



FOUNDATIONAL
BIBLE STUDIES for
MAKING DISCIPLES
STUDY GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

As we use these studies in teaching the Bible to people around us, what are we aiming to do? Are we trying to pass on knowledge? Are we trying to convince people to stop sinning? Are we trying to persuade people to accept our understanding of the Bible's teachings on salvation? While each of those is true in some way, none of them are the core of why we do what we do as disciples.

As we share our faith with those around us, we are declaring the praises of God who called us out of darkness (*1 Peter 2:9*). We are bringing good news to the lost (*Luke 4:18-19*), life-giving water to the thirsty (*John 4:13-14*) and freedom for slaves of sin (*Romans 6:6*). We are shining light into the darkness of this world (*2 Corinthians 4:6*) and offering truth that sets people free (*John 8:31-32*). We are trying to persuade those around us to hear the gospel and are warning them of the coming judgment (*2 Corinthians 5:10-11*).

If you are a disciple of Jesus, then God has moved powerfully in your life, reconciling you to himself, forgiving your sin and giving you a hope that the world so desperately needs. As Christ's ambassadors (*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*), God has committed to us that same message of reconciliation, and we now represent Christ in reaching the lost world. By God's design, the spread of the gospel always takes place through his disciples. That is why we "go and make disciples of all nations," sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with anyone who will listen! And that is the purpose of this series of studies. They are a tool, designed to help Christ's ambassadors make God's appeal and present the gospel to those around us.

NOT A FORMULA

It's important to remember that helping someone come to faith is a deeply spiritual and unpredictable process. Each person we study with is unique, and each has their own unique religious background. This study series is not some formula or process by which people can be converted. At times, you will need to tailor the studies to suit a specific need, and that is to be expected. The order of the studies has been carefully selected and they have been written with this order in mind. However, you may find it necessary to use them out of order. You may find it necessary to pause somewhere in the series to answer questions or to study a particular topic in greater depth. Remember that you are helping to bring them to the foot of the cross, and that path will be somewhat different for each person.

It's also important to remember that, as ambassadors, our representation of the gospel goes far beyond the content of these studies and our ability to teach sound doctrine. We chiefly represent Christ by living out his teachings and loving others as he has loved us. Helping someone become a Christian is more about showing than it is about teaching. Remember that as you use these studies to present the gospel, the most important part of your gospel presentation is the life you live!

WHERE TO BEGIN

The best place to start is to find out their religious background and their spiritual beliefs. It's crucial that you know them as a person and that you take the time to get to know their background. Find out about any spiritual aspects of their upbringing. What faith were they raised in? Were they a part of a church (or other religious community)? Find out about their beliefs concerning the Bible, God and Jesus. Find out where they see themselves now spiritually. Are they seeking God? Are they a disciple? What do they hope to gain from these studies? What do they believe regarding eternal life and where they stand with God?

One helpful approach is to write a time-line of significant spiritual events in their life. If they identify themselves as a Christian, ask about their conversion and how they became one. Your goal is to get any significant events on the time-line such as: particular prayers, worship experiences, baptisms or turning points of any kind. If they were baptized, what did it mean and why were they baptized?

As you discuss these things, it's important for you to remember that God works in our lives long before we come to take him and his word seriously. This is true even if our experiences reflect misunderstandings of scripture or trust in false doctrines. God was still present and was working through our experiences, relationships and circumstances to try to draw us to him, long before we came into a saving relationship with Christ. Thus, it's important as you discuss their background that you don't deny the significance of some spiritual event in their life. Look for ways in which you see God working and affirm those when you can. Of course, as you guide them through these studies, they will likely come to understand their religious background in a whole new way, but changing their perception of their background is not our focus. Jesus focused on adding to people's understanding and faith and that should be our approach as well

BASIC CONCERNS TO REMEMBER

Have your friend into your home and get time in their home

- Introduce them to your family or your roommates. Learn about their family and living arrangements. This will help them begin to know your real life and you will begin to know theirs.

Consider the location of your studies

- It would be best to meet in a home. If you are meeting elsewhere, be sure to choose a place where you can talk freely. Campus students may want to have a favorite spot on campus like the residence halls, student union or coffee shop.

Give them a Bible

- Choose a readable translation that is similar if not the same as you are using. Present this as a gift with a card or inscription on the inside cover.

Share your own life

- Tell about your own life and conversion, sharing about how God has moved in your life.

Remember to serve and love as Christ has done for you

- Watch for opportunities to meet needs. Spend time together in addition to the studies.

Introduce them to the church

- Invite them to church events and show them what God's church is like.

Have one or two disciples join you

- This will help foster new relationships. Preferably include those in your small group to further training and spiritual reproduction of small groups.

Don't talk too much!

- Make sure communication is two ways and that the heart is being converted. Ask a lot of open ended questions that get them talking and responding to the scriptures.

Teach them to pray

- Prayer is a vital part of a disciple's life and is therefore a vital part of helping someone come to faith. Pray as a part of your times together.

Focus on what matters

- At times, certain debatable or controversial matters come up as we teach the gospel, and sometimes discussing them is unavoidable. However, our goal as we teach the scriptures should be to focus on the core matters of life and doctrine (Titus 3:9).

IN PREPARATION FOR EACH STUDY

The following list contains things that you should do in preparation for each study. Some of them may not be necessary as you grow in your familiarity with these studies, but they are still great practices!

Pray

You and the person you are studying with are engaged in a deeply spiritual event. God is fighting for their soul and Satan will not let them go without a fight.

Spiritually prepare yourself

Leading a Bible study is a spiritual task, led by the Spirit, and it's important that you are connected with God and walking with him. Make sure you are spending time with God and that you are ready to be used by him.

ፊርማው ላይ ስርዓት አድርጎ ማገልገል

As the teacher in this study, you need to know well the scriptures you will be teaching so that you can “correctly handle the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

ፊርማው ላይ ስርዓት አድርጎ ማገልገል

Note the flow of the study and the main focus. Read through the questions you will be asking. This will help you be ready to lead the study with confidence and conviction. If you have any questions, ask for help!

Be familiar with the study notes

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Look through any relevant pages in the appendix

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Confirm with those who will be attending the studies

የሚገቡትን ሰዎች ለማረጋገጥ ስርዓት አድርጎ ማገልገል ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ግጥም እና ጥያቄዎችን ማንበብ አለብዎት። የሚገቡትን ሰዎች ለማረጋገጥ ስርዓት አድርጎ ማገልገል ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ግጥም እና ጥያቄዎችን ማንበብ አለብዎት።

Be watchful

የሚገቡትን ሰዎች ለማረጋገጥ ስርዓት አድርጎ ማገልገል ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ግጥም እና ጥያቄዎችን ማንበብ አለብዎት። የሚገቡትን ሰዎች ለማረጋገጥ ስርዓት አድርጎ ማገልገል ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልጉትን ግጥም እና ጥያቄዎችን ማንበብ አለብዎት።

FOUNDATIONAL
BIBLE STUDIES for
MAKING DISCIPLES
BASIC STUDIES

LOVE FOR GOD

Purpose

To help us understand God's love for us and how we should love him

WHY SHOULD WE LOVE GOD?...

1 JOHN 4:19

📖 He loved us first...we can rely on his love.

JOHN 3:16

📖 He gave his very best to us – his Son!

JEREMIAH 29:11

📖 He has great plans for us and our lives.

JOHN 15:15

📖 He wants a relationship with us.

EXODUS 34:6-7

📖 The incredible qualities of God...He desires to forgive us.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE GOD?...

MARK 12:28-30

- 📖 What is God's expectation for loving him?
- 📖 How is this different than we usually view love for God?
 - We often view love as an emotional feeling.
- 📖 Why is Loving the Lord our God the most important command?
- 📖 How are we called to do that?
 - Heart – The seat of your will power...the driving force of your decisions
 - Soul – The eternal side of our being
 - Mind – The intellectual side of our being
 - Strength – The physical side of our being

WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF THE ABOVE?...

1 JOHN 5:3-4

- 📖 Obey his commands.
- 📖 Where do we find those commands? (Challenge to begin reading the Bible and praying daily)

THE WORD OF GOD

Purpose

To establish the scriptures as the standard for our lives

THE BIBLE...

- 📖 Is the greatest selling book in history
 - 📖 Contains 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)
 - 📖 Was written over a period of about 100 years
 - 📖 Was written by more than 40 authors from varied backgrounds (shepherds, fishermen, kings, theologians, a doctor, a tax collector, etc.)
 - 📖 Contains hundreds of fulfilled prophecies
 - 📖 Is historically accurate – archaeology continues to affirm the biblical story
-

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

- 📖 What does it mean to be “wise for salvation”?
- 📖 What does it mean when it says that all scripture is “God breathed”?
- 📖 Do you see the Bible as relevant and useful to you?
- 📖 What do the words “teach, correct, rebuke, and train mean in this context?”
- 📖 What type of attitude should you have toward being taught, rebuked, corrected and trained by the Bible? Are you ready for the Bible to have this kind of effect on you?

JAMES 1:21-25


- 📖 Why should we approach the scriptures with humility?
- 📖 Being exposed to the scripture is only half the battle...we must do what it says.
- 📖 What is the function of a mirror and how does this apply to our spiritual lives?

MATTHEW 15:1-9

- 📖 What is a hypocrite?
- 📖 Following scripture is always more important than traditions...Why might one hold their traditions higher than the scriptures?
- 📖 God is interested in our hearts being close to him. God is looking for hearts that value his commands over man-made traditions. How might one’s devotion to traditions keep their hearts far from God?
- 📖 Are you willing to believe God’s word over anything that you may currently believe?

ACTS 17:10-11


 What qualities in this passage indicate the Bereans were of noble character?


 3 E's...

- **Eagerly** – What does it mean to be eager towards the scriptures?
- **Examine** – There's a difference between reading something and studying something.
- **Everyday** – Are you willing to study the scriptures everyday?


1 TIMOTHY 4:16


 What is doctrine? Where is correct doctrine found?

 Life AND Doctrine. Consider the wings of an airplane, which of the two wings are most important?

 Do you currently view your lifestyle and beliefs as having an impact on the world around you?

JOHN 8:31-32

 What does it mean to hold to the teachings of God's word?

 Jesus claims that his words are the source of truth and freedom...Are you willing to choose God's word as the standard for your life?

Notes

KNOWING JESUS

Purpose

To examine the life, character and teachings of Jesus so that your friend can come to faith in him.

HEBREWS 1:1-3

- 📖 Jesus is God's ultimate attempt to communicate with mankind, with us
 - ILLUSRATION: Imagine trying to talk to an ant. How could you do it? God, an all-powerful and all loving Father, sent Jesus, his Son, as the perfect representation of who he is.

COLOSSIANS 2:9

- 📖 All the fullness of God lives in Jesus Christ. This means that every aspect of God's character can be found in Jesus.
- 📖 Reading through any of the Gospels, the four books that describe Jesus' life and words will give you insight into God's character and will for your life. Here are several aspects from Jesus life in the first chapter the Gospel of Mark

MARK 1:14-20 - Jesus, preached the good news and called men to follow him.

MARK 1:21-22 - Jesus was an amazing teacher whose words were spoken with authority.

MARK 1:23-28 - Jesus cast out demons, showing that the power of God was present in him.

MARK 1:29-31 - Jesus met people's felt needs and healed the sick.

MARK 1:32-34 - Jesus focused his attention on others and selflessly gave of himself.

MARK 1:35 - Jesus was dependent upon God in prayer for his strength and direction. See Luke 11:1-4 Jesus prayed and taught his disciples to pray. Prayer is not the repetition of words but a heartfelt talk with your Father in Heaven—a time for connection with God.

MARK 1:36-39 - Jesus was consumed with his mission to preach the good news.

MARK 1:40-42 - Jesus was filled with compassion for all people.

MARK 10:32-34, 45 - Jesus came to serve, and gave his perfect life as a ransom for sinners. As predicted, he was rejected by his people and crucified—but he rose from the dead three days later.

JOHN 14:6

📖 Jesus claimed to be the way, not a way. He claimed to be the truth and not one truth among many. He said he was the life, not just a better life.

📖 How important is it that we put our faith, our trust, our obedience in Jesus?

1 JOHN 2:3-6

📖 Knowing Jesus is not just an intellectual exercise. The goal of the Christian is to obey his commands and become more and more like him: to think like Jesus, to act like Jesus, to live like Jesus.

📖 Are you ready to passionately commit yourself to following him?

📖 Choose a Gospel and read more about Jesus for yourself.

Notes

MAN'S WISDOM VS. GOD'S WISDOM

Purpose

This study will show the stark contrast between the world's wisdom and God's wisdom and help your friend understand that he or she cannot have it both ways. The accompanying diagram should be developed as the study progresses. (You may want to refer back to this diagram periodically, as it sets up a helpful way of viewing the whole process of conversion.)

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-20

- 📖 Everyone wants to know “How can I really live?” This passage spells out two fundamental ways to answer this question. The world's wisdom or God's wisdom.
- 📖 How does man in his wisdom view God's wisdom (the cross)? How does God view man's wisdom?
- 📖 Can we have it both ways? If you think I am a fool and I think you are a fool, what will our relationship be like?
- 📖 Establish the wide gulf in the two ways of viewing and living life. (Other Scripture: Isaiah 55:8)

1 CORINTHIANS 3:18-20

- 📖 Why does Paul say “Do not deceive yourselves?”
 - There is something about the world's wisdom that is deceiving. It is easy to convince ourselves that what we want to believe, what is comfortable, what is familiar, is right. . (Other Scripture: Luke 16:15)

MATTHEW 16:13-17

- 📖 What kind of man was Peter? Was he religious?
- 📖 He certainly gets a right answer here. According to Jesus, where does this answer come from?

MATTHEW 16:21-23

- 📖 What does “Peter rebuked him” mean?
- 📖 Peter thought he was seeing things God's way, but in reality he was still on the side of the world's wisdom. We can know the right answers and still be living according to the wisdom of the world.
- 📖 What was Jesus' response?
- 📖 Where does the world's wisdom really come from? From Satan. No wonder it is the opposite of God's wisdom. (. (Other Scripture: James 4:4)

BEFORE WE GO ON...

- 📖 What is the “world’s wisdom”? What is at the heart of the world’s wisdom about how to live?
 - “Look out for number one.” “Get what you want.” “Get the power, the pleasure, the control” “Get the money.” “Protect yourself.” “Guard your rights.” “Maintain your independence.”
- 📖 And so what is at the center of man’s wisdom? Self! (See 2 Timothy 3:2.)

MATTHEW 16:24-26

- 📖 What is Jesus’ message? How is it the opposite of the world’s message? (1) Deny self – “disown” (Matthew 26:34). We renounce our old self, our old approach to life. (2) Take up the cross (instrument of death). Die to ourselves. (3) Follow Jesus. Make his life our model.
- 📖 Jesus life is a demonstration of his message. What does Jesus say will be the bottom line for those who “save their own lives”? What about those who foolishly lose their lives for him?

FINAL THOUGHT...

- 📖 What is everything on the left side (world’s wisdom) called? Sin.
- 📖 What is everything on the right side (God’s wisdom) called? Love.
- 📖 How have you lived according the world’s wisdom?
- 📖 Have you ever made a decision to renounce it? Which side was Peter still on (though he was religious)?
- 📖 Which side are you on? During the next few days pay attention to your thoughts. Which side?

📖 Notes

How Can I Really Live?

Man's Wisdom

God's Wisdom

foolish



foolish

Get what you want.
Get what you need.
Protect what is yours.

Hold on to what it is yours. (Get a good lawyer!)

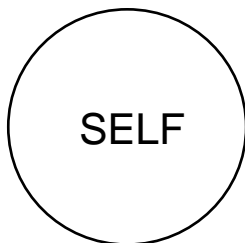
Look out for "Number One."

Have It your way.

Maintain independence.

Can be very religious and still on this side.

(Matthew 15: 7-9)



SELF

SAVE YOUR LIFE

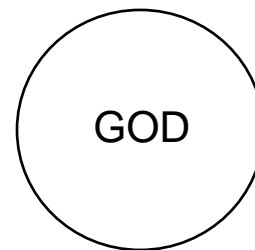
LOSE IT

This side: What the Bible calls "Sin"

Deny Yourself
(Greek: utterly disown)

Take up the cross
(Death to old self)

Follow Me



GOD

LOSE YOUR LIFE

FIND IT

This side: What the Bible calls "Love"

Loving God
Loving Others
Mark 12:28-30

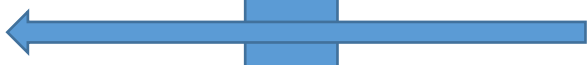
Which side are you currently on?

How Can I Really Live?

Man's Wisdom

God's Wisdom

foolish



foolish



Get what you want.
Get what you need.
Protect what is yours.

Hold on to what it is yours. (God lawyer!)
Look out for "Number One."
Have it your way.
Maintain independence.

Deny Yourself
(Greek: utterly disown)

Take up the cross
(Death to old self)

Follow Me

Can be very religious on this side.
(Matthew 15: 7-9)

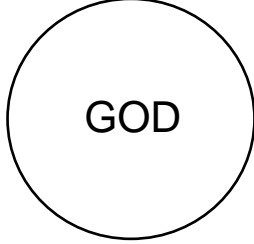
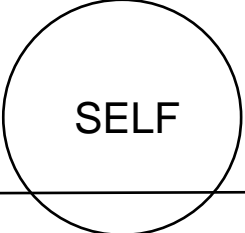
Acts 2:38

Repentance (Greek metanoia):
"turn the mind." Turn away
from the world's wisdom.
Disown your old life

→ →

Baptism – Put the old life to death
Receive the forgiveness of sin for
the life you lived over here

Receive the Holy Spirit for the
power to live the new life



SAVE YOUR LIFE

LOSE YOUR LIFE

LOSE IT

FIND IT

This side: What the Bible calls "Sin"

This side: What the Bible calls "Love"

Loving God
Loving Others
Mark 12:28-30

SIN

Purpose

To help someone understand the concept of sin and how it affects their relationship with God

1 PETER 2:9-10

- 📖 How are these Christians described
- 📖 How was their past life described?
- 📖 A person is either in the darkness or the light...no “twilight zone”

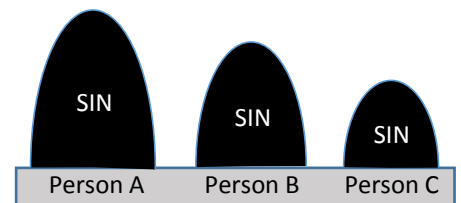
ISAIAH 59:1-2

- 📖 God is able to save us...but what’s the problem?
- 📖 Sin is a wall between us and God
- 📖 We must understand the bad news to grasp the good news.



ROMANS 3:23-24

- 📖 Who has sinned? Everyone!
- 📖 Illustration: Who is farther away from God?
- 📖 How does God redeem sinners?



MARK 7:14-23

- 📖 Sin is a heart issue...it comes from deep within our hearts
- 📖 Jesus got specific about sin. How specific are you willing to be about sin?
- 📖 Which of these sins have you committed?

GALATIANS 5:19-21

- 📖 The apostle Paul got specific about sin as well
- 📖 What is the result of living this way?
- 📖 *Additional scriptures: 2 Tim. 3:1-5, Colossians 3:5-11, Rev. 21:8*

JAMES 4:17

- 📖 The previous scriptures listed sins of commission...this one is about sins of omission...
- 📖 What might that be in one’s life? In your life?

ROMANS 6:23

- 📖 Wages – What we deserve (paycheck).....Gift – Don’t deserve (birthday or Christmas)
- 📖 What does the scripture here say we deserve as a result of our sin? What does God offer?

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS...

- 📖 What have you learned about your sin today?
- 📖 In view of your sin...are you in the light or the darkness? Why?

THE CROSS

Purpose

This study demonstrates how much God loves us and that the cross demands a response from us.

MATTHEW 26:36-46

- 📖 Jesus is sorrowful and troubled...Why?
 - Jesus is human...getting ready to die is very stressful
 - Luke 22:44 – His sweat became like drops of blood
- 📖 Why did Jesus go back 3 times to pray?
 - He prayed until he submitted to God's will
 - Will you do the same thing to get your heart where it needs to be?

MATTHEW 26:47-56

- 📖 Jesus submits to his arrest and goes willingly...Why did Jesus do this???
 - Jesus could have stopped it all...what was motivating him ?
 - 1 Legion = 6000...He could have called 72,000 angels to end this...

MATTHEW 26:57-68

- 📖 Everyone here lies about Jesus. How many lies would you sit through before you retaliated?
- 📖 In verse 67 the physical abuse begins...How would it feel to have people spit in your face?

MATTHEW 26:69-75 & 27:1-5

- 📖 How did Peter respond to his sin against Jesus? Bitter weeping...
 - He would go on to repent and teach others to do the same.
- 📖 How did Judas respond to his sin against Jesus?
 - Instead of repenting he gave up and committed physical and spiritual suicide.

MATTHEW 27:11-26 & 27:27-31

- 📖 Before the governor...perfect time to beg for mercy...
 - Why did he remain silent?
- 📖 How did Pilate respond to Jesus?
 - Pilate cared more about what people thought than the cross.
 - Doing nothing is to reject the cross.
- 📖 Take note of all the physical abuse? Flogging, severe bleeding from being struck in the head, dehydration...Jesus went through severe physical abuse for you!

MATTHEW 27:32-50

- 📖 Why not come down from the cross and prove everyone wrong?
- 📖 Verse 45...God shuts off the sun in the middle of the day.
- 📖 Verse 46...Jesus feels forsaken only as a result of being separated from the Father.
 - This is a result of taking on your sin.

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS...

- 📖 What is God’s response to your sin?
- 📖 What is your response to all of this? How does it make you feel?
- 📖 How do you see yourself responding with your life going forward?

ADDITIONAL STUDY

📖 Isaiah 53, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 20-21, John 3:16-20, Romans 5:6-11, 1 Peter 2:21-25

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- 📖 Medical Account of the Crucifixion (Appendix A)
- 📖 Cross Video (Dtoday.tv)
- 📖 The Passion of the Christ (DVD)

📖 **Notes**

REPENTANCE

Purpose

This study clearly defines repentance and the relationship between repentance and the forgiveness of sin.

ACTS 2:36-39

- 📖 Our sin results in the crucifixion of Jesus.
- 📖 Verse 38: What two commands must we obey to receive the forgiveness of sin?
 - Repent and be baptized
 - This study will focus on Repentance.
- 📖 Repentance in Greek is metanoia...*Meta* = Change; *Noeo* = mindset or world view
 - Mindset change, revolutionized thinking, to be transformed, looking ahead with fresh eyes or a fresh view.

ROMANS 12:1-2

- 📖 What do most people conform to? What is the pattern of this world? (*Ref.* Man's Wisdom vs. God's Wisdom)
- 📖 How do we change or transform? From the inside out.
 - If our behaviors, actions, and decisions are to change, then we must first change the way we think.
 - MIND CHANGE → CHANGED ACTIONS

BEFORE WE GO ON...

- 📖 What sins do you need to repent of?
 - Initiate confession of specific sins. (Model this by sharing from your own life)
 - Refer to scriptural lists of sins from the sin study.
- 📖 Biblical Principles of confession: James 5:16, Proverbs 28:13, Psalm 32:3-5
 - *****It is possible this discussion may need conclude the study due to time constraints...**

HOW DO WE REPENT OF SINS?

2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-11


- 📖 Godly sorrow or worldly sorrow: What is the difference?
- 📖 How do we know there is Godly sorrow? True repentance and a mindset change?
 - earnestness: sincerity, honesty, no faking it
 - eagerness to clear yourselves: apologies, righting past wrongs
 - indignation: righteous anger at your own sin
 - alarm: warning of impending danger without change – i.e. fire alarm
 - longing: desire to be close to God, to be reconciled
 - concern: concern about your sin & other's sin
 - readiness to see justice done: ready to repent – no matter the cost
- 📖 Do you feel Godly sorrow about your sin?

ACTS 26:20

 What is the ultimate indicator of true repentance?...Actions!

1 JOHN 1:5-10

 How do we walk in the light with God? We must always remain open regarding sin.

 Repentance of sin is a lifetime commitment. Are you willing to make that lifetime commitment?

ACTS 3:19

 What is the result of true repentance? Times of refreshing!

 **Notes**

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

BAPTISM

Purpose

This study clearly defines baptism and the relationship between baptism and the forgiveness of sin.

ACTS 2:36-41

- 📖 Verse 38: What two commands must we obey to receive the forgiveness of sin?
 - Repent and be baptized
 - This study will focus on Baptism.
- 📖 The greek word “baptize” means “to dip”, “to plunge”, or “to immerse”
- 📖 What purpose does Peter give for Baptism?

JOHN 3:1-7

- 📖 According to this passage, what must we do to enter the Kingdom?
 - We need a new birth. “Born again”
 - Be born of water and the spirit – Baptism (Acts 2:38)
- 📖 Babies are born at an exact moment (birthday)...spiritual births
Are the same.

ROMANS 6:3-6

- 📖 Why is baptism so important to God’s plan of salvation?
 - Baptism is our participation in the death, burial and resurrection.
 - We are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to live a new life.
- 📖 Raised to a new life = new birth in Christ (Jn 3:5)

GALATIANS 3:26-27

- 📖 How to we become sons of God and heirs to the promise?
 - By Faith in Jesus
- 📖 What happens when we are baptized into Christ?
 - Clothed with Christ. One of our basic needs is clothing...we are clothed with Christ at Baptism.

ADDITIONAL STUDY...

- 📖 Col 2:10-12, Acts 22:1-16, 8:26-39, 16:22-34, Titus 3:3-8, 1 Pe 3:18-21, Matt 28:18-20, Eph 4:4-6 (baptism included with all the essential “one’s” of Christianity)

DISCIPLESHIP

Purpose

To help your friend understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and for them to make the decision to become one.

MATTHEW 28:18-20

- 📖 One of the last commands of Jesus.
- 📖 What does Jesus want everyone to become? A disciple.
 - Disciple (greek=*mathetes*) “learner”, “student”, or “pupil”
- 📖 What does Jesus command everyone to make?
 - Disciples → Disciples → Disciples
- 📖 If obeyed, what is the result? A changed world

ACTS 11:26

- 📖 Which is the more popular term today, disciple or Christian?
 - The word “Christian” appears 3 times in the Bible...“Disciple” appears 270 times.
- 📖 Disciple = Christian...Christian = Disciple. The two are the same.

MARK 1:14-20

- 📖 What does Jesus call these men to do?
 - To follow him and be his disciples...
 - To be fishers of men...
 - A new mission in life
 - Allow Jesus and others to teach us how to be fishers of men (discipling)
 - Fishing takes persistence, patience, and passion
- 📖 What was the response of these men?
 - Immediate followers
 - Discipleship is a radical new life...what “nets” do you need to drop?

LUKE 9:23-26

- 📖 Who does this scripture apply to? “If anyone” ...It’s the same standard for everyone.
- 📖 What does it mean to deny self?
 - Jesus loved others more than himself
 - Decisions not based on sinful desires and emotions
 - What will you need to deny yourself of in order to follow Jesus
- 📖 Carry the cross DAILY. It’s a daily sacrifice and a daily decision.
- 📖 Verse 24: What two choices do we have in life?
 - Gain the world (Man’s wisdom)
 - Lose the world for Jesus (God’s Wisdom)
 - Take a moment to consider what the world would be like if everyone lived this way?

LUKE 14:25-33

- 📖 Verse 26: We must love him much more than anyone, including those closest to us and even ourselves.
 - Hate is a strong word...
 - Jesus uses hyperbole (exaggeration) to illustrate a crucial discipleship principle
 - Why do you think Jesus picked these people.
 - They have the most pull on our hearts
 - He does not want them to damage our relationship with him
- 📖 Verses 28-30: Count the cost...not an emotional decision
 - This is why it's important to study the Bible with people
- 📖 Verses 31-33: By not following Jesus...we are fighting a war we can not win.
 - Where can we find the terms of peace?
 - What are God's terms? (Faith, repentance, baptism, obedience, etc)
- 📖 Verse 33: We must be willing to give up everything
 - Key Point: Jesus must be the Lord (King) of our lives!

LUKE 11:1-4

- 📖 Prayer is key in our relationship with God. How is your prayer times going?
 - We all need to be taught...even how to pray.
 - Take note of the humility in the disciples in being taught. Are you willing to be a learner?

JOHN 13:34-35

- 📖 Fellowship is also key in our relationship with God. He calls us to love others like he loves us.
 - How did Jesus show his love for us?
- 📖 What effect will loving like Jesus have on others?
- 📖 What are some practical ways you can take your love for other people to another level?

1 JOHN 2:3-6

- 📖 In order to be a Christian (disciple), what must we do?
 - It's not a religion...it's a lifestyle.
- 📖 Is Jesus lord (king) of every area of your life? Why or why not?
- 📖 Are you ready to be his disciple?

THE CHURCH

Purpose

To understand God's intent for the Church and how each of us can contribute to its overall impact.

ACTS 2:42-47

- 📖 How does this picture compare with your view of "church"?
 - They had a culture of devotion to God and to each other.
 - Have you ever been a part of this type of culture?

COLOSSIANS 1:15-18

- 📖 Jesus is supreme in the universe and in the Church. He is the head of the body (church)
- 📖 In the church we are to strive to follow his teaching and imitate his life.

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

- 📖 Here the church is spoken of as a family, as a people, a family, and a building. Which one of those do you connect the most with?
- 📖 The foundation is God's word (Apostles and Prophets)
- 📖 Christ is the perfect cornerstone by which every other stone is shaped.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27

- 📖 We enter the body of Christ at baptism
- 📖 We all need each other the same way the human body needs all of its parts
- 📖 Members of the body share in each other's joy and suffering
 - Our body parts do not act independently...what effect does independence have on the church?

ROMANS 12:4-8

- 📖 Just as in the human body, each member of the church is essential
- 📖 God calls us to use our gifts to build up the church
 - What do you think your gifts are and how can you use them to glorify God and build up his church?

HEBREWS 3:12-14

- 📖 We need daily encouragement from the church...
 - How can the daily encouragement of the body help protect us from the deceitfulness of sin?

MARK 12:41-44, MATTHEW 6:19-21

- 📖 God calls us to give generously and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) as this widow did.
 - We store up treasures in heaven – treasures that will last
- 📖 Giving is a heart matter – our giving reflects where our hearts are invested
- 📖 God deserves our first fruits (Proverbs 3:9-10)

FOUNDATIONAL
BIBLE STUDIES for
MAKING DISCIPLES
ADDITIONAL STUDIES

FAITH IN GOD

Purpose

To help someone with little or no religious background begin building faith in Jesus Christ.

HEBREWS 11:1

- 📖 Faith defined biblically. Why is it so difficult to be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see?
 - Spiritually speaking, what do you hope for?

HEBREWS 11:6

- 📖 Why is faith such an important component in pleasing God?
- 📖 Can a person have a relationship with God without faith?

JOHN 6:25-29

- 📖 Give some examples of what you think of when you think of working for God?
- 📖 What does Jesus say God's work is?
- 📖 How did you begin to believe in Jesus?

JOHN 7:37-38

- 📖 How are we to believe in Jesus?
 - As the scriptures say...

ROMANS 10:17

- 📖 How does our study of God's word produce faith?
- 📖 Can a person's faith truly grow without a consistent study of God's word?
 - Our faith is strongly proportional to our Bible study.

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

- 📖 Timothy was convinced...your faith needs to allow you to become convinced of these things (Jesus, God, the Bible, the Holy Spirit, Life and Doctrine, etc.)
- 📖 How convinced are you at this point in time?
- 📖 What makes us wise for salvation?
 - Hebrew 4:12 reminds us that the word of God is living and active. That is how / why the holy scriptures are "able"

JOHN 8:31-32

- 📖 Mere belief is not enough...your faith allows you take your belief to the next level by knowing and holding on to the truth.
- 📖 How is faith more than mere belief?

JAMES 2:14-26

- 📖 Faith is more than mere belief because it is accompanied by action.
- 📖 No such thing as being saved by “faith alone”
- 📖 Actions...live it out
 - Strive to have a relationship with God through prayer and Bible study
 - Strive to be righteous – Deal with sin
 - Strive to help others: church, evangelism, caring for the needy / poor

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Purpose

To help someone have an understanding of Jesus' most frequently preached topic – The Kingdom

MATTHEW 5:17

- 📖 Law and Prophets...What does this describe?
- 📖 What is Jesus saying he will do?
 - What Jesus did completely fulfilled all the goals, dreams, shadows, types, and prophecies of the Old Testament

MATTHEW 4:13-17, MATTHEW 4:23, MARK 1:15

- 📖 Example of OT prophecy fulfilled through Jesus.
- 📖 What was Jesus preaching? What was his main message?
 - The Kingdom, the gospel of the Kingdom
- 📖 If his life and work would fulfill the law and the prophets and his message was the kingdom, what does that tell us?
 - That something new was being established...Let's have a look at some of the OT scriptures outlining God's intentions regarding the Kingdom.

EXODUS 19:5-6

- 📖 Who is this referring to?
- 📖 What kind of people did God want his people to be?
- 📖 Did Israel become what God wanted them to be and fulfill his dream?
 - No, but let's look ahead to the present age and see what God accomplished through Jesus...

1 PETER 2:9-11

- 📖 Who is this written to?
- 📖 How did Jesus fulfill what God wanted in Exodus 19?
- 📖 How does scripture describe the church?
 - Chosen People, Royal (Kingdom) Priesthood, Holy nation, People Belonging to God

ISAIAH 2:1-4

- 📖 If "The mountain of the Lord's temple" describes the Kingdom of God and the other mountains describe the physical kingdoms of this world, what then is passage teaching?
- 📖 What are some things that will be true of this Kingdom?

ISAIAH 9:6-7, ISAIAH 11:1-9

- 📖 Who will God use to establish his kingdom?
- 📖 How will he do this? (cf John 1:1-5,14)
 - Through Jesus...what, according to Isaiah, will be true about him?
 - What will be true of his “holy mountain?”

LUKE 17:20-21

- 📖 Easy to concern ourselves with the boundaries of God’s kingdom...not for us to worry about?
- 📖 God’s kingdom is “in their midst”. Within (NIV) = with very close range.
 - God’s kingdom was established through the reign and rule of Jesus.

MATTHEW 12:27-28

- 📖 Prophecies of Isaiah fulfilled through Jesus being “among them”

MATTHEW 6:9-10

- 📖 Based off the previous 2 verses, how does God’s kingdom come into one’s life?
- 📖 “On earth as it is in Heaven...” What does this mean? How is this possible?

MATTHEW 6:33

- 📖 What does it mean to seek first God’s kingdom?
- 📖 What is the promise for those who do this?

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

- 📖 How does our citizenship in heaven change our thinking about how we should be living?
- 📖 How may we be viewed if we live like this? (1 Peter 2:11)
- 📖 Is the Kingdom something you want to enter and be a part of?

JOHN 3:5

- 📖 What has to happen to enter the Kingdom?
- 📖 Are you eager to keep studying to find out how to do this?

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Purpose

To develop a basic understanding of the Holy Spirit and misconceptions of the Holy Spirit.

1. THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 2:36-41

- 📖 Verse 38: The gift of the Holy Spirit accompanies the forgiveness of sins at baptism
- 📖 Promise given for future generations.

ACTS 5:32

- 📖 Holy spirit given to those who obey.

JOHN 14:15-17

- 📖 Acts as our counselor.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18

- 📖 Transforms our lives.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

- 📖 Gives us Godly qualities (fruits) as we obey and live by the spirit.

2. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 2:1-4

- 📖 The Jews received the Baptism (coming upon of...) of the Holy Spirit
- 📖 Fulfillment of the Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32)

ACTS 10:44

- 📖 The Gentiles received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- 📖 Also a continuation of Joel's prophecy ("all people")

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

- 📖 After the Baptism of the Holy Spirit served the purpose of ushering in the gospel to new groups without them knowing or obeying (Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 8:17, Acts 10:44), there is one baptism.
- 📖 The one baptism commanded by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 and through Peter in Acts 2:38. Water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ

3. THE MIRACULOUS GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-10

- 📖 Types of miraculous gifts.
- 📖 Tongues are known languages that are used and well known

MARK 16:16-18

- 📖 Some will be able to...
 - Drink poison and not die
 - Be bitten by snakes and not die (Acts 28:5)

ACTS 8:18

- 📖 Gifts passed on through the laying on of hands
- 📖 No evidence of these people passing on the gifts they received

ACTS 6:1-8

- 📖 First occasion the gifts were passed
- 📖 Stephen immediately starts to perform the miraculous signs among the people

ACTS 8:1-25

- 📖 Philip uses the gifts to get people to believe including Simon the Sorcerer
- 📖 Simon asks the Apostles for these gifts and not Philip because Philip could not pass them on. Only the Apostles could pass on the gifts.

ACTS 19:1-6

- 📖 Paul passes on the gifts after these men were correctly baptized.
- 📖 Note: they were passed on by Paul laying his hands on them
- 📖 Purpose of the gifts were to confirm the spoken word of God. No longer needed now that we have the written word.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-12

- 📖 Shows that there will be counterfeit miracles in the coming generations (today).
- 📖 Satan's purpose is to deceive people from the truth so they will not be truly saved.

EPHESIANS 5:18-20

- 📖 A person can be filled with the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues.
- 📖 Jesus never spoke in tongues and was given the full measure of the spirit (Jn. 3:34-36)

ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED

Purpose

To develop a biblical conviction that one can indeed lose salvation if they choose. Notice how this topic is engaged in by every writer in the New Testament, including Jesus himself.

JOHN 15:5-9

- 📖 According to Jesus in the gospel of John , one can go from being connected to God (vine & branches) to not being connected (cut off)
- 📖 The command is to “remain” in our relationship with God.

GALATIANS 5:19-21

- 📖 According to Paul, those who live a life devoted to the sinful nature will not inherit God’s Kingdom
- 📖 Who was this warning given to? CHRISTIANS!! People who were saved, yet were drifting back towards their life of sin.

2 PETER 2:20-22

- 📖 Peter’s warnings are...
 1. We can escape the corruption of the world and be entangled in it again.
 2. The punishment for doing so is worse.
- 📖 Again it’s important to note that this letter was written to Christians (2 Peter 1:1) and is also a general letter to no specific group.

HEBREWS 6:4-8, 10:26-31

- 📖 The unknown Hebrew writer also weighs in on this much debated topic.
 1. We find that there is a point of no return (6:6)
 2. We also find that deliberate sin is a fast track to falling away. (10:26)

EVIDENCES FOR JESUS CHRIST

Purpose

To provide evidence for the existence, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 16:13

- 📖 Who do you say Jesus is?
- 📖 Jesus claimed to be the son of God (**John 5:24, 6:35, 8:23-24, 10:30, 14:6-7**)
- 📖 What are the possibilities? Was that claim true or false?
 1. If false, then Jesus...
 - Was a mythical character that didn't exist. (**Legend**)
 - Knew that his claims were false. (**Liar**)
 - He didn't know his claims were false. (**Lunatic**)
 2. If true, then Jesus is **Lord**.

EVIDENCES

- 📖 Miracles: Attested to by numerous eyewitnesses (**John 20:30-31**)
- 📖 Prophecies Fulfilled:
 1. Born of a virgin – **Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18,24-25**
 2. House of David – **Jeremiah 23:5, Luke 3:23-31**
 3. Born in Bethlehem – **Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1**
 4. Ministry to begin in Galilee – **Isaiah 9:1, Matthew 4:12-13, 17**
 5. Betrayed by a friend – **Psalms 41:9, Matthew 10:4, Matthew 26:49-50**
 6. Sold for 30 pieces of silver – **Zechariah 11:12, Matthew 26:15**
 7. Wounded and bruised – **Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 27:26**
 8. Bones not broken – **Psalms 34:20, John 19:32-33**
 9. Crucified with thieves – **Isaiah 53:12, Matthew 27:38**
 10. Resurrection – **Psalms 16:10, Acts 2:31**
 11. There are more than 400 Messianic Prophecies. The probability that any man might have lived and fulfilled just 8 prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power. Or 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.
- 📖 Jesus' life and teaching – His teachings surpass human wisdom while his life exemplifies them perfectly. (**John 7:17**)
- 📖 The Resurrection – Perhaps the most convincing of all evidences. Was Jesus raised from the dead? The response is critically important. (**1 Corinthians 15:12-19**)
 1. **The Prediction (Matthew 27:62-66)**. Jesus' predictions about his resurrection were so well known that guards were posted at the tomb. The first question, did he really die? Perhaps he passed out on the cross and was revived later?
 2. **The Death (John 19:38-42)**. Professional would not make such a basic error as to think a live person was dead. Medical experts indicate that the water that flowed from Jesus' pierced side would be from the Pericardium, a sac around the heart

that fills with water when the heart ruptures. Jesus was clearly dead. But perhaps they visited the wrong tomb and mistakenly thought he was raised...

3. **The Wrong Tomb**

- **John 19:38-42** – The tomb was near the cross
- **Matthew 27:61-66** – Mary saw where he was buried. Pilate knew where to send the guards. They didn't visit the wrong tomb. So let's visit the tomb...

4. **The Empty Tomb (Matthew 28:11-15)** – Was the tomb empty? If not, the Jews would have produced the body. The fact that they tried to explain away the empty tomb shows that in fact it was empty. So, was the body stolen as they claimed?

5. **The Stolen Body.** – It would have been incredibly difficult for anyone to steal the body considering the huge stone and the Roman guards in front of the tomb. In any case there are two possibilities: 1). someone other than the disciples stole the body. The disciples were deceived and wishfully hallucinated the risen Christ. Or 2). The disciples stole the body and hoaxed the resurrection. Let's consider the first possibility:

- **Someone other than the disciples stole the body. (John 20:19-29)** – The disciples are scared and hiding, having earlier fled at Jesus' arrest. Was this a mass hallucination? Thomas, the skeptic, touched Jesus. This was no hallucination to Thomas. But perhaps it was all a hoax, the second possibility...
- **The disciples stole the body. (Acts 4:12-13)** – Remember the cowardly disciples (Matthew 26:56)? Peter who denied Jesus? They are all now men of remarkable courage. Something had happened. In fact, according to early church history all the disciples other than John died a martyrs' death.
 - **Peter** – crucified upside down
 - **James** – beheaded by Herod (Acts 12:1-2)
 - **Andrew** – crucified
 - **Philip** – martyred
 - **Bartholomew** – flogged to death
 - **Thomas** – speared to death
 - **Matthew** – martyred
 - **James** – crucified
 - **Jude** – shot with arrows
 - **Simon the Zealot** – crucified
 - **Matthias** – axed to death
- Why did these men endure such atrocities? Who would suffer and die for a lie that gains them nothing? When men are all alone and under pressure, they crack. These men did not. Why not?

6. **1 Corinthians 15:1-6** – These men had seen Jesus raised from the dead. In fact, over 500 people at once saw the resurrected Jesus. The proof is logical and overwhelming. Christianity is true and reasonable (Acts 26:24-29) Jesus is the son of God. We must now make the decision to follow him.

FOUNDATIONAL
BIBLE STUDIES for
MAKING DISCIPLES
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: A MEDICAL ACCOUNT

Note: This is a simplified medical account of Jesus' crucifixion adapted by Douglas Jacoby, with assistance from Alex Mnatzaganian, in December 1989, and is used with permission. For a full version with additional notes, go to www.douglasjacoby.com.

INTRODUCTION

Hanging, electrocution, knee capping, gas chamber: these punishments are feared. They all happen today, and we shudder as we think of the horror and pain. But as we shall see, these ordeals pale into insignificance compared with the bitter fate of Jesus Christ – crucifixion.

No one is crucified today. For us, the cross remains confined to ornaments and jewelry, stained-glass windows, romanticized pictures and statues portraying a serene death. Crucifixion was a form of execution refined by the Romans to a precise art. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was a public spectacle intended to deter other would-be criminals. It was a death to be feared.

SWEAT/BLOOD

Luke 22:24 says of Jesus, “And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” The sweat was unusually intense because his emotional state was unusually intense. Dehydration coupled with exhaustion further weakened him.

BEATING

It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse – punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes possibly injured. The psychological effects of the false trials should not be underestimated. Consider that Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, exhausted and possibly in shock.

FLOGGING

In the previous 12 hours, Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. Despite the fitness he must certainly have gained during his travels in Palestine, he was in no way prepared for the punishment of flogging. The effects would be worse as a result.

A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands were tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind

and to one side of the victim. The whip used – the flagellum – was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death: several short, heavy leather thongs with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep’s bone were sometimes included.

As the scourging proceeds, the heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, than deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. The small metal balls first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by further blows. The fragments of sheep’s bone rip the flesh as the whip is drawn back. When the beating is finished, the skin of the back is in ribbons, and the entire area torn and bleeding.

The words chosen by the gospel writers suggest that the scourging of Jesus was particularly severe. He was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

MOCKING

Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Made to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king’s scepter. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff. The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds on Jesus’ back when the robe was torn off again. Further weakened physically and emotionally, Jesus was led away to be executed.

CRUCIFIXION

The wooden cross used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead, the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached crossbar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of execution (the heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here). Jesus was unable to carry his load – a beam weighing around 75 to 125 pounds. He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him.

Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in (it would have dulled the pain). Thrown down on his back with arms outstretched along the crossbar, nails were driven through Jesus’ wrists into the wood. These iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3/8 inch thick, severed the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the full weight of the crucified man.

In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the crossbar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs bent at the knee, a single nail was used to pierce both feet, one foot being placed over the other. Again there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure this, so that death would be

slower and the suffering longer.

Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the crucified man would hang with his arms above his head, the weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect: it is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms. A terrible cycle of pain began: hanging by the arms, unable to breathe, pushing up on the feet to inhale quickly before again slumping down, and on and on.

This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus' back was scraped against the upright post, as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe. Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

DEATH

Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion, but in Jesus' case, acute heart failure may have been the final trauma. This is suggested by his sudden death following a loud cry, after only a few hours: a quick death, it seems (Pilate was surprised to find Jesus already dead). A fatal cardiac arrhythmia (or perhaps, cardiac rupture) are the likely candidates.

SPEAR

Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice.

From the wound came a flow of "blood and water." This is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

CONCLUSION

The detailed accounts given in the gospels, combined with the historical evidence on crucifixion, bring us to a firm conclusion: modern medical knowledge supports the claim of the scriptures that Jesus died on the cross.

APPENDIX B: SINS OF GALATIANS 5:19-21

SEXUAL IMMORALITY: Fornication, any sexual union outside of marriage. Denotes ungodly sexual acts and relationships – prostitution, rape, homosexuality, petting, adultery, child abuse, bestiality.

IMPURITY: Any sinful thinking, anything vulgar, wrong thoughts, lust, masturbation, wrong motives, pornography, fantasy.

DEBAUCHERY: Any misuse of the body. Usually referring to sexual excesses, but in general refers to a readiness to indulge in any pleasure (indecent, lewd dancing, anorexia and bulimia). There is no respect for anyone else. In this state, man is at the mercy of his passions, impulses, emotions, etc. He is completely undisciplined (i.e. gives in to gluttony, laziness, smoking, cravings, masturbation, unlimited pleasure).

IDOLATRY: Worshipping anything other than God. Giving or devoting one's time, substance, talents, and/or self to anything that keeps one from obeying and following God in every way (i.e. status symbols, investments, engrossing sports or hobbies, selfish ambitions, relationships, property, possessions, pleasure and wants, school, work, pride). Also includes praying to anyone other than God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

WITCHCRAFT: Seeking or being involved in any spiritual realm other than God's. Includes astrology (i.e. the stars control – consequently, saying God does not rule), horoscopes, Satan worship, the occult, magic spells, good-luck charms or pictures, praying to saints, drug use, tarot cards, palm reading, channeling (the New Age movement), Ouija Board, etc.

HATRED: Wishing ill or harm on anyone, looking down on anyone, bitter feelings, resentment, wanting revenge, murder, abortion.

DISCORD: Anything that breaks up relationships, stirring up trouble, an inability to get along with people, arguing, slander, gossip, malicious talk, criticalness.

JEALOUSY: Possessiveness, not sharing.

FITS OF RAGE: Uncontrolled anger, losing your temper, temper tantrums, quick temper, angry shouting, cussing, profanity, fighting.

SELFISH AMBITION: Living to please self, wanting one's own way, getting what one wants at any cost, desiring to be first at any cost, overly competitive spirit. Not willing to do menial or demeaning tasks, refusing to admit being wrong, arrogance, doing things for honor or glory, wanting to look good for others, refusing to compromise, pride, selfishness and independence.

DISSENSION: Rebelling against authority, not submitting, habitually disagreeing, arguing, causing division, starting arguments, stirring up trouble.

FACTIONS: Feeling superior to others, cliques, refusing to associate with anyone because they are different or for any other reason, wanting to be with "own" kind, prejudice, bigotry, racism.

ENVY: Desiring something another person has while wishing that they did not have it at all (i.e. wealth, status, ability, physical features, spirituality, relationships).

DRUNKENNESS: Anything that causes one to lose control – intoxication, alcohol, drug abuse.

ORGIES: Living without restraint. Includes partying, sexual parties, unrestrained sex, vandalism, carousing.

AND THE LIKE: Lying, stealing, cheating, deceit, etc.

SINS OF COMMISSION – Breaking God's laws (1 John 3:4). Sin is lawlessness, going beyond God's boundary. Sin is doing wrong.

SINS OF OMISSION – Sin is not doing right. Not doing the good we are asked by God to do (James 4:17); for example – evangelism, discipleship, service, contribution, attendance, quiet times, prayer, Bible study, etc.

APPENDIX C: MANUSCRIPT EVIDENCE

WHERE ARE THE ORIGINALS?

Like nearly every ancient piece of literature, the originals of the biblical texts have been lost to the passage of time. However, many copies were made, for the most part by very careful copyists. Handed down and copied many times, these ancient texts have been preserved. Whenever there is a difference between one copy and another, historians and paleographers do their very best to reconstruct the original version accurately. Of the differences between the manuscripts (and there are many), the vast majority of them (over 99%) are of no consequence at all. Spelling errors and typographical errors are easily identified and corrected, and they do nothing to change the meaning of a phrase. Those variations that remain and that do impact the meaning of a text are noted in many Bibles as footnotes so that the modern reader can know where scholars disagree as to the original version of a passage. This remarkable amount of agreement as to the original version of the biblical text is only possible because of the vast amount of manuscript evidence for the Bible.

Of course, the older a copy is and the closer it is to the original document, the more valuable it is. These oldest copies are the best evidence that an ancient text has been accurately handed down. Consider the manuscript evidence for Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher:

Aristotle wrote around 340 BC. The oldest copy of his work that we currently have is from 1100 AD. That means that 1,440 years passed from the time he wrote till our oldest copy was made! We currently have just five ancient copies of Aristotle's work. The following chart shows that for many widely accepted ancient texts, the manuscript evidence is pretty thin when compared with that of the Bible.

Author	When they wrote	Date of our oldest copy	Years from the original	# Of ancient copies found
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1440 years	49
Demosthenes	383-322 BC	1100 AD	1400 years	200
Julius Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	950 years	10
Herodotus (History)	480-425 BC	900 AD	1325 years	8
Homer (Illiad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Plato (Tetralogies)	427-347 BC	800 AD	1200 years	7
Tacitus (Annals)	100 AD	1100 AD	1000 years	20
Thucydides (History)	460-400 BC	900 AD	1300 years	8
Old Testament	1500-500 BC	150 BC	350 to 500 years for most books	1000

New Testament	50-90 AD	325 AD*	250 years	5560
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**The oldest complete copy*

A STAND-OUT ANCIENT TEXT

Among ancient documents, the manuscript evidence for the Bible is impressive! It far exceeds the quality and volume of many other ancient texts that are widely accepted as reliable representations of the originals. While none of these ancient authors have a single manuscript in the first 300 years after they wrote, we have dozens of such manuscripts of the New Testament. For many of these ancient authors, the manuscripts of their work have huge gaps (segments of their work for which we have no manuscript at all). We have no such gaps in our manuscript evidence of the Bible. We have every reason to trust that the text of the modern Bible is an accurate copy of what its authors originally wrote.

OTHER FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS

- » The earliest full copy of the New Testament is from 325 AD, and the earliest full individual New Testament books date from 200 AD, but some fragments are dated much earlier. One such fragment of the Gospel of John is dated to about 100 AD. It's called Papyrus 52, and it contains a few verses of John chapter 18. The dating of other early fragments, though still debated, may provide even earlier examples of the Bible's reliability.
- » The most significant biblical find of the century is undoubtedly the Dead Sea Scrolls. They were discovered in 1947 next to the Dead Sea, not far from Jerusalem. The scrolls contain many religious writings, including partial or complete biblical texts from every book of the Old Testament dating back to the third century BC. Before this incredible discovery, the oldest surviving manuscripts were from a thousand years later!
- » Early on, the Bible was translated into other languages in an effort to spread the gospel. It was translated into Latin, Coptic, Syriac and many other languages. Including ancient copies in other languages, there are more than 40,000 complete and partial manuscripts of the New Testament.
- » The New Testament is also widely quoted by early writers in commentaries and other pieces of literature. We have tens of thousands of these quotes, and nearly all of them are dated earlier than the earliest of our New Testament manuscripts. Thus, this gives even greater credibility to the accuracy of what we have in our modern Bibles. These quotes are so substantial that it would be possible to reconstruct most of the New Testament just from these references.