

# Basic Biblical Discipleship

Guidance for Growth in God's Word

## Lessons 1-2

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of  
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be  
glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

2 Peter 3:18

Did you know that there are nearly two dozen of these discipleship lessons? If you would like to obtain additional lessons in English or Shona, please contact us:

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# Preface

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* Matthew 28:18-20

The following discipleship lessons have been adapted from other widely distributed discipleship courses produced by various churches and individuals. We are much indebted to whoever may be responsible for the “original” work on the format of this study. While there is nothing particularly special about these discipleship lessons, there is something very powerful about the pure words of God and this power is often manifested in a life-changing way when believers gather around its truths and study its precepts with the help and direction of the Holy Spirit. This series of lessons should provide the learner with a good introduction to that which we as believers have been commanded to observe. The lessons will be most effective when taught by one believer to another (or a small group of others). If the scripture references are viewed and read the outline will pretty well teach itself. Each lesson is followed by some simple questions covering the principles addressed in the lesson. Another important part of these lessons is the memory work at the close of each study. Memorizing the assigned scriptures will be essential to getting the most out of this discipleship course. It should be remembered that discipleship is not a series of lessons, but a commitment to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and a process of growth as He leads us in the Christian life. The completion of this material will not necessarily make anyone a disciple of Jesus Christ; but a disciple is a learner and contained in the scriptures provided herein are some of the truths that are an essential part of walking with the Lord. We hope that it will be approached prayerfully and that the Lord might use it to be a blessing as you ***grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*** (2 Pet 3:18).

# Lesson One: Salvation, Part One

## What does it mean to be saved?

The most important decision that anyone ever makes is the decision to receive Jesus Christ personally. This lesson is designed to explain why Jesus Christ came to save us and how we can receive this free gift of salvation.

### I. Before a person can be saved he must know that he is a sinner.

Jesus said, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.* Luke 5:32

See Romans 3:10, 23, Galatians 3:22

The law of God gives us the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20, 7:7). This can be illustrated by comparing ourselves to the Ten Commandments (Romans 13:9, Exodus 20:1-17).

Sin is what we must be saved *from* in order to spend eternity in heaven with God.

Jesus said, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* Luke 19:10

### II. The consequence of man's sin is death.

*For the wages of sin is death...* Romans 6:23

Death means "separation".

- Adam's sin has brought about physical death for all men (see Romans 5:12).
- Our sin has brought about spiritual separation from God (see Ephesians 2:1).

- Someday our sin will separate us from God forever in a lake of fire (see Revelation 20:14-15, 21:8).

### **III. We are helpless to save ourselves.**

If we could simply be good enough to save ourselves, then Jesus would not have needed to die. See Galatians 2:21, 3:10, James 2:10, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Romans 4:4-8.

### **IV. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again from the dead.**

*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Jesus Christ, God's sinless Son, took our place of death and condemnation so that we might be saved. See 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

### **V. God expects us to repent and receive Jesus Christ.**

*... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.* Acts 20:21

Repentance means to change our mind and agree with God about our sin and how to be saved. See Luke 13:3 and 2 Peter 3:9. Repentance has to do with the way that we respond to the first three points in this lesson (I-III above). See Romans 3:19-20.

Repentance is to be accompanied by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:21-22). To have faith in Jesus Christ or to believe on Jesus Christ means to *trust* Christ **alone** (Ephesians 1:13). This is how we receive Jesus Christ.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12

Salvation is by faith *alone* through Christ *alone*. See Romans 3:28, 5:1, Galatians 2:16, 3:24. (Note: “Justified” means to be declared righteous.)

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Romans 10:9-13

# Lesson One Questions

1. What is it that we must be saved from in order to spend eternity with God in heaven?
2. What is the meaning of death in the scriptures? List three types of death in the Bible.
3. The gospel is defined in First Corinthians 15:3-4; list the three parts of the gospel below.
4. What does it mean to repent?
5. How does a sinner receive Jesus Christ?
6. Write out a short account of your testimony (your life before you received Christ, how you came to receive the Lord, and how your life has changed since receiving Christ).

## Memory Verses for Lesson One

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Romans 6:23

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*  
John 3:3

# Lesson Two: Salvation, Part Two

## What happens to me when I get saved?

Receiving Jesus Christ as one's Saviour completely transforms our relationship with God. This lesson is designed to explain how a person's relationship with God changes when they are born again.

### I. Salvation is a new birth into God's family.

Your sin made you a part of the wrong family. See Ephesians 2:1-3, 5:6.

But when you received Jesus Christ you were born again. See John 1:12-13, 3:3-7, 3:14-16.

### II. Now God is your Father.

*For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*  
Galatians 3:26

This relationship is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his child.

- A. A good father loves and cares for his child (1 Peter 5:7).
- B. A good father protects his child (Matthew 18:6).
- C. A good father provides for his child (Philippians 4:19).
- D. A good father guides and teaches his child (John 14:26).
- E. A good father helps his child (Psalm 46:1).
- F. A good father encourages his child (Colossians 3:21).
- G. A good father disciplines his child (Hebrews 12:5-11).



- H. A good father feeds his child (Matthew 4:4).
- I. A good father has a plan for his child. (Romans 8:28-29).

Our Heavenly Father never makes a mistake in dealing with us as his child. See Matthew 7:11.

### **III. Now you have eternal life.**

Our first birth gave us temporal, physical life. Our new birth gave us eternal, spiritual life.

Eternal life is not just a future promise, it is a present possession.

See John 3:36, 5:24, 6:47, Romans 6:23, and 1 John 5:12.

### **IV. Now you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you.**

*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* Romans 8:16

The Holy Spirit living inside of us empowers us to be Christ-like. We will have a future lesson on the Holy Spirit.

### **V. Basic Questions**

#### **A. Now that I am saved will I still sin?**

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:* 1 John 2:1

Because God has made us free from sin (Romans 6:22), we do not have to sin. However, we still have a sinful nature, or an “old man”, that can lead us in to sin.

See Ephesians 4:22-24 and Galatians 5:16-17.

## **B. How does sin affect my relationship with my Father?**

Sin does not change your *relationship* with your heavenly Father (He's still your spiritual father by birth). But sin will affect your *fellowship* with your heavenly Father (your ability to enjoy interacting with Him). See First John 1.

## **C. What should I do when I sin?**

Confess your sin to God. See 1 John 1:9, Proverbs 28:13.

Forsake it and ask God to give you a hatred for it. See 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Psalm 119:104.

## Lesson Two Questions

1. What is the water birth of John 3:5 (in light of John 3:6)?
2. List three things that God does for us as our Father.
3. When does a person receive eternal life?
4. What should you do when you sin after you have been saved?

## Memory Verses for Lesson Two

Work hard this week at committing the following Bible verses to memory. It may help to use a note card system and to write them out over and over again. Meditate on the verses as you memorize them.

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*  
John 3:3

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9