

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**BASIC DISCIPLESHIP COURSE**

Location: <http://www.lewisnavs.com/studies.html>

**Series Outline/20 Lessons**

The BDC is formatted into five modules, each containing four studies:

***Following the Master***

1. The Call to Follow
2. The Word and Prayer
3. Fellowshiping
4. Witnessing

***Who is Jesus?***

5. Son of God
6. Son of Man
7. Teacher
8. Lord

***The Kingdom of God***

9. A Fallen Race
10. A World Divided
11. A Disputed King
12. A God Who Rules

***Marks of a Disciple***

13. A New Identity
14. The Holy Spirit
15. Called to Maturity
16. Called to Character

***The Mission of Christ***

17. The Great Commission
18. The New Commandment
19. Spiritual Generations
20. Faith and Promises

Bible Study Leader: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leader's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Study Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day of the Week: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_

This study takes about 45-60 minutes to prepare and each study should last 1 hour



*FOLLOWING THE MASTER*  
The Call to Follow

STUDY  
**1**

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

### ***Take a look at Matthew 4.17-22.***

- What did Jesus call Peter, John, and their brothers to do?
- What did the call mean for them? How did they respond?
- What did Jesus promise he would do for them?
- What did these four men have to leave in order to follow Jesus? Were these things bad? Why did they have to leave them?
- Look up the word 'repent' in a dictionary. Do you think there is a connection between 'repenting' (verse 17) and becoming a follower of Jesus (verse 19)? Explain why or why not.

***Read what the following passages have to say about being a disciple and fill in the chart.***

Passage	What did Jesus say?	What do you think this means?
Matthew 16.24		
John 8.31-32		
John 13.34-35		

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Look again at Matthew 4.17-22.***

- When Jesus called men to follow him, do you think he had more in mind than just inviting them to hang around with him? What did Jesus mean when he said “follow me”?
- Does Jesus still call men to follow him?

Read John 13.15-17. Jesus said this *after* spending three years with his disciples.

- Why did Jesus give them an example?
- When are Jesus’ followers blessed? (v. 17)

In Acts 4.13 we find Peter and John again. This was several years after Jesus first called them, and after he had returned to the Father. What did others recognize about Peter and John?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Following Jesus involves:

- 1) Spending time with him,
  - 2) Learning from his example and teachings,
  - 3) Because you want to become like him.
- How do we spend time with Jesus today? Where do we 'find him' now that he no longer walks the earth as a man? (Hint: John 1.14; 14.21 and Matthew 18.20)
  - Jesus' first disciples had to leave some things in order to follow Jesus. Are there things you will need to leave in order to spend time with Jesus and become like him? What are they?
  - Jesus promised his disciples that he would make them "fishers of men". What do you think this means?
  - How do you feel about Jesus making you a fisher of men?



## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

In the last study we saw that following Jesus involves *spending time with him* and *learning from him* so that we can *become like him*. Jesus' first disciples spent time with him, asking questions and learning from his teaching. The same is true of his disciples today. It's important to communicate with the Master. Two powerful ways to communicate with him are through the *Word of God* and *Prayer*.

### ***The Word of God***

Take a look at 2 Peter 3.1-2. Peter wanted his readers to remember the words of certain men. Who were they, and where can their words be found today? (v. 2)

- According to Romans 15.4, who was the Bible written for? Does this surprise you?

Take a look at 2 Timothy 3.16-17.

- 'All Scripture is...' two things. What are they? (v. 16)
- What does the Bible do to those who are trained by it? (v. 17)
- Is serving in the military a "good work"? If so, how does the Bible impact your service?

### ***Prayer***

Take a look at Matthew 6.6-15.

- How should you pray according to verse 6?
- How should you not pray according to verses 7-8?

This passage is often called *The Lord's Prayer*. In it Jesus teaches his disciples to pray for four things. What are they?

Verse 10 –

Verse 11 –

Verse 12 –

Verse 13 –

- We are taught to pray for it in verse 12. What do we learn about forgiveness in verses 14-15? Does this surprise you?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### **Hearing God's Voice**

Read 1 Samuel 3.1-21.

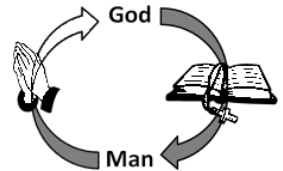
- When the Lord first spoke to him, Samuel did not recognize God's voice. Who did he think he was hearing? Do you think it is possible that God is speaking today and that men simply do not recognize his voice? How might this be happening? (vv. 4-8)
- In verse 7 we see that Samuel "did not yet know the Lord" and that "the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him". Do you think there is a connection between these two statements? Why or why not?
- Look at verses 8-11 again. Who helped Samuel understand that God wanted to speak to him? When did God finally speak his words to Samuel? Can you see any lessons for your own life?

- Why was it important that Samuel share with Eli what the Lord had said to him? (vv. 17-19)
- How did God reveal himself to Samuel after this? (v. 21)
- If you are struggling to hear from God today but want to, what do you think you should do?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Communication is a vital part of any relationship. Listening and speaking to a spiritual God require spiritual means. We listen to God through the Word. We speak to God through prayer.



- Do you have a regular time where you are learning how to meet with God through the Word and Prayer?
- What would it take to make this happen? What are some obstacles that have kept you from spending this time with God in the past?
- God is speaking to us through His Word – are we listening? God wants us to speak to Him through prayer –
- are we speaking?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

What have we learned so far about ‘Following the Master’? We’ve seen that following Jesus involves *spending time with him* and *learning from him* so that we can *become like him*. We’ve also learned that communicating with God is important, and that two powerful ways to communicate with him are through the *Word of God* and *Prayer*.

So far the focus has been on our ‘vertical relationship’ as disciples with God. But following the Master also influences our ‘horizontal relationships’ with people. This week we’ll look at how we live towards fellow disciples. This is called ‘fellowshipping’.

### **Take a look at 1 John 1.3-7.**

The word ‘fellowship’ means *partnership, community*.

- Why did John tell his readers about the Lord Jesus? Whose fellowship were they being invited to join? (vv. 3-4)
- What do you think it means to “walk in the light”? Why is ‘walking in the light’ a requirement to fellowship with God and his people? (vv. 5-7)

### **The Body of Christ**

The Bible uses the analogy of a body to describe the relationship of believers with one another and with Christ.

*Read 1 Corinthians 12.14-27.*



What do verse 27 and verse 14 say about your relationship as a disciple with other disciples?

- Who gave the parts of the body their unique contributions? (v. 18)
- What is his desire? (v. 25)

What attitudes can lead to problems in the body?

Verses 15-16 –

Verse 21 –

If a part of your body is cut off, what happens to it? What happens to the rest of your body? What principles would you draw from this?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***A Band of Brothers, A Band of Sisters***

Read Ecclesiastes 4.9-12.

- Why is fellowship important? What negatives come from not having it?

Take a look at the following verse. It gives insight into the *objective* and the *mechanics* of fellowship.

*“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10.24-25)*

What are the three *mechanics* of fellowship found in verse 24? Verse 25?

Verse 24 – “Let us...”

Verse 25 – “Let us...”

Verse 25 – “Let us...”

- What is the *objective* of fellowship? (v. 24)

Read 1 John 4.20-21. Can a person have fellowship with God and not be committed to God’s people? Why or why not?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

Jesus’ disciples are to live as a community, partnering together to make him known among all mankind.

- Do you have a community of believers you are committed to? Are they encouraging you and spurring you on to love and good deeds?
- How can you partner with them to make the Lord Jesus known to others?
- List one fellow disciple you could “consider how to spur on” toward love and good deeds. What specifically will you do to help them?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Last week we looked at how disciples live towards fellow disciples – fellowshiping. In this study we'll focus on our 'horizontal relationships' with people who are not yet disciples. We are called to witness, and to be a witness, to those who do not yet know Christ.

### ***What is a Witness?***

In your own words, write a brief definition of what a witness is.

What is "the witness" (or "the testimony") according to 1 John 5.11-12?

What did Jesus call his disciples in Acts 1.8?

What did Peter and the other disciples witness about in the following verses:

Acts 2.36 –

Acts 3.15 –

Acts 4.33 –

Acts 5.31-32 –

Acts 10.39-41 –

# Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

## ***Witnessing with Our Words***

Take a look at Luke 24.46-48.

- What message were Jesus' disciples to proclaim? (v. 47)
- Where were they to proclaim it? (v.47)
- What did this make them? (v. 48)

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Jesus has called us to be his witnesses. Witnessing plays a key part in our contribution to the Kingdom of God. A witness must first have a genuine encounter with Jesus Christ before he can tell others about him. One can only testify about what he has seen and heard!

- If I went to your workplace and talked with people you work with, would they identify you with Jesus Christ? Why, or why not?
- Are there any changes you need to make in your lifestyle in order to be a more faithful witness? What are they?



# WHO IS JESUS?

## Son of Man

# STUDY 5

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

“Who do you say I am?”

Jesus asked his disciples this question. During his own time, people had many opinions about who Jesus was. The same is true today. All of today’s great religions acknowledge Jesus as an important figure, but disagree about who he actually was.

Who is Jesus? What did he claim about himself? The next four studies will give you the chance to explore the answers for yourself.

### ***The Son of Man***

In the gospels, Jesus referred to himself as the ‘Son of Man’ about 80 times. It was his favorite way to describe who he was. What can we learn about Jesus based on this?

*Read Isaiah 53.1-3.*

- According to the prophet Isaiah, what impression did Jesus make on the people of his day? Based on these verses, do you think Jesus stood out in a crowd?

*Read Mark 2.1-12.*

- How did people react when Jesus forgave the man’s sins? (vv. 5-7)
- Why did the Son of Man heal the paralytic? (vv. 9-11)

- How did people respond when Jesus healed the man? (v. 12)
- Do you think people would have believed in Jesus if he had not performed miracles? Why or why not?

What can we learn about Jesus, the Son of Man, from the following verses?

Matthew 13.37 –

Mark 10.45 –

Matthew 17.12 –

Matthew 26.24 –

Matthew 26.2 –

Mark 9.31 –

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Jesus the Man***

*Read Hebrews 2.14-18.*

- Why did Jesus become a man of flesh and blood? (vv. 14-15)
- In what ways is Jesus like you and me, his brothers? (v. 17)
- What does verse 18 tell you about Jesus the man?

*Read Philippians 2.5-8.*

- What form, or nature, did Jesus have before he became a man? (v. 6)
- What do these verses tell you about Jesus the man?

*Take a look at John 13.15-17.*

- Do you believe we can truly follow the example of Jesus? Why or why not?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Jesus was a man. It can be easy to lose sight of this simple truth when hearing the many different opinions about him. Jesus' humanness can sometimes get buried under the centuries of theology and doctrine that emphasized his divinity.

During his earthly life, Jesus was so human that he had to prove his divine authority by working miracles. To the people of his day, he came across as human – not divine. He came as the Son of Man to serve, not as the Son of God to be worshiped.

- Who do you say Jesus is? On what do you base your opinion?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus has been through all the struggles you yourself face? (Hebrews 4.15-16)
- In what ways are you seeking to follow the example of Jesus the man? (John 13.15-17)



*WHO IS JESUS?*  
Son of God

STUDY  
**6**

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

In our last study we saw that Jesus was the Son of Man – a fully human person. Because of this, he understands all that we struggle with and is the perfect example for those who follow him. However, the Bible claims he was unlike any other man who ever lived. This week we'll examine the claim that Jesus is the Son of God.

### ***The Son of God***

Take a look at Luke 1.30-35. Why is Jesus called the Son of God? (vv. 32, 35)

No one spent more time with Jesus in the gospels than his disciples. They soon came to recognize that he was no ordinary man.

*Read Matthew 14.22-33.*

- What was the disciples' reaction to Jesus when he got into the boat? (verse 33)
- Do you think this was the response Jesus was looking for?

*Read John 6.67-69.*

- Many of Jesus' disciples had just abandoned him. Why did Peter and the Twelve choose to stay with him?

*Read Matthew 16.13-17.*

- What did Jesus call himself? (verse 13)
- What did Peter call Jesus? (verse 16)
- Who revealed Jesus' true identity to Peter? (verse 17)

In the following verses who claimed that Jesus was the Son of God? How were they connected to him?

Matthew 3.16-17 –

Luke 8.28 –

John 1.49 –

John 11.27 –

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Jesus' Origins***

*Read John 1.1-18.*

- Who was with God “in the beginning”? (vv. 1-2)
- What did “the Word” eventually do? Who is “the Word”? (v. 14)
- When he came into the world, how did people receive him? (vv. 9-12)
- Who is Jesus and how does he help us? (v. 18)

### ***Jesus Today***

What do the following verses claim about where Jesus is and what he is doing?

Romans 8.34 –

Colossians 3.1 –

*Read Hebrews 10.12-13.*

- Where did Christ go after his earthly life? (v. 12)
- What is he doing today? (v. 13)

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Jesus lived on this earth as a man, but the Bible claims that he existed long before this. It also claims that he lives today and will one day rule all.

- Who do you say Jesus is? On what do you base your opinion?
- Read John 1.9-12 again. What does it mean to receive or not receive Jesus?
- Why is it important that Jesus, the Son of God, came? (1 John 5.20)

# WHO IS JESUS? The Teacher

## STUDY 7

### Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

During his life on earth Jesus was widely viewed as a spiritual teacher. Even those who disagreed with what he taught recognized this.

Though many held Jesus as ‘a teacher’, only a few saw him as ‘the teacher’ – *their* teacher. In this study we will examine who Jesus is by looking into his life as a teacher.

#### ***The Teacher***

In Mark 6.34 Jesus meets a great crowd of people. The Bible says they were “like sheep without a shepherd”. What three things did Jesus do when he went ashore?

*“When Jesus went ashore, He \_\_\_\_\_ a large crowd, and He \_\_\_\_\_ for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to \_\_\_\_\_ them many things.”*

Jesus saw people’s true spiritual condition, he cared about them, and so he taught them many things.

- Does Jesus see your life now?
- Do you believe he cares about you?
- Do you believe he wants to teach you “many things”?

- How does Jesus' teaching us many things show that he cares for us?

John 13 records events that happened on the last night of Jesus' life. The setting is a small, upper room where Jesus ate his last supper with the 12 disciples. Take a look at John 13.13.

- By what two titles did Jesus' disciples call him?
- What was the difference between the way Jesus taught the crowds and the way he taught his disciples? Which group had the advantage, the crowds or the disciples? Why? (Matthew 13.1-12)

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Consider the Source***

*Take a look at John 7.14-17.*

- Jesus was untrained as a teacher. Where did he get his messages?
- How can you truly know the teaching of Jesus? (verse 17)

*Read John 15.14-15.*

- What did Jesus teach his disciples? (verse 15)
- What did this make them? (verse 15)
- Based on these verses, would Jesus call you his friend? Why or why not?

*Check out Luke 6.40.*

- What is the goal of a student according to Jesus?
- What does this mean for you as a student of Jesus?

*Check out Matthew 28.18-20.*

- What are Jesus' disciples supposed to do with all the things they have been taught?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

- How does Jesus being a teacher affect the way you relate to him? Which would you consider him: 'a teacher' or 'your teacher'?
- How does Jesus teach his disciples today? (John 14.21)
- What impact does Jesus as a teacher have on your being his disciple? His friend?



## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Jesus' disciples referred to him as their *Teacher* and *Lord* (John 13.13). While we are familiar with the term *teacher*, 'lord' is not a word we often use in our society. In this study we will examine who Jesus is by looking into his life as lord.

### ***The Lord***

*Take a look at Luke 5.1-11.*

- What was Peter's first act of obedience? (verse 3)
- Why might he have declined Jesus' request? (verses 2-3)
- Why might Peter have been tempted to disobey Jesus' order to "let down the nets"? (verse 5)
- What happened as a result of Peter's obedience? (verses 6-7)
- What did Peter recognize about Jesus as a result of his obedience? (verse 8)
- What did he recognize about himself? (verse 8)
- Why do you think Peter wanted Jesus to "go away" from him? (verses 8-9)

- Based on this story, why do you think Jesus wanted Peter as one of his disciples? (verses 10-11)

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Following Jesus as Lord***

*Look at Luke 6.46.*

- What connection is there between obedience and calling Jesus “Lord”?

*Check out Matthew 7.21.*

- What does this verse teach you about what it really means to have Jesus as lord of your life?

*Read Philippians 2.5-12.*

- Does Jesus understand the concept of authority? Why or why not? (verses 5-8)
- What reward did God give Jesus for his obedience on the cross? (verses 8-11)
- Because all these things have happened, how should disciples respond? (verse 12)

*Read Romans 14.7-9.*

- Who don't disciples live for? Who do they live for? (verses 7-8)
- Who do disciples belong to? (verse 8)



- Why did Jesus die and live again? What does this mean for you? (verse 9)
- Why should a disciple understand clearly who he belongs to and who he lives for?

*Read 2 Corinthians 5.15.*

- According to this verse, why did Jesus “die for all”?
- How does this fit with the idea of Jesus being the Lord?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

- What impact does Jesus being lord have on your being his disciple? His friend? (John 15.14)
- Are there areas of your life that you have not submitted to Jesus' rule as lord? What would it mean for you to obey him in those areas? Is it worth the change?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Its name means 'origin' or 'beginning'. A basic understanding of Genesis goes a long way towards making sense out of the rest of the Bible. Genesis chapters 1-3 are critical in understanding the history between God and mankind.

### ***"In the beginning..."***

Genesis chapter one records how God created the universe.

*Take a look at Genesis 1.26-28.*

- What pattern was mankind modeled after? (verses 26-27)
- What was God's attitude towards man in the beginning? (verse 28)

*Read Genesis 2.8-9 and 2.15-17.*

- Describe the Garden of Eden in your own words. What and who were in the garden?
- What warning was man given? (verses 16-17)
- Where in the garden was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil planted? Is there anything that surprises you about this? (verse 9)

- Why wouldn't God want man to eat from a tree called the Knowledge of Good and Evil?

*Read Genesis 3.1-6.*

- Who is the serpent? (see Revelation 12.9)
- How did he get into the garden?
- What did he claim about God? (verses 3-5)
- What did he claim would happen if Adam and Eve ate the fruit? (verses 4-5)
- Why did Eve eat the fruit? Why did Adam eat? (1 Timothy 2.13-14)

*Read Genesis 3.7-19.*

- What were the immediate consequences of eating the fruit? (verses 7-8)
- What were the long-term consequences? (verses 16-19)
- Did God curse Adam and Eve? Why or why not?

*Take a look at Genesis 3.22-24.*

- What do you think God meant when he said man had become like him?
- Why did he drive him out of the garden? (verse 22)

# Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

## ***From Ancient History to Today's Reality***

- In the beginning, who determined what was good and what was evil? (Genesis 2.16-17)
- By eating the fruit, what stance did man take on who determined good and evil? Who was now steering the ship?
- If your chain of command directs you to take certain actions and you decide to do differently, what is that called?
- At the end of Genesis 3, who has access to life? Who doesn't?

# Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Adam and Eve chose to part with God's leadership and go their own way. By eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they decided that they would call the shots on what was good and evil instead of following God's instructions. They made themselves God. This disastrous decision is often referred to as "The Fall". Since then, mankind has lived on this earth as a fallen race, separated from God and from the life that he alone possesses. Each of us is born godless.

Quite a lot happened in the first three chapters of the Bible, eh? But even more has happened since the beginning. God still exists and has not given up his prized creation so easily. In the next study we will examine how God has set out to recover the lost race of humanity.

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

## A World Divided

# STUDY 10

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

In our last study we saw that “in the beginning” man parted ways with God. Since then this world and its kingdoms have operated outside of God’s leadership. Spiritually speaking, this world is a dark place. Into this darkness, Jesus was sent to establish a new way, a new kingdom.

### **One World, Two Kingdoms**

Read Matthew 13.24-30, then 13.36-50. Fill in the chart below.

Verse	Parable		Explanation
v. 37	The <i>man sowing good seed</i>	=	Son of Man
v. 38	The <i>field</i>	=	
v. 38	The <i>good seed</i>	=	
v. 38	The <i>weeds</i>	=	
v. 39	The <i>enemy</i>	=	
v. 39	The <i>harvest</i>	=	
v. 39	The <i>harvesters</i>	=	

- In this parable Jesus teaches that our world is led by two rulers. Both have followers, or “sons”. Who are the two

rulers, and how are their followers described? (verses 37-39)

- What is Jesus sowing into the field? (verse 38)
- When was it discovered that weeds were mixed in with the wheat? (verse 26)

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***The Kingdom of God***

*Look at Colossians 1.13-14.*

- What two kingdoms make up this world? (verse 13)
- Who has rescued us and where has he brought us? (verses 12-13)
- Look up the word 'redeem' in the dictionary. What does it mean that we have been redeemed and forgiven of our sins? (verse 14)

*Read Hebrews 2.14-17.*

- Why did Jesus become a man "of flesh and blood"? (verse 14)
- Whose power did Jesus destroy by dying on the cross? (verse 14)
- Who was freed (rescued) by Jesus' death? (verse 15)

- Look up the word ‘propitiate’ in the dictionary. What does it mean?
- How did Jesus’ death on the cross “propitiate for our sins” and improve our standing before God? Why do you think this is? (verse 17)

*Read Colossians 2.13-14*

- What do these verses tell you about sin and forgiveness, death and life?

What was “nailed to the cross”? (verse 14)

## Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

We live in *a world divided*. There are many human kingdoms in our world, but spiritually speaking there are only two, the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God. Two rulers are at war for the souls of men and women. You and I belong to one of these kingdoms; the question is “Which?”

Jesus claimed that he had invaded this world as “light coming into the darkness”. He called people to leave the kingdom of darkness and become his followers.

- What happens to those who believe in Jesus’ claims? (John 12.46)
- What happens to those who become Jesus’ followers? (John 8.12)
- What happens to those who become Jesus’ followers? (1 John 1.7)

# *THE KINGDOM OF GOD*

## A Disputed King

STUDY **11**

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Jesus claimed he had come into the world as “light into the darkness”. He called people to leave the kingdom of darkness and become his followers. Not everyone was willing to recognize Jesus as the legitimate ruler of this world – or their lives. This study will examine Jesus, the disputed king.

***“He came to his own...”***

*Take a look at John 1.1-14.*

In these verses Jesus is referred to as “the Word” and “the Light”.

- How “old” is Jesus? (verses 1-2)
- What role did Jesus play in the creation of our world? (verses 1-3)
- According to John 1.1-14, why did Jesus come into the world? What verses answer this?
- How was he received? (verses 10-12)
- What does it mean to “receive” Jesus? What does it mean to “not receive” him? (verses 11-12)



- What happens to those who receive Jesus? (verses 12-13)

*Look at Psalm 2.1-12.*

- Who are “the nations” opposing and why? (verses 2-3)
- What is God’s response to man’s struggle for independence? (verse 6)
- How much of the earth has been given to Jesus as an inheritance? How determined is he to rule over it? What verses answer these questions?
- God has installed his Son as king over this earth. How are men advised to respond? What verses answer this question?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Jesus the King***

*Look at Luke 19.11-27. Fill in the chart below.*

Verse	Parable	=	Represents
v. 12	The <i>man of noble birth</i>	=	
v. 13	The <i>servants</i>	=	
v. 14	The <i>subjects</i>	=	
vv. 16-24	The <i>minas</i>	=	

v. 15	The <i>king's return</i>	=	
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- What two types of people lived in the king's country?
- What was the first thing the king did when he returned? (verse 15)
- How did he deal with those who did not want him to be their king? (verse 27)

*Look over Matthew 25.31-46.*

- What principles stand out? What do these verses teach you about Jesus the king?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

There are many pretenders to the throne, but only one rightful king of this earth. The Lord Jesus is seated at God's right hand, waiting for all things to be brought under his rule. When he returns he will reward his faithful servants and judge his enemies.

- Where is Jesus right now? (Hebrews 10.12-13)
- How should you live so that you're prepared for the king when he returns? (Matthew 25.34-40)

*THE KINGDOM OF GOD*  
A God Who Rules

STUDY **12**

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Over the past several studies we have been examining what the Bible teaches about the kingdom of God. In this study we will examine how God rules over his kingdom, guiding his people and providing for their needs.

### ***Knowledge and Power***

Look up the following verses and write in your own words what they tell you about God.

1 Samuel 16.7	
1 Chronicles 28.9	
Proverbs 5.21	
Jeremiah 32.17	
Mark 10.27	
1 Corinthians 1.25	

### ***Guidance***

Psalm 25.9	
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Psalm 32.8	
Isaiah 42.16	
Isaiah 48.17	
John 16.13	
James 1.5	

***The God Who Provides***

Psalm 34.7	
2 Corinthians 9.8	
Philippians 4.19	
Hebrews 13.5- 6	

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

***Servants of the King***

*Read Luke 12.42-48.*

- What two crimes did the derelict servant commit? (verse 45)
- Why did he allow himself permission to do these things?

- What was the punishment for the servant that knew his master's will?
- What was the punishment for the servant that did not know his master's will?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

As followers of Christ, we serve a God who is all-knowing and all-powerful. It is an awesome thing to consider! At the same time, we serve a God who is *good*. Our God wants us to know his purposes and is ready to guide us and provide us with everything we need to follow him.

- Read 1 Chronicles 28.9 again. What motivates you about this verse?
- Pick a favorite verse from the *Guidance* section on page one. What principles do you see?
- Read 2 Corinthians 9.8 again. What principles can you rely on based on this verse?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Our *identity* (who God says we are) opens us up to a sense of *purpose* (why we are here). This in turn propels our *actions* (what we do) and ultimately creates our *destiny* (our future reality). To say it another way, our identity is sourced to what God says about us and shapes who we are becoming. In this study we'll look into how living from who God says we are affects the way we view ourselves, our world, and our values.

### ***New Identity in Christ***

Take a look at Mark 1.14-17. How did Jesus say becoming His follower would change Simon and Andrew's identity?

*Check out Luke 6.40.*

- How does who *Jesus* is define who *we* are?

### ***The Old vs. New Self***

Read through these three passages and answer the following questions:

Romans 7.16, 17:

- How did Paul see who he was differing from the sin he committed?

Ephesians 4.20-32:

- What means do these verses give in connecting your new identity with your actions?
- What are some of the activities that flowed out of your old identity before Christ?
- What are activities that should flow out of your new identity in Christ?

*Take a look at 1 Peter 2.9-12.*

- What four ways are used to describe our identity in verse 9?
- What do these teach you about who God says you are?
- For what purpose did God call us “out of darkness”?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***The Apostle Paul***

In Acts 26.4-20, Paul tells the story of how he became a follower of Christ. Read through this passage and answer the following questions.

- Where did Paul get his sense of identity from at first? (verses 4-5)
- What actions did this lead him to take? (verses 9-11)

- What event changed him?
- How do you think people “meet Jesus” these days?
- What new identity was he given by Jesus? (verse 16)
- What actions did this lead him to take? (verses 17-20)
- Would Paul have changed if he had not been given a new identity by Jesus?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

All of us have a sense of identity that is based on our past experiences and the people who have influenced us – including family members, teachers, and role models. Unfortunately, often this picture does not match up with who God says we are. Only in Jesus can we become the people God has always wanted us to be. He alone should come to define who we see ourselves as – our identity.

- Who were the people and what were the events that have shaped your idea of who you are?
- How do you think God’s opinion about who you are differs from this? (i.e., 1 John 3.1)
- In what practical ways can you allow Jesus to shape your identity?



# MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

## The Holy Spirit

# STUDY 14

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

In the past study we examined how disciples are marked by their new identity in Christ. In this study we will examine another mark of the disciple, the Holy Spirit; God dwelling within us.

*Read John 14.12-26 and John 15.26-16.15, concentrating on what God reveals about His Spirit. What do the passages in John 14-16 tell you about the positions the Holy Spirit holds in the lives of disciples?*

Read the following passages. Explain how the Holy Spirit is identified and what this means to you.

Acts 5.1-6	
2 Corinthians 1.21-22	
1 John 2.20, 27	
Find your own	

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Explain what the Holy Spirit does for the disciple as illustrated in John 14.12-26 and John 15.26-16.15.

Using these same passages, what does the Holy Spirit do for the “world?” How does the “world” respond to the Spirit?

Read the following cross-references and describe what the Holy Spirit does for disciples of Jesus.

Galatians 3.27-4.7	
2 Peter 1.20-21	
1 Corinthians 2.9-16	
Acts 1.8	
Find your own	

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

According to John 14-16, what does God's Spirit do through Jesus' disciples?

Read the following cross-references and describe what the Holy Spirit does through disciples of Christ.

Romans 8.5-17	
Romans 8.26	
1 Corinthians 12.4-11	

Galatians 5.16-26	
Find your own	

Consider this: if the Holy Spirit is our teacher, then why does God command us to “go and make disciples ... teaching them to obey?” If the Holy Spirit is our *teacher*, then His word is our *textbook*, and His disciples are our fellow *tutors*. The Teacher assigns the tasks (commands) and grades the work (judgment), while tutors exemplify obedience and train others to follow Jesus just as they do (discipleship).

***Research the validity of the above statement by examining the context of some of the verses you have previously studied.***

1 Corinthians 2.1-8	
John 15.1-16	
Galatians 5.13-15; 6.1-10	
Pick your own	

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Disciples of Jesus are marked by their character. The Bible talks a lot about character, and it's also a common topic in our world today. What is character? If you had to sum up the essence of what God is calling us to, what would character be? Let's start by focusing on one character quality that will make a great difference in our lives: *Endurance*.

### ***The Need for Endurance***

Look at what the following passages teach about the basics of endurance.

#### *Matthew 10.22 and 24.12-13*

- What did Jesus want his disciples to be prepared to endure?
- Why do you think our endurance is important to God?

#### *Romans 5.3-5*

- Explain how you see these qualities interacting with one another.
- What is hope? Why is it the final outcome?

#### *Hebrews 6.11-12 and 10.36*

- Why are the promises of God important to our character of endurance?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***Dealing with Failure***

Read Proverbs 24.16. If this man fell seven times, why does God call him righteous?

How does this verse motivate you to endure?

- In what ways had Paul “failed” in his lifetime? (see Romans 7.14-20)

Read Philippians 3.12-14

- What was Paul’s attitude towards his own failure and immaturity?
- What were Paul’s actions in response to his past?

### ***The Issue of Sexual Purity***

One area where character and endurance often face their greatest test is our struggle for sexual purity. For most, this area of life is a constant battle. It can cause people to settle for less or even turn back from following Christ.

- Do you think God expects us to be perfect? Why or why not?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4.3-7.

- What is God’s will for us? What does that mean for us on a practical level?

- What process does God want us committed to?
- How does one begin and continue this process?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

The ultimate challenge is to follow Christ in the area of character! We all fail at times, but how we deal with that failure makes the difference. The decisions we made when facing difficult moral decisions in the past is what has shaped character of endurance in the present. And the choices we make today will be the foundation on which our tenacity in character will be built for tomorrow's challenges!

- Describe a difficult circumstance you've had to endure in your lifetime.
- In what present circumstances is your endurance being formed and challenged?
- Do you foresee any circumstances in the future that you need to be prepared to endure? What are some ways you could prepare for these?
- How do you deal with failure? How can you better follow Paul's example in Philippians 3.12-14?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

*“Let no one cause me trouble for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.” – Paul, Galatians 6.17*

Over the last few studies we have looked at things that mark disciples of Jesus – what sets them apart? We have seen that they are marked by their new identity in Christ, their commitment to character, and by the presence of the Holy Spirit living in them. In this study we will examine another mark of a disciple: *their commitment to spiritual growth and maturity.*

### ***Spiritual Growth***

The apostle wrote a personal mission statement in Colossians 1.28-29:

*“We proclaim [Jesus], warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”*

- How many people did Paul try to warn and teach?
- What was the goal of his warning and teaching?
- What do you think it means to “present” someone? (see also 1 Thessalonians 2.19-20)
  
- How much energy did Paul put into helping others become mature in Christ? What does this say about how important spiritual maturity is?

Check out Galatians 4.19.

- What was Paul laboring to accomplish? How does this relate to spiritual maturity?

Read 2 Peter 3.18.

- How are we commanded to grow according to Peter? What are practical ways you can do this?

### **Means for Spiritual Growth**

Fill in the following chart from Matthew 7.24-27:

Wise Man	House on the rock	Hear the Word + _____	Result:
Foolish Man	House on the sand	Hear the Word - _____	Result:

What principle(s) of spiritual growth can you draw from these verses?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### **Spiritual Maturity**

We need to *grow* spiritually so that we can *become mature* spiritually. But what does maturity look like?

*Maturity = Be Like Jesus*

- What does Luke 6.40 say about what maturity looks like for a disciple?
- How does 1 John 2.6 shape your idea of maturity?



### *Maturity = Way of Thinking*

- What does 1 Corinthians 14.20 teach you about maturity?

### *Maturity = Able to Teach*

Read Hebrews 5.11-14.

- What showed that they were still immature?
- What does verse 14 say about how we become mature?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Things that are alive grow. Growth is a normal part of life, including spiritual life. What we are growing toward is maturity. Spiritual maturity for a disciple of Jesus is to become like the Master!

- How would you describe your growth spiritually over the past few weeks and months?
- What are some signs that a person is growing spiritually? Can you see a person's growth?
- Are there any things in your life that are blocking your spiritual growth? If so, what choices or changes can you make to make spiritual growth a priority?
- What is one area where you would like to grow in your spiritual life right now? Who could you share this with who would encourage and challenge you to pursue growth?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

The Great Commission was Jesus' last words to the men he'd spent three years training and loving. It provided his men with the direction and end state he wanted them to accomplish. A *commander's intent* is a similar concept used by today's military leaders; a "concise expression of the purpose of the operation and the desired end state that serves as the initial stimulus for the planning process."

### ***The Mission of Christ***

Read Matthew 28.18-20 and answer the following questions.

- What objective/end state is Jesus after?
- What are the 3 processes required in making disciples? Why are these important?

What further clarity do the verses below give for carrying out our Commander's Intent?

Acts 1.8 –

Mark 16.15 –

Luke 24.46-49 –

John 20.21-23 –

In order to “make disciples” we must be clear on the characteristics of a disciple. What are some characteristics of a disciple? List several verses that support your thoughts.

Look at these verses and record the characteristics of a disciple found in them.

- John 8.31-32 –
- John 13.34-35 –
- John 15.7-8 –
- Luke 14.26 –

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***The Commission Restated***

The priests of the Old Testament received a commission in Leviticus 10.10-11 much like the one we’ve received in Matthew 28. Since followers of Christ are the *new priests* (see 1 Peter 2.9) let’s compare the two commissions and make some observations.

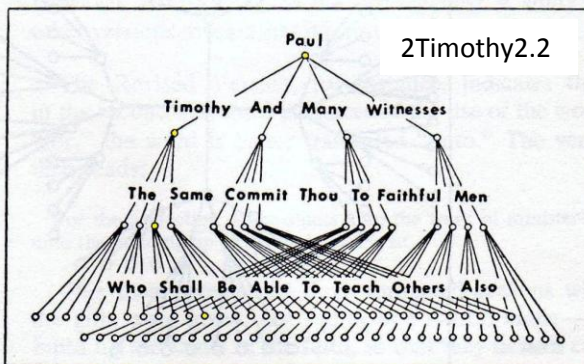
	Leviticus 10.10-11	Matthew 28.18-20
What were they to do?		
Who were the commissions given to?		
When were the commissions given?		
How would they accomplish their mission?		

# Making it Count

How do I live what I've learned?

Joining Christ in his mission is not optional for disciples. Sadly, many “believers” never spend the time or energy trying to become, much less make, disciples of Jesus Christ. They are missing out on the most enjoyable and yet sacrificial aspect of following Jesus. Meditate on the following questions in order to determine any action steps God wants you to take in order to accomplish His mission.

- Is fulfilling the Great Commission **the** consuming passion of your life? What are some other things or people that absorb some of your passion in life?
- Who are you actively seeking training from in order to become a more mature disciple of Christ?
- Who are you actively training to become a more mature disciple of Christ?
- What has been the most difficult obstacle you've had to overcome in your quest to make disciples?
- From Acts 1.8: What might be the comparable Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth for someone in the United States military?



## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

We saw in our last study that Jesus' ultimate objective is a world full of disciples who are like him. Jesus understood that if this goal was to be achieved, a strong model of his life would have to be perpetuated as the work moved forward. In the same way that our military must prioritize development of a strong government in Iraq (over simply defeating insurgents) Christ's followers must first ensure the strength of their own members. We'll be looking at Jesus' *New Commandment* to his followers. In it, he prescribes **how** they are to proceed and on **whom** they are to focus in their labors.

### ***The New Commandment***

Read John 13.34-35 and answer the following questions.

- To whom did Jesus give this command? Who was his audience?
- How were they to fulfill the commandment? Who were they to love?

### ***"As I have loved you..."***

- To love as Christ loved his twelve disciples requires a life-long study of the gospels. In what ways did Jesus love the twelve he trained? List specific scriptures that back up your answer.

What further insights do the verses below give for carrying out Jesus-style love?

Philippians 2.5-8 –

Mark 3:14 –

John 17.6-8 –

John 13:13-15 –

***“You must love one another...”***

- Who is Jesus referring to when he states “one another”?
- Read Matthew 10.5-15. On whom did Jesus instruct his men to concentrate?
- Read 2 Corinthians 2.12-13. How did Paul prioritize who he was going to spend time with? Why do you think Paul made this choice?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

Compare Genesis 1.26-28 with John 17.18-23.

- How was the man Jesus a spiritual fulfillment of God’s original intention for all mankind?
- What purpose(s) did Jesus express for investing so exclusively into these eleven men?

- What role did unity or “one another(ing)” play in the fulfillment of Jesus’ mission?
- What end-state did Jesus describe in John 17.23? How does this compare with John 13.35?

## Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

Think of it: *God himself modeled his earth-winning approach before us so that we could imitate it (John 13.15)!* That is, when you look at Jesus’ ministry on earth, you’re watching God perform on our level. No one could have done it better; anything else is second-rate! Christianity has passed over God’s winning model just under its nose: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

- How well do you know the life Jesus? How aggressively are you studying his life and ministry?
- Whom do you know that is most actively engaging the model of Christ to his or her ministry? How closely are you shadowing, or learning, the ministry of Christ from him or her?
- What costs might you face in order to concentrate on your few spiritual replacements?
- What might be the cost of not following the model of Christ twenty years from now?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

From Genesis to Revelation, the command to reproduce from one generation to the next is a thread that runs through Scripture. The command is not just to produce the next generation, but to teach them to become a people who are wholly committed to God. Initially this command was focused around *physical* reproduction; but with the coming of Jesus Christ it became a command to reproduce *spiritually*. In this study you will learn how raising up spiritual generations leads to blessing, fulfillment, and a great promise that God has in store for all believers as they participate in God's plan.

### ***God's Generational Commands***

According to these verses, what does God want man to do?

Genesis 1.28 –

Genesis 8.15-17 –

Matthew 28.18-20 –

What is required to multiply according to the following?

Genesis 17:1-2 –

Deuteronomy 30:16 –

Matthew 4:19-20 –

### ***God's Generational Promises***

*Read Genesis 12.1-3 and 15.1.*



- What was God's promise to Abraham?

*Check out Galatians 3.14, and 3.26-29.*

- What do these verses say about our connection with Abraham?
- How does Christ fit into the equation between Abraham and us?

*Continue reading Galatians 4.1-2.*

- What qualification is placed on us before we can inherit (experience) God's promise to Abraham?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

### ***God's Generational Models***

Check out Matthew 4.19 and 9.36-38. What did Jesus do in these passages to multiply himself?

Now read Matthew 10.1-5 and Luke 10.1-2. What was the result of his investment?

Read Acts 19.1-10. What did Paul do in this passage to multiply, and what was the result?

*Study 2 Timothy 2.1-2.*

- Identify and list the four generations of believers mentioned in verse 2.

- Based on these verses, describe Paul’s method for raising spiritual generations.
- Compare this method with Acts 19.1-10 (especially 8-10), and describe its effectiveness.

## Making it Count

How do I live what I’ve learned?

The very first command ever given to man was to “be fruitful and multiply”. God’s desire for his people has not changed since then! Jesus echoed this first command when he told his followers to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28.19). *Question: Is what’s on God’s heart on your heart?*

- Is the idea of spiritual generations a new thought for you? Explain.
- Think of your own story. Which individuals in your past invested in your spiritual life to help you mature where you are today? Who is currently investing in you?
- Who has God brought into your life that you are currently investing in? Who is the next link in your generational chain?
- Based on what you saw in the examples of Jesus Christ and Paul, how can you begin or improve your involvement in spiritual reproduction?

## Taking a Closer Look

What does the Bible say?

Over the past few studies we have seen how Jesus left his followers with the mission of representing him in the world. He charged them to do for others what he had done for them – to love as he had and to make disciples. However, before he returned to the Father Jesus asked a piercing question: “When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on earth?” In this final study we will look at what it means to have faith and to live by the promises of God.

### ***Exploring Faith***

*Check out Hebrews 11.6.*

- According to the writer of Hebrews, what is faith and why is it important?

Check out Galatians 2.20. What does it mean to live by faith?

*Read Genesis 22.1-14 and answer the following questions.*

- Why did God call Abraham to sacrifice Isaac? What was Abraham’s response?
- Why was Abraham willing to do what God required? (look also at Hebrews 11.17-19)

- How did God provide Abraham with a way to make the sacrifice?
- How do you believe you would have responded in this situation?
- What does it tell us about our God that he would test Abraham like this?
- Have you ever felt your faith was being tested by God?

Read James 1.2-4. Why is our faith tested, and what should our attitude be when it happens?

### ***The Promises of God***

*Read Genesis 12.1-4.*

- What did God call Abraham to do? What did he promise him?
- What was Abraham's response?

*Check out Mark 1.16-19.*

- What did Jesus call Simon and Andrew to do? What did he promise him?
- What was their response?

## Thinking it Through

What does the Bible mean?

## ***Growing in Faith***

*Read Matthew 8.23-27.*

- Are you going through stormy waters? Describe a time when your boat was in danger of sinking. What was your reaction? How should we react when we find ourselves in a boat filled with water? What was God teaching you through the experience?
- Unlike in this story where the disciples were following Jesus' direction, sometimes we put ourselves on a course charted for rough waters. How would you know if your boat was sinking due to your navigation or his?

*Check out Matthew 14.22-36.*

- Would you say Peter's faith was built by the earlier experience in the boat with Jesus?
- What was Peter afraid of? How does this compare with the fear they had before?
- How does faith serve as the answer to fear?

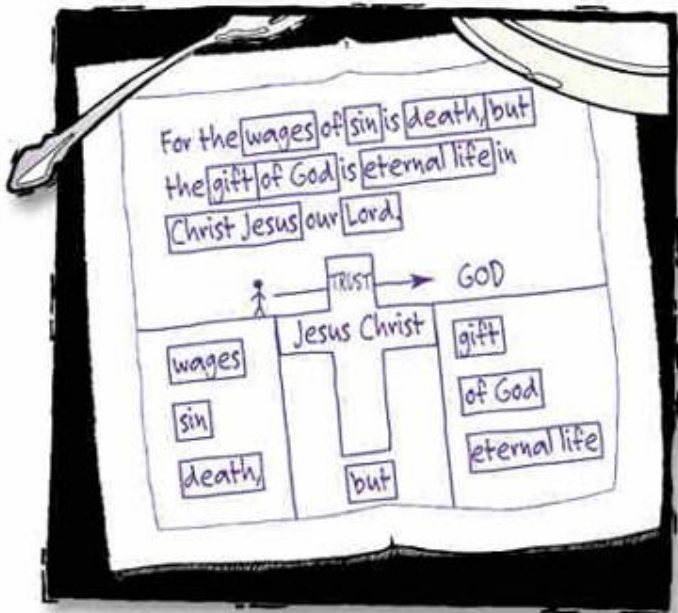
## **Making it Count**

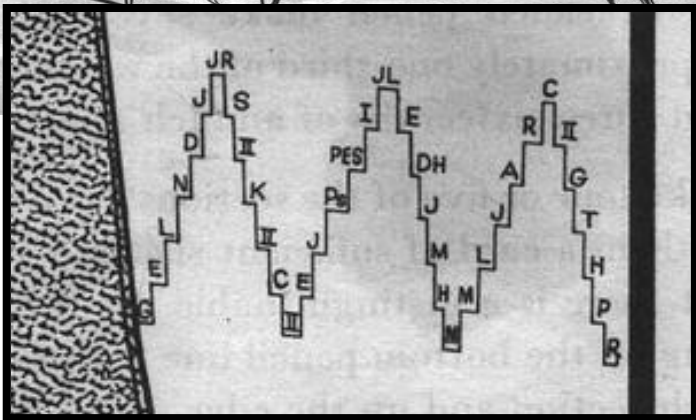
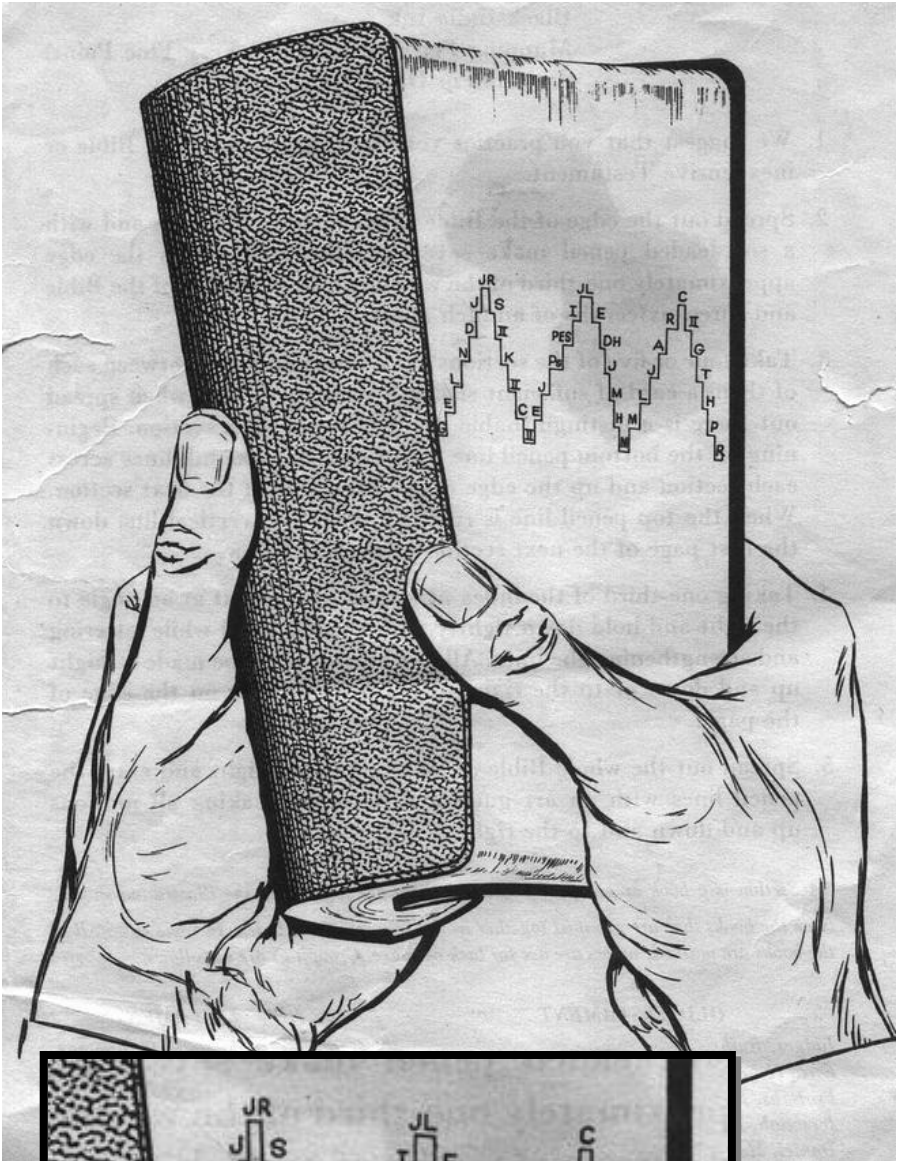
How do I live what I've learned?

God says of Abraham: "He was fully convinced that what God had promised, he was able also to perform." List two or three of God's promises from Scripture that apply to your life.

James 2.14 says, "My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it?" Based on the promises you listed above are there any changes you need to make in you live in order to claim them? If so, what changes do you need to make?

Nav Illustrations/Tools:







### Some Useful Websites:

- <http://www.blueletterbible.org/> - Bible online, with many versions/translations & helps
- <http://www.discipleshiplibrary.com/> - hundreds of audio messages on hundreds of topics
- <http://www.navlists.org/dailydiscipleship/> - daily devotional via email
- <http://www.navpress.com/dj/content.aspx?id=138> - Bible Ready Plans



## Navs US Military Ministry Vision Statement

We envision a movement of thousands of courageous men and women passionately following Christ, representing Him in advancing the Gospel through relationships where they live, work, train for war, and deploy. This movement includes men and women of all races and ranks, and permeates the military community on and around every U.S. installation and foreign military around the world.

We see teams of laborers and leaders living integrated lives of professional excellence that relate authentically with grace and truth, which penetrates and prods hearts in irresistible ways both among those who do not yet believe the Gospel and with one another. This results in safe, attractive communities with an infectious combination of love, godly character, healing, restoration, enjoyment of each other, and the uniting of strengths and gifts. These missional, transformational communities shepherd, give intentional life-on-life development, and provide ongoing resourcing and are for military men and women throughout a lifetime of deployments, relocations, and career changes with seamless connection both within and beyond the military.

This movement of men and women embraces an unwavering commitment to the Scriptures, a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit, and is fueled by prevailing prayer. They seek to develop lifetime laborers in partnership with chaplains, one another, and others in the kingdom. Their hearts are fixed on God's promises of spiritual generations among their family, friends, and fellow warriors – and through them, into all the nations.