus Christ, is reconciling a lost and hopeless world to Himself.

***Acts 1:4-9, Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20,
Mark 16:14-20, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20***

- a) Describe the emotions these scriptures produce in me.

- 2) Many have heard the Gospel but do not understand or believe this great news. Many have not accepted God's offer of reconciliation by committing their lives to the Lordship of Jesus. We may be sent at some point to the remotest parts of the world, but our "Jerusalem" is our family, our neighborhood, and the people we see daily.

John 3:1-8, Mark 5:18-20, Luke 12:8-9

- a) Why do I find it difficult to share the Good News with those closest to me?

- 3) We are called to share the reason for the Hope that is in us in a gentle and loving way - and leave the results to the Lord. The story of our walk with Jesus is a powerful witness, even though we will encounter varied receptions to our testimony.

1 John 5:10-13, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, 3:4-6, 2 Timothy 2:24-26

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 9: Go - Witness - Serve

- a) Write the key points of my personal experience with Jesus on a sheet of paper so that when I tell my story it will flow better and be more natural.

 - b) Am I timid about being known as a Follower of Jesus?

 - c) Make a list of people I want to share with. Ask the Lord to prepare them and arrange a time when they will be receptive. Ask Him to give me His Spirit's leading as to just what to say and when.
- 4) As we reach out to help others in the name of Jesus; they will know He loves them. They will be attracted to follow Him when we show we care by giving our time in serving the needs of those around us. Our attitude should be that others are more important than we are.

Matthew 20:25-28, 25:31-40, Philippians 2:1-11

- a) How can I help others when I don't have time to finish what I need to do?

- b) What are the other barriers that keep me from serving the Kingdom?

- c) How can I better use my time wisely to serve others?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

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Matthew 20:25-28, 25:31-40, Philippians 2:1-11

- a) How can I help others when I don't have time to finish what I need to do?

 - b) What are the other barriers that keep me from serving the Kingdom?

 - c) How can I better use my time wisely to serve others?
- 5) It is very exciting and satisfying when the Lord uses us, but we must always

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 9: Go - Witness - Serve

avoid pride. Anything of eternal consequence is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 17:5-10, John 6:63

Jeremiah 9:23-24, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

- a) Is it possible that my motive in helping others is for the affirmation and praise I receive?

- b) What is God's way for me to handle those feelings of satisfaction I get when I help someone?

- 6) What action should I take this week to provide a witness to my faith while serving others?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson 10: The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

In *John 16:33 and 17:9-16*, Jesus warns His Followers of tribulation in the world. He asks His Father to keep us in His name. The **world** we live in surrounds us with ungodly beliefs and temptations. Our **Old Nature** is susceptible to be influenced by these factors. **Satan** and his host of demons are always trying to block us from knowing and serving God.

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis as it relates to this lesson and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- 1) The **world** hates Jesus. The media, secular culture and much false teaching support and encourage unbelief and disobedience.

John 15:18-23, Mark 7:6-8, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 John 5:19

- a) What is God protecting me from?
 - b) What is God preparing me for?
 - c) How does this specifically apply to my life?
- 2) Our **Old Nature** should not dominate our thoughts and our behavior after we are given a New Nature by the Holy Spirit residing in us.

John 14:16-17, Colossians 3:1-17, Galatians 5:16-26

- a) What is different in my life than it was earlier?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 10: The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

- b) What would I most like to have changed now?
- 3) Consider the warnings below. Confess and turn away from the sins of your flesh, which is your **Old Nature**. Yield to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit to change you.

How can I cooperate with the Holy Spirit in changing my behavior in the areas below? I need to take time and focus on 2 or 3 that are most pressing.

- a) Selfishness - *Philippians 2:1-5*
- b) My thought life - *2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Philippians 4:4-9*
- c) My mouth - *Matthew 12:31-37, 15:10-11, v15-20, Ephesians 4:29-32*
- d) My eyes and ears - *Luke 11:34-36, Matthew 5:27-29, Mark 4:22-25*
- e) My greed - *Luke 12:13-21, Matthew 19:21-26*
- f) My tendency to judge - *Matthew 7:1-5, John 8:3-11*

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 10: The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

- g) My fears and anxieties -
Matthew 6:24-34, Luke 12:4-7, v32-34, John 14:23-27
- 4) In the New Testament; **Satan** is named 35 times, the **devil** 34 times, and **demons** 62 times. The mission of evil spirits is to kill, steal, destroy and lie. Demons seduce people in order to turn them away from God's truth and His way of living and entice them to engage in idolatry and destructive activities.
John 8:39-47, 10:7-10, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15
- a) What do I believe about the reality and presence of evil spirits?
- 5) Disciples of Jesus have authority over evil spirits.
*Luke 10:17-21, 1 John 4:1-4,
1 Peter 5:8-11, Ephesians 6:10-18,*
- a) What is God protecting me from?
- b) What is God preparing me for?
- c) How does this specifically apply to my life?

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 11: End of The Age, Judgment and Heaven

- 1) The Bible has a lot to say about the end of this age and the return of Jesus. There are 318 references in the New Testament using a term such as - "The End Times - The End of The Age - The Last Days - The Tribulation - The Day of the Lord - etc.". No man knows the day or hour but we can read the signs of the times. The conditions in the world currently certainly read like the conditions which will exist in the last days.

Matthew Chapter 24, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Read the introduction to the subject and the scriptures. Consider the primary emphasis and the context in which it is presented. Then, answer the questions.

- a) What is God protecting me from?
- b) What is God preparing me for?
- c) How does this specifically apply to my life?
- 2) Disciples of Jesus will give an account to Him of how they used the time, talents, and resources He entrusted to us. Unbelievers will appear before the Judgment seat of God. Those who have committed their lives to Christ will spend eternity in heaven with Him. Those who choose not to accept God's offer of reconciliation will spend eternity away from His presence. Notice there is always an offer of mercy linked with the warning of judgment.

***John 5:24-30, Matthew 7:15-29,
Romans 14:10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10***

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS
Lesson 11: End of The Age, Judgment and Heaven

- a) What is God protecting me from?

 - b) What is God preparing me for?

 - c) How does this specifically apply to my life?
- 3) The promise of eternal rewards is found in many scriptures. They indicate that this life is preparation for the next life; thus our talents and resources will be used. Jesus promised He will prepare a place for us in Heaven. The scriptural portrayal is that life in God's presence will be glorious.

Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 19:11-19

John 14:1-7, Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-13

- a) What do eternal promises inspire me to do now in my everyday life?

- b) What would help me develop an eternal perspective?

**COMMANDS of JESUS
VERSES for ALL LESSONS**

Lesson # 1	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
HOW CAN I ?				1:9-13
Acts 1:4-9		1:14-17		3;3
	13:10-23			4:23-24, 7:15-18
	22:35-38			10:7-10
				14:16-17, 21- 23
	28:18-20			15:4-11
				16:12-15
Lesson # 2	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	John
FOLLOW ME				
1 Corinthians 8:4-6	7:13-14,			10:7-18,
				14;6
COST of FOLLOWING	5:11-12,			
	10:37-39,		9:23-25, 57-62	
REWARDS of FOLLOWING	11:28-30			8:12
			10:17-24,	10:24-30
				12;26
				14:1-3
Lesson # 3	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
BELIEVE				1:1-13
Isaiah 9:6-7				3;16, 5:24
Acts 1:4-8		9:7-8		6:35-40
2 Timothy 3:14-17		16:14-20		7:15-18
Galatians 5:22-25				8:31-36
				10:1-15
				11:25-27
				12:35-36, 44-50
				14:11-14, 27
				16:12-15, v33
				17:1-13
Lesson # 4	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
LOVE - FORGIVE	5:43-48			
	6:14-15			12:24-26
		12:28-31		13:34-35
1 Corinthians 13:4-7	10:37-39		16;13	15:9-17
	18:21-35			
Lesson # 5	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Worship - Pray - Fast	4:8-11			
James 4:1-10	6:5-18, 7:7-11	4:21-25	10:38-42	4:23-24
Psalms 95:1-8	9:14-15, 35-38	9:23-24	18:1-8	14:10-15
1 John 5:13-15	18:1-4, 18-20	11:22-26	21:33-36	16:12-15, 23-28
1 Timothy 2:1-4	23:1-12		22:19-20	
1 Peter 5:5-11	26:40-43			
Lesson # 6	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
MATURING in CHRIST	4:1-4			
	5:1-16			6:26-29
Romans 12:1-3			6:36-40	13:12-17
Ephesians 3:14-21	16:24-27			
2 Timothy 3:14-17				17:6-26
2 Corinthians 5:6-10	20:25-28			
2 Peter 1:1-11				

**COMMANDS of JESUS
VERSES for ALL LESSONS**

Lesson # 7	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Universal Commands				
	5:17-48		6:38	6:47-63
Deuteronomy 5:1-21	6:19-21			
Acts 20:33-35			14:33	
			16:9-13	
			22:14-20	
Lesson # 8	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
GOD'S PURPOSE for US				6:38-40, v63
			6:46-49	
Ephesians 2:8-10, 5:14-18	13:1-9, 18-23			10:1-6
Romans 8:12-14, 12:4-8				15:1-17
Collosians 1:9-13	28:18-20			16:12-15
1 Timothy 2:1-4				
2 Timothy 2:1-2				
Proverbs 3:5-8				
Lesson # 9	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Go - Witness - Serve				
Jeremiah 9:23-24		5:18-20		3:1-8
Acts 1:4-9			12:8-9	6:63
2 Corinthians 2:14-16		16:14-20	17:5-10	
2 Cor 3:4-6, 5:14-20	20:25-28			
1 John 5:10-13	24:14			
2 Timothy 2:24-26	25:31-40			
Philippians 2:1-11	28:18-20			
1 Corinthians 1:26-31				
Lesson # 10	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
World - Flesh -Devil	5:27-29	4:22-25		8:3-11, 39-47
2 Corinthians 10:3-6	6:24-34			10:7-10
2 Corinthians 11:12-15	7:1-5			
1 Peter 5:8-11		7:6-8	10:17-21	14:16-17, 23-27
2 Timothy 4:1-5	12:31-37		11:34-36	15:18-23
Colossians 3:1-17	15:10-11, 15-20		12:4-7, 13-21, 32-34	16:33
Galatians 5:16-26				17:9-16
Philippians 2:1-5, 4:4-9				
1 John 4:1-4, 5:19	19:21-26			
Ephesians 4:29-32				
Ephesians 6:10-18				
Lesson # 11	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
End of the Age - Judgment - Heaven				
	6:19-21			5:24-30
	7:15-29		19:11-19	
2 Timothy 3:1-5				14:1-7
Romans 14:10-12	Chapter 24			
2 Corinthians 5:6-10				
Revelation 21:1-4, 22:1-13				

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics with Scriptures

Go . . . make disciples . . . teach them to observe all that I commanded you.

Matthew 28:18-20

Lesson 1: HOW CAN I ?

- 1) Repent, be born again, receive Jesus as Lord
John 1:9-13, 3:3, 10:7-10, Mark 1:14-17
- 2) Being a Disciple who hears and obeys
Matthew 13:10-23, John 7:15-18
- 3) The Holy Spirit's part in personal revelation
John 14:16-17, 16:12-15
- 4) Keeping the commands requires the power of the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:4-9
- 5) First and foremost commandment
Matthew 22:35-38, John 14:21-23, John 4:23-24
- 6) Personal relationship by abiding in Jesus
John 15:4-11

Lesson 2: FOLLOW ME

Jesus said "Follow Me" 37 times.

John 10:7-18, Matthew 7:13-14

- 1) Jesus is the only way to the Father
John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 8:4-6
- 2) A Follower is called to be a Disciple
Luke 9:23-25, v57-62, Matthew 5:11-12, 10:37-39
- 3) There are many promised rewards for following Jesus
*John 8:12, 10:24-30, 12:26, 14:1-3,
Matthew 11:28-30, Luke 10:17-24*

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics with Scriptures

Lesson 3: BELIEVE in The Word -- Living and Written

In believing in Jesus name we become children of God

John 1:1-13

- 1) A true Believer relies on, adheres to, and trusts in Jesus
John 3:16, 5:24, 6:35-40, 11:25-27
- 2) You belong to Him and He leads and keeps you
John 10:1-15, 17:1-13, Mark 9:7-8
- 3) Having light in a dark world
John 12:35-36, v44-50
- 4) The Prince of Peace brings you peace
Isaiah 9:6-7, John 14:27, 16:33, Galatians 5:22-25
- 5) In His Name we have authority
Acts 1:4-8, John 14:11-14, Mark 16:14-20
- 6) Believe God is speaking to you as you study the Bible
John 7:15-18, 8:31-36, 16:12-15, 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Lesson 4: LOVE and FORGIVE

- 1) The 2nd Great Commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself
Mark 12:28-31, John 13:34-35, 15:9-17
Matthew 5:43-48, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- 2) Loving anything more than Jesus is idolatry
Matthew 10:37-39, John 12:24-26, Luke 16:13
- 3) We must choose to forgive as He forgives us
Matthew 6:14-15, 18:21-35

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics with Scriptures

Lesson 5: WORSHIP, PRAY, and FAST

- 1) Worship with words of praise and thanksgiving, and by obeying
John 4:23-24, Matthew 4:8-11, Luke 22:19-20, Psalm 95:1-8
- 2) Prayer is personal time in dialogue with God and in listening to Him
Matthew 6:5-15, 1 John 5:13-15, John 16:12-15, Mark 4:21-25
- 3) Pray in faith expectantly
Matthew 7:7-11, Mark 9:23-24, 11:22-26
- 4) We ask in the authority of Jesus name
John 14:10-15, 16:23-28
- 5) There is power in praying in agreement with others
Matthew 18:18-20
- 6) Pray for Kingdom purposes to be done on earth
Matthew 6:10, 9:35-38, 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- 7) Consistent prayer requires discipline
Luke 10:38-42, 18:1-8, 21:33-36, Matthew 26:40-43
- 8) Fast with a proper heart attitude
Matthew 6:16-18, 9:14-15
- 9) Fast to humble yourself
Matthew 18:1-4, 23:1-12, James 4:1-10, 1 Peter 5:5-11

Lesson 6: MATURING in CHRIST

- 1) Our lifetime process is being transformed into the likeness of Jesus
John 17:6-26, 2 Peter 1:1-11

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics with Scriptures

- 2) The Command is to be like Jesus and do what He did
Matthew 5:13-16, 20:25-28, Luke 6:36-40, John 13:12-17
- 3) We are blessed when we live like Jesus
Matthew 5:1-12
- 4) We are set apart from the world's ways and our Old Nature
Romans 12:1-3, Ephesians 3:14-21
- 5) Live by the Word to be more obedient and useful
Matthew 4:1-4, 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Psalm 119
- 6) Having an eternal perspective changes our priorities
Matthew 16:24-27, John 6:26-29, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Lesson 7: The UNIVERSAL COMMANDS

- 1) The Ten Commandments are foundational to our faith
Deuteronomy 5:1-21
- 2) God's desired responses in personal relationships
Matthew 5:17-48
- 3) Generosity breaks the hold of greed in our lives
Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 6:38, 14:33, 16:9-13, Acts 20:33-35
- 4) Jesus said to observe the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him
Luke 22:14-22, John 6:47-64

Lesson 8: GOD'S PURPOSE for US

If we have surrendered our lives to Jesus we are called to pursue His purpose for our lives.

Ephesians 2:8-10

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics with Scriptures

- 1) Walk in the Spirit and He will use our time, talents, and resources
John 15:1-17, 16:12-15, Colossians 1:9-13
- 2) We want a plan and a "to do list" but daily obedience is the way
*John 6:38-40, v63, Luke 6:46-49,
Ephesians 5:14-18, Romans 8:12-14*
- 3) Be a witness and a disciple who makes disciples
Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 2:1-2
- 4) Our personal calling guides our involvements
Proverbs 3:5-8, John 10:1-6, Romans 12:4-8
- 5) Hindrances to fulfilling our purpose
Matthew 13:1-9, v18-23

Lesson 9: GO . . WITNESS . . SERVE

- 1) The Holy Spirit in us gives the power and authority to be a witness
*Acts 1:4-9, Matthew 24:14, 28:18-20,
Mark 16:14-20, 2 Corinthians 5:14-20*
- 2) Many around us have not accepted God's offer to be reconciled and forgiven
John 3:1-8, Mark 5:18-20, Luke 12:8-9
- 3) Our personal faith story is a powerful witness
*1 John 5:10-13, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, 3:4-6
2 Timothy 2:24-26*
- 4) Serving others shows Jesus' love
Matthew 20:25-28, 25:31-40, Philippians 2:1-11
- 5) We are to avoid pride when the Holy Spirit works through us
*Luke 17:5-10, John 6:63
Jeremiah 9:23-24, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

OBSERVE the COMMANDS of JESUS

Lesson Topics with Scriptures

Lesson 10: The World, the Flesh and the Devil

Jesus warns His Followers of tribulation in the world.

John 16:33, 17:9-16

1) The world hates Jesus

John 15:18-23, Mark 7:6-8, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, 1 John 5:19

2) Our Old Nature should not dominate us after we are given a New Nature

John 14:16-17, Colossians 3:1-17, Galatians 5:16-26

3) When you fall into your old ways confess and turn away from them

a) My selfishness - *Philippians 2:1-5*

b) My thought life - *2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Philippians 4:6-9*

c) My mouth - *Matthew 12:31-37, 15:10-11, v15-20, Ephesians 4:29-32*

d) My eyes and ears - *Luke 11:34-36, Matthew 5:27-29, Mark 4:22-25*

e) My greed - *Luke 12:13-21, Matthew 19:21-26*

f) My tendency to judge - *Matthew 7:1-5, John 8:3-11*

g) My fears and anxieties - *Matthew 6:24-34, Luke 12:4-7, v32-34, John 14:23-27*

4) The work of the Devil and his demons is to seduce God's people to sin

John 8:39-47, 10:7-10, 2 Corinthians 11:12-15

5) Disciples of Jesus have authority over evil spirits

Luke 10:17-21, 1 John 4:1-4, 1 Peter 5:8-11, Ephesians 6:10-18

Lesson 11: END of the AGE, JUDGMENT and HEAVEN

1) Many Bible references describe the End of this Age and the return of Jesus

Matthew Chapter 24, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

2) We will be held accountable for what we did in this life

John 5:24-30, Matthew 7:15-29,

Romans 14:10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

3) We are promised eternal life in the presence of God and rewards

Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 19:11-19, John 14:1-7, Revelations 21:1-4, 22:1-13