

“Training the Trainer”

Equipping for Maturity – Ephesians 4:11-13

Conference Schedule

DAY ONE - INTRODUCTION & FAITH/LOVE/HOPE

- **Topic #1: Introduction**
- **Topic #2: Faith – Love – Hope** Building Confidence
- **Lunch**
- **Topic #2: Faith – Love – Hope** Continued

DAY TWO - REVIEW & SALVATION – THE STORY . . .

- **Review** Remember what you Learned on Day One
- **Topic #3: Salvation** *Learn* the Story so You Can Tell the Story
- **Lunch**
- **Topic #3: Salvation** Continued
- **Topic #4: Evangelism** Learn How to *Tell* the Story

DAY THREE – EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

- **Topic #4: Evangelism** Review; Practice Preaching the Gospel
- **Topic #5: Discipleship** Train Others in Faith, Love, Hope & Obedience
- **Lunch**
- **Topic #5: Discipleship** Teach Others Prayer, Temptation, & the end of the World

DAY FOUR – THE BRIDE & REVIEW/COMMUNION

- **Topic 6a: Hope & the Godly Woman** Taught to the Ladies by Joanne during Ron’s Session
- **Topic 6b: The Bride & a Godly Man** Taught by Ron
- **Topic 7: Review & Communion**
- **Hand out Certificates**

Topic #1 – Introduction

Why We Are Here

- I. Who I am & Why We're Here
 - a. My background and ministry.
 - b. We're here to equip you for evangelizing, teaching, and turning 'believers' into 'followers'.

- II. What We'll Learn Together
 - a. **Faith, love**, and hope in **detail**.
 - b. The *story*: Why **salvation** is necessary.
 - c. How to tell the story: **Evangelism**.
 - d. How to help others grow in faith: **Discipleship**.

- III. The Conference is a Progression
 - a. You Can't Tell the Story Unless You Know it . . .
 - b. Learn to *tell* the story.
 - c. Learn to *live* the story.

- IV. Let's Begin with Understanding Why the Church is here and what we Should be Doing
 - a. **The Church**:
 - i. What it *should* look like
 - ii. Roles of the Church
 - iii. Leadership Revisited
 - b. Jesus' **Commandments**

Topic #1 – Introduction

Overview

Thank you for joining me in discipleship!

Over the next several days, we will become more mature in the knowledge of the Spirit and will learn to train those who need to grow in the spirit.

You will learn many things during our time together:

- The story of salvation
- How to tell the story
- How to live the story
- What the Church should look like
- Faith, love, and hope
- Holiness and purity
- The Holy Spirit: gifts and roles
- Disciple Faith (assurance)
 1. Bible Study
 2. Obedience (love)
 3. Prayer
 4. Dealing with Temptation
 5. The end of the world (hope)
- Being a godly man to our bride, as we expect our groom Jesus to treat us

Points to Remember

- A. We are here to **train** you, the trainer.
- B. There will be **much information**. Pay close attention!
- C. The conference is a **progression**: learn, do, and teach.
- D. You'll get much out of the conference if you take notes, **participate**, and review once you get back to your homes.
- E. You can **download my speaker notes** from findingdiscipleship.org after I return to the United States!

Topic #1 - Introduction (Speaker Notes)

Why We Are Here

I. Who I am & Why We're Here

a. My **background** and ministry.

- **Faith challenged** 20 years ago.
- My **desire to teach others** to grow in faith.
- Finding Discipleship **founded** in 2010.
- Book **published** in 2011.
- **Ordination** in 2012 with International Ministerial Fellowship.
- **Today**: Speaking, teaching, discipleship, and writing.

b. We're here to **equip** you for evangelizing, teaching, and turning 'believers' into 'followers'.

- Give you the **tools** to be obedient - to love.
- Faith – belief – **alone is useless**.

II. What We'll Learn Together

a. Faith, love, and hope in detail.

- The **confidence** leading to **faith** and the **assurance** of hope.
- **Obedience** - love.
- Our **blessed hope**, the appearing of our Lord Jesus for the gathering of His children and the marriage supper in heaven; and a new heaven and earth.

b. The *story*: Why **salvation** is necessary.

- In the **beginning** . . .
- **Covenant** and **rescuing**

c. How to tell the story: **Evangelism**.

- **Everyone** is called to preach!
- **Learn** to do this.
- Learn to **teach** others to do this.

d. How to help others grow in faith: **Discipleship**.

- How can we **obey** what we **don't know**?
- We must hold each other **accountable**.

III. The Conference is a **Progression**

a. You Can't Tell the Story Unless You Know it!

b. Learn to *tell* the story.

c. Learn to *live* the story.

IV. Let's Begin with Understanding **Why the Church is here and what we Should be Doing**

a. The **Church**:

i. What it *should* look like

○ **Benevolence, accountability, and training**

ii. **Functions of the Church**

○ **Worship, benevolence, discipleship, and governance**

○ **Define and expound on worship**

iii. **Leadership Revisited**

○ Leadership **defined** (influence)

○ **Apostle** (closed office)

○ **Bishop / Pastor / Elder** (same qualifications; different scope)

○ **Deacon** (spiritually-mature helper)

b. **Jesus' Commandments** we are to obey if we love him

➤ **Honor God** with all we are and have

➤ Be **charitable** to others

Topic #2 - Building Confidence (4.5 Hours)

Understanding Faith, Love, Hope, & Appropriate Action

- I. **Faith:** Confidence Learned and Relearned as we Grow and Change
- Defined:** confidence; the assurance of things unseen. (Hebrews 10:39 & 11:1)
 - The **source** of confidence is Scripture & fulfillment. (Romans 10:17)
 - We learn God's words to become 'wise unto salvation.' (**2Timothy 3:13-17**)
 - A shallow faith can lead to deception. (1Timothy 4:1; 2Timothy 2:18; Matthew 24:10-13)
 - Avoid deception by learning God's words and ways. (i.e. Colossians 2:6-8)
 - Faith and good doctrine are related. (**1Timothy 4:6-7 & Titus 1:10-14**)
 - Discipleship and mentoring lead to a firm foundation in faith. (Matthew 13:3-8 & 18-23)
 - Faith **MUST** lead to action. (**James 1:22-24 & James 2:17-20**)

~ Day One Lunch ~

- II. **Love:** Obedience – Faith in Action – how we get from *faith* to *hope*, the *present* to the *future*.
- The Bible defines love in three primary ways:
 - Lust** – strong desire – in the Bible. (**Matthew 5:27-28; Ephesians 2:1-3**)
 - Fondness** examples from the Bible (there are several others!).
 - Philadelphia** - brotherly love (**Hebrews 13:1**)
 - Philarguria** - love of money (greed) (**Hebrews 13:5**)
 - True love** is charitable *action* (**Matthew 22:35-40; John 3:16, 13:34 & 14:15; Matthew 24:10-13; John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 13**)
- III. **Hope:** Faith in Completion
- Faith enables us to hope for what we can't yet see. (**Hebrews 11:1; Romans 8:24-25**)
 - Grace saves us according to our hope. (**Titus 3:5-7 & Matthew 25:32-34**)
 - We hope through the resurrection. (**1Peter 1:3-5**)
 - We persevere and stay strong to overcome the world and follow Jesus:
 - Tribulation brings perseverance, character, and hope (Romans 5:1-8)
 - Stay obedient despite trials (**1Peter 1:6-13**)

~ End of Day One ~

Topic #2 - Building Confidence

Overview

In the next few hours, we'll learn more about **faith** (confidence), **Love** (obedience), and **Hope** (the return of our Christ and our salvation).

It is **impossible** to please God and our Christ **without faith and resulting works** done out of obedience. Because we believe, we act. Our belief and actions help us to **persevere** to the very end to our salvation.

Points to Remember

- A.** Faith is confidence. That confidence is why we have hope.
- B.** Faith comes from the Bible and our own interaction with God and followers.
- C.** Strong faith will keep us from being deceived and moving toward right living.
- D.** True love is action. Faith alone is useless to our neighbors and God!
- E.** True love is the obedience that proves we love our God and Christ.
- F.** True love results in honoring God with all we are and all we have, and caring for others.
- G.** Hope is confidence in the future rescuing – salvation – from God's punishment.
- H.** We reach our hope by persevering until the end.

Topic #2 - Building Confidence (4.5 Hours)

Understanding Faith, Love, Hope, & Appropriate Action

I. **Faith:** Confidence Learned and Relearned as we Grow and Change

- a. **Defined:** confidence; the assurance of things unseen. (Hebrews 10:39 & 11:1)

*But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have **faith to the preserving of the soul**. —Hebrews 10:39.*

*Now faith is the **assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen**. — Hebrew 11:1.*

- Define faith & confidence.
- Explain how it makes us confident of what we **can't see**, and **confident of the future**.
- **EXAMPLES:**
 - **Abel** (better sacrifice; continued reputation of righteousness)
 - **Enoch** (pleased God and didn't see death)
 - **Noah** (faith led to hope of salvation through the building of the ark)
 - **Abraham and Sarah** (obeyed and moved to a foreign land; conceived in old age to birth a nation; Abraham offered Isaac [even though they didn't see the promise])
 - **Moses** (left Egypt and endured)
 - **Rahab** (protected the Israelite spies and lived)
 - **New Testament Saints** (the disciples; Stephen; Paul; other martyrs)

- **Real life** (job, wife, etc.)

b. **The source of confidence is Scripture & fulfillment. (Romans 10:17)**

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. —Romans 10:17.

➤ Faith comes from **‘hearing’**

➤ **Examples** of ‘hearing’:

- Reading, **studying**, and meditating (R-C-A)
- **Discipleship**
- **Witnessing** God at work in our lives because of obedience

c. **We learn God’s words to become ‘wise unto salvation.’ (2Timothy 3:13-17)**

*But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, **deceiving** and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for **training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped** for every good work.*

➤ The sacred writings that foretold Christ; dress-rehearsals also fulfilled by the Christ!

➤ God’s words equip!

➤ We can’t obey what we don’t know!

➤ We may not be able to learn about right living without discipleship and accountability.

- d. **A shallow faith can lead to deception. (1Timothy 4:1; 2Timothy 2:18; Matthew 24:10-13)**

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons —1Timothy 4:1

*men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the **resurrection has already** taken place, and they **upset the faith of some**. —2Timothy 2:18.*

*At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will **mislead many**. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. **But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.** — Matthew 24:10-13.*

- Paul and Jesus warned against this.
- We **can** believe anything if we don't know the truth.

- e. **Avoid deception by learning God's words and ways. (i.e. Colossians 2:6-8)**

*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and **established in your faith**, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through **philosophy and empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, **rather than according to Christ**.*

- We learn of God and His ways to ensure no one can lie to us.

f. Faith and good doctrine are related. (1Timothy 4:6-7 & Titus 1:10-14)

*In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a **good servant** of Christ Jesus, constantly **nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine** which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, **discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness** —1Timothy 4:6-7.*

*For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and **deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, **teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain**. One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be **sound in the faith**, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. —Titus 1:10-14.*

- If you don't know or believe in the truth, you could **believe in a lie** that can lead you away from salvation!

g. Discipleship and mentoring = a firm foundation in faith. (Matthew 13:3-8 & 18-23)

- Jesus told a parable of about soil and seeds; it shows the relationship between an understanding and internalizing of the Scriptures and true faith that can withstand lies and deceit.
 - Beside the **road**: Does not understand; snatched away
 - **Rocky** places: Hears; joyful for a moment; affliction or persecution = falling away
 - **Thorns**: Worries of the world and deceitfulness of wealth = unfruitful
 - **Good** soil: Good, fruitful crop

h. Faith MUST lead to action. (James 1:22-24 & James 2:17-20)

*But prove yourselves **doers** of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a **hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately **forgotten** what kind of person he was. —James 1:22-24.*

*Even so **faith, if it has no works, is dead**, being by itself. But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.**” You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that **faith without works is useless?** — James 2:17-20.*

- This passage matches what Jesus said about **caring** for others.
- God will judge us on this (Matthew 25:31-46 and Revelation 20:11-15)!

~ Day One Lunch ~

II. Love: Obedience – Faith in Action – how we get from *faith* to *hope*, the *present* to the *future*.

- The **action** we’re to show out of faith is **love**.
- This action helps us persevere to salvation.

a. Love is defined in three **primary** ways in the Bible:

- Let’s discuss the three basic types of love in the Bible:

i. **Lust – strong desire – in the Bible. (Matthew 5:27-28; Ephesians 2:1-3)**

- Lust is **coveting** or **strong desire to have** something. **EXAMPLES:**
 - Psalm 21:2 (desire) where God satisfies your lusts if they are good and right for you;
 - Proverbs 10:24 (desire) where the lust of the righteous shall be granted;
 - Psalm 19:7-10 (desired) where the Law of the Lord is to be coveted after,
- We can have lust in the right context (i.e. lust of the righteous, God coveting us, etc.); it's not always a bad thing. But it can lead us to **act out of temptation**.

*You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with **lust** for her has **already committed** adultery with her in his heart. —Matthew 5:27-28.*

- Closely related to what Jesus said is **intent**.
- Anyone who intends to practice disobedience against God by living according to desires of the flesh will suffer His wrath.

*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of **disobedience**. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. —Ephesians 2:1-3.*

ii. **Fondness** examples from the Bible (there are several others!)

- The second kind of love – also born of human **emotion** – is **fondness**. Let us consider a couple of **examples**:

1. **Philadelphia** - brotherly love (**Hebrews 13:1**)

*Let love of the **brethren** continue.*

2. **Philarguria** - love of money (greed) (**Hebrews 13:5**)

*Make sure that your character is free from the love of **money**, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,”*

iii. **True love** is charitable *action* (**Matthew 22:35-40; John 3:16, 13:34 & 14:15; Matthew 24:10-13; John 13:35; 1Corinthians 13:4-7**)

- Explain **agape** love.
- We must actionably love God with everything we are and have and treat our fellow human charitably.

*One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.” —**Matthew 22:35-40.***

- Despite how God has often ‘felt’ about humans, **He kept His word and gave**:

*For God so **loved** the world, that He **gave** His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. —**John 3:16.***

- Jesus said that we are to actionably love each other as He has loved us.

*A new **commandment** I give to you, that you **love** one another, even as I have **loved** you, that you also love one another. —John 13:34.*

- Our obedience out of faith is how we show **our** love.

*If you **love** Me, you will **keep** My commandments. —John 14:15.*

- Charitable action and obedience will **decrease** or cease in **the last days**. But we must **persevere** and remain obedient to be **saved** from God's wrath.

*At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, **most people's love will grow cold**. But the one who endures to the end, he will be **saved**. —Matthew 24:10-13.*

- The world will know **we belong to God** through the Christ if we have **charitable** love and, therefore, obey.

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. —John 13:35.

- Love truly is **righteous** action that is **kindness, humility, righteousness, justness, and truthfulness**.

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. —1Corinthians 13:4-7.

- We learn several **actions** from these passages about love:
 - We are to **honor** Jehovah with all we are and have.
 - We are also to be **charitable** to our neighbors and treat them as God commanded through Moses and the prophets.
 - God *gave* . . .
 - If we love Christ, we will *keep* . . .
 - Those of us who **keep** the commandments and love will be **saved**.
 - The world will know we belong to Jesus because of **our actions**.

III. **Hope: Faith in Completion**

a. Faith enables us to hope for what we can't yet see. (**Hebrews 11:1; Romans 8:24-25**)

- Faith is confidence that helps us believe in what we can't see and look forward to what hasn't happened yet.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. — Hebrews 11:1.

- We're saved from God's wrath by **persevering** to the end when we'll see what we've **hoped** for.

For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. —Romans 8:24-25.

b. **We're saved by grace according to our hope. (Titus 3:5-7 & Matthew 25:32-34)**

*He **saved** us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His **mercy**, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the **Holy Spirit**, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the **hope of eternal life**. — Titus 3:5-7.*

*“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘**Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**’”. —Matthew 25:32-34.*

- Those who will inherit the kingdom have been regenerated and renewed by God's Spirit. These are the faithful, obedient sheep.

c. **We hope through the resurrection. (1Peter 1:3-5)**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great **mercy** has caused us to be born again to a **living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, to obtain an **inheritance** which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, **reserved in heaven** for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a **salvation ready to be revealed in the last time**.*

- We're confident of the future rescuing because of the resurrection of the past – that thing that we have *faith* in.

d. **We persevere and stay strong to overcome the world and follow Jesus:**

- We must enter into a covenant with God through Jesus and stay there. We do this by persevering through hard times.

i. Tribulation brings perseverance, character, and hope (Romans 5:1-8)

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, **knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.** —Romans 5:1-8.*

- God doesn't lead into temptation or evil or normally push us into trials.
- Working through trials makes us stronger, wiser, and better-able to persevere.

ii. Stay obedient despite trials (1Peter 1:6-13)

*In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various **trials**, so that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **tested** by fire, may be found to result in **praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ**; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, **obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls**. As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things into which angels long to look. Therefore, **prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

- Persevering through trials proves faith. We wouldn't suffer for what we don't believe.
- Persevering will result in salvation.
- **Prepare** for action so we can persevere to the return of Jesus. How? **Read, study, meditate, and apply.** Then, teach others to do the same!

~ End of Day One ~

Topic #3 - Preparing to Evangelize

Understanding Salvation (the Story)

- I. **Review:** Why We Are Here; Faith, Love, and Hope

- II. **Salvation**
 - a. Disobedience & Judgment: **Hope** revisited.
 - i. Sin defined
 - ii. God's punishment for disobedience. (**Romans 6:23**; Colossians 3:6)
 - b. God's Will: An introduction. Salvation, covenants, & reconciliation.
 - c. Conviction – **faith** revisited: What's *your* story?
 - d. Obedience – **Love** revisited.
 - i. We prove our love for Jesus through obedience (**John 14:15 & 23**)
 - ii. **Commandments:** Honor God, and be benevolent (**Matthew 22:35-40**)
 - iii. How to start being obedient
 1. Learn about God and His ways
 2. Turn faith into action (**James 2:14-17**)
 3. Repent of sin & don't practice it (**Acts 11:18; Romans 2:5**)
 4. Take our thoughts captive (**2Corinthians 10:5**)

- III. **Holiness & Purity**
 - a. Purity, Morality, & Holiness defined. (**Philippians 4:8** and **2Peter 1:5-8**)
 - b. Be dead to immorality and impurity. (**Colossians 3:5-8** and Ephesians 5:3-5)
 - c. Be pure - set apart from wicked behavior. (**2Corinthians 7:1**)
 - d. Self-control (our true **spiritual worship**) and resulting purity lead to life. (**1Timothy 5:5-6**)

~ Day Two Lunch ~

- IV. **The Holy Spirit**
 - a. His role as comforter & teacher. (**John 14:26** and **16:13**, and 2Peter 1:21)
 - b. And His gifts including tongues, interpretation, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, and discerning of spirits. (Acts 2:4; **1Corinthians 12:7-10**)
 - c. '**Fruits**' (manifestations) of the Spirit of God: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** (**Galatians 5:22-24**)

Topic #3 - Preparing to Evangelize

Overview

Salvation will be our **rescuing** from God's coming judgment and punishment – **hell**. This location is where all disobedient spirits will be at the end of this age.

What will be the difference between the obedient spirits and disobedient spirits? Disobedient spirits **practice unrepentant sin** that is a rebellion against God's ways and will.

What is **God's primary will**? That ALL spirits reconcile to Him; this has driven several **covenants**.

Those who become convinced – even a little – of our God and Christ and their salvation **obey their commandments**. We'll learn much about those commandments today.

Faith. Repentance. Obedience, which is true love. These will lead to our **salvation**.

Obedience results in **holiness** and **purity**. In honoring God, we pursue purity and are **set apart** from wicked behavior. According to the Bible, **self-control** resulting in obedience is our **true worship**.

Being obedient on our own can be difficult. But God's **Holy Spirit can help** us so we'll display '**fruits**' in our obedience.

Points to Remember

- A.** You can't evangelize the story – salvation – unless *you* understand it!
- B.** Faith is confidence. That confidence is why we have hope.
- C.** True love is the obedience that proves we love our God and Christ.
- D.** Hope is confidence in the future rescuing – salvation – from God's punishment.
- E.** Hell will be the punishment for disobedience.
- F.** Repent and act out of faith to avoid punishment.
- G.** Obedience leads to holiness (being set apart).
- H.** Self-control is our true spiritual worship; it leads to obedience.
- I.** God's Holy Spirit can help us display fruits in our obedience.

Topic #3 - Preparing to Evangelize

Understanding Salvation (the Story)

I. **Review: Why We Are Here; Faith, Love, and Hope**

Topic #2 (Building Confidence) Points to Remember

- A. Faith is confidence. That confidence is why we have hope.
- B. Faith comes from the Bible and our own interaction with God and His chosen people.
- C. Strong faith will keep us from being deceived and moving toward right living.
- D. True love is action.
- E. True love is the obedience that proves we love our God and Christ.
- F. True love results in honoring God with all we are and all we have, and caring for others.
- G. Hope is confidence in the future rescuing – salvation – from God's punishment.
- H. We reach our hope by persevering until the end.

II. **Salvation**

a. **Disobedience & Judgment: Hope revisited.**

i. **Sin defined**

- Missing God's standard.
- We are to hold each other **accountable** to this standard. Yes, we are to **judge** and **correct** but with gentleness and in private if possible!
- Sin is a **rebellion against God** that leads to **death** unless we **repent**.
- **Repentance:** Change in behavior that comes from a change of heart.

ii. **God's punishment for disobedience. (Romans 6:23; Colossians 3:6)**

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. —Romans 6:23.

For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience —Colossians 3:6.

- Paul reminds us that Christ has freed us from sin = sanctification = eternal life.
- Paul also reminds us that the opposite is true: “*For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience*”

b. **God's Will: An introduction. Salvation, covenants, & reconciliation.**

➤ **Overarching will:** Reconciliation.

➤ Remember that **salvation** = **rescue** from wrath.

➤ God established several **covenants** with His creation for reconciliation:

- **Noah**
- **Abraham**
- **Moses**
 - I will be yours if you will be mine
 - The promise of a savior for the entire world
- **The Christ**

c. Conviction – **faith** revisited: What's *your* story?

- Everyone who follows our Christ does so out of belief.
 - We must **work** out our salvation with 'fear and trembling'.
- Everyone has a **story of why**.
- Why do *I* believe?
- Think about why *you* believe.

d. Obedience – **Love** revisited.

- Remember that true love = **action, not emotion** although it is possible that human **emotion CAN lead to action *agape* love.**

i. We prove our love for Jesus through obedience (**John 14:15 & 23**)

*If you love Me, you will **keep** My commandments. —John 14:15.*

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone **loves Me**, he will **keep** My word; and **My Father will love him**, and We will come to him and make **Our abode** with him."
—John 14:23.*

- True followers of our God and Christ **obey by keeping** the commandments; they will be with God and Christ in the third heaven at the end of this age and in the new age when God will **dwell** among His people.
- **EXAMPLES** of how we can **OBEY**?

ii. **Commandments: Honor God, and be benevolent (Matthew 22:35-40)**

One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

- This passage is in line with Jesus' 'new commandment': Love others as He has loved us.
- Think about the **Ten Commandments**.

iii. **How to become obedient**

- **Knowing** that we must be obedient is one thing; **being** obedient is another.

1. **Learn about God and His ways**

- We can't obey what we **don't know!**

2. **Turn faith into action (James 2:14-17)**

*What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? **Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.***

- Knowledge **without application is useless.**
- James' confirmation reminds us that our care of each other is how we'll be **judged** (remember Jesus' **second commandment!**).

3. **Repent of sin & don't practice it (Acts 11:18; Romans 2:5)**

*When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the **repentance that leads to life.**" —Acts 11:18.*

- **Repentance** enables salvation; **un-repentance** brings death!

*But because of your stubbornness and **unrepentant** heart you are **storing up wrath** for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God —Romans 2:5.*

- **Unrepentance** will lead to judgment and **hell**
- **Redefine repentance:** A *change* of behavior that comes from a *change* of heart!
 - **EXAMPLES of REPENTANCE!**
- Discuss sinning versus *practicing* sin.

- Read the following verses

*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; **DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**' —Matthew 7:21-23.*

*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**—Galatians 5:19-21.*

4. **Take our thoughts captive (2Corinthians 10:5)**

*We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are **taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,***

- **Self-control** of our thoughts and actions lead to obedience; obedience leads to eternal life and reward!

*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy **sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual service of worship.** —Romans 12:1.*

III. **Holiness & Purity**

a. **Purity, Morality, & Holiness defined. (Philippians 4:8 and 2Peter 1:5-8)**

*Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is **pure**, whatever is lovely, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell** on these things. —Philippians 4:8.*

- Dwell on pure, right things. **EXAMPLES?**
- Practicing purity and holiness (being set apart from wickedness) produces useful fruit in following Jesus:

*Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply **moral excellence**, and in your moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in your knowledge, **self-control**, and in your self-control, **perseverance**, and in your perseverance, **godliness**, and in your godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. —2Peter 1:5-8.*

- Faith – moral excellence – knowledge – self-control – perseverance – godliness – brotherly kindness – love = **fruitfulness** in Christ!

b. **Be dead to immorality and impurity. (Colossians 3:5-8 and Ephesians 5:3-5)**

*Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as **dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed**, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. But now you also, **put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth**. —Colossians 3:5-8.*

But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. —Ephesians 5:3-5.

- Be dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed.
- Put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech.
- Remember the consequences of those who **practice** this behavior: *For it is because of these things that the **wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience** — Colossians 3:9.*

c. **Be pure - set apart from wicked behavior. (2Corinthians 7:1)**

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

- Being holy means ‘**set apart**’.
- We are to be **holy as God is holy**: be set apart from wickedness as God is.
- We are to **fear** God. This is a healthy respect, as we understand His just nature.

d. **Self-control (our true spiritual worship) and resulting purity lead to life. (1Timothy 5:5-6)**

*Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. But she who **gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.***

- Remember that God will give anyone who **practices** sin over to that sin to become **enslaved** to it and headed for **hell**.

- And **again**: *Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy **sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual service of worship**.* —Romans 12:1.

~ Day Two Lunch ~

IV. **The Holy Spirit**

- a. **His role as comforter & teacher. (John 14:26 and 16:13, and 2Peter 1:21)**

*But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach** you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. —**John 14:26**.*

*But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but **whatever He hears, He will speak**; and He will disclose to you what is to come. —**John 16:13**.*

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. —2Peter 1:21.

- The Spirit is our connection to God the Father, who is in the third heaven preparing a place for us.
- The Spirit speaks and gives gifts to accomplish God's good pleasure, not ours.

- b. **And His gifts including tongues, interpretation, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, and discerning of spirits. (Acts 2:4; 1Corinthians 12:7-10)**

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. —Acts 2:4.

*But to each one is given the manifestation of the **Spirit for the common good**. For to one is given the word of **wisdom** through the Spirit, and to another the word of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit; to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of **miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another the **distinguishing of spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, and to another the **interpretation of tongues**. —1Corinthians 12:7-10.*

- **Wisdom. Knowledge. Faith. Gifts of Healing. Miracles. Prophecy. Distinguishing of Spirits. Tongues. Interpretation of Tongues.**
 - Tongues can be the **language of heaven** for Church edification or private prayer.
 - Church edification requires **interpretation**.
 - Tongues can be the **languages of men** for the purpose of spreading the Gospel (think **Pentecost!**).
- For the common good! Don't think for a moment that you're entitled to any particular spiritual gift for your sake or that any must be permanent.
 - **One-time** prophecies in Israel.
 - The Spirit was giving gifts to accomplish God's will in ancient Israel (building the **tabernacle**).

c. **'Fruits'** (manifestations) of the Spirit of God: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** (Galatians 5:22-24)

➤ *But the **fruit** of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

- **Characteristics of followers** when the Spirit is at work within them.
- There's **self-control** again . . .
- Discuss '**tares**' and how you can tell them apart from followers because of **fruit**.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE STORY of SALVATION and the WAY, LET'S BUILD YOU UP TO BE BOLD TO TELL OTHERS THAT STORY!

Topic #4 - Building **Boldness** in Evangelizing

Instruction and practical application

V. **Evangelism**

- a. Who has been called to evangelize? Everyone! (1Peter 3:15-16; **Matthew 28:19-20**)
- b. How do we evangelize?
 - i. **Prepare** – be convinced (**2 Timothy 3:14-17** and **1Peter 3:15-16**)
 - ii. **Build relationships** (those you tell the Gospel message to must trust you)
 - iii. **Live** the life – walk the talk and be consistent
 - iv. **Use what you know**. Take advantage of your experiences
 - v. Look for **opportunities**:
 1. Relationships
 2. Charity
 3. Personal testimonies and experiences. Go from ‘known’ to the ‘unknown’
 4. Be prepared to explain ‘why’ (1Peter 3:15-16)
- c. Examples:
 - i. Woman at the well (John 4:6-42)
 - ii. Blind man healed by Jesus (John Chapter Nine)
 - iii. Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:22-49), immediately after healing the lame man (Acts 3:12-26), and the day after healing the lame man (Acts 4:7-12)
 - iv. Stephen before being stoned (Acts 7:2-53)
 - v. Paul in Pisidian Antioch on the Sabbath (Acts 13:16-41)
 - vi. Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16-32), before the governor (Acts 24:10-15), and before Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:6-28)
 - vii. Jonathan Edwards (Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God)
 - viii. Ron’s
- d. **Homework**: Think about how you would evangelize the Gospel message.

~ End of Day Two ~

Topic #4 - Building **Boldness** in Evangelizing

Overview

Everyone has been called to evangelize the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice, the covenant that sacrifice enabled, and the wrath of hell that covenant keeps us from.

We can tell the story of salvation to anyone, but trust helps the message sound credible.

Trust can be built in our relationships.

We can use our circumstances or those of others to tell the story.

During this session, we will learn ways to tell the story by examining several examples by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and preacher Jonathan Edwards.

Points to Remember

- A. Everyone has been commanded to tell others the message of salvation.
- B. There are two ways of evangelizing:
 - The short message of salvation you can tell everyone.
 - The longer message that will use what you have (i.e. relationships) or what you know
- C. Relationships help build trust. Use them.
- D. Use your circumstances or those of others.
- E. Live the life to be credible.
- F. You will have **homework tonight** in preparation for tomorrow morning's session: Think about how *you* would evangelize the Gospel messages, both short and long.

Topic #4 - Building **Boldness** in Evangelizing

Instruction and practical application

V. **Evangelism**

- a. **Who has been called to evangelize? Everyone! (1Peter 3:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20)**

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. —1Peter 3:15-16.

*Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching** them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. —Matthew 28:19-20.*

- And Peter tells us, as you're about to learn, to always have a **defense** for our faith when someone asks why we believe what we believe.

- b. **How do we evangelize?**

- i. **Prepare – be convinced (2 Timothy 3:14-17 and 1Peter 3:15-16)**

*You, however, **continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of**, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the **wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus**. All **Scripture** is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. —2Timothy 3:14-17.*

- Read the **Scripture** – Old Testament.
- The Scripture gives wisdom that leads to **salvation**.
- The Law and prophecies of the Old Testament were inspired by God and spoken through the Spirit and useful for:
 - **Teaching**
 - **Reproof**
 - **Correction**
 - **Training** in Righteousness
 - **Equipping** for good works

*but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.** –1Peter 3:15-16.*

- Be ready to **defend your faith**
 - You can't defend what you **don't know**
 - Defend with **gentleness** and **reverence**
- ii. **Build relationships** (people you teach the Gospel message to must **trust** you)

- iii. **Live the life – practice what you preach and be consistent**
 - Even the smallest **bad witness** can shut off Christ from the unsaved and cause Christians **weak in faith** to **stumble** or fall.

- iv. **Use what you know. Take advantage of your experiences**
 - **EXAMPLES** (i.e. **testimony**, **similar** desires or experiences, etc.)

- v. **Look for opportunities:**
 1. **Relationships = trust**
 2. **Charity = consideration of circumstances** and obedience
 3. **Personal testimonies and experiences. Go from ‘known’ to the ‘unknown’**
 4. **Be prepared to explain ‘why’ (1Peter 3:15-16)**

- c. **Examples – biblical and personal**
 - **Jesus, Stephen, Paul, and Peter** using the Law or Jewish heritage for common background.
 - **John the Baptist** and his short message heralding Jesus’ ministry.
 - Old Testament **prophets** and their foretelling of the Messiah.
 - **John the Revelator** and his foretelling of the completion of our faith.
 - **Personal testimonies** like mine.
 - Let’s consider the ‘**short**’ Gospel message:

~ The **Short**, Basic Message ~

- i. You must be able to tell the **basic Gospel message quickly** and in an easy-to-understand way.
 - Parts of the message:
 - Creation
 - Rebellion
 - Punishment
 - Salvation
 - Believe. Repent. Follow
 - **EXAMPLE:**
 - The Creator we call God made us for fellowship and eternal life with Him.
 - He had appointed a future punishment for all disobedient spirits. This is called 'hell'.
 - We disobeyed God and condemned ourselves to hell.
 - But He doesn't want this for us.
 - His human son we call Jesus agreed to live among men and die by their hand so the Creator could raise Him from the dead as a sign.
 - Believe this and return to the Creator and follow His ways to live in the spirit forever and avoid the punishment of hell.

~ **EXAMPLES** of the **Longer** Message ~

i. **Woman at the well (John 4:6-42)**

- **Overview:** Jesus used a Samaritan woman's situation to gain trust and attract others to listen to the Gospel.
- 3:00 PM at the well; Samaritan woman and Jesus.
- Jesus creates an interest through 'living water' she would've asked Him for had she known. **Her response:** "Are you greater than Jacob?"
- **Jesus:** "Well water will leave you thirsty; my water leads you to **eternal** life."
- **Jesus:** "Call to your husband." **Woman:** "I have no husband."
- **Jesus:** "You've had five husbands and the one you're with now isn't your husband." **Woman:** "I perceive you're a prophet." "Our fathers worshipped in Samaria, but Jews say Jerusalem . . ."
- **Jesus:** A time is coming when the location won't matter and people will worship the Father in spirit and truth. **Those are whom He seeks.**
- **Woman:** I know the Messiah is coming. **Jesus:** I am He.
- Many people in the village came to hear Jesus because of the testimony of the woman; then they believed in Jesus because of **what they heard.**

ii. **Blind man healed by Jesus (John Chapter Nine)**

- **Overview:** Jesus did the impossible by healing a man blind from birth and on the Sabbath to show that He's from God.
- Beggar blind from birth about to be **healed on the Sabbath** to enable the work of the Father.
- **Jesus** put spit-clay in his eyes and told him to wash in the pool.
- **Neighbors** kept asking "how"; the beggar kept telling them the truth.
- **Pharisees** kept asking "how"; the beggar told the truth.
- **Pharisees:** "This man isn't from God because He doesn't keep the **Sabbath**."
- **Beggar:** He's a prophet; Jews didn't believe.
- **Jews:** Interviewed the parents.
- **Parents:** Yes, he is our son blind from birth. How does he see? Ask him! They were afraid of being kicked out of the Synagogue.
- **Pharisees** asked again.
- **Beggar:** Same answer; "Do *you* want to become His disciples?"
- **Pharisees:** "You are His disciple; we are disciples of Moses." We know that God spoke to Moses; we don't know where this man is from."
- **Beggar:** "This man healed me and you don't where He is from? God hears those who do His will. This man must be of God since never has someone born blind been healed!"
- **Pharisees:** "You're a sinner and you teach us?" Beggar was kicked out of the Synagogue.

- **Jesus:** Explained to the beggar that He is the Son of Man. The beggar believed and worshipped Jesus.

- **Jesus:** Explained that He came into the world for judgment, to blind those who can see.

- **Pharisees:** “Are we too blind?”

- **Jesus:** “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see,’ **your sin remains.**”

iii. Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:22-49), immediately after healing the lame man (Acts 3:12-26), and the day after healing the lame man (Acts 4:7-12)

○ **Peter at Pentecost:**

- **Overview:** Peter used the Law and the Prophets to show how Jesus fulfilled them. Always start with a **common foundation** . . .
- Speaking to Jews about the Christ predetermined by God to die; “You” godless men nailed Him to a cross, but God raised Him according to the **Scriptures:**
 - Reminder of David’s hope because God would not abandon him to hades or let His HOLY ONE decay.
 - David foresaw the Christ, a descendent of David, seated at the right-hand of God’s throne; that God kept His promise of the Holy Spirit to the Christ.

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified.”

- **The Jews** pierced through the heart: *“What shall we do?”*
- **Peter: Repent** and be **baptized** in the name of Jesus and **receive** the Holy Spirit.
- **Three-thousand souls** were added to the kingdom that day: the same number lost during the *first Pentecost*.
- The Jews continued in discipleship and sharing resources.

○ **Immediately after healing the lame man:**

- **Overview:** The Jewish rulers didn't understand where the power to heal had come from; Peter reminded them that it was by faith in the One whom they rejected – the name by which we are saved.
- “*Why do you look at us as if we did this by our power?*”
- “*But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.*”
- Faith in Jesus is what has given the lame man ‘perfect health’.
- “*But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*”
- And after a time, the Christ will return.
- “*And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.*”
- “*It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers . . . For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.*”
- **The day after healing the lame man:**
 - **Overview:** A reminder by Peter that healing was made possible by faith in Jesus. The common ground is the Old Testament prophecies.
 - “*let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health.*”

- Quoting the Old Testament: “*He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone.*”
- “*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is **no other name** under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*”

iv. **Stephen before being stoned (Acts 7:2-53)**

- **Overview:** Stephen reminded the Jewish leaders of their history to provide a foundation.
- Through faith Abram left his home and then God moved him to what is now Jerusalem.
- Abraham received no inheritance and the Israelites would become slaves.
- Joseph sold into slavery; famine and Joseph's brothers' second visit.
- The story of the Israelites' 235-year occupation of Egypt.
- The story of Moses.
 - Cared for by his sister after being placed into a basket.
 - At 40 years, he killed the Egyptian.
 - After another 40 years, the burning bush and God's statement that Moses would be judge and ruler over the Israelites.
 - The golden calf.
 - The Israelites made the Tabernacle; but God doesn't dwell in houses made by man . . .
 - You 'stiff-necked' people killed the prophets and didn't keep the Law.
 - Stephen then saw heaven and the Son seated at the right-hand of the Father . . .

v. **Paul in Pisidian Antioch on the Sabbath (Acts 13:16-41)**

- **Overview:** Paul, being a Jewish Rabbi, was asked to give some exhortation after the Scripture reading. He used the opportunity to remind them of the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus.
- **Paul:** “Men of Israel and you who fear God”
- God’s rescue from Egypt; 40 years in the desert; land in Canaan as an inheritance; David a ‘man after God’s heart’.
- From David, a savior – Jesus; John’s baptism of repentance and heralding of the Messiah.
- **Paul:** “Men of Israel and you who fear God”
- The Jews didn’t recognize the Messiah of the prophets read in the Synagogues and Temple. They asked Pilate to condemn Him to death.
- Jesus was crucified but God raised Him; He appeared to many people.
- These eyewitnesses now preach the Gospel message. Paul referenced several Psalms:

that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.’

Therefore He also says in another Psalm, ‘YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.’

- David served his purpose in God’s plan of reconciliation, but:

*Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that **through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you**, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.*

vi. Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16-32) and before Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:6-28)

○ **Paul in Athens:**

- **Overview:** Paul used the Athenian altar made to an 'unknown god' to go from the 'known to the unknown' in teaching God and the Christ that saves.
- Waiting for Silas and Timothy in Athens.
- Paul's spirit was provoked because of the idols.

So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.

- Philosophers wondered what Paul was on about.

*He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"--because he was **preaching Jesus and the resurrection.***

- They took Paul to the Aeropagus to inquire about Paul's beliefs.
- The Areopagus is the composite form of the Greek name Areios Pagos, translated "Ares Rock". It is north-west of the Acropolis in Athens. In classical times, it functioned as the high Court of Appeal for criminal and civil cases. **Wikipedia**
- Also translated as **Mars Hill**.

*(Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in **nothing other than telling or hearing something new.**)*

- Paul acknowledged that they are religious in all aspects and mentioned that he had seen the altar to ‘THE **UNKNOWN GOD**’.
 - He was to proclaim to them what they worship in ignorance.
 - The Creator who needs nothing does not dwell in temples or buildings made by the hands of man.
 - He made all mankind from one man and established boundaries.
 - His is close if we’ll only seek Him out.
 - We are the children of God – a god not formed by the art and thought of man.
 - After overlooking ignorance for a time, God is now declaring that everyone should repent because of the coming judgment through a man whom He raised from the dead: Jesus.
 - Although some scoffed, some suggested hearing more about God, and others believed and became followers.
- **Paul Before Herod Agrippa:**
- **Overview:** Paul has asked for an audience with Hebrew King Herod Agrippa II, knowing that they would have a common background: the Law and the prophets.
 - Paul acknowledges the **King’s heritage as a Jew and Paul’s background** as a Pharisee. This was to highlight that they know the Law and prophets; Paul is about to show the King how they’d been fulfilled by the Christ.

And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers;

Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?

- As a Pharisee, Paul persecuted the saints, pursuing them and sending them to their deaths.
- Then, the blinding on the road to Damascus.

'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

*So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.***

*So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, **stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place;** that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.*

vi. **Jonathan Edwards (Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God)**

- A Sermon Preached at Enfield, July 8th, 1741 by Jonathan Edwards, Pastor of the Church of Christ in Northampton.

'Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will slip; For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.' —Deuteronomy 32:35.

- They were always exposed to sudden unexpected destruction.

9. *Almost every natural Man that hears of Hell, flatters himself that he shall escape it; he depends upon himself for his own Security; he flatters himself in what he has done, in what he is now doing, or what he intends to do; every one lays out Matters in his own Mind how he shall avoid Damnation, and flatters himself that he contrives well for himself, and that his Schemes won't fail. They hear indeed that there are but few saved, and that the bigger Part of Men that have died heretofore are gone to Hell; but each one imagines that he lays out Matters better for his own escape than others have done: He don't intend to come to that Place of Torment;*

10. *God has laid himself under no Obligation by any Promises to keep any natural Man out of Hell one Moment.*

*So that whatever some have imagined and pretended about Promises made to natural Men's earnest seeking and knocking, 'tis plain and manifest that whatever Pains a natural Man takes in Religion, whatever Prayers he makes, till he believes in Christ, **God is under no manner of Obligation** to keep him a Moment from eternal Destruction.*

A P P L I C A T I O N.

The Use may be of Awakening to unconverted Persons in this Congregation . . . That World of Misery, that Lake of burning Brimstone is extended abroad under you. There is the dreadful Pit of the glowing Flames of the Wrath of God; there is Hell's wide gaping Mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, not any Thing to take hold of: there is nothing between

you and Hell but the Air; 'tis only the Power and meer Pleasure of God that holds you up.

Thus are all you that are never passed under the great Change of Heart, by the mighty Power of the SPIRIT of GOD upon your Souls; all that were never born again, and made new Creatures, and raised from being dead in Sin, to a State of new, and before altogether unexperienced Light and Life, (however you may have reformed your Life in many Things, and may have had religious Affections, and may keep up a Form of Religion in your Families and Closets, and in the House of God, and may be strict in it,) you are thus in the Hands of an angry God; 'tis nothing but his meer Pleasure that keeps you from being this Moment swallowed up in everlasting Destruction

'Tis doubtless the Case of some that heretofore you have seen and known, that never deserved Hell more than you, and that heretofore appeared as likely to have been now alive as you: Their Case is past all Hope; they are crying in extream Misery and perfect Despair; but here you are in the Land of the Living, and in the House of God, and have an Opportunity to obtain Salvation. What would not those poor damned, hopeless Souls give for none Day's such Opportunity as you now enjoy!

And now you have an extraordinary Opportunity, a Day wherein Christ has flung the Door of Mercy wide open, and stands in the Door calling and crying with a loud Voice to poor Sinners; a Day wherein many are flocking to him, and pressing into the Kingdom of God . . .

. . . You especially have now an extraordinary Opportunity; but if you neglect it, it will soon be with you as it is with those Persons that spent away all the precious Days of Youth in Sin, and are now come to such a dreadful pass in blindness and hardness.

And let every one that is yet out of Christ, and hanging over the Pit of Hell . . . now hearken to the loud Calls of God's Word and Providence. This acceptable Year of the Lord, that is a Day of such great Favour to some, will doubtless be a Day of as remarkable Vengeance to others.

vii. **Ron's** Example

- I came from broken homes and divorced families.
- I was doing bad things in God's eyes. And then I had a bad car accident but God spared my life.
- I became a soldier as a teenager so I could leave the home I was staying at.
- Despite my sinful nature, God, seeing my heart, saved me from myself and others and has equipped me to tell the good news of His salvation to the world and teach them what I have learned.

d. **Homework:** Think about how you would evangelize the Gospel message.

- What would your **short** message be?
- What would your **personal**, longer message be?
- **Why?** We'll **practice** this tomorrow.

~ End of Day Two ~

Topic #4 - Building **Boldness** in Evangelizing

Continued . . .

VI. **Evangelism: Review; Application & role playing . . .**

- **Review:** Read the Preview from Day Two.

Points to Remember

- A. Everyone has been commanded to tell others the message of salvation.
 - B. There are two ways of evangelizing:
 - The short message of salvation you can tell everyone.
 - The longer message that will use what you have (i.e. relationships) or what you know
 - C. Relationships help build trust. Use them.
 - D. Use your circumstances or those of others.
 - E. Live the life to be credible.
 - F. You will have **homework tonight** in preparation for tomorrow morning's session: Think about how *you* would evangelize the Gospel messages, both short and long.
-
- **Application:** We're going to learn how to apply what we've learned about evangelism.
 - **Role Playing:** I'll give an example, then look for volunteers (pairs) to try.

~ End of Topic #4 ~

Topic #5 – Discipleship

*Faith-Love-Hope; Temptation; Prayer; God's Will; Bible Study (the **how**)*

I. Discipleship **Introduction:**

- a. Discipleship defined and why it's necessary.
- b. Being a good disciple . . . AND mentor!
 - i. Must be a good follower & example
 - ii. Must be open to instruction
- c. Some foundations a disciple should learn:
 - i. Faith (assurance)
 - ii. Bible Study
 - iii. Obedience (love)
 - iv. Prayer
 - v. Dealing with Temptation
 - vi. The end of the world (hope)

II. Discipleship **Basics:**

- a. Developing **Faith:**
 - i. The Bible for new believers – **Faith**
 1. Primarily use the Bible (2Timothy 3:16)
 2. Understand the *Writer's* Intended Message (**2Peter 1:19-21**)
 3. Consider Written, Cultural, and Geographical Context
 4. Compare Scripture-to-Scripture to get the complete, true message (**1Timothy 4:6-7; 2Timothy 4:1-5**)
 5. How to Read
- b. Obedience – **Love** reviewed

~ Day Three Lunch ~

Topic #5 – Discipleship

Continued . . .

III. Discipleship **Basics Continued:**

a. **Prayer:**

- i. We're taught *how* to pray by Jesus (**Matthew 6:9-13**)
- ii. *What* to pray (ACTS): Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication
- iii. Some *conditions* for prayer
 1. Trust and don't be anxious (Ephesians 3:20; **Philippians 4:6**); Ask with the right motives and keep asking (**1John 5:14**; Luke 18:1-7); be specific!
 2. Not scripted; in private (**Matthew 6:5-8**)
 3. Role of the Spirit and our Christ (**Romans 8:26-27**)

b. Dealing with **temptation:**

- i. We give in and become enslaved (**James 1:14-15**; Romans 6:17-23; **2Peter 2:19**)
- ii. Jesus was tempted just like man (**Hebrews 2:18**). But God doesn't tempt or lead us into sinful behavior; we have free will (**Galatians 5:1**; **James 1:13-14**).
- iii. Overcoming temptation:
 1. Walk by the Spirit (**Galatians 5:16-17**; **John 16:7-8**; 2Corinthians 3:18)
 2. Become Christ's mind (**Romans 13:13-14**) by study & meditation
 3. Avoid causes of sin (i.e. **Matthew 5:29**) & pray (**Matthew 26:41**)

c. The end of the world – **Hope:**

- i. Salvation for anyone in covenant with God (**Matthew 26:28**; 1Corinthians 11:25-26)
- ii. **Our hope:** Confidence – rescue & future with God (2Peter 3:13; **Revelation 21:1-4**)
- iii. End-times sequence & events:
 1. Birth pains until the Antichrist (**Matthew 24:1-8**; Revelation 6:1-6)
 2. Seven-year agreement with Israel broken in the middle
 3. Antichrist's 3.5-year tribulation (Matthew 24:9-26); **Revelation 6:8-11**)
 4. Rescue & God's wrath (**Matthew 24:27-31**; 1Thessalonians 4:16-17; **Revelation 6:12-17**) and **marriage supper (Revelation 19:7-9)**
- iv. **Judgment (2Corinthians 5:10**; Matthew 25:31-46; **Revelation 20:11-15**)

d. Tools for discipleship (e-Sword, First Steps workbook PDF, journal, etc.)

~ End of Day Three ~

Topic #5 - Discipleship

Overview

We are not only called to evangelize the Gospel message of salvation but to also teach and disciple – **mentor** – those people who've accepted God's call to give their lives to Him in covenant.

Mentors and leaders must be of **good character and free from practicing sin**. They must also have been good followers and disciples. Perhaps they are still disciples and must be open to instruction from the spiritually more mature.

Why is discipleship necessary? It is a fact that someone who has heard the salvation message and not been mentored soon afterward will fall away from the faith like the seed Jesus spoke of that falls in the rocky places by the roadside.

*“The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he **falls away**.”*

So the disciple must learn fundamental practices such as increasing faith, dealing with temptation, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Points to Remember

- A. Discipleship is necessary to the growth of faith in new Christians!
- B. Anyone who discipled must be walking by the Spirit and a good example.
- C. A disciple must learn how to build faith through Bible study.
- D. A disciple must learn about the obedience faith must lead to for salvation.
- E. A disciple must learn how to pray and about things that may keep God from hearing them.
- F. A disciple must learn how to effectively deal with temptation before it becomes sinful action.
- G. A disciple must understand the salvation we hope for, understand how this age will end with our rescue.
- H. Tools for discipleship include the Bible, Internet applications, and workbooks.

Topic #5 – Discipleship

*Faith-Love-Hope; Temptation; Prayer; God's Will; Bible Study (the **how**)*

I. Discipleship Introduction:

a. Discipleship defined and why it's necessary.

- **Disciple** = someone who **learns**; a **follower**.
- Necessary to **teach doctrine to obtain knowledge** and help the disciple **apply** the knowledge.
- Implies *discipline* as a root.

b. Being a good disciple . . . AND mentor!

i. Must be a good follower & example

- You can't teach what you didn't learn.
- Your example can teach . . . or destroy a witness.

ii. Must be open to instruction

- You must be **teachable**, always able to learn and be a disciple.

c. Some foundations a disciple should learn:

i. Faith (assurance)

- They must learn where that confidence comes from and why it's importance to make it stronger.

ii. **Bible Study**

- The Bible is the primary source of building faith and training the disciple.
- You must know its parts and how to study it so you can teach the disciple.

iii. **Obedience (love)**

- **Faith** must lead to **action** to **prove** we 'love' God and Christ.
- Your obedience must be **visible** to those you teach.
- You must teach **how** to be obedient.

iv. **Prayer**

- Disciples must learn how to pray using **Jesus' model**.
- They must also learn what can keep God **from hearing** our prayers.

v. **Dealing with Temptation**

- Temptations are common to man; none is new. Jesus had to suffer and **conquer temptation**.
- Being tempted isn't a problem if we overcome it before we sin or intend to sin.

vi. **The end of the world (hope)**

- Faith is confidence in the **unseen** and the **assurance** of the **future** as God keeps His promise of **redemption**.

- Christ's return and our redemption at His appearing is our **Hope**: it's what we're confident will happen in the future.
- You must evangelize this hope and **teach the disciple to persevere** as they await fulfillment.
- Now, let's look at each of these topics of **faith, love, prayer**, dealing with **temptation**, and **hope** in more detail.

II. Discipleship **Basics**:

a. Developing **Faith**:

i. The Bible for new believers – **Faith**

1. Primarily use the Bible (2Timothy 3:16-17)

NOTE: Emphasize the 'Scriptures of the OT that make us wise unto salvation'

*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for **training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. —2Timothy 3:16-17.*

- The disciple must be convinced of the Gospel. This comes in great part from 'hearing' the Gospel.
- The Old Testament Torah, **Law**, and the **Prophets** teach us what God likes and doesn't like; how to honor Him.
- **Explain** how important it was to the Israelites: regular **review** and putting the Law into **action**.

2. Understand the *Writer's* Intended Message (2Peter 1:19-21)

*So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation**, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

- The prophets spoke on God's behalf just as the Spirit speaks what God the *Father of Spirits* instructs.
- What a verse or passage means to **you is NOT** important!
 - One meaning, many possible applications.

3. Consider Written, Cultural, and Geographical Context

- **Why** is this important? To get the real intended message.
- Who was the **audience**?
 - **Farmers**
 - **Fishermen**
 - **Religious** leaders
 - **Heathens**
- Why was the message given – what was being addressed?
 - Avoiding being deceived?
 - Avoiding sinful behavior? Dealing with **temptation**?
 - Dealing with sinful church members?

- **Fulfilling of prophecy** to build faith?
- **Historical** chronology?
- Where were the writer/speaker and audience located?
 - What was the **terrain**?
 - Again, this affects the **audience**.
- What political or social issues were going on at the time?
 - **Exodus** from Egypt
 - **Roman** occupation and domination
 - **Belief-only** culture (**James**)
 - **Works-only** culture (**Paul**)
 - **Pagan** practices – even in the temples; **Canaanite** practices prompting parts of the **Law**
- Don't take verses out of context! You'll form bad doctrine that could deceive or destroy a Christian! **EXAMPLES:**
 - “**No weapon formed against me . . .**” Isaiah 54:17

“No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me,” declares the LORD.
 - Refer to the many, many **martyrs** or godly people who've **given their lives to protect** their families or countrymen.

- “**God has a plan** for my life!” Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.

- This refers to God bringing Israel back to her home after 70 years of captivity in Babylon.
- We are NOT spiritual giants nor is God here for our good pleasure!
- “**God is love!**” 1John 4:8 and 16

- **Verses 7-17:** God is *actionable* love. He has promised a savior for mankind and kept His promise. We should be like Him and actionably love one another because He has done the same for us as we abide in Him and He in us through the Spirit.
- **Verses 18-21:** A sobering reminder that **actionable love born of our faith is critical to salvation** – rescuing from God’s judgment to come. Being nice, feeling spiritual, belief alone, or having lots of knowledge about the Bible kept private are of no use to God, our Christ, or the Church.

- “**Fear is not of God!**” 2Timothy 1:7-8

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

- The Greek word used here for ‘**timidity**’ (also translated as ‘fear’ in some versions) is deilia (Strong’s G1167). Incidentally, this is the only place this word is used! It comes from the Greek word deilos (Strong’s G1169), which is used in only three places and represents the **fear of men – cowardice** (Matthew 8:26, Mark 4:40, and Revelation 21:8).

- Fear of God and Christ (i.e. Luke 7:16, Acts 13:16, Romans 13:7, 2Corinthians 7:1, Ephesians 5:21, Philippians 2:12, 1Peter 1:17). This healthy fear is represented by the Greek word phobos (Strong's G5401); it indicates alarm, fright, or terror.
- “God will show up if **two or three of us meet!**” Matthew 18:20

Verses 15-20: Children of the most-high God must do what we can to aid in His plan of reconciliation by identifying and correcting sinful behavior in others within the Church. Quoting from the Torah in verse 16 (see Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15), Jesus is telling His disciples that His children within the Church must bring at least two other followers with them to address the sinful behavior if the offender refuses to listen during private correction. Why two or three witnesses? Failure to repent (change of action that comes from a change of heart) of truly sinful behavior will lead to a spiritual death sentence. This requirement of two or three witnesses was implemented to justly condemn a person to death in ancient Israel (i.e. Deuteronomy 17:6).

4. **Compare Scripture-to-Scripture to get the complete, true message (1Timothy 4:6-7; 2Timothy 4:1-5)**

*In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, **constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine** which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, **discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness** —1Timothy 4:6-7.*

*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their **ears tickled**, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will **turn away their ears from the truth** and will turn aside to myths. **But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.** —2Timothy 4:1-5.*

- Remember Paul and James regarding **faith** and **love**?

- **End-times:**
 - Entire **sequence**: Matthew Chapters 24-25 and Revelation Chapters 6-20

 - Christ's coming **kingdom**: Ezekiel Chapters 12-14 and Matthew Chapter 24 and Revelation Chapter 20

 - **Gathering** of Christ's chosen: 1Thessalonians 4:15-17 and 2Corinthians 15:51-52 and Matthew 24:29-31

 - Authority/**kingdom of the Antichrist**: Daniel Chapter Seven, 2Thessalonians 2:2-9 and Revelation Chapters 13 and 16-18

- **Parables** explained

- **Symbols** explained

5. **How to Read:**

- By topic, type (history, wisdom, Gospels, apocalyptic & prophets, etc.), or sequentially from Genesis to Revelation

- RCA (**R**ead – **C**onsider – **A**ssimilate)

b. **Obedience – Love reviewed**

- **Three main kinds of love? TEST**
 - **Fondness**
 - **Lust**
 - **Agape (true love!)**
- Love and obedience related!
- Faith must lead to love/obedience. **TEST**

~ Day Three Lunch ~

Topic #5 – Discipleship

Continued . . .

III. Discipleship Basics Continued:

a. Prayer:

i. We're taught *how* to pray by Jesus (Matthew 6:9-13)

“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

- Give my **EXAMPLE**

ii. What to pray (ACTS): Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication

- Adore
- Confession
 - Necessary for **repentance**
 - **Repentance is** necessary for **forgiveness** and salvation
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication
- Be **specific!!** This shows **intent**.

iii. **Some conditions for prayer**

1. **Trust and don't be anxious (Ephesians 3:20; **Philippians 4:6**); Ask with the right motives and keep asking (**1John 5:14**; Luke 18:1-7); be specific!**

- We pray by the **Spirit**, our connection to God the Father of Spirits.

*Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works within us** —Ephesians 3:20.*

- Don't be **anxious**; remember supplication and thanksgiving.

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. —**Philippians 4:6.***

- Your motives must be pure! Ask for the right things for the right reasons. This is related to “*Seek the kingdom of Heaven . . .*”
- Also related to “*Seek the kingdom of Heaven . . .*”

*This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. —**1John 5:14.***

- **Keep asking!!**

*Now He was telling them a parable to **show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart**, saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?” —Luke 18:1-7.*

2. **Not scripted; in private (Matthew 6:5-8)**

- Pray in **secret**, from the **heart**, with the **right motives**, and **don’t babble!** Your Father of Spirits knows what you need!
- **EXAMPLE** of knowing what our children need.

*When you pray, you are not to be like the **hypocrites**; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have **their reward in full**. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in **secret**, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will **reward** you. And when you are praying, **do not use meaningless repetition** as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for **your Father knows what you need before you ask Him**.*

3. Role of the Spirit and our Christ (**Romans 8:26-27**)

- Again, the Spirit is our connection to God while He and our Christ are away preparing a place for us.
- No repentance and covenant, no Spirit!
- No Spirit, no ability to pray!

*In the same way the **Spirit also helps** our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.***

b. Dealing with **temptation:**

i. We give in and become enslaved (**James 1:14-15; Romans 6:17-23; 2Peter 2:19**)

- Temptation turns into lust – strong desire. This is related to **intent!**
- Lust/intent leads to sinful action.
- Practicing sin leads to death.

*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own **lust**. Then when lust has conceived, it gives **birth to sin**; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth **death**. —James 1:14-15.*

- We were **slaves to sin** but should now be **slaves to righteousness**.
- What we are **enslaved** by what we've have been **overcome** by.

- Wages of sin is **death!** Those who **practice** sin will NOT see the kingdom of Heaven!

*But thanks be to God that **though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now **present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* —Romans 6:17-23.

Promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. —2Peter 2:19.

- ii. **Jesus was tempted just like man (Hebrews 2:18). But God doesn't tempt or lead us into sinful behavior; we have free will (Galatians 5:1; James 1:13-14).**

- Jesus was tempted as we are, so He can help!

*For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, **He is able to come to the aid** of those who are tempted.* —Hebrews 2:18.

- Our covenant with God through Jesus has **set us free** from the bonds of sin. So, let's **not go back** to our old ways of practicing sin!

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and **do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*** —Galatians 5:1.

- God **does not tempt** us or put us into harm's way to 'teach' us lessons. He may, however, not be in a position to rescue us because of **separation** from Him!

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for **God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. —James 1:13-14.*

iii. **Overcoming temptation:**

1. **Walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-17; John 16:7-8; 2Corinthians 3:18)**

- **Walk by the Spirit** of God instead of by lusts of the flesh

*But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so **that you may not do the things that you please.** —Galatians 5:16-17.*

- **Jesus has left us His Spirit** in His absence.
- The **Spirit convicts** us of sin and is the manifestation of **Pentecost** in our new covenant [where the Law of God is written on our hearts].

*But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will **convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment** —John 16:7-8.*

- Walk by the Spirit to be **transformed!**

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. —2Corinthians 3:18.*

2. **Have a mind of Christ (Romans 13:13-14) by study & meditation**

- We need to ‘clothe ourselves with Christ’ through study and meditation
- This means that we study to learn basic concepts.
- Then, we meditate to internalize what we’ve learned. This is how we can apply what we learn as we live.
- This is why the Israelites were commanded to regularly hear and study the Scriptures! God’s ways must become ours!

*Let us **behave properly** as in the day, not in **carousing** and **drunkenness**, not in **sexual promiscuity and sensuality**, not in **strife** and **jealousy**. But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its **lusts**.*

3. **Avoid causes of sin (i.e. Matthew 5:29) & pray (Matthew 26:41)**

- To resist temptation before it turns into sin, we must stop that temptation from becoming our intended action.
- So we must remove ourselves from circumstances that may tempt us to sin. **EXAMPLES! Drinking. Sex. Gambling. Chasing wealth.**

*If your right eye makes you stumble, **tear it out** and throw it from you; for it is better for you to **lose one of the parts** of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. —Matthew 5:29.*

- We must be watchful, always aware of our surroundings and where we may stumble.

- We must also continually pray for escape from tempting situations.

*Keep watching and **praying** that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. —Matthew 26:41.*

c. **The end of the world – Hope:**

i. **Salvation for anyone in covenant with God (Matthew 26:28; 1Corinthians 11:25-26)**

- God’s attempts at **reconciliation** through **Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus**.
- We’re in a **marriage-like covenant** with God because Jesus was obedient and redeemed us for Jehovah through **sacrifice**.
- This is just like the marriage-like covenant **God has with Israel**, His wife.
More later . . .
- We remember Jesus’ sacrifice when we do **communion**, but don’t acknowledge that **covenant** made possible by the sacrifice.

*for this is My **blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. —Matthew 26:28.*

*In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood**; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” —1Corinthians 11:25-26.*

- God will save us from His wrath to come because of this covenant. “*I will be yours if you will be Mine . . .*”

ii. **Our hope: Confidence – rescue & future with God (2Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-4)**

- Remember: Faith is the **confidence** of hope.
- What is our **‘blessed hope’**? It’s our confidence in the **future** appearing of our Lord and subsequent gathering leading up to the new age.

*But according to His promise we are **looking for new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness dwells. —2Peter 3:13.*

*Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, **“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”** — **Revelation 21:1-4.***

- God ordained **seven** feasts & festivals for Israel (consider **dress rehearsals** for our coming Christ).
- The **first four** have been fulfilled by Jesus’ first coming to earth (Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, and Pentecost).
- The **final three** festivals of Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles will be fulfilled when Jesus returns. The Scripture I just read reflects the future fulfillment of the **last one: Tabernacles.**

iii. **End-times sequence & events:**

- The Bible gives a very clear picture of the end of our world and events leading up to it.

- **Birth** pains:
- Seven-year **agreement** to be broken in the middle after three-and-a-half years.
- Antichrist **tribulation** for the last half of the seven-year period.
- **Our rescue** and God's wrath against the rest of the world.
- **Judgment**, hell, and the New Age.

1. Birth pains until the Antichrist (**Matthew 24:1-8; Revelation 6:1-6**)

- The disciples asked about the destruction of Jerusalem (70 CE) and of His return and the end of the age.
- Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21 highlight Jesus' conversation with the disciples.
- He started by letting the disciples know of events that will lead up to the end but will increase in intensity and frequency like 'birth pangs'.
 - They are repeated in the first part of Revelation 6:1-6 through events revealed by the breaking of seals 1-3.
 - False Messiahs, violence, and famine/pestilence.

- Note the weapons used in Seal #1.

*Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. And He said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will **mislead many**. You will be hearing of **wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be **famines and earthquakes**. But all these things are merely the beginning of **birth pangs**. —Matthew 24:1-8.*

*Then I saw when the Lamb **broke one of the seven seals**, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come.” I looked, and behold, a **white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer**. When He **broke the second seal**, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come.” And another, a **red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth**, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him. When He **broke the third seal**, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come.” I looked, and behold, a **black horse**; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, “A **quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine**.” —Revelation 6:1-6.*

2. **Seven-year agreement with Israel broken in the middle**

- Foretold by **Daniel** 500 years before Jesus. Daniel also foretold of the timing of **Jesus' birth** – both in Chapter Nine.
- Daniel and Jesus both foretold of a **breaking** of the agreement **after three-and-a-half years** and time of persecution and **tribulation** against Jews and Christians like 'never seen before or again'.

3. **Antichrist's 3.5-year tribulation (Matthew 24:9-26); Revelation 6:8-11)**

- The Antichrist will break what the prophets called the '**covenant of death**' after three-and-a-half years – the same as '42 months or 1260 days'.
- Then, **three-and-a-half years of his authority will begin**. This persecution is reflected in Daniel Chapter Seven, Matthew 24:9-26, and Revelation Chapters Six and Thirteen.
- The persecution of the saints during this time is mentioned again by Jesus to John in Revelation Chapter Six seals 4 & 5.

*Then they will deliver you to **tribulation**, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. . . Therefore when you see the **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through **Daniel** the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. . . . For then there will be a **great tribulation, such as has not occurred** since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. . . —Matthew 24:9-26.*

*I looked, and behold, an **ashen horse**; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. **Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence** and by the wild beasts of the earth. When the Lamb broke the **fifth seal**, I saw underneath the altar the **souls of those who had been slain** because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also. —**Revelation 6:8-11**.*

4. **Rescue & God’s wrath (Matthew 24:27-31; 1Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 6:12-17) and marriage supper (Revelation 19:7-9)**

- Then, at a time known only to the Father, the angels – groomsmen – will appear at the darkening of the sun, moon, and stars to gather Christ’s chosen for the marriage supper.
- This will fulfill the step of the marriage dress-rehearsal when the father of the groom finishes building a home for the new couple and at a time of his choosing, he sends the groomsmen into the streets with shouts and trumpets to gather the guests for the marriage ceremony.

- The trumpets and gathering is mentioned by Paul in 1Thessalonians 4:16-17.

*For the Lord Himself will **descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel and with the **trumpet of God**, and the **dead in Christ** will rise first. Then we who **are alive and remain** will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. —1Thessalonians 4:16-17.*

*For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But **immediately after the tribulation of those days** **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL** from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the **sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky**, and then **all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY** with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A **GREAT TRUMPET** and **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. —Matthew 24:27-31.*

- The darkening of the skies heralding Jesus' return and our gathering can also be seen in the sixth seal of Revelation Chapter Six.

*I looked when He broke the **sixth seal**, and there was a great earthquake; and the **sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth**, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and **from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?**" —Revelation 6:12-17.*

- You can read about the fulfillment of the marriage supper portion of the marriage dress rehearsal in Revelation Chapter 19.

*Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.** It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, “Write, **‘Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’**” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” —**Revelation 19:7-9.***

iv. **Judgment (2Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 20:11-15)**

- All spirits from the beginning of creation will stand judgment:
 - Some for reward and everlasting life if they’re in the Books.
 - Some for punishment by hell (i.e. where the fallen angels will be put).
- Jesus talked about this in Matthew Chapter 25 [**sheep and goats**].

*For we **must all appear** before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether **good or bad.** —**2Corinthians 5:10.***

- Jesus talked about this in Matthew Chapter 25 [sheep and goats].

*“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. **All the nations** will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on **His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world’ “Then He will also say to those on His **left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire** which has been prepared for the devil and his angels’” —Matthew 25:31-46.*

- Let's look at what Jesus showed John in His **revelation** about that 'sheep and goats' **judgment** all spiritual beings will attend:

*Then I saw a great white **throne** and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**; and the **dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds**. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, **every one of them according to their deeds**. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if **anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire**. — **Revelation 20:11-15**.*

- **Summarize** the covenant, sequence, judgment, and new heaven and earth.
- d. **Tools for discipleship (e-Sword, First Steps workbook PDF, journal, etc.)**

- You can **evangelize by word**, but must use tools to disciple and **equip**.
- Possible **tools**:
 - **Bible**
 - **Written:** Use a good translation like KJV, NKJV, or NSB. **Not NIV!!**
 - **Electronic:** e-Sword (e-sword.net) is good and free.
- Discipleship **workbook**. I can send the PDF.
- **Journal** life issues, prayers and responses, etc.

~ **End of Day Three** ~

Topic #6a – Hope & the Godly Woman

Reaching Hope through Perseverance

James 1:2-4

I. **Introduction**

II. Where do we want to **end up**?

- a. Our hope (**Revelation 21:1-7; 1Corinthians 2:9**)
 - i. Running the good race (1Corinthians 9:24; Hebrews 12:11)
 - ii. Saved from punishment (**Romans 8:24-25** and **5:9**)

III. Where are we **now**?

- a. You are hurting
 - i. Sin on the earth (**1Peter 5:8**)
- b. Believer or follower
- c. Traditions and customs

IV. How do we get from **here to there**?

- a. Faith (**1Thessalonians 1:10**)
 - i. We were never promised an easy life (**Matthew 10:22; 1Peter 3:14**)
- b. Perseverance
 - i. Definition
 - ii. Leave room for God to work (**Romans 12:19**)
 - iii. Be content with your life (**Philippians 4:11**)
 - iv. Perseverance brings godliness (**Romans 2:7** and **5:3-4**)
- c. Tools
 - i. Learning from the bible (**Psalms 119:105**)
 - ii. Learning from other resources
 - iii. The Holy Spirit (**John 14:26; Acts 2:38; Galatians 5:22-24**)
 1. Why God talks to us (**John 16: 13; James 2: 19-20**)
 2. How God speaks to us
- d. Application
 - i. Can't change others, only yourself (Genesis 19)
 - ii. Godly Woman (**Proverbs 31:10-31**)

V. **Summary**

Topic #6b – The Bride & a Godly Man

Being Faithful to Jesus and our Brides

- I. **Introduction:** You'll learn about our covenant with God and how to apply the principles in your own marriages. This will also equip you to teach the covenant and Communion to others.
- II. Three Basic Types of **Love** – Review
 - a. Lust (emotion)
 - b. Fondness (emotion)
 - c. Agape (action)
- III. Human Marriage Covenant
 - a. Between one man and one woman. (**Matthew 19:4-6**)
 - b. Agape love for husbands and wives. (**Ephesians 5:22-33**; Colossians 3:18-19)
 - c. General marriage guidance for men. (**1Corinthians 7:1-5**; **1Peter 3:7**)
- IV. God's Marriage-like Covenant with **Israel** (**Exodus 19:5-6**; **Isaiah 54:5-8**)
- V. God's Marriage-like Covenant with the **World** Through Jesus (Matthew 9:14-15; 2Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-9)
 - a. Typical Jewish wedding as a dress rehearsal.
 - b. Dress rehearsal fulfillment by our Christ and us:
 - i. Selected as the 'bride' for Jesus (**2Corinthians 11:2**)
 - ii. Confirm the betrothal with the 'Cup of the Covenant' (**Matthew 26:27-29**)
 - iii. Separation and the building of a home (**John 14:2-3**)
 - iv. Marriage and second cup (timed by the groom's father) (**Matthew 26:28-29**) (Matthew 24:21-36) (**Revelation 19:5-9**)
 - c. We **must** be faithful to our bride as Jesus is to His bride . . .

Topic #7 - Energize & Encourage

Review & Communion

Hand out Certificates

Topic #6b - The Bride & a Godly Man

Overview

Your godly wife is a **daughter of Jehovah**. Treat her with the same respect and patience you expect God and our Christ to treat you if *you* plan to enter and remain in covenant with God in the same marriage-like relationship you have with your wife.

To be a godly man, you must treat your wife in the same **sinless** way God treats you!

God did **not** create woman for our good pleasure or abuse any more than He exists to abuse us.

She is to respect you, but **you are love her** by doing according to your covenant vows and God's commandments.

Points to Remember

- A. Remember that agape love is not emotional and is critical to your salvation. Give. Care. Do.
- B. Husbands must love their wives in this way.
- C. Human marriage is meant to be between **one** man and **one** woman.
- D. Just like God called Israel His 'wife', the Church is called the 'bride of **Christ**'.
- E. This marriage-like covenant is a fulfillment of the dress rehearsal of a traditional Jewish wedding just like Jesus' willing sacrifice was a fulfillment of the Passover.

Topic #6b – The Bride & a Godly Man

Being Faithful to Jesus and our Brides

I. **Introduction:** You'll learn about our covenant with God and how to apply the principles in your own marriages. This will also equip you to teach the covenant and Communion to others.

II. Three Basic Types of Love – Review

- a. Lust (emotion)
- b. Fondness (emotion)
- c. Agape (action)

III. Human Marriage Covenant

- a. Between one man and one woman. (**Matthew 19:4-6**)

And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

- We're reminded by Paul that we 'become one' with whomever we have sexual relations with.

b. **Agape love for husbands and wives. (Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19)**

. . . *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church because we are members of His body. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. —Ephesians 5:22-33.*

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. —Colossians 3:18-19.

- Love your wives as Christ love the church and **gave**.
- Love your wives as your own bodies.

c. **General marriage guidance for men. (1Corinthians 7:1-5; 1Peter 3:7)**

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. —1Corinthians 7:1-5.

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. —1Peter 3:7.

- One man and one woman in marriage.
- The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife. Think vows . . .

- The wife has authority over the husband's body.

IV. **God's Marriage-like Covenant with Israel (Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 54:5-8)**

*'Now then, if you will indeed **obey** My voice and **keep My covenant**, then you shall be **My own possession** among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel. — **Exodus 19:5-6.**

*"For your **husband is your Maker**, Whose name is the LORD of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. For the LORD has called you, **Like a wife forsaken** and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," Says your God. For a brief moment I forsook you, But with great compassion I will gather you. In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, But with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," Says the LORD your Redeemer. —**Isaiah 54:5-8.***

V. **God's Marriage-like Covenant with the World Through Jesus (Matthew 9:14-15; 2Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-9)**

*Then the disciples of John came to Him, asking, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "The **attendants of the bridegroom** cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the **days will come when the bridegroom is taken away** from them, and then they will fast." —Matthew 9:14-15.*

*For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I **betrothed you to one husband**, so that to **Christ I might present you as a pure virgin**. —2Corinthians 11:2.*

*"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready**." It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the **righteous acts of the saints**. Then he said to me, "Write, '**Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb**.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." —Revelation 19:7-9.*

a. Typical Jewish wedding as a dress rehearsal.

- Prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' first coming.
- Dress rehearsal of Passover fulfilled by Jesus' first coming.
- Dress rehearsal of a Jewish wedding being fulfilled: Tell in conjunction with the outline **below**:

b. Dress rehearsal fulfillment by our Christ and us:

i. Selected as the 'bride' for Jesus (2Corinthians 11:2)

- This **first** step of choosing a bride was/is fulfilled by our being the 'chosen' for Christ.

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. —2Corinthians 11:2.

ii. Confirm the betrothal with the 'Cup of the Covenant' (Matthew 26:27-29)

- This **second** step of confirming a covenant was/is fulfilled when we take communion and enact the cup of the covenant.

And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. —Matthew 26:27-29.

iii. Separation and the building of a home (John 14:2-3)

- Then, bathing, vows, and gift giving.
 - Jesus gave us the gifts of righteousness and the Spirit of God.

- The betrothal ceremony ended with a temporary separation – usually for about a year – to allow the father and son to build a home and prepare for the marriage ceremony.

*In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for **I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.** —John 14:2-3.*

- We learn several things from the passage I just read:
 - This step was fulfilled by Jesus' ascension into Heaven; we're in the betrothal now as we await His return.
 - The spirit of Jesus is currently in the third heaven where God is.
 - Jesus will return at some point to take our spirits to where He and God reside in the third heaven.
 - But until then, Jesus has left the Spirit of God with us to be our connection to God; He is our helper, guide, and comforter who speaks on God's behalf (John 14:26 and 16:13).

iv. **Marriage and second cup (timed by the groom's father) (Matthew 26:28-29) (1Thessalonians 4:16-17) (Revelation 19:5-9)**

- Jesus confirmed that He wouldn't have wine with them again **until the marriage** supper in Heaven.

*For this is **My blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, **I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.** —Matthew 26:28-29.*

- The **final step** in the marriage dress rehearsal is the marriage ceremony.
- The **father**, who started the process, **decides** when it's time and sends the groomsmen into the streets with **shouts and trumpet** to gather the chosen guests.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. —1Thessalonians 4:16-17.

- And we see a glimpse of the coming **marriage supper** in the **revelation** given to John by God:

*And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.**" It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, '**Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." —**Revelation 19:5-9.***

c. **We must be faithful to our bride as Jesus is to His bride . . .**

- God has said, “I will be yours if you will be mine” just as He did with Israel.
- True followers of God through Jesus have responded by giving ourselves in a marriage-like covenant to God through Jesus.
- We persevere in that covenant by the Spirit whom God gives to everyone who follows Him.
- We **control** our bodies in **true worship** and for good works in Christ.
 - We obey God and Jesus’ commandments. This is how **we love**.
 - We are gentle but wise, patient and understanding with our **wives**.
 - We are **NOT** sexually immoral.
 - We do **NOT** abuse anyone with our words or actions.
- In return, God keeps His promises of His Spirit, redemption, and rescue from His coming wrath.
 - This is how **God loves**.
 - Because God loves, He is a **just** God: He keeps His promises of redemption and punishment.
- What do **YOU** want: **reward** or **punishment**? If you want reward and everlasting life, **treat your wife as you would like your God and Christ to treat you.**

~ End of Topic 6b ~

Topic #7 - Energize & Encourage

Review & Communion

Topic #2 (Building Confidence) Points to Remember

- A. Faith is confidence. That confidence is why we have hope.
- B. Faith comes from the Bible and our own interaction with God and His chosen people.
- C. Strong faith will keep us from being deceived and moving toward right living.
- D. True love is action.
- E. True love is the obedience that proves we love our God and Christ.
- F. True love results in honoring God with all we are and all we have, and caring for others.
- G. Hope is confidence in the future rescuing – salvation – from God’s punishment.
- H. We reach our hope by persevering until the end.

Topic #3 - Preparing to Evangelize Points to Remember

- A. You can’t evangelize the story – salvation – unless *you* understand it!
- B. Faith is confidence. That confidence is why we have hope.
- C. True love is the obedience that proves we love our God and Christ.
- D. Hope is confidence in the future rescuing – salvation – from God’s punishment.
- E. Hell will be the punishment for disobedience.
- F. Repent and act out of faith to avoid punishment.
- G. Obedience leads to holiness (being set apart).
- H. Self-control is our true spiritual worship; it leads to obedience.
- I. God’s Holy Spirit can help us display fruits in our obedience.

Topic #4 - Building Boldness in Evangelizing Points to Remember

- A. Everyone has been commanded to tell others the message of salvation.
- B. There are two ways of evangelizing:
 - The short message of salvation you can tell everyone.
 - The longer message that will use what you have (i.e. relationships) or what you know
- C. Relationships help build trust. Use them.
- D. Use your circumstances or those of others.
- E. Live the life to be credible.

Topic #5 – Discipleship Points to Remember

- A. Discipleship is necessary to the growth of faith in new Christians!
- B. Anyone who discipled must be walking by the Spirit and a good example.
- C. A disciple must learn how to build faith through Bible study.
- D. A disciple must learn about the obedience faith must lead to for salvation.
- E. A disciple must learn how to pray and about things that may keep God from hearing them.
- F. A disciple must learn how to effectively deal with temptation before it becomes sinful action.
- G. A disciple must understand the salvation we hope for, understand how this age will end with our rescue.
- H. Tools for discipleship include the Bible, Internet applications, and workbooks.

Topic #6b - The Bride & a Godly Man Points to Remember

- A. Remember that agape love is not emotional and is critical to your salvation. Give. Care. Do.
- B. Husbands must love their wives in this way.
- C. Human marriage is meant to be between **one** man and **one** woman.
- D. Just like God called Israel His 'wife', the Church is called the 'bride of **Christ**'.
- E. This marriage-like covenant is a fulfillment of the dress rehearsal of a traditional Jewish wedding just like Jesus' willing sacrifice was a fulfillment of the Passover.

Communion

Hand out Certificates