

First Principles



turningpoint
CHURCH

www.turningpoint.asn.au
church@turningpoint.asn.au

CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Born Again, Born to Win.	Page 3
Chapter 2: Growing in God	Page 6
Chapter 3: Water Baptism: Taking the Plunge	Page 10
Chapter 4: Power to Live: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit	Page 14
Chapter 5: Being an Overcomer: Life - Be in it	Page 16
Chapter 6: The Church Family: Family & Friends	Page 19
Chapter 7: Radically Saved: Being a Witness for Christ	Page 21

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6



STUDY 1: BORN AGAIN, BORN TO WIN!

Memorise this verse by the next study: John 3:16

Study Text: John 3:1-5



Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews and no doubt a very intelligent man, suffered from a problem that is common to many - “SPIRITUAL CONFUSION”. He believed in God, but he still felt an empty void - he desired a deeper relationship with God. Nicodemus had heard about Jesus. He had heard of Jesus’ teaching, miracles and the many healings taking place. Nicodemus knew that Jesus had the answers to life, so he came to Jesus one night to talk to Him.

Jesus said to him the following words, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God”.

In this study we are going to discover what it means to be born again and that being born again means being “Born to Win”.

Why do we need to be born again?

Read and discuss the following Scriptures: -

a) *Romans 3:23*. What is man’s problem? _____

b) *Romans 6:23*. (a) What is the penalty? _____

Man’s problem-:

- i. All have sinned
- ii. Sin separates us from God.
- iii. There is no human way for sin to be washed away.
- iv. As a result, there is no human way to reach God.



God's Solution - We can be born again.

Read the following Scriptures:

Romans 5:8. God's solution is: _____

All have sinned and sin must be punished. Jesus, the Son of God, died to pay the penalty for man's sin and if anyone asks Jesus for forgiveness, He will forgive them and wash away their sin.

⇒What separates us from God? _____

⇒What will Jesus do if we ask Him to forgive us? _____

⇒When our sin is removed can we have access to God? _____

When good works, good morals, education and religion failed to bridge the gap between God and man, Jesus Christ came and made it possible to reach God.

How do we become born again?

Man's problem is Sin.

God's solution is: Forgiveness through Jesus Christ

Man's responsibility is:

To believe and receive God's free gift of salvation

Many people think they can earn their way into heaven. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us about this? _____

In order to become born again we need to:

BELIEVE in Jesus as our Saviour

John 3:16 _____



Romans 10.9 _____

REPENT of our sin and ask Jesus to forgive us

1 John 1:9 _____

RECEIVE Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour

John 1:12 _____

Revelation 3:20 _____

If you have believed in Jesus, asked to be forgiven and received Christ as your Saviour, what does this make you? Read and discuss *2 Corinthians 5:17*.

Why Christians are called “born again”?

In *John 3:5* Jesus says, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God”.

Born again means:

- i. Born of water - water speaks of cleansing
- ii. Born of the Spirit - our spirit (our “God consciousness”) was dead but now it is born again. Our Spirit is alive.

How do we know we are born again?

The Bible is the Word of God - the Bible is truth.

Read the following two Scriptures.

John 1:12. Have you received Him? _____

Romans 10:13. Have you called upon Jesus? _____

YOU’RE NOW BORN AGAIN AND BORN TO WIN!



STUDY 2: GROWING IN GOD

Memorise this verse by the next study: James 5:16b

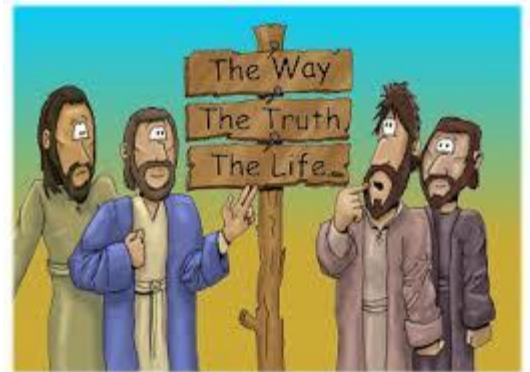
Study Text: Philippians 1

In the life of every Christian, God begins a good work and it is His desire that every young Christian grows to maturity in HIM. It is one thing to make a decision for Jesus, but it is another to become a disciple of Jesus.



What is a disciple?

In this passage of Scripture (Philippians 1) God says He will complete the good work He has begun BUT we need to co-operate and work with God. Jesus is now living in our hearts and He wants to work with us to cause Christian growth and development. In this study we are going to examine three ways in which we can develop growth in our Christian lives.



Prayer

To some people the word “prayer” may bring to mind boring religious rituals; however, prayer is one of the most powerful and fulfilling responsibilities of a Christian. How exciting! We can talk to God and He listens to our prayers. We can talk to the Creator of the Universe and He is interested in listening to us!



What is prayer? _____



Read and discuss the following Scriptures about prayer:

- a) Luke 18:1
- b) 1 Thess. 5:17
- c) Matt. 6:6
- d) Matt. 21:22
- e) John 14:13
- f) 1 John 5:14
- g) Philippians 4:6-7



Why do you think God wants us to pray? _____

The best time to pray is during a “quiet time”. A quiet time is a time set aside during the day when a Christian spends time alone with God. Some Christians have their quiet time first thing in the morning, some at the end of the day and some have it somewhere in between. The main thing with a quiet time is to withdraw from our activities and spend time with God. During the quiet time the Christian prays and reads the Bible.

How can we make our quiet time enjoyable and effective?

What things should we pray about?

Reading the Bible:

The second key to growth is reading God’s Word - the Bible. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. In other words, God has allowed every word of the Bible to be written and He endorses it. The Bible is GOD’S WORD to us.

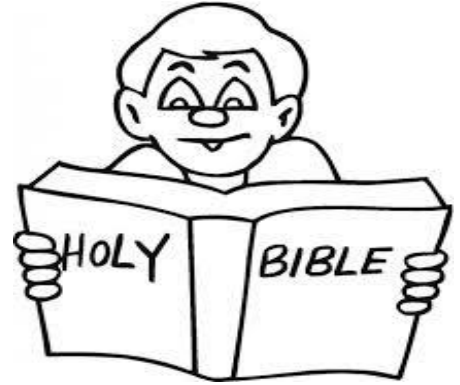
1 Peter 2:2 says to _____



2 Timothy 3:16 -17 says what about the Word of God? _____

Read and discuss the following Scriptures, What does each verse mean?

- a) Psalm 119:105
- b) Psalm 119:9
- c) Psalm 119:162
- d) Psalm 119:11
- e) Matthew 4:4
- f) Ephesians 6:17



Here are some practical ways to effectively read the Bible:

- A.** Begin by reading John's gospel and after completing it read Matthew, Mark and Luke.
- B.** After reading the above, read the book of Acts and then systematically read through the complete New Testament.
- C.** Start each book at the beginning and systematically read it chapter by chapter.
- D.** It is often a good idea to take notes and underline important verses.
- E.** When you are confident with your Bible reading, you might like to start reading the Old Testament along with your New Testament readings. Genesis, Psalms and Proverbs are good books to begin with.
- F.** If you have any questions, ask a Christian friend or your Connect Group leader.

What are some other ways to effectively study God's Word? _____

NOTE: - *In order to grow spiritually it is important that we have a quiet time each day.*



Meeting with (and having “Fellowship” with) other Christians:

All Christians need to spend time with other Christians. Young Christians especially need to associate with those who are able to help them grow in their Christian walk.

When we surround ourselves with other Christians we are able to have strong friendships. It is very important to be able to share your faith with other likeminded people, this way you are able to encourage and empower one another spiritually.

Read and discuss Hebrew 10:25.

Why is it important for Christians to spend time together? _____

What are some of the Christian activities available for us to participate in? _____

It is a very exciting thing to be working in partnership with God. God desires for us to grow so let's work with Him; spend time with Him, reading His Word and make friends with those of like faith. As we do this, we will be amazed at how quickly we will grow in our faith.

IN THE LAST DAYS BEFORE HIS RETURN, JESUS IS LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRONG IN THEIR FAITH.



STUDY 3: WATER BAPTISM - TAKING THE PLUNGE

Memorise this verse by the next study: 2 Corinthians 5:17

1. Study Text: Acts 2:38



The word “baptism” is derived from the Greek word “baptizo” which simply means to “wash or plunge into water”. Its original use was not a religious one. For example, a blacksmith, in order to cool an item he had been forging, would plunge it into water. The word used for that was “baptizo” - baptised.

These words are part of the first sermon preached in the early church.

1. Read Acts 2:38.

a) What was the first thing Peter said one must do to become a believer in Christ? _____

b) What must we do after repenting? _____

c) What is the purpose of being baptised? _____

d) How many people does this verse command to be baptised? _____

e) How soon after hearing the gospel were they baptised? _____

The story of Phillip and the Eunuch

Read Acts 8:36-38.

By what means did Phillip baptise the Eunuch? _____



f) Do you think Phillip completely immersed the Eunuch in water? Why?

g) What is a Eunuch? _____

The Baptism of Jesus:

Read Mark 1:9-10.

h) Was Jesus baptised in water? _____

Read Matt. 28:19-20.

i) What was Jesus' attitude towards us being baptised? _____

Baptism and Us

Read Colossians 2:12.

j) What does baptism represent? _____

According to Romans 6:4,

k) In what way is baptism by immersion similar to the resurrection of Jesus Christ? _____

l) Do you think your life will be affected when you are baptised? Give reasons for your answer. _____

m) Why should I be baptised? *Read Romans 6:3-4* _____

n) What are we baptised into if we are baptised into Jesus? _____

o) Verse 4 says we are buried with him through baptism into His death.



What do we gain from this? _____

Read Romans 6:6

p) What is crucified through water baptism? _____

q) *Romans 6:8* What is the promise for us as believers if we die with Christ through water baptism? _____

Obedience to Christ

As believers we follow the example of Christ by being water baptised.

r) In *Acts 2:38*, was water baptism an option? _____

s) *John 14:15* Water Baptism is a command. What will cause us to be baptised? _____

To refuse water baptism is to live in disobedience to the revealed word of God. We validate our faith by obedience to Christ. If we love Him we will keep His commandments.

As a forgiven, born again believer, what is the next step of faith? _____



Below are several groups of statements. Only one in each group is completely right. Circle the one you think is the most correct in each case:

1) Baptism is:

- a) Only for some people
- b) For every believer
- c) An optional ceremony

4) Baptism is by:

- a) Sprinkling
- b) Pouring
- c) Immersion

2) Baptism is for:

- a) Little babies only
- b) Believers in Christ only
- c) Adults only

5) Baptism signifies:

- a) The death of the old life and the beginning of the new
- b) Joining the church
- c) Turning over a new leaf

3) Baptism helps us to know:

- a) That our sins are forgiven
- b) That we are religious

CONCLUSION:

Now that you have repented and have been born again there is one more thing you're now ready to do.

What is it? _____



STUDY 4: POWER TO LIVE -THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Memorise this Bible verse by the next study: Acts 1:8

A. The Holy Spirit

Read the following Scriptures:

1. *John 14: 16-18*. Who is the Holy Spirit? _____

2. *John 16:13* says that the Holy Spirit will.. _____

3. *Acts 13:2* says that the Holy Spirit spoke. Can the Holy Spirit speak to us today? _____

The Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is not a force but a personality who is our Helper, Comforter and Empowerer.

B. Benefits of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US:

1. **The power to preach about Jesus.** Acts 1:8 and 4:31
2. **The ability to flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.** 1 Cor. 12:8-11
3. **The power to live a holy life.** Romans 8:26
4. **The ability to speak in tongues.** Acts 2:4



C. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

- 1.) What were the disciples told to wait for? _____

- 2.) *Matt. 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33*. Who is the Baptiser? _____

- 3.) *Acts 2:39*. Is the promise for you? _____



Read John 3:5-6.

- a) Is being born again and baptised in the Holy Spirit the same? _____

- b) What type of birth is spoken of here? _____

Note: The disciples were already saved when they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 8:14-16*. Also, Jesus' ministry began when He was baptised in the Holy Spirit! *Matt. 3:16-17*

Read Luke 11:9-13.

- a) How do we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit? _____

- b) Does God want to give us the Holy Spirit? _____

(Also see *Matthew 7:7-8* and *Mark 11:24*.)

C. The Baptism:

- 1.) In *Acts 19:6* what is the evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____

- 2.) In *Acts 10:45-48* how were Peter's companions convinced that the people had been baptised in the Holy Spirit? _____

- 3) Read the scriptures below and write some purposes for speaking in tongues:
- a) 1 Cor. 14:2 _____
- b) 1 Cor. 14:4 _____
- c) 1 Cor. 14:14 _____
- d) 1 Cor. 14:22 _____
- e) Ephesians 5:18-19 _____

Finally, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the total immersion of a believer in the Spirit of God, His love, His grace and His power. It enables us to do as Jesus did on earth and even greater. All we need to do is open our mouths, use our voice and believe God.



STUDY 5: BEING AN OVERCOMER – LIFE - BE IN IT

Memorise this Bible verse by the next study: James 4:7



The Christian life can be compared to an athletic event in that it is not a sprint race, but a marathon that we run. Many people start out as sprinters and soon fizzle out. God is looking for marathon runners who will be consistent over the course. Like all races there are obstacles. We as Christians need to recognize the obstacles and where they come from.

a) **Read** *Genesis 3:6* and compare it with *1 John 2:15-17*. What three areas does Satan attack us in? _____

b) Look at *James 4:7-8*. What three things do these verses tell us to do? _____

c) How else does God help us overcome temptation?

See *Luke 22:40-46* and *Romans 8:26a* _____

d) *Hebrews 4:15*. Can Jesus relate to the temptations that we face? _____

e) *1 Cor. 10:13*. Will God allow temptations to overtake us? _____

f) Look at *1 Cor. 10:14*, *2 Tim. 2:22*, *1 Tim. 6:11*. What is the key word in these Scriptures? _____

g) Discuss the following verses: - *Matt. 5:28*, *1 John 3:6,9* _____

There is an old saying that goes like this, “You can’t stop a bird from flying over your head, but you can stop it from building a nest in your hair”. The same rule applies to sin. Temptation starts in the mind with a thought. That is where we need to stop it.



Read 2 Cor. 10:5 and Psalm 119:11.

God has made a way to cleanse those areas of our lives where Satan would try and attack us.

**LET YOUR
FAITH
BE BIGGER
THAN YOUR
FEARS**

Discuss the following Scriptures:

Ephesians 5:25-26

Colossians 3:16

Titus 3:5

Romans 12:1-2

Note: In dealing with areas of temptation, remember to stay clear of places or persons who would try and pull you back. Example, an alcoholic should stay away from pubs or old drinking partners. Use God's wisdom in your life. See 1 Cor. 15:33

Armour of God - Read *Ephesians 6:10-18*.

This passage tells us to take up the whole armour of God. As any soldier knows, without complete armour, you are open to the darts and attacks of the enemy. So it is important to have our armour on tightly and to know the weapons available for us to use.

Complete the following: -

a) [v14] Stand ready, having girded your waist with _____

b) [v14] Put on the breastplate of _____

c) [v15] Shoe your feet with the preparation of the _____

d) [v16] The shield of _____

e) [v17] The helmet of _____

f) [v17] The sword of _____



Why do you think this armour is important? _____

Finally, to all you overcomers:

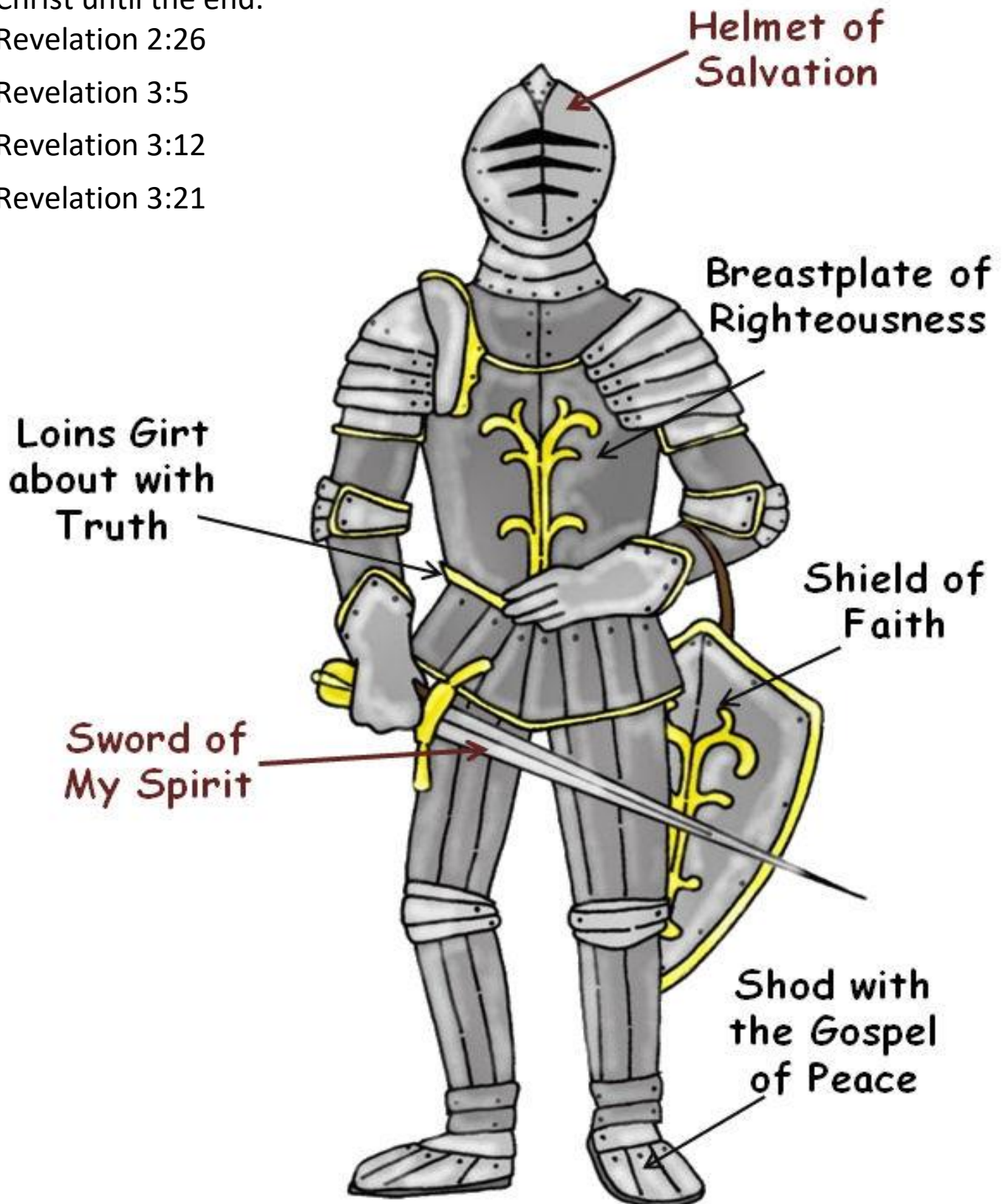
Read and discuss the following Scriptures regarding those who endure for Christ until the end.

Revelation 2:26

Revelation 3:5

Revelation 3:12

Revelation 3:21



STUDY 6: THE CHURCH FAMILY - FAMILY & FRIENDS

Memorise this Bible verse by the next study: Ephesians 4:16

Study Text: Acts 2:44-47 - There are three fundamental points that we can gather from this portion of Scripture.

1. PROVISION AND FELLOWSHIP:

Read Acts 4:34-35; 11:29 and *Philippians 4:16*.

- a) When someone was in need, what did the Church do about it? _____

- b) Read *1 Peter 3:8*. What are we to do in regards to each other? _____

- c) *Matthew 22:39* says we are to love our neighbours as ourselves. What do you think it means? _____

- d) How would you show love to a neighbour? _____

- e) Read *John 19:25-27*. While on the cross, Jesus asked His beloved disciple to make a certain provision for His mother, Mary. What was it? _____

- f) As members of a family, we have certain responsibilities and commitments to each other. Read *Luke 8:19-21* and *Matthew 2:50*. How did Jesus view us? _____

2. COMMUNION

In the early church, people shared communion with each other. Communion means fellowship, sharing and participating. When we take communion we are fellowshiping with Christ and partaking with Him.

Read *1 Cor. 11:17-34*.

- a) In vs. 24 & 25, what does the bread and the cup represent? _____

- b) In *verses 27-28*, what must we do before partaking in communion and why? _____



- c) In *Luke 22:19* what was the purpose of the new covenant through communion? _____
- d) *1 Cor. 10:17* states that the bread is broken from one loaf. What is the significance of this? _____
- e) In your own words, what does communion mean to you? _____

2. TITHES

- a) What does *Malachi 3:10* say about tithing? _____
- b) God promises to do something for us in return for tithing. What did He promise? _____
- c) In *Leviticus 27:30*, how much is a tithe? And to whom does it belong? _____
- d) An example of giving is found in *Acts 4:34-35*. Why should we give our tithes to the church? _____
- e) Another reason to give our tithes is found in *1 Timothy 5:17-18*. What is it? _____
- f) Read *Luke 6:38*. What we sow, we shall reap. By giving out of faith, what can happen? _____
- g) What does *Deuteronomy 16:17* say about giving? _____

Other Scriptures relating to giving are:

Matthew 10:8: Give freely	1 Cor. 16:2: Give regularly
Romans 12:8: Give generously	2 Cor. 9:7: Give cheerfully

Tithes belong to the Lord. Offerings are of our own free will and are separate from the tithe. In Acts 11:29, people of the church sent out an offering to people in need. Offerings do not always mean money. In the old days, offerings of food, clothing, building materials, even just giving time to people, ensured the church family was never in need.

What are ways that you could help others? For example: a tree full of lemons that you just don't know what to do with. _____



STUDY 7: RADICALLY SAVED - BEING A WITNESS FOR CHRIST

Memorise this Bible verse by the next study: Matthew 28:19

The Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (See 2 Peter 3:9). God has chosen you to be His mouthpiece to a lost and dying world.

1. THE COMMISSION - Read *Mark 16:15-18*

a) What signs will accompany those who have believed? _____

b) The commission that Jesus gave the disciples is as it was 2000 years ago. Our motivation to witness must be born from a revelation of God's love for a lost world. Otherwise, our witnessing will be mechanical and lack the compassion and concern Jesus had for the unsaved. God has set a tremendous value on man in that the price He paid to redeem us was His only Son.



c) There is a saying that goes like this, "You may be the only Bible a person will ever read". What do you think this means? _____

LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE:

Read and discuss *Matthew 5:13-16*.

a) In what ways can we let our light shine? _____

What does the Bible mean when it says we are the "salt of the earth"? (Think of some of the qualities of salt) _____

b) Look at Acts 8:35-37. What is Philip doing here? _____

c) Read 2 Timothy 4:5. What does it mean to do the work of an evangelist? _____

d) What does Proverbs 11:30 then say about soul winners? _____



3. BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS:

The Scripture says, "So then, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). In the light of this verse, read Romans 10:13-15.

What do people need? _____

a) What is God's attitude to those who bring the good news? _____

b) 2 Cor. 5:18-20 tells us that every believer has been given the ministry of _____

c) Look at John 4:35 and 2 Cor. 6:2. When is the time to witness? _____

d) John 4:37 says, "For in this the saying is true: 'one sows and another reaps'." Does this mean we will always lead people straight to the Lord? _____

4. REACHING THE LOST:

We need to realize that, as Christians, sometimes we will just be planting seeds into peoples' lives. Let the Lord then water that seed until that person is ready for harvest. Jesus always met people where they were at. We need to do the same.

a) Read 1 Cor. 9:19-22. What are some ways we can become all things to all men? _____

b) In 1 Cor. 9:16, what was Paul's attitude if we did not preach the gospel? _____

c) c) Read 1 Cor. 2:4-5. In what way did Paul preach? _____

d) Finally, God has given us a most powerful weapon against the enemy which no one can take away from us. It is found in Revelation 12:11. What is it _____



10 PRACTICAL WAYS TO WITNESS

1. Let the Holy Spirit lead you to the person you are to witness to. Acts 8:29 and Luke 4:1.
2. Be natural with the person you are sharing with as it will help them to relax. Don't try to be over spiritual or push people into salvation. We are called to be witnesses only.
3. Remember that you are there to share Jesus - don't get caught up in arguments, doctrinal differences, etc. We are called to be witnesses only. Christianity is about people finding Jesus for themselves. It's a relationship not a religion.
4. Look alive, smile and let your light shine. Remember Jesus came to bring you life and life more abundantly (John 10:10). Nehemiah 8:10 says that the "joy of the Lord is your strength".
5. Don't forget the power of your own testimony - it does not have to be "sex, drugs and rock 'n roll" in order to be effective. Your own testimony has power whatever it may be. See Revelation 12:11.
6. BE BOLD - The Bible says that, "the righteous are as bold as a lion" (Proverbs 28:1). "God has not given us a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).
7. Relate to the person where they are at. That does not mean that we need to sink to the level of their sin. It means that we relate to them and their situation the same way Jesus would - in love (1 Cor. 9:22).
8. Know that God will give you the words to speak and will bring things that you need to say to your remembrance. See Matthew 10:19-20 and John 14:26.
9. Finally, be ready to give a defence of your faith to everyone who asks (1 Peter 3:15).
10. GO FOR IT! Mark 16:15, Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8

Key Scriptures in Witnessing:-

John 3:16

John 3:5

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

2 Peter 3:9

Hebrews 9:27

John 14:6

John 10:10





Sunday Services

CRANBOURNE

10:30am & 6:00pm

Ps Phil & Ps Norma Cayzer
1785 South Gippsland Hwy
Cranbourne East
5996 3048

SEAFORD

Girl Guides Hall
224 Seaford Road, Seaford
9785 7229

KOO WEE RUP

10:30am & 6:00pm*

Ps Sean La'Brooy
335 Rossiter Rd
5997 2217

LILYDALE

10:00am

Ps Joel & Ps Sieni Cayzer
7 Hardy Street, Lilydale
9735 4419

OFFICER

10:30am

Ps Sean La'Brooy
2 Parker Street
5943 1555

WILDPATH

10:30am

Ps David Owens
60 Playne St, Frankston
9785 7229

HALLAM

10:30am

Ps Julie Ohlson
2/ 151 Princes Hwy, Hallam
9773 5551

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN

FELLOWSHIP

10:00am

Ps Nathan Bargerbos
3 Sovereign Court, Mansfield
5779 1213