

Teach them to Obey

*Making Disciples
That Obey Jesus' Commands*

*Resources Based upon the Teachings of
Dr. George Patterson*

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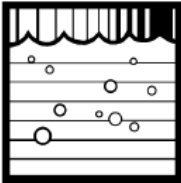
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Introduction to the 7 Basic Commands of Jesus



1. Repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"



2. Be baptized

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"



3. Love God and fellow man

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."



4. Break bread in Communion and worship

Matthew 26:26 "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you." 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"



5. Pray in all things

Matthew 6: 9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'



6. Give generously (time, talents, treasure)

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."



7. Make disciples

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The 7 Basic Commands of Jesus: A Train the Trainers Guide

Introduction:

Jesus taught many things during His time on earth. The Apostle John says that if it all were recorded that all the books in the world could not contain it (John 21:25). So how then do we as leaders obey Jesus' command to "teach everything that I have commanded"? (Matthew 28:18-20) Although that seems like an impossible task, all of Jesus' commands fit into one of seven categories that we call "The Basic Commands of Jesus".

Train your disciples to **memorize, apply, and reproduce** these 7 Basic Commands. Discuss the importance of the commands and work through the Scriptures together. You can reinforce this teaching by showing how any of Jesus' commands recorded in Scripture would fall into one of these categories. The most effective use is to **MODEL** the Basic Commands for them, **ASSIST** them with memorization and application, **WATCH** them teach it to others, then **LEAVE** them to reproduce.

Read (or simply tell) the parable of the wise and foolish men in **Matthew 7:24-27**. **Before reading**, ask everyone to listen for *how* to build our life and ministry.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

- **Ask:** Since *both* men heard Jesus' words, what was the *difference* between them? (Let them answer.)
- **Answer:** The wise man *obeyed* Jesus' words.
- **Ask:** Who is the Rock?
- **Answer:** The rock is Jesus. Our relationship to Him is the foundation for *everything* else.
- **Ask:** How do we build on the Rock Jesus Christ?
- **Answer:** By obeying His commands.

Read : Listen for how we make disciples according to Jesus, in Matthew 28:18-20.

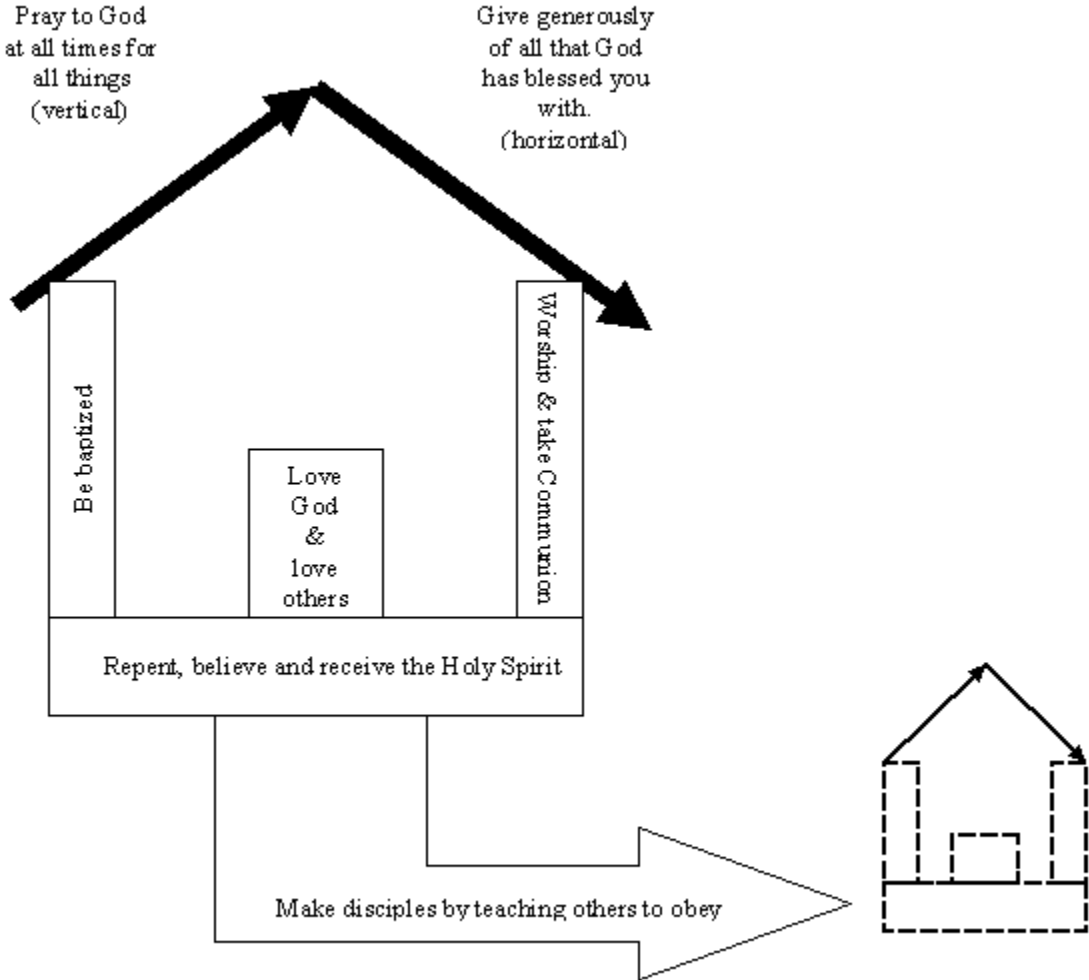
18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- **Ask:** How do we make disciples Jesus' way?
- **Answer:** By baptizing them and *teaching them to obey all of Jesus' commands*." All discipling begins here; loving, childlike obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ is its *only* foundation. We **become** disciples by obeying all of Jesus' commands. We **make** disciples by teaching others to obey all His commands.

ACTIVITY: Help everyone **memorize** the seven basic commands of Jesus. He commands many things but they all fit under seven general commands. Some have written songs to make this memorization easy. Try it if you have creative people! Use a culturally appropriate method at this time to help them simply memorize the 7 Basic Commands.

Use the diagram below of "Building on the Rock of Jesus Commands" to help lay a foundation for the rest of the training. Refer back to the diagram as often as needed.

Building Your House on the Rock of Jesus' Commands



The 7 Basic Commands of Jesus

1. Repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

2. Be baptized

Matthew 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

3. Love God and fellow man

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

4. Break bread in Communion and worship

Matthew 26:26 "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins"

5. Pray in all things

Matthew 6: 9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

6. Give generously (time, talents, treasure)

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

7. Make disciples

Matthew 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

After the trainees have memorized the simple list of Basic Commands, explain that the remainder of the time will be used to discuss each particular command as they were applied by Jesus' disciples in Scripture.



BASIC COMMAND #1: REPENT, BELIEVE, and RECEIVE the Holy Spirit for conversion:

Read Mark 1:15; John 3:16 and John 20:22 to find three things which one must do to receive Christ and His salvation.

Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 20:21-22 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Then . . .

- **Ask:** What is the immediate result of repentance?
- **Answer:** New, holy, eternal life in Jesus.

Explain: Repentance is not simply to stop sinning. A pile of garbage has no sin but is NOT holy. It means to receive the risen Christ's new life, the beginning of an eternal process of transformation. We let God invade our soul and make us a holy new creation.

Read Galatians 5:22-23 to find the *end result* of repentance and being filled with God's Spirit:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Next discuss how Saul (who became known later as Paul) obeyed this command to repent, believe and be filled with the Spirit of God:

Tell the story or have a group act out the story of Saul's conversion from **Acts 9:1-17**.

9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 2 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 3 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 4 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 5 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 6 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 7 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 8 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. 9 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 10 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 11 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 12 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 13 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 14 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 15 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 16 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

- Emphasize that Saul was devoutly religious but still needed Christ.
- In verse 6 Jesus told Saul to obey what he was going to command.
- When Christ appeared to Paul he realized his sinfulness, repented of his sin and placed his faith in Jesus Christ. *note that a physical appearance of Jesus is not necessary for salvation – it is descriptive rather than prescriptive.
- The result was that Paul's life was transformed through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Repentance, belief, and receiving the Holy Spirit all happen together:

- You won't repent without believing.
- You can't believe without repenting.

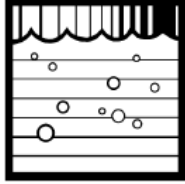
- You can't believe or repent unless the Holy Spirit is working in you.

Therefore, **conversion is** when the Holy Spirit draws a person to a point where they understand they are sinful and that they are separated from God and in response they repent, or turn from their life of sin placing their faith in Jesus Christ alone that what He did on the Cross paid the penalty for our sin. The result of this work of the Holy Spirit is a transformed life in which the Holy Spirit from that point onward dwells in.

This first command builds the foundation for all the rest. When a person has truly submitted their lives to Jesus as LORD through the above, they are empowered to live out the rest of the commands.

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY:

- Have you repented of your sin, believed in Jesus and received the Holy Spirit? *Take time to meet with those who may have doubts. Encourage national leadership to counsel with them.*
- ASK: What does it mean to you to become a follower of Jesus?
- How is your testimony of coming to faith in Jesus similar or different from Saul's? Have several people share their story for the group.
- What role has dreams or visions played in your becoming a follower of Jesus? Have several people share their story for the group.



BASIC COMMAND #2: Be BAPTIZED to display repentance and new life in Christ:

Read Matthew 28:18-20 to find Jesus' command and purpose for baptism.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Ask: What does it mean to be baptized in the name of the *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*?

Answer: To be baptized in someone's name means to enter into a deep relationship with him.

- **Clarification:** It may be necessary to have a discussion about the Eternal Oneness of God as expressed through the three distinct Persons of the Trinity. Emphasize here that the Bible affirms both the Oneness of the Godhead (Deuteronomy 6:4) and God's eternal Triune nature. The Son of God is not a Son by birth as we understand sonship to be. Jesus' being described as God's Son is emphasizing a relationship of submission and authority. The Three Persons of the Trinity have eternally been co-equal in their position.
- Baptism in the name of **God the Father** means beginning a relationship of submission to **loving father authority**, as the Son has done throughout eternity. Therefore we come to the Father through Him.
- Baptism in the name of **God the Son** means beginning a relationship that transforms us into **the likeness of the living Word of God** more and more throughout eternity as we learn and obey His Word. Therefore the written Word also takes on flesh and becomes incarnate in our lives and church when we apply it in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Baptism in the name of **God the Holy Spirit** means beginning a relationship with the Comforter who lives within and gives us power to do ministry.
- Just as the three Persons of the Trinity cannot be separated and never work *alone*, the above three aspects of *balanced* discipling--submission to loving authority, application of the Word and Spirit-powered ministry--begin together with a proper relationship with each Person of the Godhead, at baptism.

Read Acts 2:38-42 to find how the apostles practiced baptism.

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call." 40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Ask: *When* did the apostles baptize the converts? (Let the group respond.)

Answer: *Immediately*. The apostles baptized both Jews and gentiles without delay. They did not use baptism as a graduation ceremony after a Newcomer's Class but as the initial confirmation of repentance and faith.

- **Clarification:** The apostles' only *invitation* for one to show his desire to receive Christ was to be baptized. They never offered God's grace through any other *decision-making* ritual (such as raising hands). Their only requirement for baptism was to be *bad* and admit it, and ask forgiveness in Christ's name. Missionaries that baptize without delaying for requirements of man's making report a much higher rate of following through for converts.
- For further study on baptism read (or relate) Acts 8:26-40 (the Ethiopian in the desert) and Acts 16:12-40 (Lydia and the Philippian jailer). Use your concordance for additional passages, if desired.

Now let's look at how Saul obeyed this command of Jesus:

What was the first thing that Saul did following his conversion (Acts 9:18)?

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

- note that the transformation was so complete that he even changed his name to Paul.
- Baptism is rooted in the Old Testament practice of ritual washing or cleansing of the body. When a person was spiritually unclean they were required to wash their bodies as a symbolic representation of their need to be restored to God through being cleansed.

Read Mark 1:1-11

1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"- 3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" 4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." 9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

- When the prophet John Baptist began his ministry he was preparing the way for the Kingdom of God by calling people to repentance. To give evidence of their repentance, the people were baptized by John in the Jordan River.
- In order to identify with the people and to provide an example, Jesus Himself was baptized. Jesus had no sin and had no need to repent for Himself. His baptism displayed His desire to restore sinful mankind to God.
- We could never perfectly repent so Jesus became our repentance so that when we become one of His followers we identify ourselves by giving evidence through our baptism. Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Read Romans 6:3-7 and discuss what it means to be baptized and how it changes our lives.

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin- 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY:

- Have you been baptized? *If there are any present at the training who have yet to be baptized, discuss with the national leadership if it would be appropriate to baptize them now.*
- How has your life changed since you became a follower of Jesus and were baptized? *Have several share their story.*
- When should a believer be baptized? Who should baptize new believers?



BASIC COMMAND #3. LOVE God, fellow disciples, neighbors, the needy, and your enemies:

Read 1 John 3:14-18 to find and discuss how we know we really love God.

14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. 16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 19 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence 20 whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Read John 13:34-35 to find and discuss how people will know that we are Christians.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Read (or relate) Luke 10:25-37 to find and then discuss the importance of showing our love in a practical way.

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." 28 "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." 29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" 37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Read (or relate) Matthew 18:21-35 to find and discuss another aspect of love upon which our relationship with God Himself depends.

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' 27 The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. 28 "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. 29 "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 30 "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' 34 In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Read Mark 12:28-31

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

The Ten Commandments given to Prophet Moses in the OT **Exodus 20:1-17** are summarized here in Jesus' teaching.

- Commandments 1-4 were concerning man's relationship with God.
- Commandments 5-10 were related to man's relationship with other men.

20:1 And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments. 7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. 8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. 12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. 13 "You shall not murder. 14 "You shall not commit adultery. 15 "You shall not steal. 16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Discuss what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.

Paul obeyed Jesus' command to love:

Paul understood this very clearly. After Paul became a follower of Jesus he had a new understanding of God's word and he started to teach others. Paul practiced and taught Jesus' basic command to love:

At one point in his ministry Paul became angry with Mark but later demonstrated forgiveness by asking Mark to join him again in the work.

- **Acts 15:37-39**

37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, 38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

- **2 Timothy 4:11-12**

Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Paul had compassion and love:

- **Colossians 3:12-14**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

- **Romans 12:10**

10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

- **Romans 13:8-10**

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY:

- What are some ways that you can demonstrate your love for God? For mankind? For your enemies? For the poor?

- **Plan** with one or more who have the gift of *compassion* to arrange for and carry out a ‘mercy ministry’ for those in need.
- **Plan** with one or more who have the gift of *exhortation* to help anyone who needs to forgive, to seek reconciliation.



BASIC COMMAND #4: Break bread through COMMUNION AND WORSHIP the Lord

Read (or relate) **Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30** to find and discuss the setting in which Jesus instituted this most sacred ceremony.

17 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. . . . 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- Note that they celebrated Communion as a part of a meal. This does not always have to be the case, but sharing a meal together creates a greater sense of unity.
- Note also that they worshipped in song as a part of their time together

Read (or relate) **Acts 2:41-47** to find where the members of the first church celebrated Holy Communion.

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Ask: Where did they serve the Lord's Supper?

Answer: In their homes. Healthy home groups normally celebrate it regularly

Paul celebrated Communion and taught the churches he worked with to do the same:

Read 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 to find the very essence of communion, then . . .

16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Read also **1 Corinthians 11:26-34** to find how seriously God wants us to worship the way *He* says.

26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other. 34 If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.

Ask: What did God do to those who did not respect the body of Christ?

Answer: He unleashed physical judgment. (to say they *sleep* was a euphemism for being dead).

Ask: How should a person prepare for celebrating Communion?

Read Acts 20:7 to find when the members of the early church celebrated Communion.

7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.

- The emphasis should be not upon a specific day, but rather that they celebrated it on a weekly basis.
- When does your church celebrate Communion?
- **For further study** on the Lord's Supper, read (or relate) its Old Testament origin in Exodus chapters 11-12.

ACTIVITY:

- One or more persons with the gift of shepherding should arrange with your elders, pastor, or someone authorized by your group (according to the policies of your church) to celebrate the Lord's Supper at this time.
- Make sure to use elements that are common to the culture.



BASIC COMMAND #5: PRAY at all times through intercession, family and private devotions, healing, and spiritual warfare:

Read Matthew 6:5-13 and discuss the things that Jesus told His disciples to pray about.

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

- **Ask:** Where does Jesus tell His disciples to pray and why?
- **Answer:** In private because prayer is meant to get God's attention, not man's.
- Note that Jesus told the disciples not to babble or use many words in their prayers.

Read Luke 9:37-42 to discuss Jesus' practice of casting out demons.

37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. 38 A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. 40 I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." 41 "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42 Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Read Luke 10:17-20 to discuss why Jesus gave a gentle rebuke to His disciples after they had cast out demons.

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Read Matthew 5:44 to find and discuss for whom we should pray and why.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

Paul prayed continually and taught his disciples to do the same:

Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7

2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men-the testimony given in its proper time.

Read Ephesians 6:10 -20 to list and discuss God's disciplines for *spiritual warfare*.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Read John 16:24 and **1 Thessalonians 5:17** to find how Jesus and His apostles command prayer.

24 *Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

17 *pray continually:*

ACTIVITY:

- Identify prayer needs of the group and begin praying for one another.
- Discuss the role of spiritual warfare in the expansion of the gospel there. Have several people share experiences.
- Are there physical needs that can be prayed for now?
- Discuss plans to organize and train church members in the importance of prayer and spiritual warfare.



BASIC COMMAND #6: GIVE as a stewardship of your time, treasure and talents:

Read Luke 6:38 to find and discuss how and why we should give.

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

- How does God respond when a follower of Jesus is generous?

Read (or relate) **Matthew 25:14-30** to find and discuss the rewards of Christian stewardship and punishment of false stewards.

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Ask: What is the essence of Christian stewardship?

Answer: A steward manages things owned by another. We are God's stewards; He owns everything. A wise steward makes careful, prayerful use of *time, talent and treasure*.

Read Acts 2:4 and discuss how the early church treated possessions.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

Paul practiced giving and taught his disciples to do the same:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 to find and discuss the *New Testament* standard for how much to give.

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

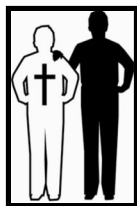
Read Acts 20:33-35 and discuss how Paul modeled stewardship of his time.

33 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

- How should pastors model stewardship like Paul?

ACTIVITY:

- **Plan** for one or more who have the gift of giving (and maybe a little bit of wisdom) to help others develop a plan for giving and stewardship of their time and talents.
- Discuss how to teach and model the principle of giving in your churches.
- Discuss how the churches should handle finances to insure that no one is tempted and accountability is present.
- Discuss how the churches can equip believers to be good stewards of their time, talents, and treasure.



BASIC COMMAND #7: MAKE DISCIPLES by being a witness, teaching God's Word, shepherding new believers, and training leaders:

Read Matthew 28:18-20 to find and discuss exactly *how* Jesus says to make disciples.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Emphasize that Jesus taught and modeled for the Disciples that in order to make disciples you should “go, baptize, and teach them to obey”.

Read (or relate) **John 21:15-17** to find and discuss another purpose of discipling.

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." 16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

- **Ask:** Why did Jesus equate loving Him with feeding and taking care of His sheep?
- **Answer:** His sheep are the disciples. When disciples are nurtured and grown they reproduce. When you neglect feeding the sheep, they don't grow and they won't reproduce.

Read Acts 1:8 to find and discuss *where* we are to be witness for Jesus, to start the discipling process.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- **Ask:** What is our *local community* that corresponds to *Jerusalem* in the apostles' case?
- What *nearby communities nearby of the same culture* correspond to *Judea* for our group?
- What *nearby ethnic group* corresponds to *Samaria* for our group?
- What *distant people groups* correspond to *the ends of the earth* for our group?
- What *help* does Jesus promise us in Acts 1:8?

Paul made disciples and modeled for them to reproduce:

Make disciples by modeling as seen in **Titus 1:7-9**

7 Since an overseer (shepherd) is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless-not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. 8 Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

- Discuss how the way you live in front of believers serves as discipling.

Make disciples by reproducing what you have learned as seen in **2 Timothy 2:1-2:**

2:1 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

- Discuss how you plan to reproduce this training with your disciples as well as encouraging them to reproduce it in others.

ACTIVITY:

- Have several people share how they were discipled and how that investment in their lives has helped them.
- Work together with the leaders to help them develop a plan for reproducing this training in their churches.
- Ask one or more with the apostolic (missionary) gift or vision to arrange for the group's participation in training and sending missionaries that reproduce your group life within a neglected people group.

CONCLUSION: Establish the *Authority* for our Group's Work (enthroned Jesus through our obedience in love)

Read John 14:15 to find and discuss our *motive* for obeying Jesus.

15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Ask: Why is obedience to Jesus so important?

* **Answer (1):** Loving obedience is the only way to enthrone our King. We can praise Him with our lips until we are hoarse but without loving, childlike obedience it is empty; He cannot receive it (Isaiah 29:13: 1 Cor. 13:1).

* **Answer (2):** Loving obedience is the foundation for all other teaching and ministry. An obedient discipling body builds *all other ministries and spiritual disciplines that the New Testament requires* on this foundation of obedience. A healthy home group or cell functions as a tiny church within a larger church, giving total pastoral care, not just Bible study.

* **Answer (3):** Loving obedience establishes the authority for our group. As a community committed to obey our Lord Jesus Christ, a home group or house church must settle the question of authority. Putting obedience to the commands of Jesus and His apostles before all other human rules and policies resolves arguments about what to do. Jesus alone has all authority; we simply do as He and His apostles say. Without this Rock foundation home groups lack the sense of authority, purpose and direction needed for lasting results.

Plan: Authorize one or more with the gift of discernment to regularly monitor the progress of the group in obedience by comparing their priorities and plans with the will of God as explicitly expressed through His New Testament commands. Anything not specifically commanded in the New Testament *must* be given lower priority.

7 Basic Commands of Jesus Bible Studies for Small Groups

Lesson One: Obedience to Jesus is the Most Important Foundation

Matthew 7:24-29

Please read the story in Matthew 7:24-29 and answer the following questions:

- What is the difference between the two men who both heard the words of Jesus?
- Who is the Rock, the foundation for everything good?
- What must we do, to build our life and ministry on this Rock?

It is not enough simply to listen to Jesus' words! We must know what Jesus commands us to do, but knowing is not enough. We must place our trust in Christ and put his commands into practice, too. Because we love and trust him, we *want* to obey him.

We must 'HEAR and DO, HEAR and DO, HEAR and DO,' not 'HEAR, HEAR, HEAR, and maybe do later.' The way to build on the Rock Jesus Christ is to *obey* him in trusting childlike faith and love. God blesses our loving obedience to Jesus, not just knowledge of his Word.

Shortly before Jesus returned to Heaven, he gave us our orders for the rest of our lives on earth. We find these orders, called the Great Commission, in Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus tells us to make disciples. He tells us to start by *baptizing* them and then to *teach them to obey* all the things he commanded.

We *become* disciples by trusting in Jesus, following him and obeying his commands. We *make* disciples by teaching others to do the same. All disciple-making starts here, with loving faith and obedience as its only foundation. A church is a group of people gathered together to trust, love and obey Jesus.

Jesus tells his disciples to do many things. We do not obey these commands to earn salvation. When we belong to Jesus, obedience is natural. We obey him out of love and respect. Our obedience to his commands shows that his life is in us.

Acts 2:36-47

Read the story in Acts 2:36-47 to find:

- How soon were new believers baptized and added to the church?
- Where did they break bread in fellowship and to observe the Lord's Supper?

- How did they show their love for each other in a very practical way?
- What did the Lord do for the new, obedient church, to make it grow?

This passage helps us understand what a church really is! It is people who gather to follow Jesus together. The story in Acts reveals what the first Christians did to honor Christ. They remembered what Jesus had taught and obeyed his words with fervor and joy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, they obeyed the commands of Christ from the beginning. God's blessing and joy come to churches that obey Christ in love.

Assignments & Applications:

- Memorize John 14:15.
- Spend some time thinking about the difference between obeying out of love, and obeying out of fear.
- If you do not already keep a journal of your life with Christ, begin one as a way of remembering what God says to you through the Bible and other ways, and what you say to God in prayer. Express your commitment to obey Jesus' basic commands before any man-made rules in your own words in your journal.



Lesson Two: Repent, Believe & Receive the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:4-10

When thinking about spreading the message of Jesus, some Christians look at some of the non-Christians they know and think, “Let’s not go to those people. We know how they are and the bad things they have done. We should not waste our time with them.”

Please read the story in Matthew 3:4-10 and answer this question:

- What kind of people did John the Baptist baptize—people who were already good and religious, or those who recognized their sin, failure and need?

People who know they have sin in their lives respond to Jesus’ promise of forgiveness more easily than people who think they are good. But what should we tell them about God?

Luke 24:36-53

Read the story in Luke 24:36-53 to find these important things:

- What two great events in Jesus’ life history can we recount to others?
- What must a sinner do, according to this passage, to receive forgiveness of sins?
- Where does our power come from, to tell others about Jesus?

When we speak to others about Jesus, we explain that he is the Savior sent by God (the Messiah, the Christ) and we tell about his death and resurrection. We invite people not just to a mental decision, but to action too. This action is repentance that is expressed by baptism. We help new believers understand that God gives them power through the Holy Spirit to tell others about Jesus.

Some might say, “We should not talk to people about their sin. That offends them. People only need to accept the fact that God loves them! That is enough.” What do you think about this?

Acts 2:37-38

Please read the story in Acts 2:37-38 to find:

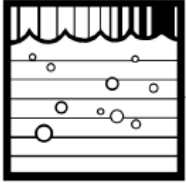
- What did Peter say about Jesus?
- What did Peter tell people to do to be saved?

The Apostle Peter preached the important truths of the gospel. Three thousand people responded with repentance and faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. They were baptized the very same day and added to Christ's church. Peter taught these truths:

- Jesus is a man that God approved through miracles as the Lord and Messiah.
- His death brings us forgiveness.
- His resurrection brings us victory over death and a new life through God's Holy Spirit.
- Our response is repentance and faith in Jesus, expressed by baptism and joining with other disciples as part of the church.

Assignments & Applications:

- Memorize Luke 24:46-47.
- Make a list of several stories from the Bible that you could use to help people understand the gospel.
- Plan what you will do to help your relatives, friends and neighbors to come to Christ in repentance and faith.
- Help a newer believer you know to understand that when they turn to God, they receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Lesson Three:

Baptize Those Who Follow Jesus

We are to baptize people who decide to follow Jesus. But we may wonder, “It is too soon to baptize those people? What if some of them fall away from Christ? Should we wait, test their faith, and then reward those who are faithful with baptism?”

Acts 16:22-34

Please read the story in Acts 16:22-34 to find:

- Why did the jailer want to kill himself?
- What did the jailer do immediately after his conversion, so that others would also know Christ?
- How soon were the jailer and his family baptized?

The Philippian jailer feared rightly that he was doomed—a failure unworthy of life and without hope. We know people like that, too. They have failed in some way, done bad things, fallen short of their ideals and the expectations of others. But Jesus came to save those who admit that they are lost and hopeless. Baptism helps us have confidence in what Christ has done for us and in our decision to follow him in faith.

The apostle Paul explains in Romans 6:3-8 that baptism is not just the washing with water. In baptism we symbolize that our old sinful nature is crucified with Christ. We are lifted up with the risen Christ to new life. When we repent and trust in Christ, baptism helps us be confident of the new life he gives. The Holy Spirit comes to us as a gift from God to provide the guidance and power needed to live as Christ’s disciple.

We see by his actions that the jailer trusted in Jesus. He immediately called his family together. They became disciples of Jesus together. We should encourage new believers to begin making disciples for Christ immediately, starting with their own families and friends.

The jailer’s baptism immediately showed his repentance and faith. Baptism is the symbol that Jesus commanded to express outwardly the inner spiritual transformation that begins in our hearts when we become followers of Christ.

The disciples in the New Testament baptized everyone that turned to follow Jesus, soon after they made that decision. They also recognized that Christ had received those new believers as members of his church at that time. They had been added to the church, the Body of Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 18:9-14

Please read the story in Luke 18:9-14 and find:

- Which man's prayer did God answer?

The New Testament disciples did not use baptism like a graduation ceremony after a long course of study, for those who had proved themselves worthy. These human traditions in the church came later. In the New Testament church, people entered the church through repentance and faith openly confessed by baptism. *Then* they grew spiritually with the help of the Body of Christ, the church, around them.

Matthew 28:18-20

Someone might ask, "What is your authority for baptizing new believers?" Please read Matthew 28:18-20 to find these details:

- With what authority does Jesus order us to make disciples?
- What two things are we to do for people, so that they become disciples of Christ?
- What does Jesus promise to do that helps us obey this great commission?

Three Levels of Authority

We might say that there are actually three levels of authority for what believers should do as a church. Here is an easy way to remember from where our authority comes:

- First and above all, the commands of Jesus and his apostles in the Bible,
- Second, the example practices of the apostles and early Christians in the Bible, that are not specifically commanded,
- Third, from our human Christian traditions—things that a church agrees to do, that are not clearly taught in the Bible.

We obey the commands of Jesus above all else. These commands and the commands of his apostles are the first level of authority. We should allow nothing to keep us from obeying Jesus in love.

The second level is those practices of the apostles that were not commanded. They are examples to us. We cannot prohibit things they practiced. We cannot command them either, because Jesus never did. These apostolic practices include: meeting on Sunday, meeting in homes and other natural gathering places, sharing leadership in the church, singing in Christian gatherings, baptism immediately or soon after a person decides to follow Christ, and laying on of hands to pray for people or entrust them with ministry responsibility.

The third level of authority is human tradition. These help us to work together in harmony. Most of them are good. However, if any human tradition interferes with the commands of Christ, we have a crucial choice to make. Will we follow our church tradition or will we obey the Lord Jesus?

Assignments & Applications:

- Memorize Matthew 28:18-20.
- Begin to baptize new believers as soon as possible without delaying because of man-made requirements, and let them participate fully as members of the church body by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Encourage and help new believers to begin making disciples for Christ immediately among their own family and friends.
- Examine the traditions of your church to make sure that nothing delays or interferes with your obedience to the commands of Christ and his apostles.



Lesson Four: Love GOD and Love Others

Matthew 22:36-40

Jesus commands us to love in Matthew 22:36-40. It is the greatest of God's commands.

- Is obedience to this command a characteristic of your life in faith? Your church?

Luke 10:25-37

Please read the story in Luke 10:25-37 to find:

- To whom we are to show love, besides God.
- What the Samaritan did to show love for his neighbor.
- Who our neighbor is, as God sees it.

The religious leaders that passed the injured traveler *knew* they were commanded to love their neighbor, but they did not stop to help the man in need. The Samaritan and the injured Jewish traveler were enemies because of their background, but the Samaritan *did* stop to help. Everyone who is in need is our neighbor in God's view, even if that person is an enemy from a human view of things. God wants us to love them all.

God is love, and we were created to be like God. He made us to love him and to love each other just as he loves us. Love must be practically expressed. Just talking about Jesus is not enough. People know that we belong to Christ when we look for practical ways to show love for each other. We are no longer just interested in what God can do for us.

We show our love to God by obeying him. Our worship of God and our obedience to all the other commands come from this great command. We show our love to our neighbors by serving them in practical ways, especially when they need our help.

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus commands us to love even our enemies in Matthew 5:44. Please read Matthew 18:21-35 to find:

- How much of the debt did the master cancel?
- How did the first servant treat the second, poorer servant?
- What did the master do to the unforgiving servant?

We show our enemies love by forgiving them. That is how Jesus forgave us. We also show love to new believers by openly welcoming them as part of our church. We show love to our disciples by listening to them with genuine concern and helping them grow and have fruitful ministries.

Matthew 20:1-16

Read Matthew 20:1-16 to find:

- What should our attitude be toward new believers?

New believers have the same right to God's grace that the older ones have! We receive them into the church with as much grace as God showed us.

John 17:20-23

Please read John 17:20-23 to find:

- What did Jesus ask God to do for us?
- In what way is our unity with each other like the unity between the Father and the Son of God?
- How will the world know that God sent Jesus?

The church is united in God's sight, one in Christ. A local church is a group of people united to obey Jesus in love in everyday life. It is God's will that we help one another and build each other up. Jesus does not tell us to follow him, each one in his own way, alone.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three persons, but still one God. We may be many people, but we are united in the Body of Christ. We learn to obey Christ within the church, the Body of Christ. We learn there how to show practical love to God and to each other.

New believers in the New Testament gathered together to obey Jesus in love. Acts 2:42-47 says that after their repentance and baptism, they applied the apostles' teaching to their lives. They practiced loving fellowship, gave generously, celebrated the Lord's Supper and prayed powerfully. The church started from this united, immediate and loving obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Assignments & Applications:

- Pray that your church will be rooted and established in love.
- Memorize Luke 10:27.
- Make practical plans to serve people who have with emotional, physical or spiritual needs.
- Plan to do things as a church body that will build unity with each other and with other churches.



Lesson Five: Break Bread and Worship GOD

In Matthew 26:26,27 Jesus tells his followers to break bread together in remembrance of him.

1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Please read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34 about the Lord's Supper now to find these instructions for us:

- What did Jesus say that the bread and the cup represent?
- Why did Jesus say that we are to observe the Lord's Supper?
- Who should participate in the Lord's Supper?

Jesus tells us that the bread is his body and the cup is the new agreement God made in Jesus' blood. In this meal, we know the Lord is very close to us. The new agreement between God and us lets us come near to God through Jesus. Through Jesus, we have a new, holy and eternal life by the power of the Holy Spirit. You see this in Acts 2:38 and Hebrews 9:15. By taking the Lord's Supper, we strengthen our faith in God's grace.

We celebrate the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus and to show our faith in his death until he comes back. We do not have to understand the mystery that happens. We should celebrate the Lord's Supper sincerely and regularly. The Lord's Supper shows our unity with each other as a body and with Christ as our Head.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 tells us that partaking of the bread and cup is a participation in the body and blood of our Lord. We may not understand this very well. So we simply quote the words of Scripture when we observe the Lord's Supper, and trust him to work in our hearts. His supernatural work is in our hearts, not in lifeless pieces of bread.

When you observe the Lord's Supper with other Christians just say what Jesus says, "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink, this is my blood of the new covenant." (Matthew 26:26-28) Some Christians will say that you need a pastor with official recognition and an academic theological education to serve the Lord's Supper. But the New Testament church broke bread together regularly in their homes, as Acts 2:42-47 and 20:7 shows. Although Christ does not command to break bread weekly, the New Testament Christians gave us this example. It strengthens discipline and worship in new churches. Any group of believers, no matter how small or how new, should be encouraged to observe the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 18:15-17

The Lord's Supper is to confirm our love for Christ and our love for each other. We do it in obedience to Christ. Every follower of Jesus should participate if they come before God in repentance and faith, trusting in Christ's death on the cross for forgiveness and cleansing from

sin. The Bible teaches that when an erring believer repents, we are to restore him at once (Galatians 6:1). Our sin breaks our fellowship with God, and, in time, with other believers. But when we confess it and turn from it, God renews our fellowship. In 1 John 1:9 God promises, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'

- Find in Matthew 18:15-17 what steps we take with erring believers to restore them, and what to do with those who do not repent.

Assignments & Applications:

- Highlight 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 in your Bible so you can easily read the words of Christ when you celebrate the Lord's Supper.
- Serve the Lord's Supper regularly in your worship times to all who come with repentant hearts.

Pass on the instructions and authority to serve the Lord's Supper to new churches.



Lesson Six:

Pray at All Times for All Things

Matthew 26:36-46

Read Matthew 26:36-46 to find:

- Where did Jesus pray?
- To whom did Jesus pray?
- What posture did Jesus take that showed the great urgency of his prayer?
- What was Jesus' greatest desire in his prayer?

You will see that Jesus prayed fervently, sometimes falling to the ground and weeping. He brought his great need before his Father persistently until he was ready to face death. He did not want to go to the cross, but he desired even more to obey God his Father. He trusted that the Father's answer, even if it was "no," was the best answer. We, too, should learn to keep praying fervently, trusting God instead of demanding our own desire.

Like Jesus, we pray to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus who is our way to God. His work on the cross makes it possible for us to go directly into the presence of God and ask boldly for what we need. (Hebrews 4:16). Our sinfulness no longer blocks our prayers to God. Jesus is our only mediator. Scripture tells us not to pray to the dead (Deuteronomy 18:11). All our prayers are to God in the name of Jesus.

Why Pray in Different Ways?

The Scriptures tell us that our praying should come from the heart, and without confusion. We should not pray with fancy words or long repetitions to impress other people.

The Bible shows us many different ways to pray. Jesus prostrated himself on the ground to show his great need and his submission to the Father. Other people in the Bible sat, stood, knelt, or raised their hands. Prayers were spoken, sung, shouted, and said silently. Body position does not matter. What is important is how honestly we pour out our hearts to God.

Sometimes Jesus moved away from his friends so that he could pray to his Father, alone. We too should take time alone every day to strengthen our relationship with our Father in prayer. Jesus prayed publicly, and we also pray out loud with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Matthew 6:1-13: Jesus Teaches us How to Pray

Read the prayer called 'The Lord's Prayer' in Matthew 6:1-13 to find the words that express these reasons for praying daily:

- To praise God
- To extend the kingdom of God
- To ask for what we need
- To ask for forgiveness
- To ask for protection from the evil one, Satan
- To glorify God

Why does God not answer all our prayers?

Answers to our prayers also depend on our obedience to God, as he explains in 1 John 3:21,22. Four sins can hinder our prayers: failure to forgive, selfishness, lack of faith, and lack of love for other people. When we confess these sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and change our hearts. Sometimes it seems our prayers are not answered because God has answered in a different way than what we wanted.

Assignments & Applications:

- Memorize the *Lord's Prayer* in Matthew 6:9-13.
- Pray daily yourself and encourage other believers to pray daily also. The best time normally is early in the morning, mealtimes, and before going to bed at night.
- Ask each family to set apart a time daily for family prayers.
- Share with other believers when God answers prayers, to encourage them.
- Like the New Testament church in Acts 4:29-31, fervently ask God to let you take the good news about Jesus to more people.



Lesson Seven: Give Generously of Time, Talents and Treasure

We must teach believers to obey Jesus' command to give (Luke 6:38). We have received everything from God that we need to follow Christ and inherit eternal life. Just as God has given to us, we are to give so that others can come to follow Christ and grow in their faith. We teach new believers to give as a way of helping them grow in faith and obedience, and as a way of leading them to experience the blessings God promises to those who give.

We give money or other material things to help those in need and to serve other followers of Christ. But we give more than that. We give our whole lives, serving others as Christ serves us. We are not to be like the world's leaders who like to "lord it over" those they control. We are to be humble, always looking for opportunities to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ.

Luke 21:1-4

Please read Luke 21:1-4 to find:

- How much did the widow give, of all she had?
- How did God measure the size of her gift, as compared with the gifts of the rich?

See how the widow gave all that she had to live on, 100%. Although the people of the Old Testament were commanded to give to God 10% of everything they received, under the New Testament that law is not what should motivate us. Our love for God motivates us to give all that we can and more, like the widow. Paul taught the Corinthian Christians to set aside something each week for the Lord's work (1Corinthians 16:2). Ten percent of what we earn is a good starting place (Malachi 3:6-10).

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 God promises to bless those who give out of a cheerful and grateful heart. Everything we have comes from God, so cheerful giving shows that we are grateful to him. Our generosity shows that we believe that he is the Lord over everything we have. It also shows our faith in his promise to take care of us and bless us.

God saw into the hearts of the widow and the rich people. He saw *why* they were giving. The rich gave out of their excess, to fulfill an obligation or to impress people. The widow only gave two small coins, but God knew it was a sacrifice of love, so he considered it to be more than the gifts of the rich.

Here are some ways people in the Bible used their offerings:

- To help or support some Christian workers and leaders
- To help widows and orphans, and others in need

- To help those who are hungry
- To build or repair the temple

Revelation 21:1-9

We are waiting for Jesus to return, just like he left (Acts 1:9-11). When he does, everything will be changed. We will receive a heavenly reward. We will have riches that will last for all eternity. Read Revelation 21:1-9 to find:

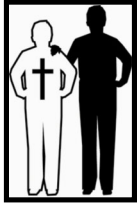
- With whom does God live in the new kingdom?
- What happens to tears and death in heaven?
- What happens to the people who refuse to trust God and leave their lives of sin?

We will live with God and be his people. We will be perfect, and he will welcome us like a groom welcomes a beautiful bride! There will be no more crying, suffering, or dying. Everything will be new and beautiful!

We are waiting for a wonderful new kingdom. So we do not worry about building up riches and influence in this life. These are not the important things of life, because this life is passing quickly. If God blesses us with money, we use it to help the weak and serve God. Remember that “it is more blessed to give than to receive,” as Christ says in Acts 20:34,35.

Assignments & Applications:

- Memorize 2 Corinthians 9:67.
- Plan with your church to keep a good account of the money that people give as offerings and how it is spent.
- Name a treasurer and another person to count the money. The treasurer should never to loan any money or pay for things that are not approved by the leaders of the church.
- A leader should never make decisions alone as to how the money is spent, or take it all for himself. Leaders should plan with the church for what the offerings will be used.



Lesson Eight: Make Disciples

What if someone criticizes you for teaching about Christ without first studying more of the Bible, or being officially recognized by a church, school or other organization as a “qualified leader?”

Luke 5:1-11 and 5:27-32.

Please read the story in Luke 5:1-11 and 5:27-32 to find:

- After Jesus helped the fishermen to catch a lot of fish, what did he promise that they would catch in the future?
- What two things did Matthew do immediately after becoming a disciple of Jesus?
- Jesus did not come to associate only with very good people. What kind of people did Jesus say he came to save?

Jesus promised to make his disciples fishers of men. Like Peter, we can do nothing without him. Only by his power can we call people to repentance and faith. He gives us power through his gift, the Holy Spirit. He also taught his disciples to work together, in teams of two or more. You should pray and ask others to pray that the Holy Spirit will empower you and give you more coworkers (Matthew 9:38).

When Jesus called Levi (Matthew), he left everything and immediately followed Jesus, just as Peter and the other disciples had done. To be a disciple means to let Jesus rule over every part of our lives and obey him immediately.

However, you cannot wait to care for other people just because you are not yet perfect! When we come to Christ we love people more than ever. The first thing Matthew did as a disciple of Jesus was to call his friends together for a dinner party so that he could introduce Jesus to them. We start making disciples among our own friends and family. We tell them about Jesus, his teaching, his miracles, his death and his resurrection. (1 Corinthians 2:2-5). We also tell them about what Jesus means to us and how he has made a difference in our lives.

The teachers of the law called Matthew and his friends sinners. Peter also knew he was a sinner. These sinners were the people Jesus came to call to repentance and make fishers of men. Jesus called groups of sinners, like the tax collectors at Matthew’s party, to follow him and be his church. He forgives, cleanses and changes their hearts. Then he uses them to reach others!

Acts 2:36-47

Read the story in Acts 2:36-47 to find:

- What did the apostles tell the 3,000 converts to do in order to be baptized and added to the church?

- What other things did the converts do immediately after baptism, because of the discipleship training that they received from the apostles?

In Acts chapter 2, the apostles could not stop talking about Jesus, his death and his resurrection. By the power of the Spirit, many people were led to repentance and faith. The apostle Peter told them all to repent and be baptized. He promised that they would receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Three thousand repented and placed their faith in Christ. They were all baptized and added to the church that very day!

After baptism they learned the things taught by Christ and the apostles. The new believers immediately obeyed the commands of Christ. In Acts 2 it says the people heard and followed the apostles' teaching, had loving fellowship, broke bread together, prayed, and gave to those in need. That is exactly how the first church started!

Important Elements of Church Gatherings

A church puts Christ's commands into practice even as they meet together. Offering ourselves to God in obedience to Jesus is true worship (Romans 12:1). We do not obey Christ only when we meet together. We also find ways to obey him in joy throughout our everyday lives.

The following things are the important parts of our worship of God when we meet together. We should do these things when we meet with our family and friends to worship.

- Pray
- Praise God
- Learn from the Word of God
- Confess our sins and receive assurance of forgiveness
- Remember Jesus' death for our sins by participating in the Lord's Supper
- Give materially a portion of that with which God has blessed us
- Fellowship with one another.

Even a very new church or a very small church with just your family can do all these things in a simple form when it meets together. It is good to also have a definite beginning and a definite ending for your worship time.

You can function as a church and worship together even with only two or three followers of Christ! Lead the worship yourselves. Give each person something to do, remembering each person's spiritual gifts, so you can all participate.

Assignments & Applications:

- Pray fervently for the people near you and in the distant parts world, that need Jesus.
- Seek opportunities to talk with a kind and loving spirit about Jesus, with your family and friends.
- Pray for God to give you co-workers or teammates to share the challenge of leading others to Christ and beginning new churches.
- If necessary, limit the times you meet with other Christians so that you will also have time to share Christ with those who need Him.
- Practice the important elements of worship when you meet together as a church.

Starting a “Basic Church”

- Two or three believers can start by just getting friends or family members together, even through they are not yet believers, for food and fellowship (party, luncheon, breakfast, etc.) Fellowship is first in the list of essential elements below. Keep food and drink preparations simple if you are not meeting in a restaurant. After the first meeting share shopping or preparation responsibilities with group participants.
- You can add the other elements immediately or gradually one by one if you need to, usually in the sequence below at the pace of the group--slow or fast.
- Some believers are needed for baptism and the Lord’s supper (#5). Up to that point participants might be mostly seekers.
- Seek to share leadership among participants as you meet (fellowship, Bible reading, praying, etc.) As participants decide to follow Christ, you might choose someone to help you shepherd the group, but it's not essential at the beginning stage.
- When a core group has decided to follow Christ and you are functioning as the body of Christ in ministering to one another and reaching out to the lost, you have a firmly established Basic Church and should pray and work to start other Basic Churches.
- Most groups should give birth to new Basic Churches after they have an average of 6 to 8 regularly participating. It’s best to let 2 or 3 members become a team to start the new group. Small group vitality, intimacy and participation are usually lost in groups larger than 8.

1. Have Fellowship

One way is to talk and have fun as you have a meal. Plan any activity in which your friends or relatives will participate and find it easy to talk.

Practice the "one another" passages from the New Testament, the church 'body life' described in 1 Corinthians chapters 12 through 13, and 14:26.

2. Praise God

If the setting allows sing praises to God. Perhaps someone can accompany the singing with a piano, guitar, or other instrument. If no one can play an instrument you might sing with a CD player.

In some settings it is wise to praise God quietly without using music. You can read a Psalm, a hymn, give testimony, praise God for one or more of His great characteristics (forgiving, powerful, holy, compassionate, etc), read a poem, etc.

3. Hear the Word

Start with parables and stories of Christ. If the participants have a world view that gives no meaning, or a mistaken meaning to the words "God," "holy," "sin," "deserved punishment," "redemption," "salvation," "heaven," and "judgment," then you might have to lay a foundation for these concepts by beginning with Old Testament stories. Read or tell the stories from the Bible with feeling and meaning.

For beginners, tell stories that focus on the seven basic commands of Christ (listed below). Do this as soon as any new believer or seeker can understand their importance. When new people become believers later on, ask someone go over Jesus' commands with them outside the regular meeting, so that the group is not bored with constant repetition.

When the group matures, you can work through one or more of the Gospels, then the Epistles or any other Bible book, including passages that are not stories.

Use questions to discuss the Bible. Some find these questions helpful:

What did you like best about the Bible story or passage?

What did you not understand?

What can we learn from the passage about the nature and needs of people?

What can we learn from the passage about God (the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit)?

What did you personally learn about how God wants you to live?

4. Pray

Pray for one another. Pray especially for friends and family members who don't yet believe in Jesus. Each person can give prayer requests and others pray for them. Often non-Christians are touched spiritually by having someone pray for them.

5. Celebrate the Baptism and Lord's Supper

New believers should be baptized as soon as possible as their first public step in a life of following Christ and as a visible symbolic confession of their faith. Ideally baptism should be done by the person or persons most involved in leading the new believer to Christ. The authority to baptize is part of the Great Commission given by Jesus to all of His followers in Matthew 28:18-20.

Do the Lord's supper at every meeting or less often if the group prefers. Be sensitive to the feelings of non-believers who might be attending. Keep it simple. Consider doing the Lord's Supper at the end of your food and fellowship time at the beginning of the meeting. There is no need for a sermon beforehand. Avoid long explanations of the symbols. Just explain that Jesus told us to eat and drink in remembrance of His death on the cross. Let the mystery stand.

6. Teach them to give generously and cheerfully, in obedience to Jesus.

Let the group decide how it will be used, and make sure that it meets a definite need, or needs. Use offerings for the functions of the Basic Church (fellowship, evangelism, training), needs of people you might be ministering to, ministries or churches that are somehow supporting or helping your Basic Church.

Passing an offering basket or bag may be awkward in a small group. It can offend visitors. Put a simple offering box or basket in the place you meet and instruct believers to put their offerings there.

Things to Remember:

- If possible, don't meet every time in the same leader or a mature believer's home--it does far more good to meet at the home of a newer believer or seeker.
- It is best if mature believers encourage newer believers and seekers to invite their family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors.
- Mature believers should be careful to talk less and listen more, allowing younger believers to develop in the group. Presence of mature believers or leaders may actually interfere with some groups. In such cases younger believers should lead the meeting, getting advice and encouragement in coaching sessions with a leader or mature believer at another time.
- Keep it simple. Do everything in a way that the people in the group can imitate easily and reproduce by themselves in another new group. Ask others to lead rather than focusing on one leader week after week. Even not-yet-Christians can lead fun and fellowship times. You coach them behind the scenes.
- Keep things relaxed and informal. You can meet in a home, a restaurant or in an office during the lunch break.
- During the meeting, don't just focus on one person (a seeker or a new believer). We must edify the whole the group and help everyone to participate in some way.

Seven Basic Commands of Christ and Bible Stories that Relate to Them:

1. **Repent, believe, and receive the Holy Spirit** (Mark 1:15; John 20:21-23).
Stories: The Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-32; Jesus' talk with Nicodemus, John 3:1-17; Paul's conversion, Acts 9:1-31.
2. **Baptize** (Matt. 28:18-20)
Stories: Jesus' baptism, Matt. 3; Jesus' command to baptize, Matt. 28:18-20; the jailer and his family, Acts 16: 16-34.
3. **Love God and Love Others** (Matt. 22:33-40; Luke 6:27-33)
Stories: The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-42; Ruth's love for her mother-in-law Naomi, Ruth 1.
4. **Break bread (Lord's Supper) in remembrance of Jesus' death and worship Him** (Matt. 26:26-28)
Stories: The original Passover Feast, Exodus 12; Jesus offers his flesh to eat and offends his followers, John 6:24-63.
5. **Pray at All Times for All Things** (John 16:24)
Stories: Abraham's prayer for Lot's family, Gen. 18:20-33; the publican's prayer, Luke 18:9-14.
6. **Give generously of Time, Talent and Treasure** (Luke 6:38)
Stories: Abigail feeds David's hungry soldiers, 1 Sam. 25; Dorcas makes clothes for the poor, Acts 9:36-43; Barnabas sells his property to give to the needy, Acts 4:32-37.

7. **Make disciples** (Matt. 28:18-20)

Stories: Jesus chooses the twelve to accompany him, Mark 3:13-19; the apostles teach the believers

APPENDIX: 335 COMMANDS OF JESUS

Compiled from *The Greatest Life Ever Lived*, by Cheny and Ellisen, 1999 edition by Meltebeke and Meltebeke.

*Class Codes: EITHER D = direct, imperative OR I = indirect, implied;
EITHER G = generally applicable to all Christ-followers OR S = specific to a historic situation*

	Command	References	Class	
1	Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.	Lk 4.8 Mt 4.10	D	G
2	Fill the jars.... Draw some out ... take....	Jn 2.7-8	D	S
3	Make not my Father's house a market.	Jn 2:16	D	G
4	Worship God in spirit and in truth.	Jn 4.24	I	G
5	Do the will of him who sent me and accomplish his work.	Jn 4.34	I	G
6	See the fields. They are already ripe for harvest.	Jn 4.36	D	G
7	Repent and believe the Good News.	Mt 4:17 Mk 1:15	D	G
8	Come and follow me.	Mk 1.17	D	G
9	Let us go to the other towns nearby ... preach there, too.	Mk 1.18	D	S
10	Move out to the deep water, and let down your nets for a catch.	Lk 5.4	D	S
11	Be not afraid.	Lk 5.10	D	S
12	Take heart ... your sins are forgiven.	Mk 2.5 Mt 9.2	D	G
13	Follow me.	Lk 5.28	D	G
14	You ought to go learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."	Mt 9.13	D	G
15	Call sinners to repentance.	Lk 5.32	I	G
16	"I desire mercy and not sacrifice." (Hosea 6.6)	Mt 12.7	I	G
17	Do good on the Sabbath.	Mk 3.5	I	G
18	"Exercise justice amongst the nations." (Isa 42.2)	Mt 12.18	I	G
19	Hunger and thirst after righteousness.	Mt 5.6	I	G
20	Show mercy.	Mt 5.7	I	G
21	Make peace.	Mt 5.9	I	G
22	Be glad ... and jump for joy.	Mt 5.12 Lk 6.23	I	G
23	Let your light shine before others ... the good things you do.	Mt 5.16	D	G
24	Make it right with him. Then return and offer your gift.	Mt 5.24	D	G

25	Try hard to reach a settlement.	Mt 5.25 Lk 12.58	D	G
26	Cut it off and throw it away.	Mt 5.30	D	G
27	Allow him to slap the other cheek also.	Mt 5.39	D	G
28	Go two miles.	Mt 5.41	D	G
29	Give to everyone who asks you for something.	Mt 5.42 Lk 6.30	D	G
30	Love you enemies and treat well those who mistreat you, and bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse and persecute you.	Mt 5.44 Lk 6.27	D	G
31	Love your enemies, do good to them and lend to them, looking for nothing in return.	Lk 6.35	D	G
32	Be compassionate.... Be perfect.	Mt 5.48 Lk 6.36	D	G
33	Give to the needy. Give to the needy in secret.	Mt 6.2, 3, 4	D	G
34	Pray. Pray to your Father in secret.	Mt 6.5, 6	D	G
35	Pray like this....	Mt 6.9	D	G
36	Forgive those who offend you.	Mt 6.14	I	G
37	Fast. Fast ... in secret.	Mt 6.16, 17, 18	I	G
38	Observe the birds.	Mt 6.26	D	G
39	Observe how the lilies grow.	Mt 6.28 Lk 12.27	D	G
40	First seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness.	Mt 6.33 Lk 12.30		
41	Forgive.	Lk 6.37	D	G
42	Give.	Lk 6.38	D	G
43	Remove the plank from you own eye.	Mt 7.5	D	G
44	Ask ... seek ... knock.	Mt 7.7	D	G
45	Treat other in the way you yourself would like to be treated.	Mt 7.12	D	G
46	Enter through the narrow gate.	Mt 7.13	D	G
47	Do what I say.	Mt 7.21	I	G
48	Do what my heavenly Father desires.	Mt 7.21	I	G
49	Hear and obey me.	Mt 7.24	I	G
50	Hear (my words),	Mk 7.16	D	G
51	Go. Believe.	Mt 8.13	I	S
52	Get up.	Lk 7.14	D	S
53	Accept it, he is Elijah.	Mt 11.13	I	S
54	Love much.	Lk 7.47	I	G
55	Go in peace.	Lk 7.50	D	S
56	First tie up the strong man.	Mt 12.29	I	G

57	Gather with me.	Mt 12.30	I	G
58	Hear the Word of God and do it.	Lk 8.21	I	G
59	Hear.	Lk 8.8	D	G
60	Turn and be forgiven.	Mt 4.12	I	G
61	Understand the parable.	Mt 13.18	D	G
62	Hear the Word with an honest and good heart. Welcome and understand it, grip it tightly, and patiently bear fruit.	Mt 13.23 Lk 8.15 Mk 4.20	I	G
63	Be careful how you listen. Pay attention to what you hear.	Mt 4.24 Lk 8.18	D	G
64	Hear.	Mt 13.43	I	G
65	Go home to your relatives and tell them what great things the Lord God has done for you and how he had mercy on you.	Mk 5.19	D	G
66	Take heart.	Mt 9.22	D	G
67	Go in peace, and be free from this affliction.	Mk 5.34 Lk 8.48	D	S
68	Stop weeping.	Lk 8.52	D	S
69	Get up.	Mk 5.42	D	S
70	Get up. Pick up your mat and walk.	Jn 5.8	D	S
71	Come to me that you might have life.	Jn 5.40	I	G
72	Pray to the Lord of the harvest that he will send out workers into his harvest fields.	Mt 9.38	D	G
73	Go to the lost sheep....	Mt 10.6	D	G
74	Say, "The kingdom of heaven has come."	Mt 10.7	D	G
75	Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure the lepers, cast out demons.	Mt 10.8	D	G
76	Freely you have received, freely give.	Mt 10.8	D	G
77	When you enter a city or village, find out who is worthy.	Mt 10.11	D	G
78	Remain in whatever home you enter until you leave.	Mk 6.10 Lk 9.4	D	G
79	When you enter the home, say a greeting.	Mt 10.12	D	G
80	Allow your blessing to rest on it... return to you.	Mt 10.13	D	G
81	Shake off the dust from under your feet as a testimony.	Mt 10.14 Mk 6.11 Lk 9.5	D	G
82	Be as wise as snakes and as gentle as doves.	Mt 10.16	D	G
83	Do not fear them.	Mt 10.26	D	G
84	Acknowledge me before others.	Mt 10.32	D	G
85	Go and find out.	Mk 6.38	D	S
86	Bring the food here to me.	Mt 14.18	D	S
87	Take courage. It is I.	Jn 6.20	D	S

88	Come.	Mt 14.29	D	S
89	Work ... for the lasting food that gives eternal life.	Jn 6.27	D	G
90	Believe in the one whom he sent.	Jn 6.29	D	G
91	Come to me ... believe in me ... believe in (the Son)	Jn 6.35, 40, 47	I	G
92	Eat this bread ... eat my flesh ... eat his body ... eat my body ... drink his blood ... drink my blood.	Jn 6.5, 53-54, 58		
93	Come to me.	Jn 6.37	I	G
94	Eat the body of the Son of Man and drink his blood.	Jn 6.53	I	G
95	Leave them alone.	Mt 15.14	D	S
96	Go on home.	Mt 7.29	D	S
97	Watch out for the [teaching] of the Pharisees....	Mk 8.15	D	G
98	Go up to the feast.	Jn 7.8	D	S
99	Judge not by the looks of things; judge rightly.	Jn 7.24	D	G
100	Come to me and drink. (Isaiah 55.1)	Jn 7.37	D	G
101	Cast the first stone.	Jn 8.8	D	G
102	Go your way and stop sinning.	Jn 8.11	D	G
103	Believe that I AM.	Jn 8.24	D	G
104	Continue in my word ... be my disciples.	Jn 8.31	D	G
105	Come after me ... own interests aside ... take up a cross ... and follow me.	Mt 16.24 Mk 8.34	I	G
106	Act on what I say.	Jn 8.51	D	G
107	Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.	Jn 9.7	D	S
108	Believe in the Son of God.	Jn 9.35	I	G
109	Believe the things I do.	Jn 10.38	D	G
110	Get up.	Mt 17.7	D	S
111	Believe.	Mt 17.17 Mk 9.19, 23 Lk 9.41	I	G
112	Pray.	Mt 17.21 Mk 9.29	I	G
113	Take it and give it to them for you and for me.	Mt 17.27	D	G
114	Have faith the size of a mustard seed.	Mt 17.20	I	G
115	Be last of all and servant of all.	Mk 9.35	I	G
116	Change your mind and become like little children.	Mt 18.2	I	G
117	Humble yourselves.	Mt 18.4	I	G
118	Listen carefully.	Lk 9.44	I	G
119	Be least amongst you.	Lk 9.48	I	G
120	Receive one such little child in my name.	Mk 9.36	I	G
121	Cut it off and throw it away.	Mk 9.43	D	G
122	Have salt amongst yourselves and live at peace with each other.	Mk 9.50	D	G

123	Go and tell him privately.	Mt 18.15	D	G
124	Take one or two others with you.	Mt 18.16	D	G
125	Tell it to the congregation.	Mt 18.17	D	G
126	Treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.	Mt 18.17	D	G
127	Bind ... release on earth.	Mt 18.18	D	G
128	Agree on earth.	Mt 18.19	D	G
129	Gather in my name.	Mt 18.20	I	G
130	[Forgive a brother] up to seventy times seven.	Mt 18.22	D	G
131	Each of you, forgive your brother from your heart.	Mt 18.35	D	G
132	Follow me.	Lk 9.59	D	G
133	Go out and announce the kingdom of God.	Lk 9.60	D	G
134	Earnestly ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.	Lk 10.2	D	G
135	First say, "Peace to this home."	Lk 10.6	D	G
136	Remain in that home, eating and drinking whatever they provide for you.	Lk 10.7	D	G
137	Heal the sick and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near."	Lk 10.9	D	G
138	Rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.	Lk 10.20	D	G
139	Standing to pray, having ought against another, forgive.	Mt 11.25	D	G
140	Come to me, everyone who is weary and heavily laden.	Mt 11.28	D	G
141	Put my yoke upon you and learn about me.	Mt 11.29	D	G
142	Go and do the same [show mercy].	Lk 10.37	D	G
143	Pray ... say ...	Lk 11.2	D	G
144	Ask ... seek ... knock....	Lk 11.9	D	G
145	Hear the Word of God and put it into practice.	Lk 11.28	I	G
146	Ensure that your body is full of light.	Lk 11.36	D	G
147	Give from the abundance of your heart.	Lk 11.41	D	G
148	Fear the one who can both kill you and throw you into hell. Yes, be afraid of him.	Lk 12.5	D	G
149	Acknowledge me before others.	Lk 12.8	D	G
150	Watch out. Be on your guard against greed of all kinds.	Lk 12.15	D	G
151	Be rich towards God.	Lk 12.21	D	G
152	Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide money bags for yourselves that will not wear out.	Lk 12.33	D	G
153	Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps burning. Be like those who are waiting for their master....	Lk 12.35	D	G

154	Be ready.	Mt 24.44 Lk 12.14	D	G
155	Be a servant that watches ... who is always ready.	Lk 12.37-38	I	G
156	Be a trustworthy and wise manager.	Mt 24.45	D	G
157	Produce much... contribute much.	Lk 12.48	I	G
158	Try hard to reach a settlement.	Lk 12.58	D	G
159	Try hard to enter through the narrow gate.	Lk 13.24	D	G
160	Go and tell that fox....	Lk 13.32	D	S
161	Say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."	Lk 13.15	D	G
162	Take the least important place.	Lk 14.9	D	G
163	Humble yourselves.	Lk 14.11	D	G
164	Invite the poor....	Lk 14.12	D	G
165	Bring in the poor....	Lk 14.21	D	G
166	Compel them to come in.	Lk 14.23	D	G
167	"Hate" your (relatives).	Lk 14.26	D	G
168	Take up your cross and follow Jesus.	Lk 14.27	I	G
169	Sit down and calculate the cost.	Lk 14.28	I	S
170	Consider.... Ask for terms of peace.	Lk 14.31-32	I	S
171	Leave everything you have... be my disciple.	Lk 14.33	D	G
172	Leave the ninety-nine and search for the lost one.	Lk 15.4	I	G
173	Search carefully until (you) find it.	Lk 15.8	I	G
174	Say... "I have sinned against God and you; I am no longer worthy...."	Lk 15.18	I	G
175	Celebrate and be glad.	Lk 15.22	I	G
176	Use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves.	Lk 16.9	D	G
177	Be faithful in the smallest things.	Lk 16.10	I	G
178	Listen to Moses and the prophets.	Lk 16.31	I	G
179	If your brother sins against you, rebuke him. If he repents, forgive him.... You are to forgive him.	Lk 17.4	D	G
180	Have faith the size of a mustard seed.	Lk 17.6	D	G
181	Say, "We are worthless servants who have only done our duty."	Lk 17.10	D	G
182	Go, show yourselves to the priests.	Lk 17.4	D	S
183	Return and give glory to God.	Lk 17.18	D	G
184	Get up and go your way.	Lk 17.19	D	S
185	Cry out to God day and night.	Lk 18.7	I	G
186	Say, "God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner."	Lk 18.13	I	G
187	Humble yourself.	Lk 18.14	I	G
188	What God has united, let no one pull apart.	Mk 19.9	D	G
189	Make (oneself) an unique for the Kingdom	Mt 19.12	I	S
190	Whoever can accept celibacy, let him accept it.	Mt 19.12	D	G

191	Let the little children come to me and do not stop them.	Mk 10.14	D	G
192	Let us go to (Lazarus).	Jn 11.15	D	S
193	Believe in me.	Jn 11.25-26, 40	I	G
194	Roll the stone away.	Jn 11.49	D	S
195	Believe (the Father) really sent me.	Jn 11.42	I	G
196	Obey the commandments	Mt 19.17	D	S
197	"Honor your father and mother. " (Exodus 20.12ff, Deuteronomy 5:16ff)	Mt 19.19 Mk 10.19 Lk 18.20	D	S
198	"Love you neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19.18)	Mt 19.19	D	S
199	Sell everything you have and give it to the poor.	Mt 19.21 Lk 18.22	D	G
200	Take up the cross and follow me.	Mt 19.21 Mk 10.21 Lk 18.22	D	G
201	Leave house or parents or ... property.	Mt 19.29 Mk 10.29 Lk 18,19	I	G
202	Follow me.	Mt 19.28	I	S
203	Be last.	Mt 19.29, 20.16	I	G
204	Go, work ... report to my vineyard.	Mt 20.4, 7	I	G
205	Take your wages and go home.	Mt 20.14	I	G
206	Drink the cup I drink.	Mt 20.23	I	G
207	Be baptized with the baptism I undergo.	Mt 20.23	I	G
208	Become a servant ... the slave of all.	Mt 20.27, 28 Mk 10.44	I	G
209	Want Jesus to do something for you.	Lk 18.41	I	S
210	Have faith in Jesus.	Mt 20.34 Lk 18.42	I	S
211	Serve ... give your life.	Mt 20.28 Mk 10.45	I	G
212	Receive your sight.	Lk 18.42	D	S
213	Come down quickly.	Lk 19.5	D	S
214	Conduct business until I return.	Lk 19.14	I	G
215	Be a good servant ... faithful in little things.	Lk 19.17	I	G
216	Cry to Jesus ... for mercy	Mk 10.47-48 Mt 20.31	I	G
217	Bring (blind men) to me.	Mk 10.49	I	S
218	Leave her alone.	Mk 14.6	D	S

219	The poor ... help them whenever you wish.	Mt 26.11 Mk 14.7	I	G
220	Recount what this woman has done.	Mt 26.23 Mk 14.9	I	G
221	Untie (donkeys).... Say to (the owners)....	Mt 21.3 Mk 11.3 Lk 19.31	D	S
222	"Call my house an house of prayer." (Isaiah 56:7)	Lk 19.46	I	G
223	Praise from the mouths of babes and infants.	Mt 21.16	I	G
224	Have faith.... Ask in prayer.... Truly believe.	Mt 21.21, 22 Mk 11.24	I	G
225	Answer me.	Mk 11.29 Lk 20.3	D	S
226	Change your minds and believe (John).	Mt 21.32	I	G
227	Listen to another parable.	Mt 21.33	D	G
228	Respect (the Son).	Mt 21.38	I	G
229	Produce (kingdom) fruit.	Mt 21.43	I	G
230	Read (the Scripture).	Mt 21.42 Mk 12.10	I	G
231	Come to the wedding banquet.	Mt 22.4	I	G
232	Invite to come anyone you find.	Mt 22.9	I	G
233	Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.	Mk 12.17 Lk 20.25	D	G
234	Understand the Scriptures (and) the power of God.	Mt 22.29 Mk 12.24	I	G
235	"Hear.... Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." (Deuteronomy 6.5)	Mt 22.37 Mk 12.29-30	D	G
236	"Love your neighbor as yourself." (Leviticus 19.18)	Mt 22.39 Mk 12.30	D	G
237	Observe and do everything (the Pharisees) tell you to do.	Mt 23.2	D	S
238	(Do) justice, mercy and faithfulness.	Mt 23.23	I	G
239	First wash the inside of the cup and the disk.	Mt 23.26	D	G
240	Say, "Blessed is the one who comes...."	Mt 23.29	I	G
241	Follow me.... Serve me.	Jn 12.26	I	G
242	Hate your life in this world.	Jn 12.25	G	
243	Walk while you have the light.... Put your trust in the light while you have the light.	Jn 12.25	D	G
244	Turn around.	Jn 12.40	I	G
245	Believe in me (and) the one who sent me.	Jn 12.44, 46	I	G
246	Make sure you do not follow (deceivers).	Lk 21.8	D	G
247	See to it that you are not disturbed.	Mt 24.6	D	G

248	Testify before (authorities) and the Gentiles.	Mt 10.18 Lk 21.13	I	G
249	Say whatever is given to you at the moment.	Lk 12.11	I	G
250	Settle it in you heart not to ponder beforehand what to say.	Lk 21.14	D	G
251	(Show) patient endurance.	Mt10.22 Mk 13.13 Lk 21.19	I	G
252	Flee to the mountains ... run out of (the city).	Mt 24.17 Lk 21.21	D	S
253	Endure to the end.	Mt 24.13	I	G
254	Preach this good news of the kingdom to all the world as a testimony to all peoples.	Mt 24.14 Mk 13.10	I	G
255	Pray (for an escape).	Mt 24.19-20 Mk 13.17	D	S
256	Lift your heads and look up.	Lk 21.28	D	G
257	Learn ... observe ... know that the Kingdom is drawing nigh.	Mt 24.32-33 Mk 13.28-29 Lk 21.29-30	D	G
258	Watch yourselves.... Make sure your hearts.	Lk 21.34	D	G
259	Watch and pray that you may have strength to escape.	Lk 21.36	D	G
260	Be careful. Keep watch.... Watch.	Lk 21.36, 25.13 Mk 13.35	D	G
261	Come ... inherit the Kingdom.	Mt 25.34	I	G
262	Give food ... give drink ... welcome ... clothe ... visit ... come to ... the least esteemed of (Jesus') brothers.	Mt 25.35-36, 40	I	G
263	Go prepare the Passover.	Lk 22.8	D	S
264	Go ... follow ... say....	Mt 26.18 Lk 22.10	D	S
265	Take this (cup) and divide it amongst yourselves.	Lk 22.17	D	G
266	Call me teacher and Lord.	Jn 13.13	I	G
267	Wash each other's feet.	Jn 13.15	I	G
268	Do (these things).	Jn 13.17	I	G
269	Believe that I AM.	Jn 13.19	I	G
270	Welcome whomever I send.... Welcome me.	Jn 13.20	I	G
271	Do what you do quickly.	Jn 13.27	D	S
272	Believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me.	Jn 14.10	I	G
273	Believe me that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me.	Jn 14.11	D	G

274	Believe me because of the miracles.	Jn 14.11	D	G
275	Believe in me.	Jn 14.12	I	G
276	Ask anything using my name.	Jn 14.13, 14	I	G
277	Love me, keep my commandments	Jn 14.15	D	G
278	Have my commandments and keep them.	Jn 14.21	I	G
279	Love me.... Keep my word.	Jn 14.21, 23	I	G
280	Abide in me.	Jn 15.4	D	G
281	Abide in me ... and I in you.	Jn 15.5, 7	D	G
282	Continue in my love.	Jn 15.9	D	G
283	Keep my commandments.	Jn 15.10	D	G
284	Do everything I command you.	Jn 15.14	I	G
285	Love one another.	Jn 15.17	I	G
286	Ask (God) for whatever you may using my name. Ask.	Jn 16.24	D	G
287	Ask in my name.	Jn 16.26	I	G
288	Love me and believe that I came from God.	Jn 16.27	I	G
289	Take heart.	Jn 16.33	D	G
290	Do the will of God	Jn 17.17	I	G
291	Put your faith in me.	Jn 17.38	I	G
292	Follow me.	Jn 8.12	I	G
293	Act on what I say.	Jn 8.52	I	G
294	Follow me ... refuse to follow another.	Jn 10.4-5	I	G
295	Take a purse if you have it.	Lk 22.36	D	G
296	Prepare for us the Passover,	Mk 14.15 Lk 22.12	I	S
297	Sit ... stay ... watch ... pray.	Mt 26.36-38 Mk 14.32-34 Lk 22.40	D	S
298	Watch and pray that you may not be tempted.	Mk 14.38	D	G
299	Get up and pray that you may not be tempted.	Lk 22.46	D	G
300	Get up ... go.	Mt 26.46 Mk 14.42	D	S
301	Let these others go.	Jn 18.8	D	S
302	Put your sword back into its sheath.	Jn 18.11	D	S
303	Explain my error.	Jn 18.23	D	S
304	Weep ... for yourselves and for your children.	Lk 23.38	D	S
305	Go to my brothers and tell them....	Jn 20.17	D	S
306	Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee.	Mt 28.10	D	S
307	Believe everything the prophets spoke.	Lk 24.25	I	G
308	Look ... touch me and see.	Lk 24.39	D	S
309	Receive the Holy Spirit.	Jn 20.22	D	G
310	Forgive ... sins.	Jn 20.23	I	G

311	Put ... look ... press ... stop doubting and believe. Believe.	Jn 20.27, 29	I	G
312	Cast your net....	Jn 21.6	D	S
313	Bring ... come eat.	Jn 21.10, 12	D	S
314	Love me more than these.	Jn 21.15, 16, 17	I	G
315	Feed my lambs. Shepherd ... feed my sheep.	Jn 21.15, 16, 18	D	G
316	Follow me.	Jn 21.19, 22	D	G
317	Go and make disciples of all peoples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I commanded.	Mt 28.18-20	D	G
318	[Go into the whole world and preach the good news to the whole creation.]	Mk 16.15	D	G
319	[Speak in tongues ... pick up snakes ... lay hands on the sick.]	Mk 16.17-18	D	G
320	Proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins, in my name to all nations.	Lk 24.47	D	G
321	Relax until you are clothed with power from above.	Lk 24.49.	D	G
322	Tell people about me everywhere.	Ac 1.8	I	G
323	Get up and go into Damascus.	Ac 9.6 22.10	I	G
324	Give.	Ac 20.35	D	S
325	Open their eyes.	Ac 26.18	I	G
326	A wife must not leave her husband. A husband must not leave his wife.	1 Co 6:10, 11	D	G
327	Write what you see and send it to the seven churches.	Rev. 1.11	D	S
328	Write this letter to the angel of the church in....	Rev. 2.1, 8, 12, 18, 3.1, 7, 14		
329	Look how far you have fallen from your first love. Turn back to me and do your first works.	Rev. 2.5	D	G
330	Listen to the Spirit and understand the Spirits says to the churches.	Rev. 2.7, 11, 17, 29, 3.6, 13, 22	I	G
331	Remain faithful, even when facing death.	Rev. 2.10	D	G
332	Repent.	Rev. 2.16	D	G
333	Hold tightly to what you have until I come.	Rev. 2.25	D	G
334	Go back to what you heard and believed at first. Hold it firmly and urn to me again.	Rev. 3.3	D	G
335	Hold on to what you have.	Ap 3.11	D	G