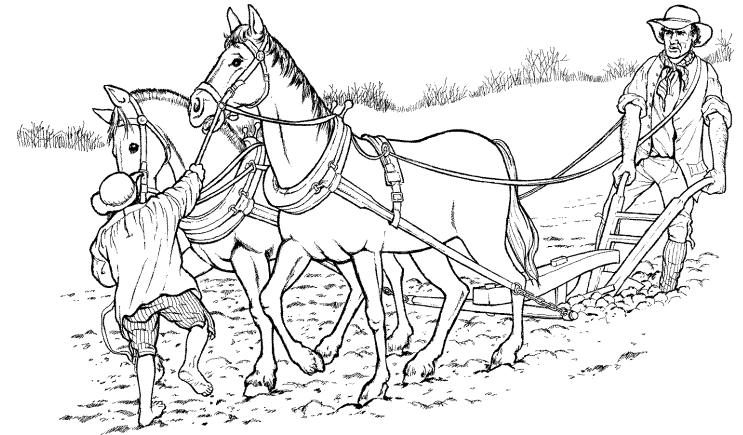


Pre-Discipleship Manual



A Publication of



"And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ." - 1 Corinthians 10: 4

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Fields are being plowed
the Seed is being sown
and God will surely send the rain.
Let's prepare and equip ourselves
for a great harvest!

John 1:3) It is here where we learn to function with the rest of the body of Christ. We learn to listen to each other and at the same time build each other up. Sharing the grace that God has given each one of us as we also learn to cooperate with each other in humility of mind and spirit. (*Romans 12:15, 16; Hebrews 3:12, 13; 10:24, 25*) Without this, our Christianity will be incomplete. As we fellowship with others we are given an opportunity to give ourselves as Jesus gave all of Himself for us. (*John 13:15, 16*)



4) **Evangelism** - There is no greater joy than to be used of God. To be available for Him when He calls us. The first three disciplines discussed above are to some degree exclusive. It is difficult for unbelievers to relate to the type of activities discussed above without having an encounter with Jesus first. And it is not always easy to bring people to meetings with Jesus. Often times people are afraid of what they do not understand yet. (*Mark 5:15-17*) Evangelism is bringing Jesus to the people. Sharing with them the joy and love of

Jesus through words and deeds of the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 4:20*) This is the will of God... His strategy to reach out to the lost. Everyone who has encountered Him has been called to testify to others. (*Mark 5:18, 19; 8:38*) This is the man that God commends. This is the service that God will honor. It may not be done in the same ways, but the results are the same...redemption and life anew. (*John 12:26*)

These practices didn't earn us God's favor, but they allowed the grace of God to strengthen and encourage a believer to resist temptation and overcome the schemes of the evil one.

This section of the course has been written to condition you before you begin your journey in discipleship. Please take the time to carefully read through this part before you begin with lesson one. It has been our experience in the past while using different materials and manuals that proper conditioning is equally important to the main lessons. This part of the study has been designed to answer a few basic questions that we commonly encounter. By dealing with these questions first hand we hope you will have a smoother time in studying the main lessons without having to bother with them in between topics.

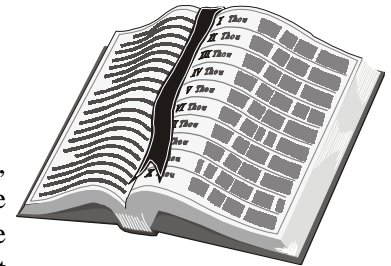
With the help of the Lord, we have tried to present the content as understandable as possible. We hope that the Lord will continue to guide us as we also continue to edit and revise the material as time goes by.

Please feel free to give us your comments and suggestions. We have tried to prevent errors in grammar and spelling as much as possible. In case you happen to spot any of them, please be kind enough to report them immediately.

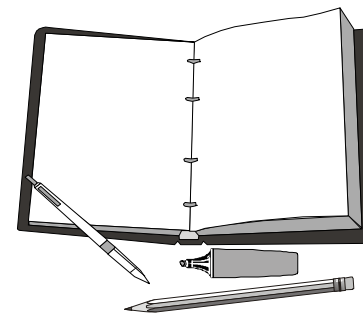
Now to begin...

What do I need?

1. **A Bible of your own.** If you don't have one, get one. In the course of your study there will be times where you will have to make outlines and marks on your own Bible. So it is important for you to own and not borrow one. Before you purchase one, please consult your discipler or pastor for particulars.



2. **A notebook.** During the course of your study you will be bombarded with tons of great practical and spiritual insights. It would help you a great deal to write them down. They will aid you, not only to remember for yourself, but also to help you when the time comes for you to teach others. So pick a good notebook or journal. One that you will love to keep and bring with you every time.



3. **A good pen and highlighter.**

4. **To make time for the study.** If you don't have time, then you need to make time. Remember, you should finish what you've started. Do not be passive, but rather, active. Take the initiative along the burning passion to finish the race. You probably have a hectic schedule, but there is always a way.

How do I properly begin?

1. Secure all that have been listed above. Do that before proceeding on from this point.
2. Read: Matthew 23:8-10

You can go through the course in two ways: by yourself or with someone discipling you. Either way, there is only one true Teacher that should be present: the Lord Jesus Himself. To properly begin every lesson we should always take the time to pray wholeheartedly for His guidance. You can begin doing that right now. Please pray a short wholehearted prayer asking Him to guide you in your study. Acknowledge His presence and He will make Himself known. Humble yourself before Him and He will supply the grace to lift you up and give you understanding. Please take the time to pray starting now if you haven't done that yet.



Done? Proceed...

We Assume...

Before you begin to use or study this manual we would like you to know a few of the assumptions we have made while writing the material.

1. We assume that you have already had an initial encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ before.
2. We assume that you have decided to study this material based on your own free will.

comes upon us we are changed from glory to glory. (*Ezekiel 36:25-27, 2 Corinthians 3:17, 18*)

We begin to hunger and thirst for more of Him as we also yearn to do new things while we leave our old ways behind. These four disciplines are not the things we do to win the favor of God. But these are supposedly the results of being renewed in and by Him. These have become our nature while our old nature begins to fade away.

- 1) **Prayer** - You can tell how healthy a relationship is by examining the amount and level of communication between the parties involved. The Word of God encourages us to pray. (*Philippians 4:6,7*) It is not some ritual that should be practiced simply by repeating a set of patterned devotional words. This type of conversation has no real traffic to it—only a dead end. It is lifeless simply because there is no one on the other line. (*Matthew 6:7*) Communication is the evidence of union. It is a response to the presence of God in our lives. (*Exodus 3:4, 5*) Real prayer is interactive, responding in context to the Spirit's reply while God speaks in the other line. We can be sure that God will speak to our hearts therefore we must respond wholeheartedly. (*1 Corinthians 14:15*)



- 2) **Bible Study** - As we grow in relationship with Jesus, we will begin to yearn for more of His Word. (*1 Corinthians 2:10*) The exciting thing about it is that we will begin to understand while He teaches us according to our capacity. (*1 Corinthians 2:12, Mark 4:24, 25*) Feeding us according to our devotion. The Word of God encourages us to bible study for it is an indispensable factor for our growth. (*Hebrews 6:1, 1 Peter 2:1, 2*) Without it we will remain infants in Christ not knowing the deeper riches of His love and promises.



- 3) **Fellowship** - Having a relationship with God does not mean isolating ourselves from the rest of the world. In fact, the Lord Jesus Himself while He was in the flesh displayed this while He would constantly spend time together with both His disciples and sinners. (*John 21:10-13; Matthew 9:11-13*) Fellowship with Jesus means fellowship with others. (*1*

taught or to listen will never learn. A child who continually refuses to accept that he/she is, will never submit. It is not a matter of mental capacity. Understanding God's Word comes from the grace that He alone supplies to those are humble of heart. If we want to truly understand His message, we must change our approach. We must allow the Lord to carry us like a babe and to feed us like one.

Read: Proverbs 15:31-33

So let us not be too anxious to know everything. It is enough to know that we are in Him and growing. To grow in Christ is our objective, not to take His place. When we try to act like something we are not, there lies the danger.

Read: 2 Peter 3:16-17

Let us proceed with baby steps. And in time, we will be able to leap as high as God will allow us.

Lord, I am not proud.

I don't try to act important.

I don't try to do great things.

I don't worry about things that are too hard for me.

I am calm.

My soul is quiet.

My soul is calm and quiet like a satisfied baby in his mother's arms.

- Psalm 131:1-3 (Easy-To-Read-Version)

Four Spiritual Disciplines

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22

Being in Christ is being in union with Him. To be one with Him. Him in us and we in Him. This was His desire from the very beginning, to have us so close to Him in relationship with each other. (*Jeremiah 13:11, John 17:20, 21*)

All this takes place as His Spirit begins to dwell in us. As this anointing

It is important for you to understand these basic assumptions: the material has not been written to introduce you to the Lord Jesus for the first time, but rather, to fill in the gaps of knowledge in order to answer basic questions and to strengthen your spiritual foundations.

Yes, we do assume that you are interested and determined to finish the course for your own good. That you were not forced to comply, but rather, motivated by the touch of God in your life accompanied by your own passion and devotion to know Him more.

In case you belong to none of the above mentioned assumptions, well then, we hope and pray that this material will somehow aid you in finding your place in the heart of God. God loves you and He has a plan for you other than your own. Using this material is only one of the many effective ways to guiding you to having a firm and sound understanding about God and the role He plays in our lives. By knowing more of Him we can discover the deeper treasures that God has buried deep within ourselves. Blessed journey...

We Expect...

If this were a perfect world, then we could expect nothing less than excellence on the part of all that will come into the Body of Christ. However...that perfect world is yet to come. For the meantime, we can only expect as much as what the Lord Jesus talked about in His parable of the sower. Look at what it says:

*"Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
When anyone hears the word of the kingdom,
and does not understand it, then the wicked one
comes and snatches away what was sown in
his heart. This is he who received **seed by the
wayside**. But he who received the **seed on
stony places**, this is he who hears the word
and immediately receives it with joy; yet he
has no root in himself, but endures only for a
while. For when tribulation or persecution
arises because of the word, immediately he
stumbles. Now he who received **seed among
the thorns** is he who hears the word, and the
cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the*



*word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received **seed on the good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” -Matthew 13:18-23*

As you can see, there are basically four different outcomes and only one of them is desirable. Four basic categories of people and we can belong to anyone one of them. Which category you belong to depends on you - on your willingness and patience to know and understand and on your devotion to apply and share what has freely been given to you.

Remember, this is a race of enduring love for God and not just a short sprint of zeal. You are not to compete with anyone. All you have to do is allow the Lord to get you to the finish line and make it home. One step at a time. There's no need to hurry. Make every moment count. May the grace of God carry you through every inch of the way. God bless you.

The Strategy of God

Are you content with what you know? Perhaps you're looking at this manual and you're thinking to yourself, *"I'm already going to church services every Sunday. Why do I have to read all this?"*

Friend, the contents in this manual are in no way to act as a substitute to what the Lord feeds you with every Sunday, midweek, cell-group, or whatever fellowship you have along the week. It is, however, in a way a supplement to what all these other meetings have to offer you.

It is a systematic step-by-step guide to fill in the little gaps. Not just a devotional study to illuminate us in our daily walk, rather it is a "study" to "equip" us to illuminate, touch, bless, encourage, counsel, help, comfort, inspire, motivate... other people.

That's right, YOU will be given ammunition for war. Ammunition to USE for the glory of God.

"But I don't want to be a pastor!"

Friend, you don't have to worry about that. Look at what the Scripture says:

*"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, **as God has dealt to each one a measure***

Yes, it can. A lot of people think the Bible is just some mysterious book to be placed in an altar reserved only for the eyes of a special few. Wrong. The Bible was written to be read by all who can. And not only that; but more importantly to study with careful diligence. Only then can we reap the eternal benefits that it promises. Read: Joshua 1:8

Can the entire Bible be understood by just any type of person?

Read: John 16:12-13

When we were younger, most of us did not begin by reading complex textbooks. In fact, we did not begin with reading at all. We listened to wonderful narrators while they illustrated and related to us colorful stories from children's books. And if you can remember, even some parts of these stories required careful and detailed explanations for us to fully grasp what the frog, swan, or donkey was trying to say. The Bible is not that different at all.

The Bible is basically divided into two categories of teaching.

Read: Hebrews 5:12-14

1. Milk (for babes or beginners in Christ)

2. Solid food or Meat (for those who are more mature and have enough spiritual teeth to chew on the subject before swallowing)



By carefully examining the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ here on earth—we can find these two basic categories in action. *Read: Mark 4:33-34*

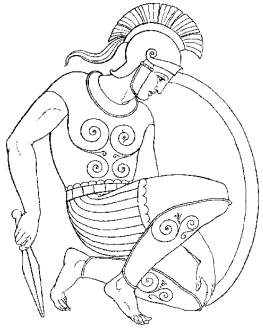
He would use parables: stories that carried with them timeless lessons. They sounded simple, however, very few really got to grasp their true meaning. Jesus comments on this: John 3:10, 12; Mark 4:23-25

Over and over, He would teach through these wonderful parables. Some understood, while others refused to understand. What was the factor that determined this? What was it that prevented others from coming to terms with the real meaning of each story? Was it a matter of educational background? Was it a matter of financial status? Or was it something else?

Read: Luke 10:21; Matthew 18:2-5; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

It was a matter of the heart: pride. A child who is unwilling to be

The Method of God

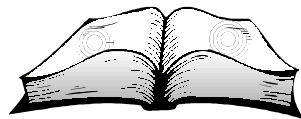


“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)

As the Lord equipped the twelve, so He has ordered the twelve to do the same. The method: to teach His Word in a manner that each person is fully equipped and well informed without compromise. Proper discipleship is the key.

The Lord is not looking for members who come and go. He is on a look out for those who would be willing to become His disciples. The requirements: **humility and commitment.**

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” - John 8:31-32 (NKJV)



The Tool of God

“And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” - Acts 20:32 (NKJV)

The Lord can work great miracles. And truly, seeing them happen before our eyes is an awesome experience. However, miracles don't build us up as much as they warm us up. Only the Word of God can. The indispensable tool for discipleship is nothing less than God's written Word: the Bible.

Can the Bible be understood?
Read: 2 Corinthians 1:13

of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given us, let us use them...” - Romans 12:3-6

This manual is not designed to change your career. It's main task is to help you function more effectively with what the Lord has given you. To help you understand your gift and your calling. A calling specifically for you...

Our God has system and order. He has assigned each of His creatures specific tasks. This is why it is important for us to understand ours. Below is a sample of what we're trying to talk about:

God calls and sends people to testify to other people about Him.

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.’” - Matthew 9:37, 38 (NIV)

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit” - John 15:2 (NKJV)

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned” - John 15:6 (NKJV)



The Lord has ordained people to preach the Gospel and not angels.

“He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’” - Acts 11:13, 14

“Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”” - Acts 5:17-20

So many Christians worry about their loved ones or friends who have not yet come to know Jesus personally. We gaze at a multitude everyday of lost and wandering souls longing that they too might call upon the name of the Lord. We have to do more than just pray.



Though we have different gifts, our aim is one: to point the lost to THE WAY. With each of our differing gifts working together the result is an interesting blend of effective evangelism choreographed with the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We are all part of God’s orchestra. This is why finding a seat with the rest is not enough. We must pick up the instruments and master them. Do you know which instrument you are supposed to play? Take the time to study and find out. God bless you in your journey.

The Desires of God



Can two walk together unless they are agreed?
- Amos 3:3 (NKJV)

One of the main problems we have when it comes to fellowshiping with anyone, is when our desires seem to clash or come against each other. One of us desires to go right, while the other desires to go left. It doesn’t matter how hard you hold on to each other’s hands.

For as long as both of you are headed in opposite directions you will inevitably end up being separated from each other.

The same thing happens in our relationship with God. If we don’t really care to understand what it is that He desires—then there will always be a strong chance of us breaking up with Him. We must understand that our relationship with God will only work out if we spend some time to know more about His will and His ways. When we do, then we can learn to find our place in the plans of God.

“...these are evil times. So don’t be foolish with your lives. But learn what the Lord wants you to do.” - Ephesians 5:16-17 (East-To-Read-Version)

Here are a few of God’s desires to think about:

That all may know and acknowledge Him.

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” - Habakkuk 2:14

That all may follow Him to life eternal.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” - 2 Peter 3:9

“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord, Repent and live!” - Ezekiel 18:32

That all may know that it is He who loved us first in a hope that we may learn to love Him back.

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. - 1 John 4:10

That we may learn to love each other as He loved us.

“Dear friends, since God loved us, we also ought to love one another.” - 1 John 4:11

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” - Leviticus 19:18