

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series
Lesson #1 – Knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- Describe how you came to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Allow significant room for discussion at this point – you want to get to know more than the surface-level details.)
- What is your understanding of how sin negatively impacted you before coming to Jesus?
- Do you tend to believe that either: a) God doesn't care whether you sin, or b) that he is angry with you because of your sin? **See Ephesians 2:4-5.** How does God view our sin problem?
- What is your understanding of how Jesus took care of our sin problem?
 - **Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.** What happens in this transaction?
- If someone came to you and asked, "What do I need to do to become a Christian?" what would you say? (The point of this question is to make sure we all know how to communicate how a person receives Jesus Christ by faith.)
- The Bible says that "the wages of sin is death" (**Romans 6:23**). Yet, in our experience, sin can seem pleasant, even attractive. In what ways does sin lead to death? How can you remind yourself that sin, even when it seems tempting, leads to death?
- What does it mean that Jesus is Savior? What does he save us from?
- Salvation isn't the end of the story. What are we saved into?
- What does it mean that Jesus is Lord and King? (Note: You can review the parable of the tenants from **Mark 12:1-12** at this time, if you desire.)
 - If Jesus is Lord, what should that look like on a daily basis?
 - Is it possible to receive Jesus as Savior, yet reject him as Lord? What would it say about someone if he/she denied Jesus' authority in his/her life?
 - In what area(s) of your life do you struggle with giving control to God? Are there any areas in which you would say that he may not be Lord? Is there any sin in your life that is out of place for someone who claims Jesus as Lord?
 - How do we deal with such sin(s)?
 - We talked earlier about how God loves us in the midst of our sins. Some people assume that means we can go on sinning, saying, "If God loves to forgive, then I might as well go on sinning." What's wrong with that line of thinking?
- Is there anything you need to do right now to make sure that Jesus is both Savior and Lord in your life?
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series

Lesson #2 – Worship

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- What comes into your mind when you hear the word 'worship'? What caricatures or misconceptions might you be carrying around with you in regard to the idea of worship?
- How would you define the word 'worship'?
- It's often been said that we end up worshiping someone or something. Do you think that's true? Who or what, other than God, might you be tempted to worship? Another way of looking at this same question: It's been said that who or what we think about most often, or during our free time, is what we worship. What might that be for you?
- **Read Psalm 100**
 - Why is God worthy of worship?
 - What role do songs play in our worship?
 - Worship includes singing songs, but that's not all it is. What else does worship include? Can you worship God while at work/school?
 - Try again to define the word 'worship' in such a way that includes what we do in our relationship with God on a continual basis.
- **Read Romans 12:1-2**
 - What does it mean to offer our bodies as living sacrifices?
 - According to v.2, what role do our minds play in worship?
 - What does knowing God's will have to do with worship?
- What is the goal of worship? (Try to come up with your own answers before you read the answers below. The list below is not exhaustive.)
 - To glorify God – see Romans 15:6
 - To enter into God's presence – see Hebrews 10:19-23
 - To become more like Christ – see 2 Corinthians 3:18; what does it mean to 'reflect' or 'contemplate' the Lord's glory?
 - To remind us to keep walking with God – see Psalm 42:6
 - To encourage others to worship – see Hebrews 10:25
- How can we make sure our worship is heartfelt and not just 'going through the motions'?
 - Why does God "desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6).
 - How does God view legalistic attempts at worship? (See Mark 7:6-7.)
- What are you currently and intentionally doing to worship God?
- What steps can you take to increase your worship of God?
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series

Lesson #3 – Prayer

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- How do you feel like you do in your prayer life? What do you do well? What could you improve on?
- Define prayer. What is it? Why do we do it?
- Describe a normal day in your prayer life. (Note: we're not trying to impress anyone. We're trying to help each other learn more about prayer.)
- Describe your heart attitude in your prayers. Do you feel like your heart connects with God? Do you struggle with your mind drifting in prayer? Are your prayers heartfelt or are they "vain repetitions"? etc.
- One of the ways Jesus taught us to pray is to say to God, "Your will be done" (Matthew 6:10). However, many times our prayers are simply us asking for what we want.
 - Is it right or wrong to pray for things we want? (See Philippians 4:6 – we can pray in everything and we can present our requests to God.)
 - If we can pray for things that are important to us, but we should also pray for God's will, how can we make sure we have a proper distinction between our will and God's will?
 - Are your prayers mostly for your will or for God's will?
 - What can we do to make sure we're praying for God's will?
- What does it mean to "pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)? What did that look like for Jesus? What can it look like for us?
- If we think about it from God's perspective, why do you think he asks us to pray? How does he want to answer our prayers?
 - Why should we pray if God already knows what we need?
- What is the goal of following Christ? How does prayer help that?
- How are you at praying publicly or in groups? Are you comfortable with it? If not, are you willing to grow in this area? Are you able to pray in such a way that you're not trying to impress others? Do you feel inadequate to pray in front of others?
 - How can praying in secret (see Matthew 6:6) help your prayer life in general? How can it help you learn to pray with others?
- What does it mean to intercede (see 1 Timothy 2:1) for others? Do you do this?
- **Read Philippians 4:6-7.**
 - What does this teach us about God's heart for prayer?
 - What does it mean to pray "with thanksgiving"?
 - Why does prayer lead to peace?
- What is the connection between prayer and humility? Why is humility important?
- Is there anything hindering your prayers? (For example: not forgiving others, questions/doubts, feeling like you haven't seen answers to previous prayers, etc.)
- Name one or two things you can do right now to improve your prayer life. Some suggestions: pray for God's will (note: God's will is revealed to us in the Bible – we can pray for what the Bible says), confess your sins, pray with thanksgiving/praise, pray for others, pray in secret, pray throughout your day, set a time for prayer when you'll be able to concentrate, keep a prayer journal, etc.
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

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Lesson #4 – The Word

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- What is your attitude toward the Bible?
- What is the Bible?
- **Read Matthew 4:1-4**
 - Why did Jesus answer the devil the way he did?
 - What does it mean to live “on every word that comes from the mouth of God”?
- **Read Psalm 119:9-11**
 - What role does God’s Word play in our lives?
 - What does it mean to hide God’s Word in our hearts?
 - Note from Pastor Eric: Memorizing Scripture can be helpful as we seek to hide God’s Word in our hearts, but hiding God’s Word in our hearts is more than simply memorizing it. Why? What is your plan to hide God’s Word in your heart?
- **Read Psalm 119:105**
 - How does God’s Word lead us and light our path?
 - Practically speaking, how does this happen in our lives? How does God actually lead us as we read the Bible?
- **Read John 17:17**
 - What is sanctification?
 - How are we sanctified by God’s Word?
- Be honest: To what degree would you say that the Bible is God’s Word? Are there any mental road blocks you have in viewing the Bible as God’s Word?
- What is your current practice in regard to reading the Bible? How often do you do it?
 - What road blocks get in the way of you reading Scripture? (e.g. time, motivation, feeling like you know it already, lack of understanding, etc.)
- Do you have a plan for reading through the entire Bible? Would you find such a plan helpful?
 - Note from Pastor Eric: When I finish a book of the Bible, I put a check mark by it in the table of contents. When each book has a check mark by it, I have read the whole Bible.
- The Pharisees were chastened for studying God’s Word but missing God. Do you meet with God when you read the Bible? Why or why not?
- **Isaiah 66:2b** says, “This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word.” Are you humble before God’s Word? Do you submit to it and tremble at it?
- What commitment can you make today to meet with God through the Bible?
- Pray together. If you haven’t already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series
Lesson #5 – Fellowship with God and Each Other

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- What does it mean to have fellowship with God? What does it mean to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:28)?
- To what degree would you say it's easy (or difficult) to have fellowship with God?
- How do we have fellowship with God?
 - Note: You can discuss John 15:1-17 if you'd like to at this time. In my sermon on that passage, I mentioned God's Word, submitting to God's pruning, obedience, and prayer as ways to stay connected to Jesus. Which of those areas may you need to focus on?
- **Read 1 John 1:5-10**
 - What might prevent us from having fellowship with God?
 - If we are walking in the darkness, what should we do?
- What can we do on a daily basis to strengthen our fellowship with God? Is there any commitment you can make right now?
- What are the results of fellowship with God?
- What's the connection between fellowship with God and fellowship with each other? How does the first enable/enhance the second?
- Why is it important to love one another?
 - Who benefits from this kind of love?
 - What does the world see when it takes note of our love for each other?
- **Read Hebrews 10:24-25**
 - What does it mean to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds"?
 - What does it mean for us to consider how to spur one another on?
 - How can we encourage one another? Specifically, what does (or can) that look like in your life?
 - Why do so many people neglect Christian fellowship?
 - What would you miss out on if you neglected fellowship with other believers?
- What commitment can you make today to strengthen your fellowship with other believers?
- What's the connection between fellowship (both with God and with each other) and discipleship?
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series

Lesson #6 – Evangelism

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- What comes to your mind when you hear the word “evangelism”?
- What are some caricatures of evangelism that may deter you from doing evangelism?
- What are some of your fears in regard to evangelism?
- Do you feel adequate or qualified to do evangelism? If not, why?
- Who told you the Gospel? How do you remember responding to it?
- What is evangelism? What is the Gospel?
- What does it mean to receive Jesus?
 - It's been said that the Gospel demands a response. How can we help people see the response they need to make?
 - Hint: You can clarify this by talking about receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- Practically speaking, how can we share the Gospel with people?
 - **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8.**
 - What does it mean to share your life with someone?
 - How is evangelism aided by a relationship? What can you do to build relationships with people?
 - **Read Colossians 4:2-3**
 - What role does prayer play in evangelism?
 - Who are you praying for? Who should you be praying for?
 - What is God's role in response to our prayers?
 - **Read Colossians 4:5-6**
 - What does it mean to be wise in the way we act toward outsiders?
 - How can we make the most of every opportunity or open door? Is there any person in your life with whom you can “test the waters” to see if there is an open door?
 - Questions you can ask to “test the waters”: How is your relationship with God doing? If you were to die today, how sure are you that you would go to heaven? Would you like to go to church with me?
 - How can we make sure our conversation is gracious and seasoned appropriately?
- It's been said, “Evangelism is simply taking the initiative to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.” If that's what evangelism is, how should we view it?
- What's one thing you can do today to join with God in evangelism?
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

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Lesson #7 – Service

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- Describe a time when you helped someone in need or when someone helped you in your time of need. How did that feel?
- The Bible tells us, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Why is that?
- What’s the connection between serving others and serving God?
 - When we serve, who benefits?
 - What are some of the benefits of service?
- How do you like to serve?
- What are some of your spiritual gifts? (For lists of spiritual gifts, you can see Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 4:11-13, and 1 Peter 4:7-11.)
 - Where do these spiritual gifts come from?
 - Why does God give us these gifts? (Some answers to this question are given in the passages above. You may want to read these passages, looking for the “why” of service.)
 - If you have a gift, how proactive should you be in putting it to use?
- **Read Matthew 5:16.**
 - What’s the connection between service and evangelism?
- What happens if we don’t use our gifts? Who misses out?
- There are two different places to serve: inside the church and outside of the church.
 - How can you serve inside the church? Be specific as you think about your gifts and passions.
 - How can you serve outside the church? Again, be specific.
- How can you tell when God may be giving you an opportunity to serve?
- What’s one commitment you can make today to improve your service?
- Pray together. If you haven’t already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series
Lesson #8 – Humility, Repentance, Pursuing Righteousness

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- Define *humility*. What does it mean to be humble before God?
- **1 Peter 5:5b**, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
 - Why this sharp contrast between the way God treats the proud and the humble?
 - How do proud people treat sin? How do humble people treat sin?
- What can we do to become more humble?
- How important is humility? What is the link between being humble and knowing Jesus as Lord?

- What is *repentance*? Why did John the Baptist (Mark 1:4), Jesus (1:15) and the disciples (6:12) make such a big deal of repentance?
- How do we repent?
 - Confession. What does it mean to confess our sins? Why is confession important?
 - Forgiveness. **Read 1 John 1:9**. How does God respond when we ask for forgiveness?
 - Ask for strength to do the right thing. We are to take off the old and put on the new (see Ephesians 4:22-24).
- How often should we repent of sin?

- Why is it important to *pursue righteousness*?
- What causes us to sin?
- What would cause us to live rightly?
- **Read 2 Timothy 2:22**
 - What do the commands in this verse teach you about your obligation both to flee evil and to pursue righteousness?

- **Read Psalm 139:23-24**
 - What do these verses teach us about humility, repentance, and pursuing righteousness?
- Are there any sins that you want to confess right now? (See James 5:16.)
- What is something you can commit to today to become more humble?
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series

Lesson #9 – The Holy Spirit

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- What thoughts go through your mind as you consider the Holy Spirit?
- On a scale of 1-10 (10 is high), how well would you say you know the Biblical teaching on the Holy Spirit?
- Why might it be that the average Christian has less understanding about the Holy Spirit than he/she does about the Father or the Son?
- How important is the Holy Spirit for our daily walk?
- **Read Galatians 5:16-26**
 - Verse 17 uses the words “contrary” and “conflict.” Describe this conflict between the sinful nature (sometimes called “the flesh”) and the Holy Spirit.
 - To what degree are we influenced by the sinful nature?
 - Which of the things listed in vv.19-21 do you struggle with?
 - If you notice some of these sins in your life, what should you do?
 - What are the commands in this passage in regard to the Holy Spirit?
 - How do we follow the Holy Spirit? What does that look like on a daily basis?
 - Which of the fruit of the Spirit come more easily for you? Which are lacking?
 - What can you do if you see a fruit of the Spirit lacking in your life?
 - What does it mean to crucify the sinful nature (v.24)?
 - This passage sets before us a choice: either we follow the sinful nature or we follow the Holy Spirit. How can we make sure we follow the Holy Spirit?
- **Read Ephesians 5:18**
 - Why is being filled with the Spirit contrasted with getting drunk?
 - The command in this verse is to “be filled.”
 - Who fills us?
 - How are we filled?
- How essential is it in our daily life that we are aware of following the Holy Spirit?
- What happens if we try to live the Christian life in our own power?
- What can you do right now to commit to following the Holy Spirit more closely?
- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.

Cornerstone Church Discipleship Series

Lesson #10 – The Church

Note: Remember, discipleship isn't just a matter of going through these questions. Take time to pray together, to talk about what you are each learning from Scripture, and to talk about life in general.

- Pray together.
- What are some negative opinions that people have about church?
- What are some things you have liked and not liked about church in your life?
- **Read Matthew 16:18**
 - What does this verse teach you about how Jesus views the church? (Whose idea is it? Who is building it? How much success will it have?)
- What is the church?
 - What is the worldwide church? Who belongs to it?
 - What, then, is a local church?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:4-10**
 - This passage doesn't use the word "church." But what in this passage shows us that Peter is talking about the church?
 - What is the significance of the "cornerstone" language?
 - What is meant by the word picture of Jesus as the living stone and us as living stones?
 - What is important about us being called a "holy priesthood" and a "royal priesthood"?
 - What does it mean to offer "spiritual sacrifices"?
 - What, specifically, are some of those sacrifices you can offer?
 - What does it mean to "declare the praises of him who called you"?
 - To whom are we to declare God's praises?
 - Answer: to God (worship), to other believers (teaching/fellowship), and to the lost (evangelism)
- If the church is God's plan, where do you fit into this plan?
- What is one thing that perhaps you need to change your mind about in regard to church?
- What is one thing you can do to better live out your role in the local church?
- How can you help other people see the benefit of being part of God's church?

Recap of Discipleship series:

- What is a disciple?
 - What is one thing you've learned in this series about how you can grow in your walk with God?
- What does it mean to make disciples?
 - What can you do to get better at making disciples?

- Pray together. If you haven't already, ask if there are any other prayer requests.