

# EXPLORE LEVEL 1

## WELCOME TO EXPLORE

Welcome to the Indian Springs Baptist family! EXPLORE is a class designed to help new members, new Christians and those seeking a church home to quickly familiarize themselves with and become assimilated into the life of our church family. We are grateful that God has led you our way, and we do not take lightly our responsibility to nurture and support you and to help you become meaningfully involved as a member in God's family.

The Explore curriculum is structured into four teaching sections or levels. Following is a design layout that will help you visualize these "Four Levels of Discipleship."

### Level 4

Helps **many**  
You reach **up**  
You work **through** others  
The ministry grows **higher**

### Level 4: **Multiplying**

Focus: **Fruit for God**

Key Word: **Builds**

Involves Personal **Discipling**

This is your **Production** in Christ

This is **Accomplishing** Christian

This is the **going** stage

### Level 3

Helps **some**  
You reach **out**  
You work with **others**  
The ministry grows **broader**

### Level 3: **Ministering**

Focus: **Function** for God

Key Word: **Belongs**

Involves **Personal** Duty

This is your **Potential** in Christ

This is **Advancing** Christian

This is the **showing** stage

### Level 2: **Maturity**

Focus: **Faith in God**

Key Word: **Becomes**

Involves Personal **Developing**

This is your **Process** in Christ

This is **Average** Christian

This is the **growing** stage

### Level 2

Helps **yourself**  
You reach **in**  
You work for **others**  
The ministry grows **deeper**

### Level 1: **Member**

Focus: **Family of God**

Key Word: **Believes**

Involves Personal **Decision**

This is your **Position** in Christ

This is **Activated** Christian

This is the **knowing** stage

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### WELCOME TO LEVEL 1

This section is the basic introduction to our church family. Since we have members from different church backgrounds, this section was designed to clearly explain who we are and what we believe.

#### THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR LEVEL 1:

*“And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be the head over everything for the church, which is His body,. . . . (Ephesians 1:22-23 NIV)*

*“You are a member of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19 NLT)*

#### Key Truths

1. The church is Christ’s **body** and it is a **family**.
2. As part of Christ’s body, God expects you to be a functioning **member** of a church family.
3. A Christian without a church family is a **contradiction**.

#### THE GOAL OF LEVEL 1:

That I will commit myself to **Christ** and to the **ministry** of ISBC.

#### What makes Indian Springs Baptist a family?

1. Jesus **prayed** that we would be one.  
*“That they may all be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me.” (John 17:21 KJV)*

2. The Holy Spirit makes us one.

*“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:13 NKJV)*

3. We are to **maintain** the unity that the Spirit gave us.

*“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3 KJV)*

4. The Apostle Paul gave us several basic doctrinal truths that unite us.

*“There is one **Body**, and one **Spirit**, even as ye are called in one **hope** of your calling; One **Lord**, one **faith**, one **baptism**, One **God and Father** of all, who is above all and through all and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6 KJV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

# SESSION ONE Our Salvation

*“For we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been baptized into union with Christ are enveloped by Him. We are no longer Jews or Gentiles, or slaves or free men, or even merely men or women, but we’re all the same – we are Christians; we are one in Jesus Christ!” (Galatians 3:26-28 NLT)*

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “WHY”. They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is *“What is the meaning of my life?”*

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ††† Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ††† Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ††† Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my

### Purpose In Life

#### Why am I here?

1. God made me to **love** me.

God says, *“I have loved you with an everlasting love!” (Jeremiah 31:3 KJV)*

*“Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...because of His love, God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children – this was God’s pleasure and purpose.” (Ephesians 1:4-5 GN)*

2. We were created to **enjoy** a personal relationship with God and to **manage** all the rest of God’s creation. This makes us special!

*“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said, ...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.” (Genesis 1:27-28 NLT)*

*“God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (1 Timothy 6:17 NLT)*

Jesus said, *“I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness!” (John 10:10 NLT)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

3. When we know and love God and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous **benefits** in our lives.

**Clear Conscience**

Romans 8:1

**Purpose**

Romans 8:28

**Power & Strength**

Philippians 4:13

**Life & Peace**

Romans 8:6

**Confidence**

Romans 8:31

**Fulfillment**

Philippians 4:19

**Help with Weaknesses**

Romans 8:26

**Security**

Romans 8:39

**Freedom**

John 8:32, 36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live.

Why then aren't most people really happy?

*What's the Problem?*

Man has a natural desire to **be his own boss** and to ignore God's principles for living.

"Look out for #1."

"Do your own thing."

"If it feels good, do it (regardless of what God says about it)."

"It's my life, and I'll do what I please!"

**THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE sin**

*"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way." (Isaiah 53:6 NLT)*

*"If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." (1 John 1:8 NLT)*

**Sin breaks our close relationship with God.**

**It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside His will.**

*"The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God."*

Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

*"All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal."*

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

**When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives – marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.**

**WHEN PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS, THEY OFTEN TRY MANY DIFFERENT WAYS OF COPING BEFORE TURNING TO GOD.**

*"There are ways that SEEM right to man, but they only end in death."*

Proverbs 16:25 (NLT)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

**Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him. For example:**

- “My mother was a Christian, so...”
- “I’ll work real hard and earn it.”
- “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- “I’ll be religious and go to church.”
- “It doesn’t matter what you believe, just be sincere.”

What’s the solution?

Jesus Christ said, *“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except THROUGH ME!”* (John 14:6 NKJV)

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come.

**The Way is a Person!**

**Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!**

“The wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23 NKJV)

**God did this for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.**

*“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8 NIV)

*“God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.”* (1 Timothy 2:5 NLT)

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

What Does God Want Me To Do?

*It is as Simple as ABCD*

1. ***Accept*** God’s free gift of salvation. Don’t try to earn it.

*“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)

2. ***Believe*** that Jesus died to pay for your sins, that He rose again and is alive today.

*“If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Romans 10:9 NLT)

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12 NIV)

3. ***Confess*** that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.”* (1 John 1:9 NLT)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

**Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but by what Jesus already did for us!**

4. *Decide*, in every situation, that Jesus Christ is Lord (Master, Ruler) of your life. *Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (John 14:23)*

*"Jesus says, 'Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." (Revelation 3:20 NIV)*

### **YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE, BUT SINCERE, PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD:**

"Dear Lord, I know I am a sinner and cannot save myself. Thank you for loving me and for dying on the cross for my sins. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and forgive my sins and save my soul. I give you my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Take control of the throne of my life. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

*"Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Romans 10:13 NIV)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **My Salvation Record**

Date Saved \_\_\_\_\_

Place Where You Were Saved \_\_\_\_\_

Family/Friends With Me When Saved \_\_\_\_\_

(check one)

- I know for sure that I am saved and will go to heaven when I die.

### **My Salvation Testimony**

- I know for sure that I am unsaved and will go to hell when I die.  
 I am unsure of my salvation.

If you would like to talk with someone about getting saved or receiving assurance of your salvation, then please feel free to see the teacher at the conclusion of today's session. Don't put off this decision – it is the most important decision in life!

**"...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."**  
2 Corinthians 6:2 (KJV)

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 1**

**THE SYMBOLS OF SALVATION**

**Our Ordinances**

**BAPTISM**

*Why Should I Be Baptized?*

1. To follow the example set by **Christ**.

*“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” (Mark 1:9 NIV)*

2. Because Christ **commanded** it.

*“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all the people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the son, and the Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’ (Matthew 28:19-20 GN)*

3. It demonstrates that I really am a **Believer**.

*“...Many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.” (Acts 18:8 NIV)*

*“We know we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” (1 John 2:3 NIV)*

**Baptism Is The First Step  
Of Obedience That Every  
Believer Should Take!**

*What Is The Meaning Of Baptism?*

1. It pictures Christ’s **death, burial** and **resurrection**.

*“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 KJV)*

*“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” (1 Colossians 2:12 GN)*

2. It pictures my **new life** in Christ.

*“Know ye not, that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:3-4 KJV)*

3. It pictures our **physical** death and our ultimate **bodily** resurrection.

*“For as we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.” (Romans 6:5 KJV)*

Baptism doesn’t make you a believer – it shows that you already believe. Baptism does not “save” you; only your faith in Christ does that.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

Baptism is like a...

- **W**edding ring – It's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart. Wearing a wedding ring does not make you married, but does indicate that you are. Baptism does not save you, but it does identify you as being saved.
- **P**icture - A picture is not a real person, but you could recognize the person after seeing their picture.

*“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)*

### **Baptism Identifies You With Jesus Christ!**

#### Why Be Baptized By Immersion?

1. Because **J**esus was baptized that way.  
*“As soon as He was baptized, He went up out of the water.” (Matthew 3:16 NIV)*
2. Every baptism in the **N**ew T**e**stament was by immersion.  
*“...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” (Acts 8:38-39 NIV)*
3. The word *baptize* means “to **g**o u**n**der water.”  
The Greek word *baptizo* means “to immerse or dip under water.”
4. It best symbolizes a **b**urial and **r**esurrection  
The founders of many denominations agree:  
**Martin Luther**... “I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies.”  
**John Calvin**... “The word *baptize* signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”  
**John Wesley**... “Buried with Him alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”

#### What Does It Mean When We Refer To “Scriptural Baptism”?

It is baptism...

- By **I**mmersion
- After **S**alvation

#### Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has **b**elieved in Christ

*“Those who had believed and accepted His message were baptized...” (Acts 2:41 NIV)*



## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” (Acts 8:13 NIV)

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12 NIV)

### Can Children Be Baptized?

At ISBC, we allow anyone who is born-again to be baptized.

Some churches practice a “*baptism of confirmation*” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents commit to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his or her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed.

**This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible**, which was only for those who believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

**At Indian Springs Baptist it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.**

*Many people have been baptized right here at Indian Springs Baptist Church!*



### When Should I be baptized?

**AS SOON AS YOU HAVE BELIEVED!**

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” (Acts 2:41 NIV)

“Then Philip began with the Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” (Acts 8:35-38 NAS)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have received Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect”, you’ll never feel “good enough”!

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### *Can My Family Be Baptized Together?*

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation. We encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them, and delays your obedience. We encourage you to invite your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

### What Should I Wear When I Am Baptized?

All those being baptized will be given a robe to wear. It would be a good idea to wear a light colored T-shirt and a pair of shorts under your baptismal robe. We provide towels, hair dryers and changing rooms.

Our Pastor and Baptismal Ministry Team will meet all those who wish to be baptized in a designated room prior to the service in which the baptism will occur for instructions on the details of what you do before, during and after you are baptized.

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 1**

**THE SYMBOLS OF SALVATION**

**Our Ordinances**

**LORD'S SUPPER**

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. The two ordinances are: **Baptism** and **The Lord’s Supper**. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What Is The Lord’s Supper?  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

1. It is a **simple act**, not an **elaborate ceremony**.

*“The Lord Jesus, on the night He was to be betrayed, took bread...”* (verse 23)

2. It is a **reminder**.

*“...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you; eat it in remembrance of me.’”* (verse 24)

3. It is a **symbol**.

*“In the same way, He took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood; drink it to remember me.’”* (verse 25)

4. It is a **statement** of faith.

*“For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes back.”* (verse 26)

Who Should Take The Lord’s Supper?

Only those who are already **born again**

*“For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.”* (1 Corinthians 11:29 NIV)

We invite all born-again Christians to join in the Lord’s Supper, not just those who are members of our church.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### How Do I Prepare Myself For The Lord's Supper?

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:27-28 NIV)

By Self Examination  
1 Corinthians 11:28

By Confessing My Sins  
1 John 1:9

By Recommitting My Life  
Romans 12:1

By Restoring Relationships  
Matthew 5:23-24

### When And How Often Should We Observe The Lord's Supper?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe The Lord's Supper. At Indian Springs Baptist Church, we usually take the Lord's Supper once every quarter during our Sunday evening worship services.



“Do this in memory of me.”

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 1**

## SESSION TWO

### Our Stance

*“Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV)*

Two key passages summarize Jesus’ purpose for the church.

**The Great Commandment:** *“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart... soul...and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.’” (Matthew 22:36-40 NIV)*

**The Great Commission:** *“Jesus said, ‘Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’” (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV)*

- To “Love God with all your heart” is **WORSHIP**.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is **MINISTRY**.
- To “Go...make disciples” is **EVANGELISM**.
- To “Teach them...all things” is **DISCIPLESHIP**.

**AT INDIAN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH WE EXPRESS THIS PURPOSE IN:**

1. **Worship** as we **Celebrate** GOD’S PRESENCE
2. **Ministry** as we **Demonstrate** GOD’S LOVE
3. **Evangelism** as we **Communicate** GOD’S WORD
4. **Discipleship** as we **Educate** GOD’S PEOPLE

**I. IN WORSHIP WE CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE BY**

**expressing love to God**

*“Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”*

(Matthew 4:10 NIV)

*“The Father seeks worshippers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23-24 NIV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### Expressions of Worship

Singing	Ephesians 5:19	Giving	1 Corinthians 16:1-2
Commitment	Romans 12:1-2	Baptism	Romans 6:3-4
Praying	Psalms 95:6	Meditating	Habakkuk 2:20
Hearing God's Word	John 17:17	Lord's Supper	1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### The Indian Springs Baptist Worship Style

#### 1. Celebration

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1 KJV)*

#### 2. Inspiration

*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31 KJV)*

#### 3. Preparation

*"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12 KJV)*

## II. IN MINISTRY WE DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE BY

### meeting needs with love

*"By this shall all men know that you are my disciples – that you have love one for another." (John 13:35 NIV)*

See also 1 John 3:16-17; Matthew 25:34-40; Hebrews 13:16; Romans 12:13

The heartbeat of Indian Springs Baptist is our ministry. Every member needs to be a part of one.

*"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...**All of you together form one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**" (1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 NLT)*

### At Indian Springs Baptist Church

- Every member is a minister.
- Every task is important.
- Every member is a "10" in some area.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

At ISBC we choose to minister to each other through our Sunday School Class shepherd ministry. Special emphasis ministry to our Seniors and Shut-Ins is led by our Deacons.

### III. IN EVANGELISM WE COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD BY

#### sharing the good news with others

*"His intent was that through the church the manifold wisdom of God should be made known..."* (Ephesians 3:10 NIV)

*"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells him?"* (Romans 10:13-14 NLT)

**We believe our church must grow larger and smaller at the same time**

#### Why Our Church Must Never Stop Growing

1. BECAUSE God loves people (more than anything)

*"The Lord...is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance."* (2 Peter 3:9 NIV)

Also see 2 Corinthians 5:14; Luke 15:3-10; 19:10; Matthew 9:12-13.

2. BECAUSE God commands it

*"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My house will **be full**."* (Luke 14:23 NLT)

*"...you will be my witness..."* (Acts 1:8 NIV)

3. BECAUSE it is God's will

*"Under Christ's control, the whole body is nourished...and grows as God wants it to grow."* (Colossians 2:19 GN)

*"(Jesus) I will build my church."* (Matthew 16:18 NIV)

#### UNBIBLICAL EXCUSES FOR NOT GROWING:

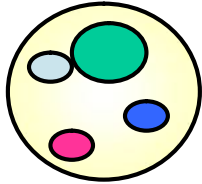
- "God isn't interested in numbers."
- "Our church wants quality and not quantity."
- "Large churches are impersonal."

*"And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and THEN the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14 NLT)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

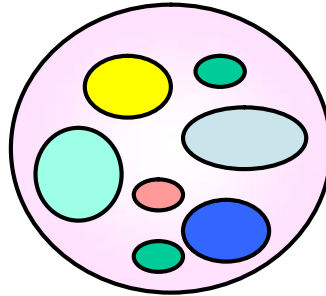
### How Do We Grow Smaller?

We grow smaller by assimilating members into Sunday School



Smaller Church

Sunday School  
classes keep the  
church intimate  
and personal



Larger Church

Sunday School puts a face to the church.

Church is not church unless it is personal.

#### IV. IN DISCIPLESHIP WE EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE TO help believers grow spiritually

*"Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity..."* (Hebrews 6:1 NIV)

*"Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (2 Peter 3:18 NIV)

*"(God has given)...some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all...become mature...like Christ."* (Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV)

What Is Our #1 Method To Disciple People? Sunday School

#### OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

##### What we believe

- In essential beliefs – we have unity.

*"There is one body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..."* (Ephesians 4:4-6 KJV)

- In non-essential beliefs – we have liberty.

*"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God."* (Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22 NIV)

- In all our beliefs – we show charity.

*"If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains – but have no love, I amount to nothing at all."*

1 Corinthians 13:2 (Phillips)



## **EXPLORE LEVEL 1**

### **THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE**

#### **1. ABOUT GOD**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; John 14:1-14; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 5:7

#### **2. ABOUT THE FATHER**

He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-wise. He reigns with providential care over the universe and the flow of human history goes according to His purposes and plan. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; Matthew 23:9; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; Romans 8:14-15; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17

#### **3. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14; 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

#### **4. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18; Galatians 5:25

#### **5. ABOUT THE BIBLE**

The Bible is God's Word to us. Human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote it. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because God inspired it, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

2 Timothy 3:16; 1:13; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

#### **6. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in our lives.

Genesis 1:17; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### 7. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sins by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Romans 5:1; 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26

### 8. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

### 9. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; 2:25; 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 1:8; 2:44, 46

### 10. ABOUT CHRISTIAN UNITY

To live in harmony with other believers is clearly the teaching of the New Testament. It is the responsibility of each believer to endeavor to live in fellowship with each member of the congregation. It is further the responsibility of each member to bring all gossiping and backbiting to an end.

John 13:34-35; Ephesians 4:1-3; 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 13:1-13; 1 John 3:14-18; 4:11; James 3:1-18

## OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT What we practice (B.A.P.T.I.S.T)

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

#### 1. Bible as our sole authority

*"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:15 NLT)*

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### 2. Autonomy of each local church

*“He [Christ] is the Head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life...”*  
(Colossians 1:18 GN)

Christ is the recognized Head of our church, not any person, group or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denomination’s control.

### 3. Priesthood of every believer

*“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God...”* (Revelation 1:6GN)

*“You are...the King’s priests...God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.”* (1 Peter 2:9 GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has a direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading (Romans 5:1-2).

### 4. Tithing

*“A tithe of all you produce is the Lord’s, and it is holy.”* (Leviticus 27:30 NLT)

At Indian Springs Baptist, we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical starting point of our giving.

### 5. Immersion

*“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ...”* (Colossians 2:12 (GN)

We practice baptism by immersion under water – the way Jesus was baptized and the way the Bible commands.

### 6. Spirit-led living

(Jesus said) *“I am the Vine, and you are the branches. If you abide in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from Me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5 NAS)

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power within us. So, we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit to enable us to do what is right. See Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:18 and Colossians 3:16.

### 7. Telling others about Christ

*“Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings into contact with us. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to join us in worshipping God at church.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### SESSION THREE Our Strategy

*“(Paul) I have been all things to all sorts of people that by every possible means I might win some to God. I do all this for the sake of the Good News.” (1 Corinthians 9:22-23 Ph)*

#### WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

*“For God so loved the WORLD, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)*

☆ Based on John 3:16, our mission field is the **World**.

*“But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 KJV)*

☆ Based on Acts 1:8, we are particularly pursuing reaching “our **Jerusalem**”, which is the Tri-Cities area.

*“...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.” (1 Corinthians 9:22 NLT)*

#### THREE KEY STRATEGIC STATEMENTS OF ISBC

Indian Springs Baptist is a place to...

##### 1. **Worship**

Most people are first introduced to our church by attending worship services. They are looking for:

- ☞ Salvation
- ☞ Peace with God
- ☞ A friendly church
- ☞ Biblical truth
- ☞ Uplifting worship

##### 2. **Build Relationships**

Relationships are built by participating with a small group of people. Our way of providing this is through Sunday School. We are created for relationships. In the Genesis account of creation, God had created a perfect world for Adam to live in, however his world still lacked one thing. God pronounced, *“It is not good that the man should be alone.” (Genesis 2:18 Amp)*

At Indian Springs, we believe Christians should be related and connected to each other.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### 3. Serve

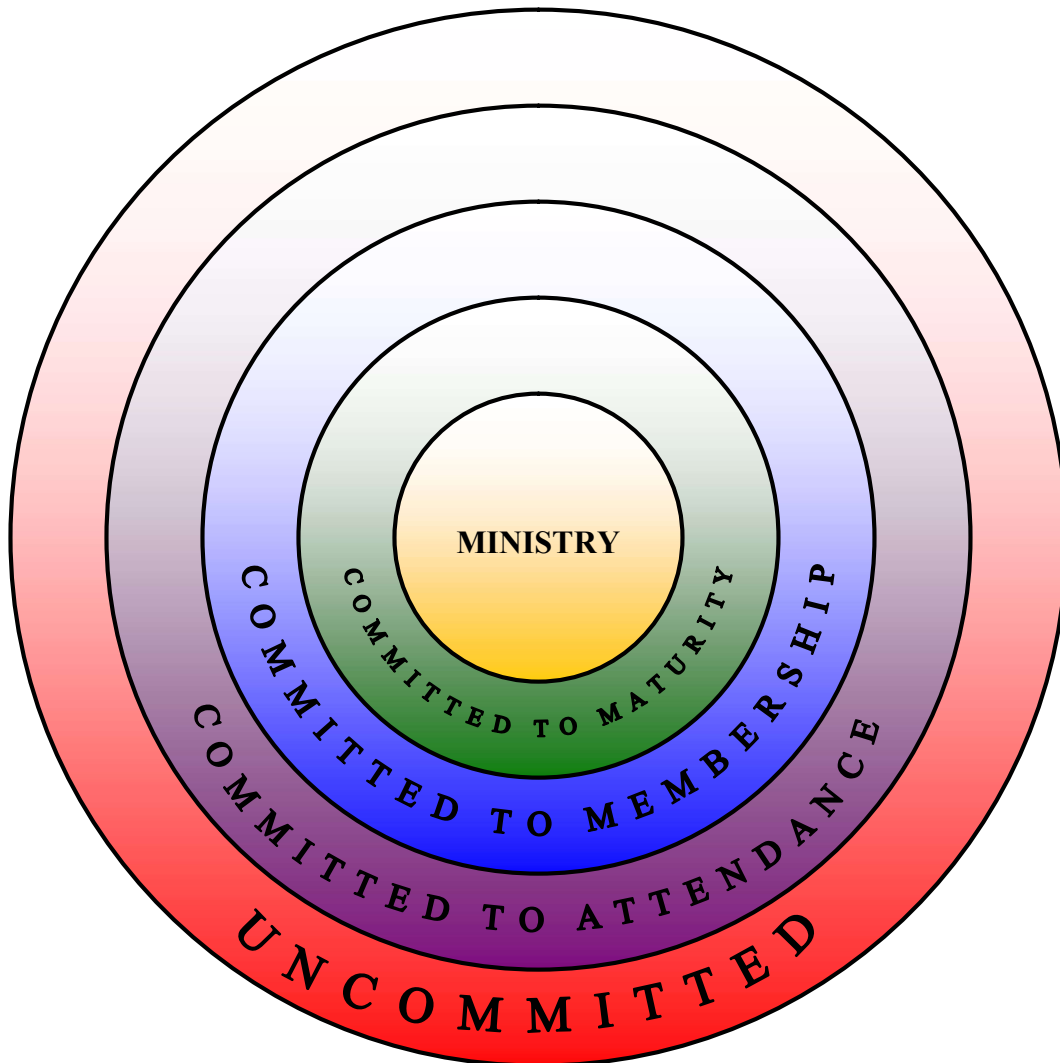
Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35 NLT). True joy and fulfillment come from giving of yourself. It is our desire to involve you in ministry in the church, in the community, and around the world. As you get involved in service, you...

- Fulfill Christ’s command.
- Fulfill our longing to make a difference in our world.

Our strategy to move people into a deeper relationship with God, the church, and with others can be best expressed with the *5 Circles of Commitment*. We do not apologize for asking our members to be committed. Why not?

- God demands it.
- We become what we are committed to.

### 5 CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### SESSION FOUR Our Structure

*“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace...Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 Ph)*

*How Our Church Is Structured: The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.*

#### *The Nature Of The Church Determines Its Structure*

#### **1. THE CHURCH IS THE Body of Christ.**

*And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be the head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way. (Eph 1:22-23)*

As a member of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27), each believer has a function that is to operate in **harmony** and **unity** with other members so that the work that Christ gives the church to do will be accomplished. As we do this work, we are to **support** one another so that the total result is greater than the sum of the parts. Since Christ is the **head** (Eph 5:23), then everything must be done in accordance with the “mind of Christ” as we understand it in God’s Holy Word. Harmony, unity and support for one another are expressions of our fellowship.

*“**Make every effort** to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Eph 4:3 NIV)*

*“**So let us concentrate** on the things that make for harmony and the growth of our fellowship together.” (Romans 14:19 Ph)*

**ANY** attitude that causes disunity is sin.

#### **IMPLICATION:**

**A good structure promotes unity and downplays differences.**

*“(Often)...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church, **there are divisions among you...**” (1 Corinthians 11:17-18 NIV)*

When members are in **disunity**, voting tends to further **divide** people.

When members are in **unity**, voting is an expression of **commitment**.

At Indian Springs Baptist we vote on many issues as a means to keep our members “informed and on-board” with regard to support and cooperation that is needed to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

While we are a **body** and not a **business**, we do have business to which we must attend! When only 12-years old, Jesus told Mary, “I must be about My Father’s **business.**” (Luke 2:49)

While we are an **organism** and not an **organization** we must conduct our Father’s business properly and in an **organized** manner! “Let everything be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

### 2. THE CHURCH IS GOD’S **Household** of faith.

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and (members) of the household of God; (Ephesians 2:19) (See also, Galatians 6:10)

Today, we would simply refer this relationship as being part of the **Family** of God.

“You should be like **one big happy family** full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” (1 Peter 3:8 NLT)

See also Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17.

Though we operate on the basis of **relationships** and not **rules** every family or household has expectations of how routine chores and duties are carried out. At ISBC, these expectations are documented in our *Policies and Procedures Manual*.

*“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to **manage his family**, how can he **take care of God’s church?**” (1 Timothy 3:4-5 NIV)*

Just as important as being family is the reference to our being “fellow-citizen with the **saints.**”

As members of the Church we are to be set apart from the **world** and set apart unto God. This relationship requires that we be faithful in our conduct both in the church and in our contacts and relationship outside the church. Our allegiance must be ultimately to the Kingdom of God since we have our **citizenship** there with all the saints of God.

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Cor 5:20)*

As citizens of the Kingdom of God but residence in the earthly realm, the church must be about carrying out the Great Commission of going into all the world to make disciples of all nation that people may be reconciled to God.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### OUR AFFILIATION

➤ **Sullivan Baptist Association**

Number of Local Southern Baptist Churches in Sullivan County, TN - 33

➤ **Tennessee Baptist Convention**

Number of Southern Baptist Churches in Tennessee who are associated together - 3100

➤ **Southern Baptist Convention**

Number of Southern Baptist Churches in the US 40,000

### What is the Southern Baptist Convention?

- It is the largest association of Christian churches in Tennessee and in America.
- It is the most diverse association of churches.
- It is one of the fastest growing groups.

### Why Not Just Be An Independent Church?

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely independent. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs. For example:

- Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.
- Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets.
- Every SBC church determines its own programs.

### What Are The Advantages Of Affiliating With The SBC?

1. It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made “creed”. The Bible is our only authority.
2. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. We help support over 7500 missionaries in 104 countries around the world.

### What It Means To Be A Member

At Indian Springs Baptist, we ask you to commit to church membership for four reasons:

1. A **Biblical Reason**: *Christ is committed to the church.*

“...Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.” (Ephesians 5:25 GN)

2. A **Cultural Reason**: *It is an antidote to our society.* We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage...our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of church “shoppers and hoppers”. Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion”. It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.



## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

3. A **Practical Reason**: *It defines who can be counted on.* Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and recommends voter registration. Membership defines our family.
4. A **Personal Reason**: *It produces spiritual growth.* The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

### What Is Expected Of Me As A Member Of ISBC?

At Indian Springs Baptist, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. Therefore, we expect our members to follow the commands of Christ.

### Biblical Expectations

#### 1. I will **Secure** the unity of my church by...

- ♥ Acting in love toward other members.
- ♥ Refusing to gossip.
- ♥ Following the leaders.

*“So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.”* (Romans 15:19 Ph)

*“Live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.”* (Romans 15:5 NLT)

*“Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.”* (1 Peter 1:22 GN)

*“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...”* (Ephesians 4:29 NIV)

*“Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you.”* (Hebrews 13:17 NIV)

#### 2. I will **Share** the responsibility of my church by...

- ♥ Praying for its growth.
- ♥ Inviting the unchurched to attend.
- ♥ Warmly welcoming those who visit.

*“To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.”* (1 Thessalonians 1:2 NLT)

*“Go our into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.”* (Luke 14:23 NLT)

*“So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.”* (Romans 15:7 NLT)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 1

### 3. I will **Serve** the ministry of my church by...

- ♥ Discovering my gifts and talents.
- ♥ Being equipped to serve.
- ♥ Developing a servant's heart.

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." (1 Peter 4:10 Ph)

*"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..."* (Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV)

*"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..."* (Philippians 2:3, 4, 7 NIV)

### 4. I will **Support** the testimony of my church by...

- ♥ Attending faithfully.
- ♥ Living a godly life.
- ♥ Giving regularly.

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another."* (Hebrews 10:25 GN)

*"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ."* (Philippians 1:27 Ph)

*"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..."* (1 Corinthians 16:2 NIV)

*"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy."* (Leviticus 27:30 NLT)

## OUR STAFF STRUCTURE

As the church has grown, so has the staff.

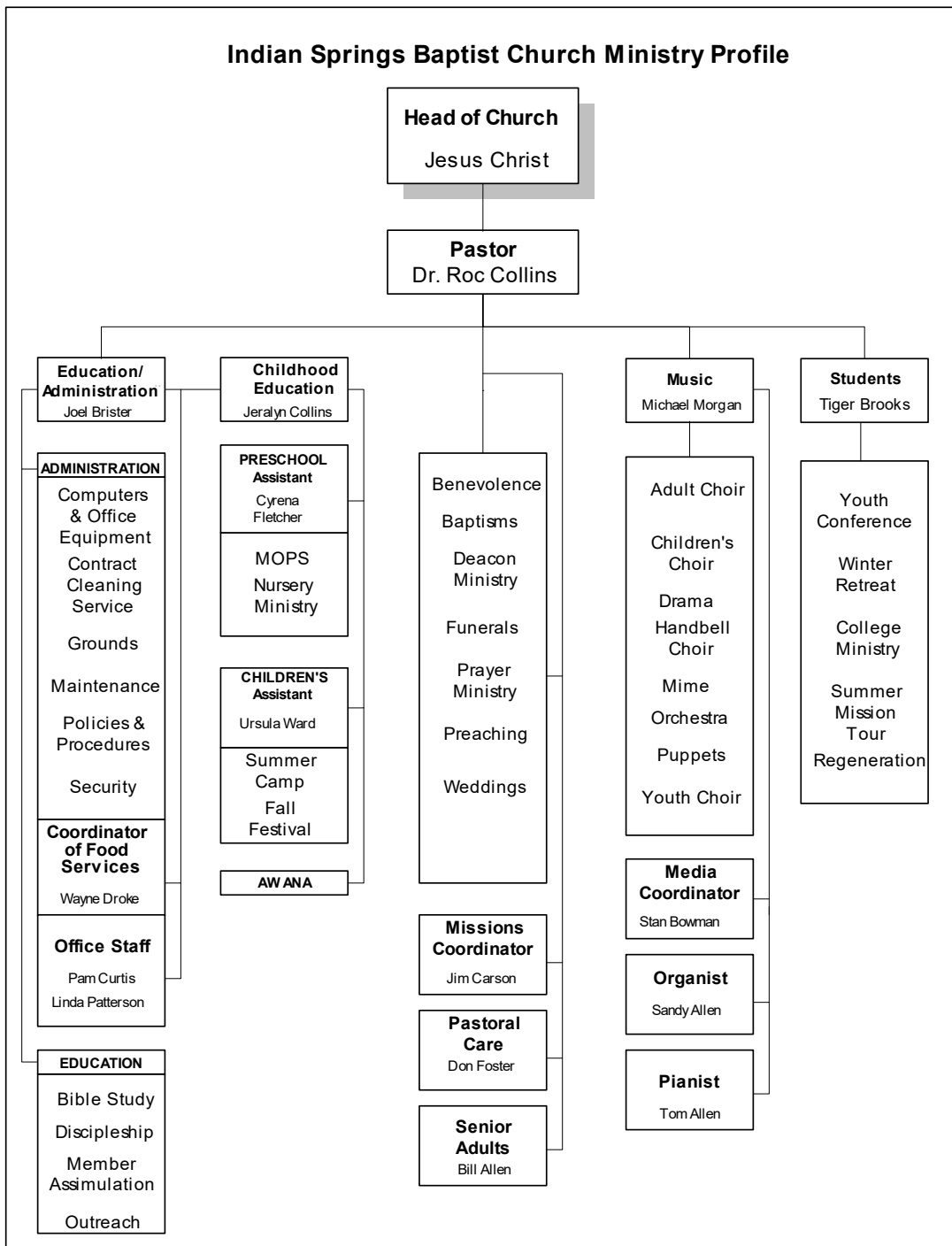
Our staff, like our church, is led by our Pastor – God's appointed leader for this congregation. He has surrounded himself with staff personnel to serve hand-in-hand as we pursue God's assignment for a New Testament church...to fulfill the Great Commission!

The Staff meets once a week for planning and coordinating the ministries of the church.

The Chart on the next page can help you visualize your Church Staff!

# EXPLORE LEVEL 1

## Indian Springs Baptist Church Ministry Profile



**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 1**

NOTES AND OTHER COMMENTS

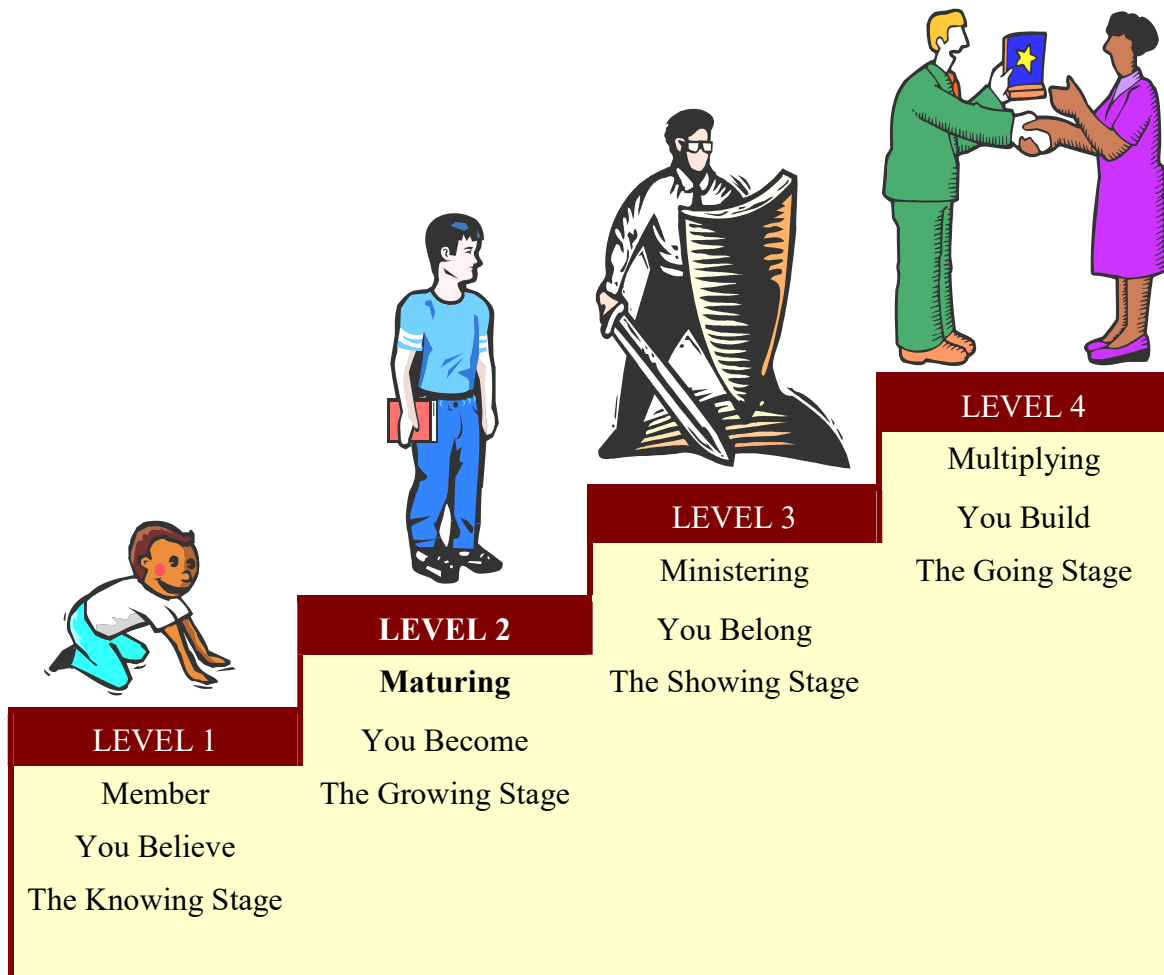
# EXPLORE LEVEL 2

## WELCOME TO LEVEL 2

This section is the second of our four basic levels here at ISBC. In this section, we will focus on the four habits every Christian needs to develop in order to experience spiritual maturity. This section will...

- Equip you with the skills you need to begin these habits.
- Explain the tools you need to continue these habits.

This section will help you step up from Level 1 to Level 2 as you continue to climb in your Christian pilgrimage.



### THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR LEVEL 2:

“...that you may **become mature** Christians and may fulfill God’s will for you.” (Colossians 4:12b Ph)

“We are not meant to remain as children...but to **grow up** in every way into Christ...” (Ephesians 4:14-15 Ph)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### WHAT IS “SPIRITUAL MATURITY”?

*“In the unity of common faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at **real maturity** – the measure of development which is meant by the ‘fullness of Christ’.” (Ephesians 4:12 Phillips)*

#### Spiritual Maturity is **Being Like Christ**.

*“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him... **should become like His Son...**” (Romans 8:29 NLT)*

#### Facts About Spiritual Maturity

1. It is not **automatic**.

*“You have been Christians for a long time now; and you ought to be teaching others, but instead...you need someone to teach you...When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life...He's still a baby Christian!” (Hebrews 5:12-13 NLT)*

2. It is a **process**. *“Learn to be mature.” (Proverbs 8:5 GN)*

3. It takes **discipline**.

*“discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” (1 Tim. 4:7b NAS)*

#### Understanding Discipleship

1. Believers are called **disciples**.

2. I cannot be a disciple without being **disciplined**.

3. The more disciplined I become the more God can **use** me.

4. The mark of a disciple is **cross bearing**.

*(Jesus) “Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27 NIV)*

5. How often am I to do this? **daily**.

*(Jesus) “If any one would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23 NIV)*

6. What is involved in “cross bearing?” Doing **whatever - it - takes** to give Christ first place in my life!

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 2**

# Four Habits Of A Disciple

How can I become a disciple? **Develop Disciple Habits!**

*"...You have put off the old self with its HABITS, and have put on the new self...which God is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself."*  
(Colossians 3:9-10 GN)

## 1. Time in God's Word

*"If you continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."* (John 8:31-32 KJV)

## 2. Prayer

*"If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it...in this way you become my disciples."* (John 14:7-8 GN)

## 3. Tithing

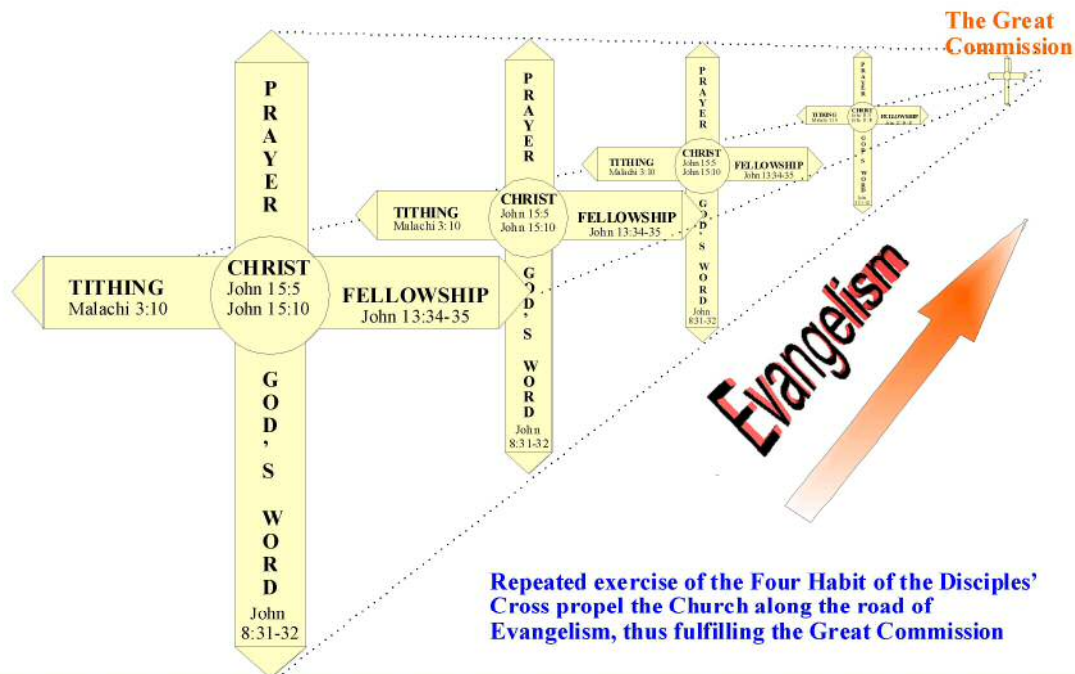
*"None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all of his possessions."* (Luke 14:33 NLT)

*"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives."*  
(Deuteronomy 14:23 NLT)

## 4. Fellowship

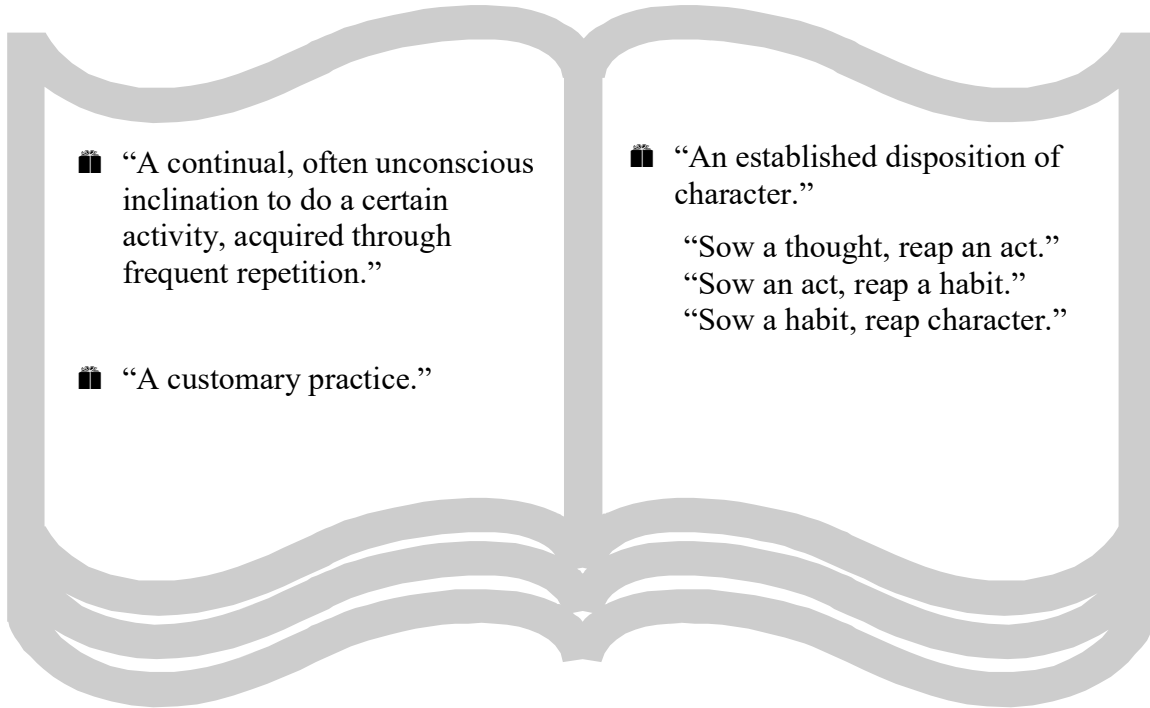
*"...Love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* (John 13:34-35 NLT)

### THE DISCIPLES' CROSS



## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### DEFINITIONS OF “HABIT”: (Webster's Dictionary)



■ “A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition.”

■ “A customary practice.”

■ “An established disposition of character.”

“Sow a thought, reap an act.”

“Sow an act, reap a habit.”

“Sow a habit, reap character.”

### THE GOAL OF LEVEL 2

That I will **commit** to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.

*“In the past you voluntarily gave your bodies to the **service of vice** and ...the purposes of evil. So **now give yourselves to the service of righteousness** - for the purpose of becoming truly good.”* (Romans 6:19 Ph)



# SESSION ONE

## Time In God's Word

### How To Get A Grasp On Your Bible

*“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT)*

### **6 WAYS TO GET A GRASP ON YOUR BIBLE**

The Hand Illustration



## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*"...faith comes from hearing...the Word of God."* (Rom. 10:17 NKJV)

#### Ways to Hear God's Word

- 🔊 The Bible (devotional study or tapes)
- 🔊 Church services & studies
- 🔊 Sermon tapes
- 🔊 Radio/TV teachers

PROBLEM: We forget **most** of what we hear after 72 hours.

#### How To Improve Your Hearing

1. Be ready and **eager** to hear God.  
(Jesus) *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"* (Luke 8:8 NIV)  
*"...be quick to listen..."* (James 1:19 NIV)
2. Deal with **attitudes** that prevent hearing God. (Luke 8:4-15)  
*"Consider carefully how you listen..."* (Luke 8:18 NIV)

#### Barriers To Hearing

- ✓ **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
  - ✓ **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
  - ✓ **A Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?
3. **Confess** any sin in your life.  
*"...get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word..."* (James 1:21 NIV)
  4. Take **notes** on what you hear.  
*"We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!"* (Hebrews 2:1 NIV)

#### Keep a Spiritual Notebook

A Spiritual Journal is: A tool to help me organize and retain the blessings of God, and the things I have learned.

5. **Act** on what you hear!  
*"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!"* (James 1:22 NIV)  
*"Whoever...does not simply listen and then forget it, but puts it into practice - that person will be blessed in what he does."* (James 1:25 GN)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

*"Happy is the one who reads this book...and obeys what is written in it!"* (Revelation 1:3 GN)

How often should I read God's Word? **daily**

*"(The scriptures) shall be his constant companion. He must read from it **everyday of his life** so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands."* (Deuteronomy 17:19 NLT)

#### Suggestions

- 📖 Read it systematically.
- 📖 Read it in a Bible without notes.
- 📖 Read it in different translations. For reading: Good News, Living Bible, Phillips.
- 📖 Read it aloud quietly to yourself.
- 📖 Underline or color code key verses.
- 📖 Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

If I read approximately **20** minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once in a year.

### A BIBLE READING PLAN

#### *Through The New Testament In 30 Days*

##### Check Completed Reading

<u>Daily Reading</u>	✓	<u>Daily Reading</u>	✓
1. Matthew 1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Acts 15-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Matthew 10-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Acts 22-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Matthew 16-22	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Romans 1-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Matthew 23-28	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Romans 9-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Mark 1-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. 1 Corinthians 1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Mark 9-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	21. 1 Corinthians 10-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Luke 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	22. 2 Corinthians 1-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Luke 7-11	<input type="checkbox"/>	23. Galatians - Ephesians	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Luke 12-18	<input type="checkbox"/>	24. Philippians - 2 Thessalonians	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Luke 19-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25. 1 Timothy - Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. John 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>	26. Hebrews	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. John 8-13	<input type="checkbox"/>	27. James - 2 Peter	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. John 14-21	<input type="checkbox"/>	28. 1 John - 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Acts 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>	29. Revelation 1-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Acts 8-14	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Revelation 12-22	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Bible will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible!

*"Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."* (Psalm 119:11 KJV)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### Bible Reading Master Record

When you have read a chapter, mark a diagonal line through the square. Use a different color when you have read a book the second time. Beside each book write the date and year you finish reading it.

DATE	OLD TESTAMENT																									
	GENESIS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	EXODUS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40										
	LEVITICUS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27																							
	NUMBERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36														
	DEUT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34																
	JOSHUA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	JUDGES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
	RUTH	1	2	3	4																					
	1 SAMUEL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31																			
	2 SAMUEL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	1 KINGS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
	2 KINGS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	1 CHRON.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29																					
	2 CHRON.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36														
	EZRA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10															
	NEHEMIAH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13												
	ESTHER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10															
	JOB	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42								
	PSALMS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
		51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
		76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
		101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125
		126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
	PROVERBS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31																			
	ECCLES.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12													
	SONG OF SOL.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8																	
	ISAIAH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
		51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66									
	JEREMIAH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
		51	52																							
	LAMENT.	1	2	3	4	5																				
	EZEKIEL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48		
	DANIEL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12													
	HOSEA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14											
	JOEL	1	2	3																						

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

DATE	OLD TESTAMENT																												
AMOS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9																				
OBADIAH	1																												
JONAH	1	2	3	4																									
MICAH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7																						
NAHUM	1	2	3																										
HABAKKUK	1	2	3																										
ZEPHANIAH	1	2	3																										
HAGGAI	1	2																											
ZECHARIAH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14															
MALACHI	1	2	3	4																									
	NEW TESTAMENT																												
MATTHEW	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
	26	27	28																										
MARK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16													
LUKE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
JOHN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21								
ACTS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
	26	27	28																										
ROMANS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16													
1 CORINTH.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16													
2 CORINTH.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12																	
GALATIANS	1	2	3	4	5	6																							
EPHESIANS	1	2	3	4	5	6																							
PHILIPPIANS	1	2	3	4																									
COLOSSIANS	1	2	3	4																									
1 THESS.	1	2	3	4	5																								
2 THESS.	1	2	3																										
1 TIMOTHY	1	2	3	4	5	6																							
2 TIMOTHY	1	2	3	4																									
TITUS	1	2	3																										
PHILEMON	1																												
HEBREWS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																
JAMES	1	2	3	4	5																								
1 PETER	1	2	3	4	5																								
2 PETER	1	2	3																										
1 JOHN	1	2	3	4	5																								
2 JOHN	1																												
3 JOHN	1																												
JUDE	1																												
REVELATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20									

*“...I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”*  
Job 23:12 KJV

### III. HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

*“...They accepted the message eagerly and **studied the Scriptures** everyday..”* (Acts 17:11 Ph)

*“Be a good workman...Know what His Word says and means.”* (2 Timothy 2:15 NLT)  
The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you **use a pencil** when you study.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### Six Basic Questions When Studying The Bible

- ☞ Who?
- ☞ What?
- ☞ When?
- ☞ Where?
- ☞ Why?
- ☞ How?

### Suggested Bible Study Resources

- ☞ Study Bibles
- ☞ Bible Handbooks
- ☞ Bible Commentaries
- ☞ A Bible Concordance
- ☞ A Bible Atlas

## IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

*“Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart.” (Prov. 7:2-3 NLT)*

### Benefits Of Memorizing Scripture

1. It helps me **resist** temptations.

*“I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11 NIV)*

2. It helps me make **wise** decisions.

*“Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105 ?GN)*

3. It **strengthens** me when I'm under stress.

*“...Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!” (Psalm 119:49-50 NLT)*

4. It **comforts** me when I'm sad.

*“Your words are what sustain me...They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me.” (Jeremiah 15:16 NLT)*

*“You will be glad if you remember them and can quote them.” (Prov. 22:18 GN)*

5. It helps me **witness** to unbelievers.

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)*

### How To Memorize A Verse

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.
2. Write out the verse on a flash card.
3. Say the reference before and after the verse.
4. Carry some cards with you at all times for review.
5. Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
6. Display your verses in prominent places.
7. Break the verse into natural phrases.
8. Always memorize the verse word-perfect.
9. Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
10. Put the verse to music. Write a song!
11. Write down the verse and erase a word at a time.
12. Get a partner so you can check each other.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### When To Memorize A Verse

- ⌚ During your quiet time
- ⌚ While exercising
- ⌚ While waiting (spare moments)
- ⌚ At bedtime (Psalm 63:6)

**Suggested beginning rate: 2 new verses a week.**

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING:

📖 Review

📖 Review

📖 Review

We remember what is **important** to us!

*“The law you gave me means more to me than all the money in the world.”* (Psalm 119:72 GN)

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE**

The following verses suggest a “balance” in Scripture memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian life and Christian growth. Do not feel tied-down to this suggested list. This is only a tool to lead you in an understanding of the importance of memorizing “key” verses.

#### **Underline the Verses You Memorize**

(Memory cards are available)

#### *Live The New Life*

Christ the Center	2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Rom. 12:1; John 14:21
The Word	2 Tim. 3:16; Josh. 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7; Phil 4:6-7
Fellowship	Matt. 18:20; Heb. 10:24
Witnessing	Matt. 4:19; Rom. 1:16

#### *Proclaim Christ*

All Have Sinned	Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Rom. 6:23; Heb. 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Rom. 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12; Rev. 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13; John 5:24

### CHURCH INFORMATION CLASS

*A Ministry of Indian Springs Baptist Church, Kingsport, TN*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### *Rely on God's Resources*

His Spirit	1 Cor. 3:16; 1 Cor. 12:12
His Strength	Isa. 41:10; Phil. 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lam. 3:22; 1 Peter 5:7
His Peace	Isa. 26:3; 1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	Rom. 8:23; Phil. 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Heb. 2:18; Ps. 119:9-11

### *Be Christ's Disciple*

Put Christ First	Matt. 6:33; Luke 9:23
Separate from the World	1 Jn. 2:15-16; Rom. 12:2
Be Steadfast	1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 12:3
Serve Others	Mark 10:45; 2 Cor. 4:5
Give Generously	Prov. 3:9-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-7
Develop World Vision	Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20

### *Grow in Christlikeness*

Love	John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:18
Humility	Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:5-6
Purity	Eph. 5:3; 1 Peter 2:11
Honesty	Lev. 19:11; Acts 24:16
Faith	Heb. 11:6; Rom. 4:20-21
Good Works	Gal. 6:9-10; Matt. 5:16

## V. HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

*“(Those) who are always meditating on His Laws...are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit...they never wither and whatever they do prospers. (Psalm 1:2-3 NLT)*

Meditation is **focused thinking** about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

### *Why Meditate On Scripture?*

It is the key to...

#### 1. **Becoming like Christ**

*“...your life is shaped by your thoughts.” (Proverbs 4:23 GN)*

*“...be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2 NIV)*

*“And we, who...reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness...”  
(2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV)*



## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### 2. Answered prayer

*“If you live your life in Me, and my words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like, and it will come true for you.” (John 15:7 Ph)*

### 3. Successful living

*“Meditate on (the Word) day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8 NIV)*

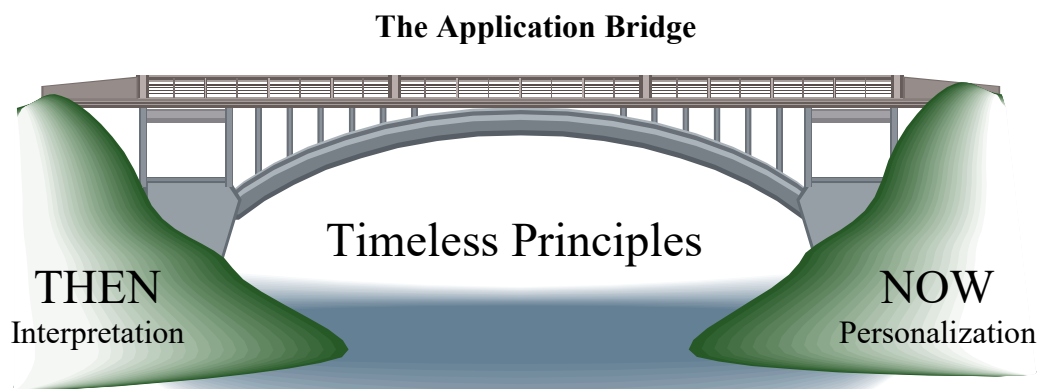
#### Six Ways To Meditate On A Verse

1. **Picture it!** Visualize the scene in your mind.
2. **Pronounce it!** Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
3. **Paraphrase it!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.
4. **Personalize it!** Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.
5. **Pray it!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.
6. **Probe it!** Ask questions about it.

## VI. HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD

*“Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to His Word. Instead, put it into practice.” (James 1:22 GN)*

*“...Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19 NIV)*



**1st ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?**

**2nd ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?**

**3rd ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?**

**Then: Write a sentence describing a project or action you will take to apply the truth.**

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

Most applications will focus on one of three relationships

- Relationship With God
- Relationship With myself
- Relationship With others

### 4 Marks Of A Good Application Project

- It's Personal
- It's Practical
- It's Possible
- It's Provable

*“Now that you know these things - do them!  
That is the path of blessing!”*

John 13:17 NLT



## SESSION TWO

### The Habit of a **Daily Time with God**

*“The one who looks steadily at God's perfect Law...and makes that his **HABIT** - not listening and then forgetting, but actively putting it into practice will be happy in all that he does.” (James 1:25 Ph)*

#### HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

**DEFINITION:** “A Quiet Time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer.”

#### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were **created** to have fellowship with God.

*“So God created man in his own image...” (Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 3:8 NIV)*

*“Look! I've been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone...opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.” (Rev. 3:20 NLT)*

2. Jesus **died** to make a relationship with God possible.

*“God...has invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:9 NLT)*

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' **habit**.

*“Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” (Mark 1:35; Luke 22:39; 5:16 NIV)*

4. People who have been effective in **ministry** for God developed this habit.

5. You cannot be a **growing** Christian without it!

*“Man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.” (Matthew 4:4 GN)*

*“...I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” (Job 23:12 NAS)*

*“How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your Word.” (Psalm 119:9 Mof)*

#### II. THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. To give **glory** to God.

*“Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name. Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.” (Psalm 29:2 NKJV)*

*“(Hezekiah) was successful because everything he did... he did in a **spirit of complete devotion** to his God.” (2 Chronicles 31:21 GN)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

- ★ God deserves our devotion! (Revelation 4:11)
- ★ God desires our devotion! (John 4:23)

2. To get **guidance** from God

*“Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me...”* (Psalm 25:4 NLT)

### Two Things To Do In A Quiet Time

★ **Consider your way:**

*“Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established.”* (Proverbs 4:26 KJV)

*“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths.”* (Proverbs 3:6 KJV)

★ **Commit your day:**

*“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it and he will.”* (Proverbs 37:5 NLT)

3. To gain **trust** in God.

*“Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.”* (Psalm 37:4 KJV)

*“...(God's) presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure.”* (Ps. 16:11 GN)

**FACT: The better I get to know Christ the more I become like Christ**

The objective of your Quiet Time is not to study  
**about** Christ, but to actually spend time **with** Him!

4. To grow **more** like God.

*“For as you know him better and better, He will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life... He has...promised...to save us...and to give us **his own character!**”* (2 Peter 1:3-4 NLT)

*“When the council saw the boldness of Peter and John...they were amazed and realized **what being with Jesus had done for them!**”* (Acts 4:13 NLT)

### HOW TO BEGIN A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. **Select a specific time**

The best time to have a quiet time is when I am **at my best**.

Reasons for considering an early morning quiet time:

★ The example of Bible characters.

Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Hannah, Job, Hezekiah, David, Daniel, Jesus, etc.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

★ It seems logical to begin the day with it.

“The best time to tune your instruments is before you play the concert, not after!”

★ It demonstrates that meeting with God is your first priority. You give Him the first part of your day.

★ You are likely to be more rested, your mind is less cluttered, and it's often the quietest time of your day!

Whatever time you set, **be consistent.**

### HOW LONG SHOULD A QUIET TIME BE?

#### Three Guidelines

- ⌚ Start with 15 minutes and let it grow.
- ⌚ Don't watch the clock!
- ⌚ Emphasize quality, not quantity

### 2. **Choose a special place.**

“Jesus left the city and went, as he usually did, to the Mount of Olives...to pray.” (Luke 22:39 GN)

The Important Factor: “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a **solitary place**, where he prayed.” (Mark 1:35 NIV)

### 3. **Gather needed resources.**

- 📖 A Bible with readable print.
- 📖 A Notebook to write down what the Lord says to you, and to keep your prayer list.
- 📖 A Songbook if you want to sing or music to worship by.

### 4. **Begin with the right attitudes**

❖ An attitude of **reverence.**

“Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10 NIV)

❖ An attitude of **expectancy.**

“Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word.” (Psalm 119:18 NLT)

❖ An attitude of **obedience.**

“Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know...” (John 7:17 GN)

### 5. **Follow a simple plan.**

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### “Fifteen Minutes With God” (A Plan To Get You Started)

1. **Relax** (1 minute)

Be still and be quiet! Slow down! Prepare your heart.  
Take a few deep breaths and wait on God.

2. **Read** (4 minutes)

See the section on “How To Read God's Word.”  
Begin reading where you left off the day before. Read until you feel God has told you something. Then stop and think about it.

3. **Reflect** (4 minutes)

See the section on “How To Meditate on God's Word.”  
Think about what the passage means to your life, and write those thoughts down.  
Part of reflecting is memorizing verses that speak to you in a special way.  
See section on “How To Memorize God's Word.”

4. **Record** (2 minutes)

See the section on “How To Apply God's Word.”  
Write out a personal application statement that is practical, possible, and measurable.  
If you can't write it down you probably don't understand it.

5. **Request** (4 minutes)

See the section on “The Habit of Prayer.”  
Conclude your Quiet Time by talking to God about what He has shown you and making your requests from your prayer list.

### III. HOW TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS WITH YOUR QUIET TIME

1. The Problem of **Discipline**

Your first problem in establishing a quiet time will face you the moment you wake up each morning: Am I going to get out of bed?

#### Suggestions

- ① Go to bed **on time**.
- ① Get up **immediately**.
- ① Be aware of quiet time **robbers**.
- ① Fall asleep thinking **spiritual thoughts**.

2. The Problem of **Distractions**

Satan will try to use anything to get your mind to wander during a quiet time.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### Suggestions

- ⌚ Get out of **bed**
- ⌚ Get thoroughly **awake**
- ⌚ Read and pray **aloud**
- ⌚ **Walk** during your prayer time.
- ⌚ Keep a **notepad & pencil** nearby.

### 3. The Problem of **Dryness**

Sometimes you will feel as though you're not getting anything out of your quiet time.

**Never judge your quiet time by your feelings.**

#### Possible Causes of Spiritual Dryness

- ☞ Your physical condition.
- ☞ Disobedience to God.
- ☞ Rushing your quiet time.
- ☞ Getting in a rut
- ☞ Not sharing insights with others
- ☞ Not seeking to worship God

### 4. The Problem of **Diligence**

Your greatest problem will be your struggle to stay consistent. I find Satan fights nothing harder than my quiet time. Here are some suggestions to improve your consistency:

- ✓ Make a covenant or vow to God.
- ✓ Be prepared for Satan's excuses.
- ✓ Schedule it on your daily calendar.
- ✓ Leave your Bible open at night to the passage for the next day.

#### What if I miss a day?

Don't **beat yourself up**

Don't **be legalistic**

Don't **make excuses**

Don't **give up**

#### **Be persistent until you're consistent!**

“Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.” (Galatians 6:9 NLT)

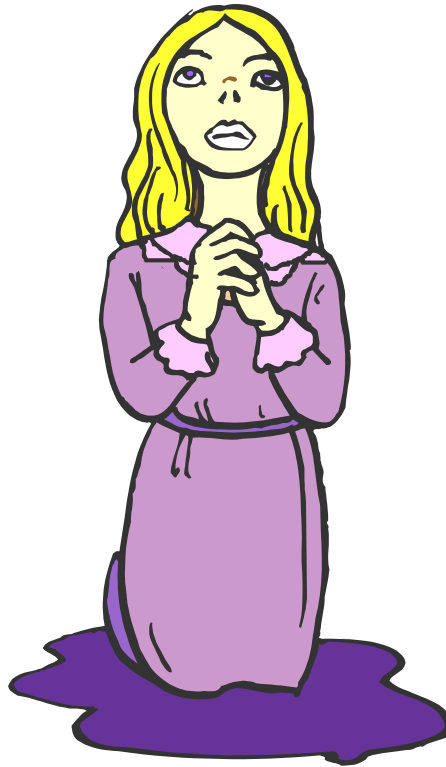
It takes **3** weeks for you to become familiar with a new task.

Then it takes another **3** weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

“Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen.”





## SESSION THREE

# The Habit of Prayer

*“Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain **THE HABIT OF PRAYER.**” (Romans 12:12 Ph)*

### TALKING WITH GOD: HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

#### I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE (Matthew 6:5-8)

##### Be **Real**

*“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men.” (vs. 5 NIV)*

Don't try to impress **others**.

Don't try to impress **God**.

##### Be **Relaxed**

*“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” (vs. 6 NIV)*

##### Be **Revealing**

*“Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need before you ask Him!” (vs. 7-8 NLT)*

#### II. USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US

*“This, then, is **HOW** you should pray...” (Matthew 6:9-15 NIV)*

### THE SIX PARTS OF PRAYER

#### 1. PRAISE: I begin by **expressing my love to God**.

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...” (vs. 9)*

##### Two Kinds of Praise

**Adoration** - Praising God for who He is.

**Thanksgiving** - Praising God for what He has done.

*“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be **thankful** unto him, and **bless his name.**” (Psalm 100:4 KJV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### *How to Praise God*

1st: As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. Examples...

✠ God is patient and merciful	Numbers 14:18
✠ God is faithful and just	1 John 1:9
✠ God is holy	Isaiah 6:3
✠ God is a rock	1 Samuel 2:2
✠ God is loving	1 John 4:8

Key: Knowing **God's character** enables us to praise Him meaningfully. The most effective praise we can offer to Him is to acknowledge who He is!

2nd: Remind yourself and affirm the promises God has made that are contained in the meaning of His names. Did you know that God has several names? They are all in the Bible and each name describes a facet of his character. You can take each of these eight names and focus individually on what God is really like! Pray the names of God as affirmations of praise!

### *8 Hebrew Names That Declare Who God Is*

**Jehovah-Shammah:** “*God is Present with me*” (Ezekiel 48:35)

You are here! I am never alone!

**Jehovah-Jireh:** “*God is my Provider*” (Gen. 22:14)

You lead me, feed me, and protect me!

**Jehovah-Rophe:** “*God is my Healer*” (Ex. 15:26)

You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships!

**Jehovah-Tsidkenu:** “*God is my Righteousness*” (Jer. 23:6)

You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!

**Jehovah-M'Kaddish:** “*God is my Sanctification*” (Lev. 20:8)

You make me holy and like Jesus!

**Jehovah-Shalom:** “*God is my Peace*” (Judges 6:24)

You give me peace in spite of circumstances!

**Jehovah-Nissi:** “*God is my Banner*” (Ex. 17:15)

You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

Think on the implications of these names and you'll have plenty to praise God for!

3rd: Make a list of all that you are thankful for and review them when you pray.

2. **PURPOSE:** I commit myself **to God's purpose & will for my life.**

“*Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*” (vs. 10 NKJV)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

Pray for God's will to be done in my life, family, church, ministry, job, future, relationships, nation, etc.

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* (Romans 12:1 NKJV)

3. **PROVISION:** I ask God to **meet my needs.**

*"Give us today our daily bread..."* (vs. 11 NIV)

*"And it is He who will supply all your needs from His riches in glory, because of what Christ Jesus has done for us."* (Philippians 4:19 NLT)

*"Since He did not even spare His own Son for us but gave Him up for us all, won't He also surely give us everything else?"* (Romans 8:32 NLT)

Key: **be specific**

Record your requests with the promises you are claiming from the Bible and expect answers.

*"Don't be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* (Philippians 4:6 NIV)

4. **PARDON:** I ask God to **forgive my sins.**

*"Forgive us our debts..."* (vs. 12 NIV)

### Four Steps to Forgiveness

✂ Ask the Holy Spirit to **reveal** every sin.

*"Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me..."* (Psalm 139:23-24 GN)

✂ Confess each sin **individually & specific.**

*"You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you."* (Proverbs 28:13 GN)

✂ Make **restitution** to others when necessary.

*"When you remember your brother has something against you...go at once to make peace with him, then come back and offer your gift to God."* (Matthew 5:23-24 GN)

✂ By faith, **accept** God's forgiveness.

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9 NIV)

5. **PEOPLE:** I pray for **others.**

*"...as we also have forgiven our debtors."* (vs. 12 NIV)

*"Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all he is going to do for them."* (1 Timothy 2:1 NLT)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

If you want to know how to pray for others, study Paul's prayers for others. (Ephesians 1:15-19; Colossians 1:3-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

Make a prayer list of people you want to pray for. You might pray for different people on different days of the week.

### 6. PROTECTION: I ask for **spiritual protection**.

*"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."* (vs. 13 NIV)

Believers face a spiritual battle everyday. Satan wants to defeat you through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day.

*"The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world."* (1 John 4:4 GN)

### Two Ways to Protect Yourself in Prayer

#### 1. Praying for God's Hedge of Protection

Six Areas to Build a "Hedge" Around

- 1) **Mentally**
- 2) **Physically**
- 3) **Emotionally**
- 4) **Financially**
- 5) **Morally**
- 6) **Spiritually**

"Does Job fear God for nothing? Satan replied. Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?"

Job 1:9-10 (NIV)

#### 2. Praying on God's Armor of Protection (Ephesians 6:10-18 KJV)

- ✠ The **WHAT** of Spiritual Warfare: *"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."* (vs. 11)
- ✠ The **WHY** of Spiritual Warfare: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..."* (vs. 12)
- ✠ The **WHO** of Spiritual Warfare: *"...but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (vs. 12)
- ✠ The **HOW** of Spiritual Warfare: *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. . . . Praying always . . . in the Spirit."* (vs. 13-18)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### HOW to Fight Spiritually

#### Armor

Loins girt with truth (vs. 14)

Breastplate of righteousness (vs. 14)

Feet shod with the gospel of peace (vs. 15)

Shield of faith (vs. 16)

Helmet of salvation (vs. 17)

#### Weapon

Sword of the Spirit (vs. 17)



**Engaging in the Battle:** *Pray at all times-on every occasion, in every season-in the Spirit, with all manner of prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints. (Eph 6:18, Amplified Bible)*

The Word of God and prayer gives  
your life both **power** and **guidance**.

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 2**

**MY DAILY QUIET TIME**

*“Grasping” God’s Word & Talking With God*

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Scripture Read \_\_\_\_\_

What God said to me through His Word: \_\_\_\_\_

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What I said to God in prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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I will apply this to my life by... \_\_\_\_\_

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I praise you God for... \_\_\_\_\_

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Write your memory verse: \_\_\_\_\_

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## SESSION FOUR

# The Habit of Tithing

*“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.” (1 Corinthians 16:2 KJV)*

### *Giving Reveals My Spiritual Maturity*

*“Just as you excel in everything else...in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV)*

In a sense, how we give away things we possess tells the tale of who we are. We’ve been taught “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” The fact is that we have nothing to give other than that which we have received. None of us has the ability to generate (create) something from nothing.

Often, whether we have received *much* or *little* has *little* to do with how we handle giving. *Giving projects our character on the screen of life.* How we are motivated and our attitude paints a picture of our spiritual values.

Motives for giving are many and varied: *pride, guilt, obligation, care, and love* are but a few ways to characterize these. While *pride* is likely the least spiritual motive for giving, *humility* would lead us to an act of worship motivated by our love for God Who demonstrated His love for us in such *extravagant* ways.

### *Why God Wants Me To Give*

#### ***Seven Benefits to My Life***

1. GIVING makes me **more like God.**

*“God so loved the world that He gave his only Son...” (John 3:16 RSV)*

2. GIVING draws me **closer to God.**

*“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21 NIV)*

3. GIVING is the antidote to **materialism.**

*“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way...they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!” (1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV)*

4. GIVING strengthens **my faith.**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. Honor the Lord from your wealth, and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty...” (Proverbs 3:5, 9, 10 NAS)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

*“Give and it will be given to you...For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Luke 6:38 NIV)*

5. GIVING is an investment **for eternity**.

*“Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19 NLT)*

6. GIVING blesses me **in return**.

*“A generous man himself will be blessed.” (Proverbs 22:9 NIV)*

*“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” (Proverbs 11:25 NIV)*

7. GIVING **makes me happy**.

(Jesus) *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35 NKJ)*

*“The people rejoiced...for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.” (1 Chronicles 29:9 NIV)*

### What The Bible Teaches About Tithing

1. What is tithing? “Tithe” means “a **tenth** part.”

2. What is the difference between a “tithe” and an “offering?”

- ✓ A “tithe” is giving **10%** of my income.
- ✓ An “offering” is anything I give in **addition** to my tithe.

3. Is tithing a New Testament principle?

Yes

No

- ✓ Tithing was initiated before the Old Testament Law.

*“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he (Abram) gave him (Melchizedek) tithes of all.”*

(Genesis 14:18-20 KJV)

- ✓ More is **required** under grace than under law!



## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) (Consider the following teaching from Jesus)

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time...”

☞ “Thou shalt not kill”

☞ “Thou shalt not commit adultery”

☞ “Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement.”

☞ “Thou shalt not forswear thyself”

☞ “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.”

☞ “Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.”

“But I say unto you...”

☞ “That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment”

☞ “That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

☞ “That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery.”

☞ “Swear not at all; neither by heaven...earth...thy head.”

☞ “...whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

☞ “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which spitefully use you, and persecute you.”

### Why Should I Tithe?

#### ***Eight Reasons from God's Word***

1. Because God **commanded** it

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.” (Leviticus 27:30 NLT)

2. Because Jesus **commended** it

“Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either.” (Matthew 23:23 NLT)

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has **first place in my life.**

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first place in your life.” (Deuteronomy 14:23 NLT)

4. Tithing reminds me that **everything** was given to me by God!

“Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you power to become rich.” (Deuteronomy 8:18 NLT)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

5. Tithing expresses my **gratitude to God**.

*“How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?” (Psalm 116:12 NIV)*

*“Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.” (Deuteronomy 16:17 NIV)*

6. God says that refusing to tithe is **stealing** from Him!

*“God says 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says 'In tithes and offerings...Bring your whole tithe to My house.’” (Malachi 3:8-10 NIV)*

7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove He **exists** and wants to bless you!

*“Bring the whole tithe into My storehouse. Test me in this” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it!” (Malachi 3:10 NIV)*

8. Tithing proves that I **really love Him**.

*“(Jesus) If you really love me, you will keep the commandments I have given you.” (John 14:15 Ph)*

*“...I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving...This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words.” (2 Corinthians 8:7b-8 NLT)*

### What Should I Tithe?

The **first** part of what I earn, not the **leftovers**

*“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income.” (Prov. 3:9-10 NLT)*

### Where Should I Give My Tithe?

Where I **worship**

*“Bring your whole tithe to My Storehouse (Temple)...” (Malachi 3:10 NIV)*

### When Should I Tithe?

On **Sundays**

*“On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn.” (1 Corinthians 16:2 NLT)*

### HOW TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Keep a Ledger Book - Account #1: My Tithe
- ✓ Use weekly envelopes
- ✓ Teach your children to tithe

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### Giving With The Right Attitudes

★ GIVE **WILLINGLY**

*“For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.” (2 Corinthians 8:12 NIV)*

*“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion...” (2 Corinthians 9:7a NIV)*

★ GIVE **JOYFULLY**

*“For God loves a cheerful giver!” (2 Corinthians 9:7b NIV)*

★ GIVE **SACRIFICIALLY**

*“They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service...” (2 Corinthians 8:3-4 NIV)*

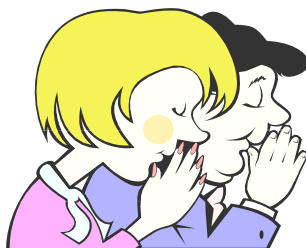
★ GIVE **GENEROUSLY**

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV)*

### The Key To Giving

“...THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD...”

2 Corinthians 8:5 NIV



### A COMMITMENT PRAYER

“Father, I know you love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from you. I am more interested in pleasing you than in having more possessions. I want you to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as you have commanded. Out of gratitude for all You've done for me, and in expectation that You will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to You. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

## SESSION FIVE

# The Habit of Fellowship

*“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another...”* (Hebrews 10:25 GN)

Fellowship means **participating in God’s family**.

### Why Is Fellowship So Important?

1. I **belong** in God's family with other believers.

*“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”* (Galatians 6:10 NIV)

*“You are a member of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.”* (Ephesians 2:19 NLT)

*“So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others!”* (Romans 12:5 NIV)

“The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord.”

Dr. Ray Ortland

2. I need **encouragement** to grow spiritually.

*“Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds.”* (Hebrews 10:24 Ph)

*“Two are better off than one...If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him...Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 GN)

3. I need **accountability** to grow spiritually.

*“People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron.”* Prov. 27:17 (GN)

*“Every day...keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamor of sin.”* (Hebrews 3:13 NLT)

*“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently... Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* (Galatians 6:1-2 NIV)

4. Christ is **present** when we fellowship together.

*“For wherever two or three people have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!”* (Matthew 18:20 Ph)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

5. There is **power** when people pray together.

*“Wherever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 18:19 GN)

6. Fellowship is a **witness** to the world.

*(Jesus) “My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind... so the world will believe you sent me.”* (John 17:21 NLT)

*“Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”* (John 13:35 NLT)

7. I am **obligated** to every other Christian!

*“God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...”* (1 Peter 4:10 NLT)

*“There are different kinds of service of God...together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.”* (1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 NLT)


### How Can A Large Church Maintain Close Friendships?

Every member needs to be a part of a **Bible Study class**.

*“(They) met day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house.”* (Acts 5:42 NIV)

### Two Types of Church Meetings

 Large group

Small group 

*“Greetings also to the church that meets in their house.”* (Romans 16:5 GN)

(Also see: Acts 2:26; 8:3; 16:40; 20:20; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15)

### What Happens In Our Bible Study Classes?

Acts 2:42-47

1. **Bible Study**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching...”*

2. **Fellowship**

*“...and to the fellowship...”*

3. **Communion**

*“...and to the breaking of bread...”*

4. **Prayer**

*“...and to prayer...”*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 2

### 5. Support

*"...they gave to anyone as he had a need..."*

### 6. Social Events

*"...they ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."*

### 7. Praising

*"...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people..."*

### 8. Outreach

*"...And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved..."*

## *Bringing It All Together*

*The Four Habits Essential To Your Spiritual Growth*

Bible Study

Tithing

Prayer

Fellowship

Now that we have completed Level 2, you are probably feeling stretched to the MAX! Hang in there and God will do a fresh, new work in you as He conforms you to the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29) Commitment, sacrifice, and discipline are good for all of us.

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus...endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Timothy 2:1, 3 KJV)

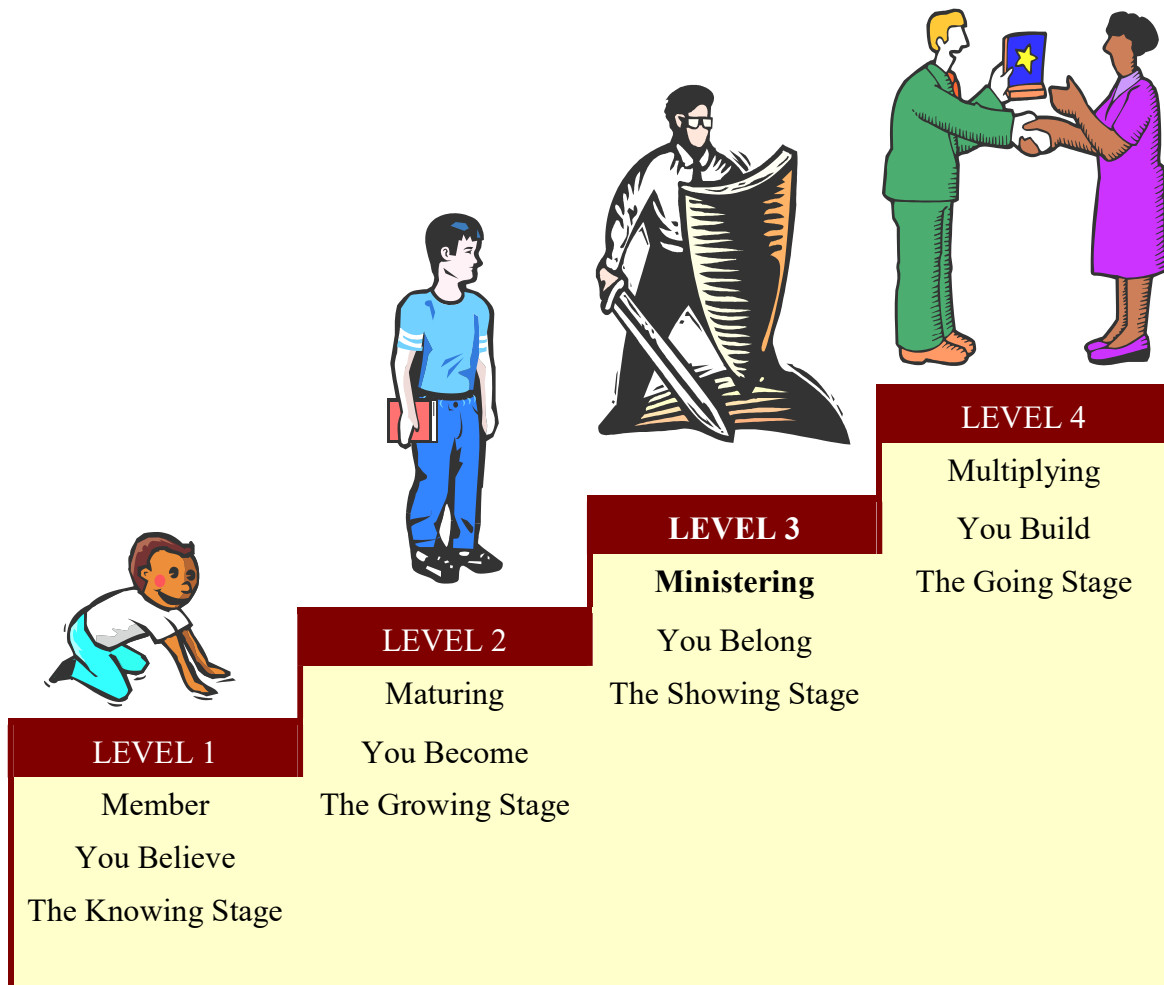
Keep Becoming  
More Committed!

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### WELCOME TO LEVEL 3

This class is the third of four basic classes here at ISBC. This section will help launch you toward your God-given ministry. Each born-again believer in Jesus is placed into the body of Christ as a unique member. Each Christian provides a different function within the body, but with the same purpose - that the body (church) may be edified (built up).

This section will help you step up from Level 2 to Level 3 as you continue to climb in your Christian pilgrimage.



### THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR LEVEL 3

*“And he (God) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### WHAT IS MINISTRY?

It is **Working** “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*” (John 14:12 KJV)

### THE CHURCH IS GOD’S **Workmanship**

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.* (Ephesians 2:10)

The **Good Works** find expression in the Ministry of the Church in general and in that of individual members in particular.

Since God enables us to do what He requires, the foundational basis of how we are organized is **Spiritual gifts**.

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have **different gifts** according to the grace given us.”* (Romans 12:4-6 NIV)

The **different gifts** encompass ministry **abilities** and ministry **offices**.

In an *organization*, program maintenance becomes the focus. But in an *organism*, **ministry** is the focus.

### How Do We Give Of Ourselves In Ministry?

- The Members as well as the Pastors and Staff are **Ministers**

There are many different ministries in our church. Many were begun and are operated by members. These find their expression in various committees and ministry groups.

### THE PRINCIPLE UNDERGIRDING LEVEL 3:

MY MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY GOD’S **CALLING** AND HIS **ENABLEMENT** IN MY LIFE.

What God is making me to **be** determines what He intends for me to **do**. I will understand the **purpose** I was created for when I learn to identify the **person** God is making me to be. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

Since each of us has different callings, gifts and life experiences your ministries will be a reflection of the the *unique* way God intends for you to serve Him. Therefore, our church is to have...

**Diversity** in unity. > which lead to > **Fruitfulness**  
**Unity** in diversity. > > **Fulfillment**



## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### THE FOCUS OF LEVEL 3

At Indian Springs Baptist, we focus on an **individual** approach to ministry rather than an **institutional** approach.

### THE GOALS OF LEVEL 3

1. That I will...

- ✓ **Discover** my unique design for ministry.
- ✓ **Develop** my God-given gifts and abilities.
- ✓ **Dedicate** myself to serving God and others through my church family.

2. That I will...

- ✓ **Select** an area of ministry that best expresses who I am in Christ Jesus.
- ✓ **Serve** in that ministry to the best of my ability.

*“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” (Ecclesiastes 9:10 KJV)*

*“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17 KJV)*

#### My Primary Ministry

Is to do the work that best expresses **who I am** in Christ.

- ✓ You minister in these areas from **spiritual strength**.

#### My Secondary Ministry

Is places of service and ministry where I help because of my **servant’s heart**.

- ✓ You serve here out of **spiritual character**.

EXPLORE  
LEVEL 3

## SESSION ONE

# What The Bible Says About Ministry

**Definition:** Greek “diakonos” means “to serve” and “to minister.” Therefore...

MINISTRY IS USING WHATEVER GOD HAS GIVEN  
ME TO SERVE HIM AND TO CARE FOR OTHERS.

### We Minister In Three Directions

↑ To **the Lord**

*“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said,  
“Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I  
have called them.” (Acts 13:2 NKJV)*

⇒ To **other believers**

*“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which  
you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the  
saints, and do minister.” (Hebrews 6:10 NKJV)*

Υ To **unbelievers**

*“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how  
shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out  
and trampled underfoot by men.” (Matthew 5:13 NKJV)*

### We Minister To Three Areas Of Need

☞ Body: To people's **physical** needs.

*“(Jesus said) I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink...naked and you  
clothed me...sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me...Whenever you did  
this for one of the least important of these...you did it to me!” (Matthew 25:35-36, 40 GN)*

*“If as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely  
be rewarded.” (Matthew 10:42 NLT)*

☞ Soul: To people's **emotional** and **intellectual** needs.

*“...warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.” (1 Thessalonians  
5:14 GN)*

☞ Spirit: To people's **spiritual** needs.

*“...God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”  
(2 Corinthians 5:18 NIV)*

*“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become  
mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13 NIV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### The Purpose of Ministry

*“There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of **helping the entire church**. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a **separate and necessary part of it**.”*

Υ God wants to use me to **build up His Body**.

### The Priority of Ministry

Why should I be interested?

1. I've been **created** for ministry.

*“For we are God's workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God **prepared in advance** for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)*

2. I've been **saved** for ministry.

*“It is He who **saved us and chose us** for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began...” (2 Timothy 1:9 NLT)*

3. I've been **called** to ministry.

*“God in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and **called me to serve him**.” (Galatians 1:15 GN)*

*“I urge you to live a life worthy of the **calling** you have received.” (Ephesians 4:1 NIV)*

*“...You have been chosen by God himself - you are **priests** of the King...you are God's very own - all this so that you may show to others how **God called you** out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing; now you are God's own!” (1 Peter 2:9-10 NLT)*

*“...you will serve as holy priests...” (1 Peter 2:5 GN)*

I am not who I think I am  
I am not who you think I am  
But I really am who God says I am!

## A LIFE CHANGING TRUTH - MY PRIMARY IDENTITY:

## I Am A Minister of Jesus Christ!

4. I've been **gifted** for ministry.

*“God has given each of you some **special abilities**; be sure to use them to **help each other**, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessing.” (1 Peter 4:10 NLT)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

5. I've been **authorized** for ministry.

*"(Jesus said) All **authority** in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples..."* (Matthew 28:18-19 NIV)

*"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..."* (2 Corinthians 5:20 NIV)

6. I'm **commanded** to minister.

*"(Jesus) **Your attitude must be like my own**, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve..."* (Matthew 20:28 NLT)

*"(To Archippus) remember the Lord ordained you to you ministry – see that you carry it out!"* (Colossians 4:17 Ph)

7. I'm to be **prepared** for ministry.

*"God gave...pastors and teachers **to prepare God's people for works of ministry**, so that the Body of Christ may be built up..."* (Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV)

8. The body of Christ **needs** my ministry.

*"All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and **necessary part** of it.* (1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT)

★ Ministry always functions in the context of the **Church family**.

*"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said..., **The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few**. Ask the Lord... to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Matthew 9:36-38 NIV)

9. I am **accountable** for my ministry.

*"So then, each of us will give an **account** of himself to God."* (Romans 14:12 NIV)

★ The Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30

10. I will be **rewarded** for my ministry.

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, **as working for the Lord, not men**, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord **as a reward**."* (Colossians 3:23-24 NIV)

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!"* (Matthew 25:23 NIV)

## SESSION TWO

# How God Has MADE Me

*“Your hands **formed** me and **shaped** me...” (Job 10:8a GN)*

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping you even before you were born!

*“Thank you for making me so **wonderfully complex**! It is amazing to think about. Your **workmanship** is marvelous...You were there while I was being **formed**...You saw me **before I was born** and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.” (Psalm 139:14-16 NLT)*

Three truths from this verse:

1. I was **born** for a purpose!
2. I am **unique**.
3. I am wonderfully **complex**.

In fact, God begins a brand new creation process in you when you become a new believer:

*“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has **begun**!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)*

God promises that this creation process will continue until the new believer is completely transformed into the perfect likeness of His Son:

*“For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son,...” (Romans 8:29 NLT)*

*“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” (Philippians 1:6 NKJV)*

### Ministry Is Determined By Several Factors

*“There are different kinds of **spiritual gifts** but the same spirit gives them. There are different **ways of serving**, but the same Lord is served. There are different **abilities** to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown **in some way** in each one, for the good of all.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7 GN)*

- Factor #1: How God has made me and continues to make me into Jesus' image.
- Factor #2: How well I identify my accomplishments as God-given abilities.
- Factor #3: How much I desire to be involved in the ministries God has chosen for me.
- Factor #4: How quickly I expect myself to be a part of the church building process.

EXPLORE  
LEVEL 3

You can explore these four factors in your life by asking:

# How Has God M.A.D.E. Me?

Factor #1: Motivational Gifts

Factor #2: Abilities & Accomplishments

Factor #3: Desires

Factor #4: Expectations

## MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

### What The Bible Says About Spiritual Gifts

A Condensed Overview

*“Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant.” (1 Cor. 12:1 NIV)*

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT:** Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. (Eph. 4; Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12-14.)

### Ten Truths Concerning Spiritual Gifts

1. Only believers have spiritual gifts.

*“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV)*

2. Every Christian has at least one gift.

*“For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.” (1 Corinthians 7:7 NKJV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

3. No one receives **all** the gifts.

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”* (1 Corinthians 12:27-30 NKJV)

4. No single gift is given to **everyone**. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30 NKJV)

5. You can't **earn** a spiritual gift.

*“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.”* (Ephesians 4:7 NKJV)

6. The **Holy Spirit** decides what gifts I get.

*“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”* (1 Corinthians 12:11 NKJV)

7. The gifts I'm given are **permanent**.

*“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”* (Romans 11:29 NKJV)

8. I am to **develop** the gifts God gives me.

*“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”* (1 Timothy 4:14 NKJV)

9. It's a sin to **waste** the gifts God gave me.

*“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”* (1 Corinthians 4:1-2 NKJV)

See also Matthew 25:14-30.

10. Using my gifts **glorifies** God.

*“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”*(John 15:8 NKJV)

### The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

1. Not for my benefit, but for **others**.

*“Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, **must use for the good of others**, the spiritual gift he has received from God.”* (1 Peter 4:10 GN)

*“The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the **entire church**.”* (1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT)

2. To produce **maturity** in our church family.

*“It was He who 'gave gifts to men'...to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith...and become mature...Then we shall no longer be children carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind...”* (Ephesians 4:11, 13-14 GN)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### Cautions About Spiritual Gifts

1. Don't confuse gifts with **natural talents**.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the **fruit of the Spirit**. (Gal. 5:22-23)
  - ★ “Fruit” shows my **Maturity**
  - ★ “Gifts” show my **Ministry**
3. Don't confuse gifts with **Christian roles**.
4. Be aware of the “**gift projection**” tendency.  
(Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.)
5. Don't feel your gift makes you **superior** to others. (1 Cor. 12:21)
6. Using your gift(s) without **love** renders it worthless!  
*“I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels...I may have the gift of inspired preaching...I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains - but if I have not love, I am nothing...it does no good.”* (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 GN)
7. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church.  
My PRIMARY MINISTRY commitment should be in the area where I am **gifted**.  
My SECONDARY MINISTRIES include serving in other areas as I am **needed**.

IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT THROUGH MINISTRY  
THAN TO DISCOVER YOUR MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFT!!!

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, 27-31, Eph. 4:11-12, and 1 Peter 4:9-11. Romans 12:5-8 lists seven “motivational gifts.” Motivational gifts are defined as that gift (or gifts) which motivates your thought process, actions, and reactions. It is the “rose-colored glasses” from which you view your world.

It may be that discovering your motivational gift(s) will open up a whole new door for you to minister in Jesus name. You may find out more about yourself and others than ever before. It may reveal why you enjoy certain ministries within the church more than others. Hopefully, this study will make you more sensitive to others around you who have gifts differing from your own. You may actually start to understand why others behave differently from yourself.



## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### The Seven Motivational Gifts

(Romans 12:5-8)

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes. As you read through this list, note your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have more than one gift. Our spiritual gifts survey entitled, Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts, will help you begin a process of determining how Christ has gifted you to build up His Body.

#### 1. **Prophecy** (Romans 12:6)

The ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers and both challenges and comforts believers.

The ability to persuasively declare God's will. Not “foretelling” the future, but “forthtelling” the truth.

Biblical Examples: **Simon Peter & John the Baptist**

#### Where To Use This Gift

- A) In revival speaking.
- B) In problem-solving where there is a sin problem.
- C) In counseling to help point out sin in a person's life.
- D) Preaching.
- E) Prison ministry.

#### 2. **Serving** (Romans 12:7a)

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

Biblical Examples: **Martha & Dorcas**

#### Where To Use This Gift

- A) Hands on work around the church; maintenance, mechanical, grounds, etc.
- B) Clerical work.
- C) Audio-visual work.
- D) Librarian.
- E) Stage hand for Christmas Pageant or drama presentations.
- F) Photographer.
- G) Preschool volunteer.

#### 3. **Teaching** (Romans 12:7b)

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn.

The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

Biblical Examples: **Luke & Apollos**

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### Where To Use This Gift

- A) As a Sunday School teacher.
- B) As a teacher in our discipleship programs.
- C) Writer and developer of curriculum.
- D) Preview curriculum for biblical content and doctrinal integrity.
- E) Bible college or seminary professor, course instructor.
- F) Trainer of teachers.

### 4. **Exhortation** (Romans 12:8a)

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

Biblical Examples: **Paul & Barnabas**

### Where To Use This Gift

- A) As a counselor; marital, financial, drug program, rescue mission, half-way house, runaway shelter, etc.
- B) Telephone ministry worker.
- C) New Member's Ministry.
- D) Teacher to divorced or hurting people.

### 5. **Giving** (Romans 12:8b)

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened.

The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support church ministries.

Biblical Examples: **Abraham, Cornelius & Zacchaeus**

### Where To Use This Gift

- A) Anywhere small or large amounts of money are needed.
- B) As a member/sponsor of a missions ministry or TV/radio ministry.
- C) As a member of the finance or building committee.
- D) To meet a need that arises that the church budget does not address.

### 6. **Administration** (Romans 12:8c)

The ability to lead and organize people and ministries so that the ministry is performed “decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40). The ability to put programs and structures in place so that the ministry runs smoothly.

Biblical Examples: **Nehemiah, Joseph & Jethro**

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### Where To Use This Gift

- A) As a nursery coordinator in Sunday School.
- B) As a grade coordinator in Sunday School.
- C) As a leader of a ministry, project, or program, or committee. Such as VBS Director, Awana director, Missions Trip Director, etc.
- D) Church planner.
- E) Church administrator.
- F) Camp Director.

### 7. **Mercy** (Romans 12:8d)

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family.

The ability to provide compassionate, cheerful, and emotional support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

Biblical Examples: **John & Ruth**

### Where To Use This Gift

- A) Care Group Leader.
- B) Hospital Shepherd.
- C) Special Education worker.
- D) Benevolent Ministry (Clothes Closet, Food Closet, Thrift Store, etc.)
- E) Nursing Home Ministry.

**Great Principle:** What we are is God's gift to us.

What we make of our lives is our gift to God!

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

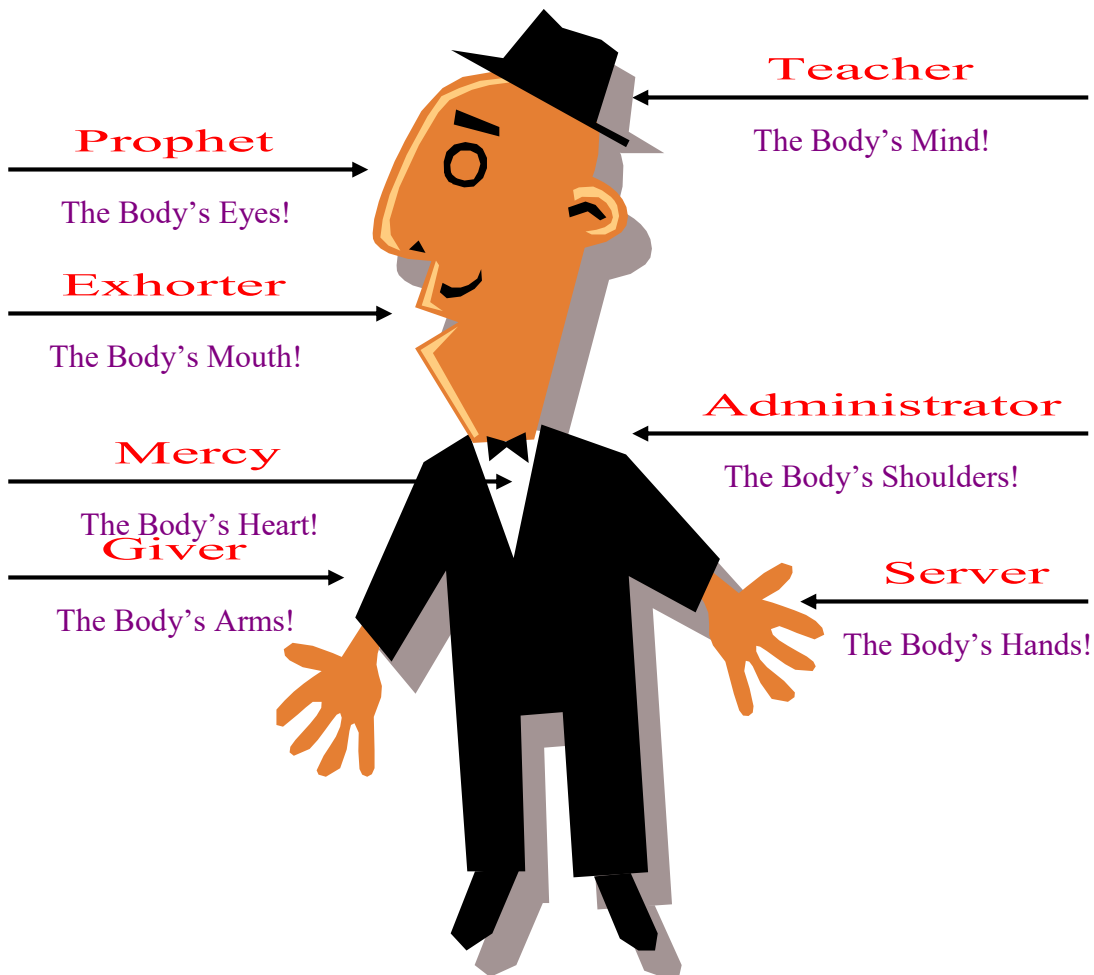
### *How God Places Us Into The Body Of Christ*

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11 KJV)

### Two Categories of Gifts

**Speaking** gifts

**Ministering** gifts



## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### Understanding How Each Motivational Gift Responds In A Situation

If seven Christians, representing each of the motivational gifts, visited a sick person in the hospital, here is what each one might say, based on the perspective of his/her gift.

#### **Server**

“Here's a little gift! Now, I brought in your mail, fed your dog, watered your plants, and washed your dishes.”

#### **Teacher**

“I did some research on your illness and I believe I can explain what's happening.”

#### **Organizer**

“Don't worry about a thing. I've assigned your job to four others in the office.”

#### **Mercy**

“I can't begin to tell you how I felt when I learned you were sick. How do you feel now?”



#### **Exhorter**

“How can we use what you're learning here to help others in the future?”

#### **Giver**

“Do you have insurance to cover this kind of illness?”

#### **Prophet**

“What is God trying to say to you through this illness? Is there some sin you haven't confessed yet?”

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

If seven Christians, representing each of the motivational gifts, were starting a new mission church, here is what each one might say is needed, based on the perspective of his/her gift.

### Server

Practical assistance to every member of the church to encourage them and to help them fulfill their responsibilities.

### Mercy

Special outreach and concern for the precise and varying feelings of individuals with a readiness to meet their needs.

### Teacher

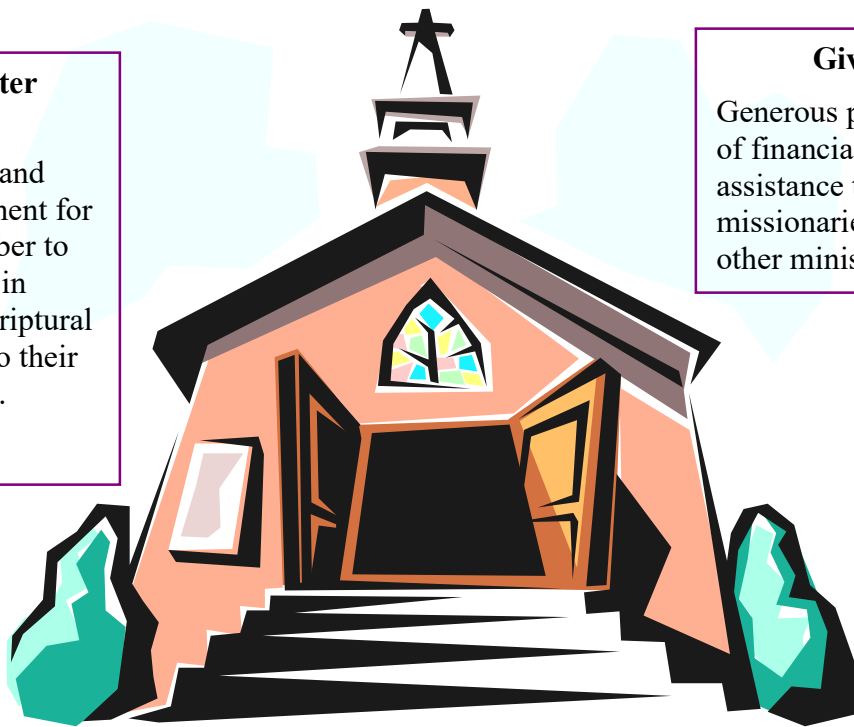
In-depth Bible studies with special emphasis on the precise meaning of words.

### Exhorter

Personal counseling and encouragement for every member to assist them in applying scriptural principles to their daily living.

### Giver

Generous programs of financial assistance to missionaries and other ministries.



### Organizer

Smooth-running organization throughout the church so that every phase will be carried out decently and in order.

### Prophet

Well-prepared sermons exposing sin, proclaiming righteousness, and warning of judgment to come.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

### Spiritual Gifts Matching Quiz

Match the gift with the definition that best describes the gift.

#### Gifts

- A. Mercy                      B. Administration              C. Giving  
D. Prophecy                  E. Serving                      F. Exhortation                  G. Teaching

#### Definitions

- D 1. One who clearly perceives the will of God and desires to proclaim it.
- F 2. The Spirit given capacity and desire to serve God by motivating others to action by urging them to pursue a course of conduct. The “how-to” teacher, giving application of God's Word.
- E 3. Basic motivation is to meet practical needs of others. Demonstrates love in deeds and not in words. Sees what needs to be done and does it.
- G 4. The Spirit given capacity and desire to make clear the truth of God's Word. Delights in research and study in order to validate the truth.
- A 5. The Spirit given capacity to identify with hurting people. They are deep feeling and get involved with the emotional needs of others.
- C 6. Deep seeded need to give himself and resources. Desires to serve God by giving of his material resources far beyond the tithe in order to further the work of God. He loves to meet the financial needs of others and the church.
- B 7. One who stands in front of another and helps maintain the ministries through organization.

After you have taken the spiritual gifts survey, *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts*, record the three gifts you scored highest on on the last page of Level 3. You will use this page later during the bridge interview when you graduate from *Explore* to help determine the ministries for which God has gifted you.

#### REMINDER

On the last page of Level 3 list your top three motivational gifts from the spiritual gifts survey.

EXPLORE  
LEVEL 3

# ABILITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## What The Bible Says About Abilities & Accomplishments

*“There are different abilities to perform service.”* (1 Corinthians 12:6 GN)

*“I (God)...have given him (builder of the Tabernacle) understanding, skill, and ability, for every kind of artistic work...”* (Exodus 31:3 GN)

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is: “I just don't have any abilities to offer.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

**Question:** How will you know when you have found the correct match?

**Answer:** When you experience accomplishments, that is, when God accomplishes things through your use of the abilities He has given you. The New Testament calls this *fruitfulness*. It is part of what Jesus called abundant living. When we serve Christ's Body, the Church, through our gifts and talents, we enjoy life in a supernatural way that can be explained but can only be truly understood through experience.

*“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”* (John 15:15-16 NKJV)

## 5 Misconceptions About Abilities

**MYTH #1:** *People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.* This simply is not true. There are a number of skills which seem to be inborn, or are developed very early in infancy. When people say “He just seems to have a natural talent for it” it's probably true!

**MYTH #2:** *Those skills which must be learned primarily in the classroom.* Actually, some of your most basic skills were learned at home, “in the street,” or somewhere else outside the classroom.

**MYTH #3:** *If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.* Again, this is not true. You are probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of! You need some process of skill identification.

**MYTH #4:** *Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.* Hopefully, by the end of this class, you'll see the fallacy of this idea. Be creative!

**MYTH #5:** *Most people only have a very few abilities.* The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses hundreds of skills!





## EXPLORE LEVEL 3

# DESIRES

### What The Bible Says About Desires

The word 'desire' is used over 100 times in the Bible. It has several different meanings but most often refers to our wants, the things we are passionate about. Obviously, there are good desires and bad desires. Another way to state that is to say there are carnal desires and spiritual desires. Look at the contrast in the life of the apostle Paul:

#### **Carnal Desire:**

*"Well then, am I suggesting that these laws of God are evil? Of course not! No, the law is not sinful, but it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known the sin in my heart-- the evil desires that are hidden there-- if the law had not said, "You must not have evil desires in your heart. But sin used this law against evil desires by reminding me that such desires are wrong, and arousing all kinds of forbidden desires within me! Only if there were no laws to break would there be no sinning." (Romans 7:7-8a NLT)*

#### **Spiritual Desire:**

*"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved." (Romans 10:1 (NKJV))*

When we become Christians, Christ desires to take control of our desires. He wants to destroy the carnal desires we possess and give us new, spiritual desires. This is part of the meaning of 2 Corinthians 5:17:

*"When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!"*

**Question:** How does Christ do this?

**Answer:** By us spending time with Him so we can find out what desires he wants us to have and which ones are not acceptable to Him. The Bible says it like this:

*"Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:4 NKJV)*

I heard a wise man pray, "Lord, grant me the desires of my heart that are in keeping with Your will." I believe this expresses the proper attitude of a maturing Christian.

What are the desires God has been giving *you*? Turn to the last page of Level 3. In the appropriate section, record the desires God has been giving you as you read His Word and pray. These will be the desires He is giving you for ministry service. This is part of how Christ is making you to build up His Body.

*"Lord, grant me the desires of my heart  
that are in keeping with Your will."*

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 3**

# EXPECTATIONS

We have seen that God is continuing to make us into special people for the purpose of serving each other in the Church and glorifying Him. He has given us motivational gifts, blessed certain of our abilities, and is growing desires within us to use those gifts and abilities. What do you think He expects now? What do you expect now? How quickly do you expect God to use you in the Body building process? Reflect again on this scripture that we have already studied:

*“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. (John 15:16 NKJV)*

## GREAT SPIRITUAL TRUTH

When I expect of me  
what the Father expects of me,  
then I can become the person  
He made me to be.

*Ask yourself the following questions and record your answers below:*

How much does God expect me to read the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

How much does God expect me to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

How often does God expect me to attend worship? \_\_\_\_\_

Does God expect me to commit to a Sunday School class? \_\_\_\_\_

What ministries does God expect me to participate in? \_\_\_\_\_

How much does God expect me to give to support this ministry financially? \_\_\_\_\_

How quickly does God expect me to begin doing these things? \_\_\_\_\_

On the last page of Level 3 in the appropriate section, list the corrective actions you need to take so that your expectations come in line with God’s expectations and so that you may become the person He is making you to be.

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 3**

# How Has God Made Me?

Complete this page to recap what you have learned in this section about how God has made you and is making you to serve in His Kingdom. This page will be used when you graduate from *Explore* and participate in your bridge interview. It will help us direct you to the ministries that best fit your spiritual make-up.

## Motivational Gifts

List the three motivational gifts you scored highest on with the corresponding score:

	<u>Motivational Gift</u>	<u>Score</u>
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

## Abilities & Accomplishments

From page 19 list your abilities with which you have enjoyed successful experiences:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Desires

When you read God's Word, pray and commit yourself to Him, He will change your desires to match His. What desires is God giving you to be a part of His church building process?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Expectations

On page 21, God may have revealed to you that some of your expectations for you don't match His expectations for you. What expectations do you need to change?

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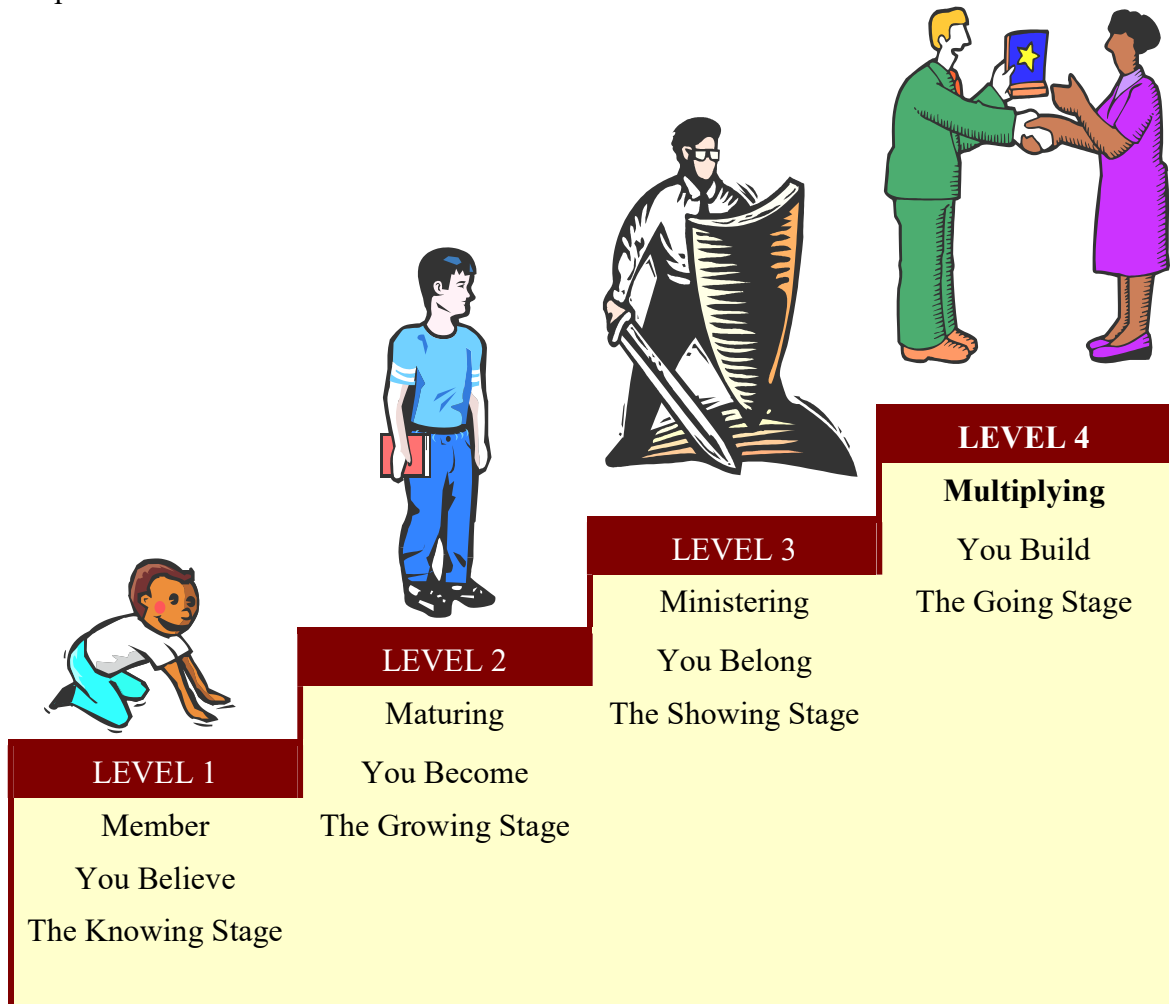
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## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### WELCOME TO LEVEL 4

In this level of our church information class at ISBC you will gain understanding of the Biblical principles of church growth. You will find inspiration and motivation to engage in practical ways of fulfilling the commandment of Jesus to share the Good News and to make disciples of others.



### THE BIBILICAL BASIS FOR LEVEL 4

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matt 28:19 NIV)*

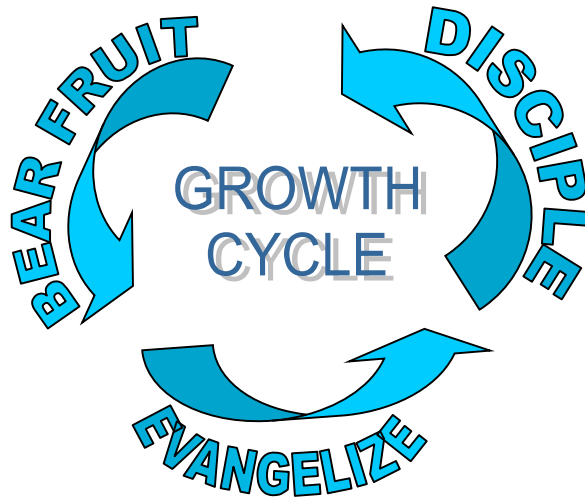
*“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:8 KJV)*

### THE GOAL OF LEVEL 4

That I will commit to validate my discipleship by bearing **fruit** in my life and by making **disciples** of others.

## SESSION ONE

# Understanding The Multiplying Process



Scripturally sound **growth** in the church starts with ***Evangelism*** (sharing the Good News of God's Plan of Salvation).

The next step is ***Discipleship*** in which a new Christian is **nurtured** by a more mature Christian.

This process results in Spiritual growth and evidence of maturity or ***Bearing Fruit***.

As the new Christian bears fruit, he will share the Good News with others and the growth cycle repeats. Each new cycle potentially doubles the number of people involved in the Growth Cycle. One, two, four, eight, sixteen . . . truly **multiplying** each Christian's influence.

In most churches the weakest link in the Multiplying Process is Discipleship.

- ☛ Dis-ci-ple (v): 1. To develop and train by **instruction, exercise, and example**.
- ☛ Attitude of a Disciplex: A **willingness** to pour our life into another person and share our life with him. A desire to invest our life in another person.
- ☛ Action of a Disciplex: To step into another's life and **develop** that person as if he or she had to take your **place** in life.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### Why disciple?

1. To encourage and help someone **discover** and **use** his Spiritual gifts.

*“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee.”* (2 Timothy 1:6 KJV)

2. To **support** those already serving.

*“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 KJV).

3. To develop **accountability** in relationships.

*“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend .”* (Pr 27:17 KJV)

4. To **grow** the church spiritually and numerically.

*“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”* (Ephesians 4:16 KJV)

5. As new Christians are discipled and as they bear fruit they will **bring glory** to God. (John 15:8)

### Who should be a discipler?

**Every Born-Again Christian** (Matt 28:19)

### Who can be effective in the growth cycle?

Those who **abide** in Christ and His words.

*“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”* (John 15:5)

Disciplers need to **Eliminate** from their lives those things that do not bear spiritual fruit and to **Concentration** on those things that do bear fruit. Failure to bear fruit hinders our **witness** and interrupts the growth cycle.

Jesus spoke about priorities when He said to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Paul states this in a different way in reference to the church being the Army of God.

*“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”* (2 Timothy 2:4 KJV)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### Discipling Truths

1. You can more effectively disciple others in areas where **you have walked**. It is in the trials of life that the concepts of the Kingdom of God are converted from the abstract to the concrete.
2. Discipling is a **process**, not an **event**.
3. Discipling is an **attitude**, not an **ability**.
4. Everyone who makes it in ministry has a **mentor**.
5. Developing others is not a **classroom** issue, it's a **life** issue.

### Discipling Benefits

1. It **develops** people for God's glory.
2. It **builds** leaders for tomorrow.
3. It **edifies** the church.
4. It greatly **multiplies** your ministry.
5. It **establishes** deep, lasting relationship.

### Benefits to both Disciple & Discipler

1. **Fulfillment**
2. **Strength**
3. **Joy**
4. **Love**

The words of Christ in Matthew 28:19-20 communicate clearly His understanding of a disciple. He saw a disciple as one who becomes a follower, who is taught, who is nurtured in the faith, who in turn develops other disciples; who are taught, nurtured in the faith, who in turn develops other disciples; etc., etc., etc.

Paul realized this same truth when he wrote these words to Timothy:

*“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2)*



## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### I. The Present State of Evangelism (*Characteristics of Evangelism Today*)

1. Reaching the unchurched is a low priority for most **churches**.
2. Reaching the unchurched is a low priority for most **individual** Christians.
3. The biblical understanding of **lostness** has changed.
4. Evangelism methods are relatively **ineffective**.
5. Evangelistic approaches focus on:  
**Decision** - making rather than **Disciple** making.
6. Making disciples is spiritual and numerical **growth**.
7. Evangelism is **discussed** much but **practiced** little.

### II. New Testament Evangelism (*Characteristics of the Early Church*)

1. Reaching the unchurched was a high **priority** for the church.  
*“Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.”* (Acts 18:4 NIV)
2. Reaching the unchurched was a high priority for **individual** Christians.  
*“...I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.”* (1 Corinthians 9:22 NIV)
3. The understanding of lostness was **foremost** in the mind of believers.  
*“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.”* (1 Corinthians 15:19 NIV)
4. Evangelism was designed to **make** disciples.  
*“In those days when the number of disciples was increasing...”* (Acts 6:1 NIV)
5. Evangelism **focused** on disciple-making not decision-making.  
*“...there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.”* (Matthew 27:57 NIV)
6. Evangelism and discipleship go **hand** in **hand**.

**Evangelism and Discipleship make up the two-fold mission of every believer.**

*“Then the church... grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.”* (Acts 9:31 NIV)

7. The whole Gospel and its **implications** were presented.  
Jesus to the rich young ruler, *“You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”* (Luke 18:22 NIV)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

8. Evangelism was the **heartbeat** of the church.

*"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8 NIV)

### Questions of Concern

1. As believers are we to anxiously await our Lord's return with no concern for the lost?

Two things we can't do in heaven: **sin** and **witness**

*"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8 NIV)

2. Do we have a vision, and are we taking advantage of the opportunities, to reach people?

We must reach people **where they are**.

Example: Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman.

*"Now he had to go through Samaria."* (John 4:4 NIV)

*"...then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman."* (John 4:27 NIV)

3. How do we respond to the opportunities of reaching people?

The catch is in the **water**, not in the **boat**.

(Jesus) *"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."* (Luke 5:4 NIV)

4. What disturbs God the most...

Iniquity in the street?

Indifference in the saints?

5. When a person dies and goes to heaven, who gets the credit? **Jesus**

When a person dies and goes to hell, who gets the credit? **Them/me**

### What Is A Disciple?

1. A disciple is a **believer**.

*"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved."* (Acts 16:31 NIV)

2. A disciple is a **follower**.

*"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Matthew 16:24 NIV)*

3. A disciple is a **learner**.

*"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, If you **hold to my teachings**, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (John 8:31-32 NIV)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

4. A disciple is a **witness**.

*“Go home to your family **and tell them** how much the Lord has done for you.” (Mark 5:19 NIV)*

5. A disciple is **baptized**.

*“Peter replied, **‘Repent and be baptized,** every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...’ Those who **accepted his message were baptized.**” (Acts 2:38, 41 NIV)*

6. A disciple shows the **character** of Christ as evidence of being a disciple .

*“This is to my Father's glory, that you **bear much fruit,** showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:8 NIV)*

7. A disciple has a healthy **balance** between evangelism, discipleship, and bearing fruit that is pleasing to God.



**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 4**

## SESSION TWO

### SIX TRUTHS ABOUT SHARING YOUR FAITH

#### Truth #1 - It's **S**imple

A. It's simply speaking those things which we have **seen** and **heard**.

*"For we cannot but speak the things which we have **seen** and **heard**."* (Acts 4:20 KJV)

*"...I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have **seen** and what I will **show** you."* (Acts 26:16 NIV)

*"That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen** with our eyes, which we have **looked at** and our hands have **touched** - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life **appeared**; we have **seen it** and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has **appeared to us**. We proclaim to you what we have **seen** and **heard**, so that you may have fellowship with us."* (1 John 1:1-3 NIV)

*"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him **to show** his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies **to everything he saw**..."* (Revelation 1:1-2a NIV)

B. It's simply being a **witness** to what you have experienced.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8 NIV)

*"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all **witnesses** of the fact."* (Acts 2:32 NIV)

*"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the **witness** in himself."* (1 John 5:10 KJV)

**PRINCIPLE:**

*You don't have to possess a degree in fishology to fish!*

#### Truth #2 - It's **S**eeking

A. Jesus is a **seeker**.

*"For the Son of Man came to **seek** and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10 NIV)

B. Satan is a **seeker**.

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seeking** whom he may devour."* (1 Peter 5:8 KJV)

C. Finders are **seekers**.

*"...**seek** and you shall find."* (Matthew 7:7 NAS)

**PRINCIPLE:**

*You won't catch fish if you don't wet a line!*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### Truth #3 - It's **Sowing**

#### A. The Lord of the Harvest

- ✓ Jesus was a **sower**.

*“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a **sower** went forth to **sow**...Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a man which **sowed** good seed in his field...Another parable put he forth to them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and **sowed** in his field...He answered and said unto them, He that **soweth** the good seed is the Son of Man.”* (Matthew 13:3, 24, 31, 37 KJV)

- ✓ Jesus sowed the **Word of God**.

*“Now the parable is this: The seed is the **word of God**.”* (Luke 8:11 KJV)

#### B. The Law of the Harvest

*“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. **A man reaps what he sows**...Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* (Galatians 6:7, 9 NIV)

- ✓ Law #1 - You reap **what** you sow.
- ✓ Law #2 - You reap **later** than you sow.
- ✓ Law #3 - You reap **more** than you sow.

#### PRINCIPLE:

*All farmers know that the seed must go in before the crops come out!*

### Truth #4 - It's **Smart**

#### A. A soul-winner is **wise**.

*“...he who wins souls is **wise**.”* (Proverbs 11:30 NIV)

*“Those who are **wise** will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”* (Daniel 12:3 NIV)

#### PRINCIPLE:

*Soul-winners are shining stars!*

### Truth #5 - It's **Satisfying**

Great fulfillment is found in doing **God's will**.

*“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, Rabbi, eat something. But he said to them, **I have food to eat that you know nothing about**. Then his disciples said to each other, Could someone have brought him food? My food, said Jesus, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

*Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.” (John 4:31-36 NIV)*

### PRINCIPLE:

*The soul-winning reaction: SATISFACTION!*

### Truth #6 - It's Supernatural

A. The Masterplanner of Salvation is the Father.

*“...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8 KJV)*

B. The Magnet of Salvation is the Son.

*“But I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto myself.” (John 12:32 NIV)*

C. The Mover of Salvation is the Spirit.

*“...he (Spirit) will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13 NIV)*

D. The Miracle of Salvation is the new birth.

*“Jesus answered and said to him, most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3 NKJV)*

### PRINCIPLE:

*Salvation is naturally supernatural!*

### ??? QUESTIONS TO ASK PROSPECTS ???

#### 1. In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven?

Answers to this question will typically be one of three possibilities.

a. *Faith or trust in the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.* If you get such a response, then you should follow up by asking the person to share how he or she came to know the grace of God's forgiveness. This will reveal whether the person has a good understanding of salvation or is just repeating words they have heard others say.

b. *Doing good works.* A variety of such “works” might include church membership, having Christian parents, being a good person, reading the Bible, praying, believing there is a God, etc. Such an answer can usually provide an opening for you to share the Plan of Salvation. A good transition is to state, “I'd like to share with you how the Bible answers that question, if it is all right.”

c. *An unclear answer.* This response may take the form of a statement such as “Believe in God” or “Love God.” If the response is unclear, then tactfully ask for addition information. You might say, “I think I know what you mean, but would you tell me more?”

(The above is an excerpt from *A Journey in FAITH*, by B. H. Welch and D. Williams, LifeWay Publishing)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### 2. How would you answer God if He asks, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?”

Responses might run the gamut as in the previous questions: Trust, Works, or Uncertain.

### 3. If you were to die tonight, do you know for certain where you would spend eternity (or that you would go to heaven)?

Listen for confidence in the response. An answer that says “I hope so” is an opening to share the Good News that a person can know for sure where he or she would spend eternity.

There are a number of good prescriptions for sharing the Plan of Salvation. All have certain common elements but use a variety of Scriptural “proof” text in the presentation.

A) They must first understand that they are **lost**.

“*We all, like sheep, have gone astray.*” (Isaiah 53:6 NIV)

B) They must understand what they are saved **from**.

“*...and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will **save** his people **from their sins**.*” (Matthew 1:21 NIV)

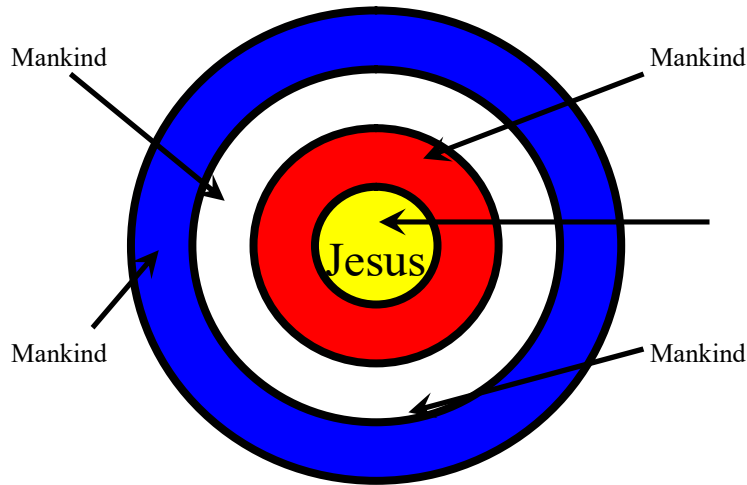
C) They must understand what sin **is**.

☞ It's going our **own way**.

“*...each of us has turned **his own way**.*” (Isaiah 53:6 NIV)

☞ It's **missing the mark**.

“*There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless.*” (Romans 3:11-12 NIV)



#### Definitions

*Sin* - falling away from or missing the mark that God intended.

*Saved* - Delivered or rescued from our sin.

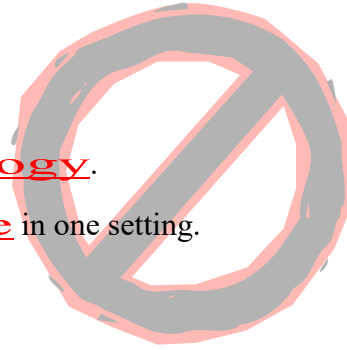
### 1. Four Points To Keep In Mind

A) Your testimony should be <b>clear</b> .	C) Your testimony should be <b>positive</b> .
B) Your testimony should be <b>concise</b> .	D) Your testimony should be <b>current</b> .

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### 2. Four Things To Avoid

- A) Avoid boasting of pre-Christian sin.
- B) Avoid using religious words & terminology.
- C) Avoid attempting to give them the whole Bible in one setting.
- D) Avoid presentation being in “sermon form.”



### 3. Four Facts To Include

Using the example of the Apostle Paul.

- A) What my life was like before I received Christ. (Acts 26:4-5, 9-11 )
- B) How I realized my need for Christ. (Acts 26:12-14)
- C) How I received Christ and became a Christian. (Acts 26:15-18)
- D) How Christ has helped me and is helping me day by day. (Acts 26:19-23)

Using these suggestions, write out your testimony using Paul's example as a guide.

## MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

1. What my life was like before I received Christ and how I realized my need for Christ. (About 1 minute)

2. How I received Christ and became a Christian. (This should be very brief and could be no more than “I had a life-changing experience.” You can share the details in presenting the Plan of Salvation.)

3. How Christ has helped me and is helping me day by day. (Concentrate on God’s faithfulness and the assurance of your salvation and a home in heaven.)



## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### HOW TO SHARE THE PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Make sure the lost person knows that God **loves** him.

Read to them John 3:16: *“For God **so loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (KJV)

2. Make sure the lost person knows that he/she is saved by God's **grace**.

Read to them Ephesians 2:8-9: *“**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so no one can boast.**”* (NIV)

3. Make sure the lost person is willing to **repent**.

Read to them Luke 13:5: *“...unless you **repent**, you too will perish.”* (NIV)

#### EXAMPLE – THE ROMAN ROAD

1. All have sinned.

Romans 3:10, 23: *“There is **no one righteous, not even one...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**”* (NIV)

2. God loves you.

Romans 5:8: *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”* (NIV)

3. The final result of sin is *death and hell*, but God offers *eternal life* as a free gift through Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:23: *“For the **wages of sin** is death, but the **gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (NIV)

4. We must confess (agree with God) Jesus as Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead.

Romans 10:9-10: *“That if you **confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is **with your heart** that you believe and are justified, and it is **with your mouth** that you confess and are saved.”* (NIV)

5. We must call upon the name of the Lord.

Romans 10:13: *“For everyone **who calls on the name** of the Lord will be saved.”* (NIV)

6. Now that this lost person has heard God's Word, they are now ready to exercise faith in God.

Romans 10:17: *“**Faith comes from hearing** the message, and the message is heard through **the word of Christ.**”* (NIV)



## **EXPLORE LEVEL 4**

### **HOW TO LEAD THEM TO PRAY TO RECEIVE CHRIST**

After sharing and explaining the “Roman Road” to a lost person, they may want to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. Here is a simple prayer to use to guide them through this process. This is only a model and does not have to be used verbatim. You might want to ask the person to repeat after you and then take them through the prayer a sentence at a time. Be sure and communicate to them that it is fine for them to use their own words.

#### **Prayer of Salvation**

Lord, I know that I am a sinner. And I ask you now to forgive me. To the best that I know how, I am asking you to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior. I commit myself to live for you for the rest of my life. Thank you for saving me and help me to honor you everyday. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.



## Session Three

### Introduction

“Good philosophies and excellent ideas are never enough.  
Nothing comes about merely by thinking about it. Give your  
ideas value by acting on them..” – Anonymous

The world needs more than philosophies, it needs change! The church is distinct in that she proclaims that a changed world is the consequence of changed people. Reflective man produces new philosophies; regenerate man produces new people. It is this deep conviction that makes evangelism immensely more than a theory, it is changing person after person who reaches out and becomes the catalyst for change in the lives of others as they proclaim a God who “*was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself*” (2 Corinthians 5:19 KJV).

At this point, however, many questions arise:

- ✓ How do we go forth with an evangelistic thrust that will permeate the world?
- ✓ Why are our efforts to make disciples often ineffective?
- ✓ What is it that attracts others to Christ?
- ✓ How can we at ISBC affect our community with positive change?

## Jesus' Discipleship Principle

Anyone can see the number of apples on a tree – Jesus sees the number of trees in the apple.

“*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.*” (John 15:16 NIV)

### Preview of this Session

In the three years Jesus spent with His disciples, these are the things He did to develop effective disciples: (Taken from Robert Coleman's book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*)

1. Associate: He spent time with them.
2. Consecrate: He required obedience from them.
3. Educate: He communicated with them.
4. Demonstrate: He personified it for them.
5. Delegate: He gave it to them.
6. Investigate: He checked up on them.
7. Duplicate: He reproduced Himself in them.

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 4**

# Associate

*He spent time with them.*

**1. The Start of Disciple Making** - To call a few men to follow Him.

A) Jesus gave a **simple** invitation to **ordinary** men.

- ☛ To Andrew - “*He (Jesus) said to them, Come and see.*” (John 1:39 Amp)
- ☛ To Philip - “*He (Jesus) said to him, Follow me.*” (John 1:43 NIV)
- ☛ To Nathanael - “*Come and see, said Philip.*” (John 1:46 NIV)
- ☛ To Peter - “*Come, follow me, Jesus said. and I will make you fishers of men*” (Mark 1:17 NIV)
- ☛ To James and John - “*Without delay he (Jesus) called them.*” (Mark 1:20 NIV)
- ☛ To Matthew - “*Follow me, Jesus told him.*” (Mark 2:14 NIV)

B) Jesus did not begin His disciple making process with **large crowds**.

C) Jesus did begin His disciple making process with a **small group**.

**2. The Strategy of Disciple Making** - Not to use programs to reach the multitudes, but to use people to reach the multitudes.

A) Individuals cannot **transform** the world except as individuals in the world are **transformed**.

B) You can **impress** people from a distance, but you can **impact** them only when you are up close.

**3. The Structure of Disciple Making** - Spend time with Jesus.

A) Although Jesus loved everyone, He gave **top priority** to the twelve.

B) Jesus knew...

☛ That knowledge was gained from **association** before it was understood by **explanation**.

☛ That truth must be **lived out** before it can be **passed out**.

☛ That developing disciples could not be done by **proxy**.

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 4**

# Consecrate

*He demanded obedience from them.*

## 1. JESUS' CALL WAS...

### A) Uncomplicated

*“Simon answered, Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” (Luke 5:5 NIV)*

### B) Uncompromising

*“No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” (Luke 16:13 NIV)*

### C) Uncomfortable

*“Jesus replied, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.” (Matthew 8:20 NIV)*

## 2. JESUS' CALL REQUIRED...

### A) Self-denial

*“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26 NIV)*

### B) Complete surrender

*“And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27 NIV)*

### C) Total sacrifice

*“In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:33 NIV)*

### D) Persistent abandonment

*“Jesus replied, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62 NIV)*

Jesus knew you could not be a Leader until you were first a Follower.

# Educate

*He communicated with them.*

## THREE MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

### 1. A disciple will stay in the Word.

*“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.” (John 8:31 NIV)*

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

2. A disciple will **love others**.

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:34-35 NIV)

3. A disciple will **bear fruit**.

*“This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* (John 15:8 NIV)

**Demonstrate**  
*He personified it for them.*

Jesus did not have the modern techniques and equipment we use today in our educational systems. Yet there has never been a greater Teacher because Jesus communicated truth with life. His greatest teaching was not in the seminars but in the streets. He didn't draw it up on the blackboard, but, rather, in backyards. The disciples were always there to observe Jesus who practiced with them what He expected them to learn. His teachings were incarnate - He fleshed them out!

WITH JESUS CLASS WAS ALWAYS IN SESSION

### CLASS - Prayer 101

*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, **where he prayed.**”* (Mark 1:35 NIV)

*“Taking the five loaves and two fish and **looking up to heaven**, he gave thanks and broke them.”* (Luke 9:16 NIV)

*“After Jesus said this, **he looked toward heaven and prayed.**”* (John 17:1 NIV)

*“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, Sit here while I go over there **and pray.**”* (Matthew 26:36 NIV)

*“One day **Jesus was praying** in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray.”* (Luke 11:1 NIV)

### CLASS - Worship 101

*“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, **as was his custom.**”* (Luke 4:16 NIV)

*“Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their **synagogue.**”* (Matthew 13:54 NIV)

*“I have spoken openly to the world, Jesus replied, I always taught **in the synagogues or at the temple.**”* (John 18:20 NIV)

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### CLASS - Bible Study 101

☞ Jesus considered the scriptures to be “the Word of God.”

*Matthew 13:19, 20, 22, 23; 15:6; Mark 7:13; John 10:35*

☞ Jesus knew that they bore witness of Himself.

*Matthew 5:17, 18; John 5:39*

☞ Jesus used scripture to overcome Satan's temptations.

*Matthew 4:4, 7, 10*

☞ Jesus realized that His life was the fulfillment of scripture.

*Matthew 5:18; 8:17; 13:14; 26:54-56; Mark 14:49; Luke 4:21; John 13:18; 15:25; 17:12*

☞ Jesus used the scriptures for His Textbook for teaching.

*Luke 4:17-21; 24:27, 32, 44, 45*

### CLASS - Soul-Winning 101

*“When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today...Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house...For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:5, 9, 10 NIV)*

Other scriptures reveal Jesus as a soul-winner.

John 3 - He talked with Nicodemus about being born again.

John 4 - His conversation with the “woman at the well” in Samaria.

Many times Jesus talked with the Jews, the religious leaders (Pharisees), prostitutes, tax collectors, children, to the attenders of synagogues in various cities, to those who attended the Temple in Jerusalem, to the physically impaired, and others about their need for salvation.

#### Two great principles learned from Jesus

- 1) People are looking for a **demonstration**, not an **explanation**.
- 2) Truth **unapplied** to living can become a stumbling-block to further truth.

**Delegate**

*He gave it to them.*

Jesus was constantly building up the disciples so that they could eventually go out into the world and take over His work of redeeming the lost. He did not patiently dwell with them for the purpose of scholarship, but for the purpose of discipleship. They would only become “fishers of men” as they observed the Great Fisherman. But the time comes when one must not only observe fishing, but he must fish. Therefore, like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly by pushing them out of the nest, Jesus pushed His disciples out into the world to try their set of wings.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

☛ They started by **baptizing** His converts.

*“Although in fact it was **not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.**” (John 4:2 NIV)*

☛ He then sent them on two mission trips.

### First Mission Trip

*“Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two.” (Mark 6:7 NIV)*

1. He told them **Where to go.**

*“...Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.” (Matthew 10:5-6 NIV)*

2. He told them **What to do.**

A) Preach - *“As you go, preach this message” The kingdom of heaven is near.” (Matthew 10:7 NIV)*

B) Minister - *“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8 NIV)*

3. He told them **Who to see.**

*“Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave.” (Matthew 10:11 NIV)*

### Second Mission Trip

*“After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” (Luke 10:1 NIV)*

The difference between this mission trip and the first was that He sent...

1. **more of them.**

2. **them into every city.**

3. **them to prepare for His coming.**

Similarities of the two mission trips were...

1. **He sent them two-by-two.**

2. **He empowered them.**

*“He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority.” (Matthew 10:1 NIV)*

3. **He clearly defined their mission.**

*“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, The kingdom of God is near you.” (Luke 10:9 NIV)*

*A great principle learned from Jesus*

**Exhortation** without **Application** leads to **Frustration.**



## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### Investigate

*He checked up on them.*

*“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.”*  
(Mark 6:30 NIV)

1. Jesus' teaching rotated between **instruction** and **assignment**.

- ✓ Jesus rejoiced with them **in** their experiences.  
*“At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit...”* (Luke 10:21 NIV)
- ✓ The starting point of His teaching was **from** their experiences.
- ✓ He taught them **out of** their experiences. (Reference - Mark 9:17-29)

2. Jesus believed in **on-the-job** training.

- ✓ **Education** is not always acquired inside the four walls of an institution.
- ✓ Failure is life's greatest **teacher**.
- ✓ Success is life's greatest **encourager**.

### Duplicate

*He reproduced Himself in them.*

#### 1. The Ultimate Goal

The Master Plan of the Master had now gone full circle. He had reproduced Himself in His disciples, who would disciple others so that Christ would be reproduced in them, who would disciple others so that Christ would be reproduced in them, ...well, you get the point.

Jesus taught this principle often. Two Parables especially bear this out.

- ✓ The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32).

The Kingdom of God started small like a grain of mustard seed, but would grow in size and strength until it became “the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree.”

- ✓ The Parable of Leaven (Matthew 13:33).

The Kingdom of God starts as a small lump of leaven that eventually spreads and permeates “until it worked all through the dough.”

Jesus' ultimate goal is to see all who believe in  
Him to be transformed into His image.  
That He be **reproduced** in them.

## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### 2. The Ultimate Test

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, **he will bear much fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5 NIV)

The mustard seed (representing the church) will grow into a tree.

Jesus is the root of the tree, we are the branches.

Every branch, properly connected to the **root** will produce **fruit**.

The test for every believer is whether Jesus is being **reproduced** in others.

### 3. The Ultimate Church

*“Simon Peter answered, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God..”*  
*Jesus said, “upon this rock I will **build** my church.”* (Matthew 16:16, 18 NIV)

A) The Master Plan was at work in the early church.

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses **entrust to reliable men** who will be qualified to teach others.”* (2 Timothy 2:2 NIV)

*“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - **put it into practice**.”* (Philippians 4:9 NIV)

B) As Fishermen our bait is the **Word of God**.

*“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the **word of Christ**.”* (Romans 10:17 NIV)

The problem with the modern-day church is that we are known more for casting our bait at other fishermen than at the fish!

### 4. The Ultimate Question

The ultimate question is not...

- ✓ How many Sundays in a row you have attended?
- ✓ How much money you have given?
- ✓ How many programs you are involved in?

Although all these things are good and needed.

The ultimate question is...

- ✓ How many disciples have you produced?

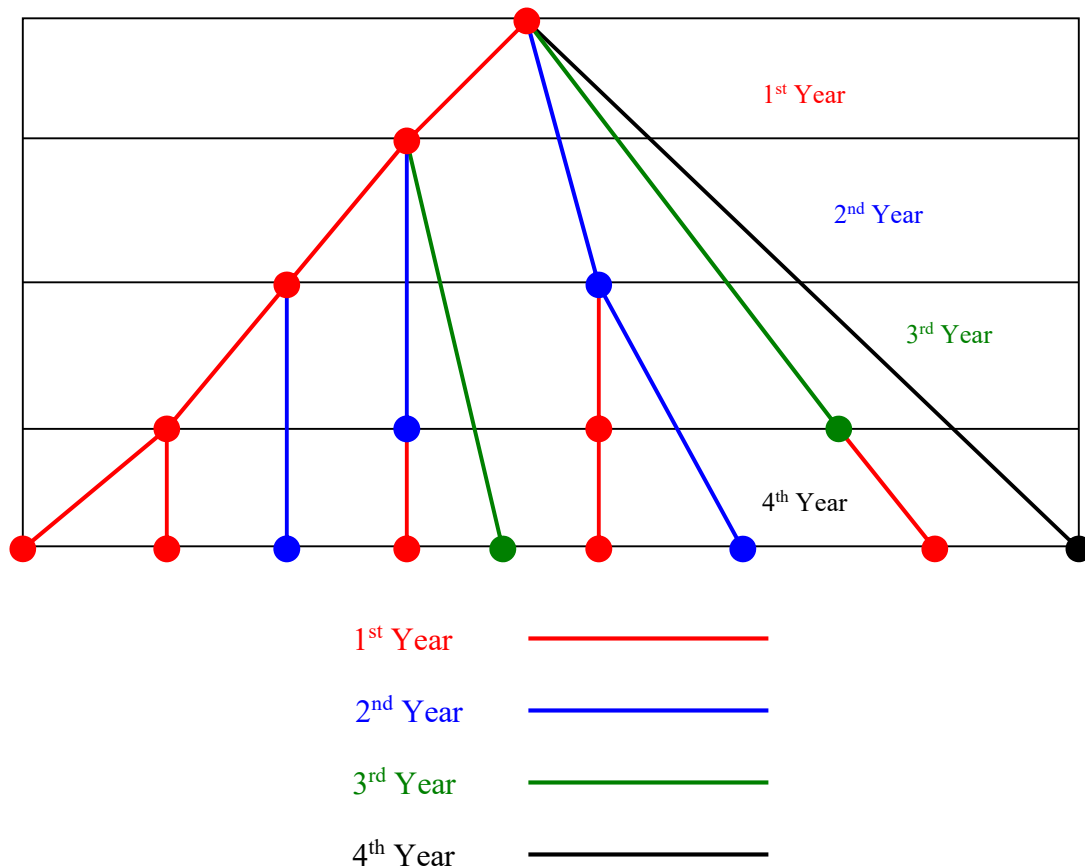
## EXPLORE LEVEL 4

### 5. The Ultimate Conclusion - *The Duplication Principle*

As **disciples** of Jesus Christ we are not just apples on the Kingdom of God tree; we are apples that are to grow into trees and reproduce more apples, who will grow into trees and reproduce more apples, etc.

The true formula for world evangelization and discipleship is not **addition**, it is **multiplication**.

### God's Multiplication Tree



If once each year, each person won and discipled one person to Christ, then in 4 years 16 people would have become disciples of Jesus Christ!

**TRUTH #1: Each one must be won!**

**TRUTH #2: Each one must reach one!**

**EXPLORE  
LEVEL 4**

**Class Notes**