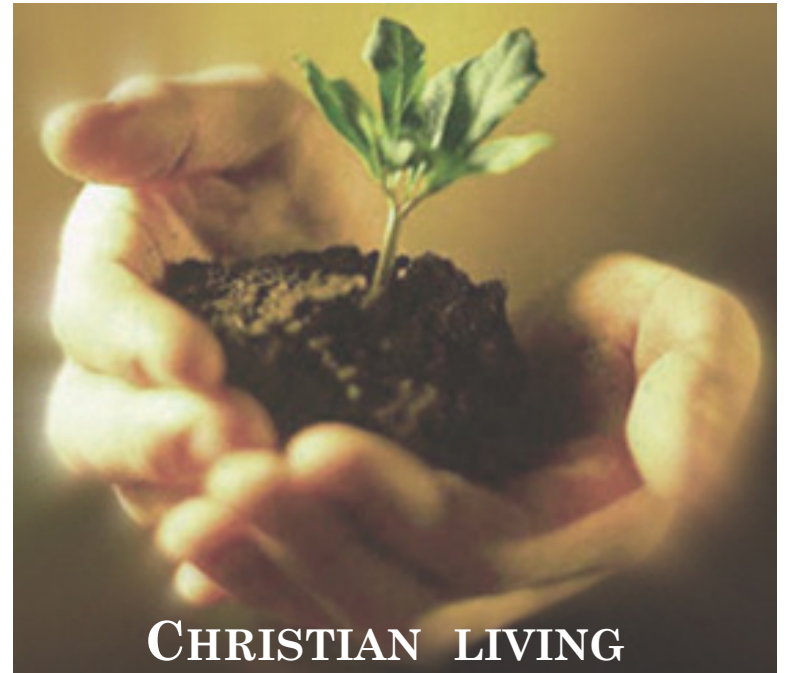


NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM



July 2007

FOREWORD

Thank you for making the commitment to learning and growing in your spiritual walk through this discipleship course. This 8 week course is designed to be very practical and to tangibly impact the way you pray, read your Bible and live the Christian life. Each lesson is designed to be an interactive, discussion-based lesson in which a new topic of Christian life is introduced each week. There are application points for each lesson which challenge you to put into practice the things you are learning week by week.

In addition to reading your Bible and practicing these Christian principles, Richard Foster's book, "Celebration of Discipline," is a fantastic book which will be referred to occasionally. It is highly recommended that you be reading Foster's book steadily as you proceed through this course. It is our prayer that your life grows more and more each week to emulate Christ. If there are any other resources that you need as you go through discipleship, please contact the Chapel office, and we would be happy to help you in any way we can. May God bless your progress and spiritual growth in this course.

If you are interested in moving forward with more discipleship after this course, the 15-week Basic Beliefs course is highly recommended.

tion to ourselves (Rom 3:23, 6:23)

d. It is important that all Christians have a "heart for the lost" (Mt.5:43-48)

10. Whether we plant a seed, water the seed, cultivate the plant, or harvest it...we can all have a role.
11. We don't save anyone—only God saves. We need to do our part but not take credit for salvation, or take blame for people's resistance to it. We just need to be faithful and pray for God's Spirit to move in that person.

QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had an opportunity to share the gospel with someone?
- How would you feel about discussing spiritual matters with a co-worker, neighbor, best friend, complete stranger, or family member?
- How can evangelism become a "way of life" for Christians?
- What will be some responses people have to us when we share Christ with them?

APPLICATION

- Pray daily, asking God for an opportunity to witness to someone this week. Pray that God would help you not to miss an opportunity with someone who is open to hearing about Him.

NOTES

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 8: Our Mission

I. EVANGELISM

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:18-20

1. *Euangelion* – Greek word meaning: good news, Gospel
2. What is the good news? How would you summarize it?
3. The Great Commissions (Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15-16; Jn.20:21; Ac.1:8)
 - a. All four gospels (Luke/Acts) show Jesus commissioning his apostles to share the gospel
 - b. This commission is handed down to everyone that accepts Jesus as Lord (2Cor.5:14-20)
4. Some methods of evangelism:
 - a. Door to door
 - b. Street evangelism
 - c. Books, i.e. “The Case for Christ”
 - d. TV evangelists
 - e. Church services, outreach, etc.
 - f. Lifestyle evangelism
5. A prophet is not honored in his hometown (Matt.13:54)
6. The spiritual gift of evangelism (1Co.12:1-11; Eph.4:11-13)
 - a. Some are specially gifted in evangelism. These people will find a way to share God’s love while they’re pumping gas!
 - b. If your gift is not evangelism, how can your gift be used to facilitate evangelism within the church body?
7. Those who share God’s truth will be blessed (Rom.10:13-17)
8. Persecution can often be a result of evangelism
 - a. Jesus was persecuted, and we will be too (Jn.15:18-27)
 - b. We are “in the world, but not of it”, we are “new creations” (2Cor.5:17)
9. Evangelism vs. Discipleship - “a New Hope definition”
 - a. Evangelism is the initial sharing about Jesus; Discipleship is the continual learning about His teachings and truth – both must occur to produce mature Christians
 - b. Once we’ve learned the truth, we need to pass it on. (2Tim.2:2)
 - c. It is like finding the “cure for cancer” – we cannot keep salva-

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**Pre-requisite—4-week Bible Study*

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 1: Talking With God

I. PRAYER

1. How do you pray?
 - a. J.O.Y
 - b. A.C.T.S
 - c. Lord's prayer – Matthew. 6:5-13
 - d. Trinitarian Prayer
 - e. Arrow Prayers (1 Thess. 5:17)
 - d. Honest/simple prayers (Richard Foster's, "Prayer")
 - e. "My house will be called a house of prayer"
Isaiah 56:4-7, Matthew. 21:12-13
2. The Trinity's role in prayer.
 - a. the Holy Spirit's role in prayer – Romans 8:26
 - b. "your father already knows what you need"
 - c. Matthew 6:31-33
 - d. Jesus is your mediator" – Hebrews 7:23-28
 - e. "if any of you is sick, let him pray" – James 5:14-18
3. We can "pray scripture" too...
4. Prayer is a two-way conversation, not a monologue!
5. Prayer requires good preparation—how?

QUESTIONS

- How do you feel about praying out loud?
- Do you pray before every meal? How about when you eat out?

APPLICATION

- Pray/listen for 15 minutes straight, without interruption.
- Pray out loud during the week, perhaps before each meal.

II. FASTING

1. What is the purpose of fasting?
 - a. Spiritual Renewal
 - b. Guidance
 - c. Healing

QUESTIONS

- True or False: A Christian is either moving forward or backsliding? Is there a middle ground? Why or why not?
- Would you consider discipling someone now that you have been discipled? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

- Think about how you would like to continue in discipleship after this course is completed.
- Come up with practical ways that you plan to continue growing as a Christian for your whole life, not just for a short time here and there...be intentional about growing in your knowledge and Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It's like the analogy of giving a fish to a man or actually teaching him how to fish for himself.

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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 7: Moving From Spiritual Childhood To Maturity

I. DISCIPLESHIP

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.”

2 Timothy 2:2

1. The 4 Great Commissions (Mt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15-16; Jn.20:21; Ac.1:8)
 - a. All four command that we not just make disciples and leave them on their own – but teach them the teachings of Christ.
 - b. This can be a weakness of simply saying “the prayer,” and of many televangelists and “revival meetings.”
2. 1 Cor. 3:1-3 points out that Christians need to move from “milk” to “solid food” – what do you think the difference is?
 - a. What is the danger of not maturing from “spiritual infants?” (Eph. 4:11-16)
 - b. What does the phrase “every wind of doctrine” mean? What is doctrine?
3. The Bible specifically, and God himself are inexhaustible sources of learning. We could study the Bible for 10 lifetimes and still not know all the things God teaches us through those pages. And most of us don’t have that kind of time to put into study. This is why continual growth and Scripture reading are absolutely necessary to get as much of God’s truth into us as possible in order to slowly get the “world” out of us.
4. 2 Tim. 2:2 says that what we have heard from our teachers we must pass on to “reliable” men, who will in turn pass the Truth on to others.
 - a. If no one disciplined anyone, how would we have found Christ ourselves? It is now our responsibility to pass this on to other people and then commission them to pass it on to others.
5. What was Jesus’ method of discipleship? (Matt.4:18-22, 9:9; 10:1-14; 28:18-20) – How did people learn from him? How did he teach? Who did he choose as disciples? Where did he live? How did he pass along his teachings? How effective were his teaching methods? What can we learn from how he did discipleship?

- d. Resolution of problems
- e. Special Grace

2. When was fasting done in the bible? (Ezra 8:23; Esther 4:1-4; Joel 1: 13-14)
3. What other things did people do when they fasted?
4. What did Jesus say about fasting? (Mt 6:16, 9:14-15)
5. Does fasting make prayer more powerful? (John 4:32, 34)

QUESTIONS

- Do you think you could fast for an entire day/week?
- Do you think denying yourself food helps draw you closer to God?

APPLICATION

- Fast for 1 meal during the week. (pray for a specific need or request during this time, using the hunger pangs as a prayer reminder)

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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 2: Hearing God Speak to You

I. BIBLE READING

1. How do you typically read the Bible?
 - a. Topically, book-by-book, cover-to-cover, NT only, “Bible roulette,” etc.
 - b. Daily, weekly, monthly?
 - c. Using a devotional?
2. Steps to deeper Bible reading: (*Lectio Divina* - **Origen**, 220AD)
 - a. Before reading, pray that God will teach you and/or speak to you.
 - b. Remind yourself what the context is of the passage: OT/NT, gospels/letters, poetry/history, Jesus/Paul, etc. (a fantastic book on hermeneutics to help with this is “How to Read the Bible for all its Worth” by Stuart and Fee)
 - c. Read passage through once and ponder the meaning of the passage.
 - d. Read passage a second time and think about what you can get from the passage...learn something about God or about yourself, learn a new memory verse, find something you didn’t know before, find God telling you something through the verses...
 - e. Pray that God will help you to remember what you’ve read and grow from it.
3. Richard Foster says there are 4 steps to Bible study: **repetition, concentration, comprehension, and reflection**. Study is not just reading scripture, but wrestling with it and struggling with it.
4. *Adversarius Noster* – The Bible often comes to us as “our adversary.” What does this mean?
5. Important verses on Scripture: 2Tim.3:16-17; Prov.13:13; Dt. 4:2; Ps.119:105

QUESTIONS

- How often do you read your Bible?
- Do you feel like you get something out of it when you read it? Explain.

II. BAPTISM – “...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...”

Mt. 28.18

1. 3 Views: Sacrament vs. Covenant vs. Believer’s Baptism
2. Modes of Baptism: (read from Didache about unimportance of mode)

Immersion
Sprinkling
Pouring
A White Sheet

3. Adult vs. Infant Baptism vs. Infant Dedication
4. Baptism does not save.

QUESTIONS

- Who in a church is authorized to conduct a baptismal ceremony?
- What types of baptisms have you observed or attended? What were your thoughts on each of them?

APPLICATION

- Have you been baptized? If so, rethink the importance of what you did; if not, consider that this is something that Jesus taught that all His followers were to do. Are you willing to be baptized?

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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 6: The Church Ordinances

- I. **THE LORD'S SUPPER** – "...do this in remembrance of me."
(Lk. 22:19)
1. What is a Sacrament vs. an Ordinance? – a command of Jesus' vs. a salvific event
 2. Names: The Eucharist (eucharisteo-'give thanks'), Communion, The Lord's Supper
 3. Connection to the Passover of the Old Testament. (Dt 16:1; Ex. 12:7-14)
 4. 4 Views:
 - a. Transubstantiation - Roman Catholics
 - b. Consubstantiation - Martin Luther
 - c. Reformed – John Calvin
 - d. Symbolic - Ulrich Zwingli
 5. "Examine oneself..." – communion is not to be taken lightly (1 Cor. 11:27-29)
 6. "Fencing the Table" – how do we restrict people from taking communion (Jonathan Edwards vs. Solomon Stoddard)

QUESTIONS

- What view of the Lord's Supper do you think is the most accurate?
- How often do you think believers should celebrate communion?
- How do we "fence the table" here at New Hope Chapel?

APPLICATION

- Knowing the importance of communion, consider whether you should take communion every time or not. Are there times where you took it when you were not right with the Lord?
- Communion should be approached solemnly, and at times it is appropriate to not take it on a given day. Consider each time you take it whether or not you should be taking the Lord's supper...are you right with Him as you celebrate his death?

- How do you approach Scripture? How do you know how to understand what was historical and what applies to our lives today?

APPLICATION

- Read your Bible every day this week for at least 15 minutes a day.
- Find something fascinating/inspiring/important in your reading this week and bring it to the lesson next week.

II. MEDITATION

1. Can you define what meditation is?
2. Where is meditation found in the Bible?
 - a. Ps.1; Mt.14:13; 1Kg.19:9-13; Ps.119:9-16
3. Biblical meditation is: listening to God's word, reflecting on God's works, rehearsing God's deeds, ruminating on God's law, and being still and silent before God. (Richard Foster's *Spiritual Disciplines*)
4. Eastern meditation seeks to empty the mind, Christian meditation seeks to fill the mind with thoughts of Christ. (Phil.4:8)
5. Meditation is actively trying to put yourself in God's presence...and to feel/experience Him.

QUESTIONS

- Would you find it easy or difficult to meditate on something for a long period of time? What would you choose?
- Where are some places you could find the peace and quiet necessary for meditation?

APPLICATION

- Set aside 10 minutes one day this week and meditate on a single verse that you have read in the Bible...reading it, praying it, and thinking it over with God.

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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 3: Guarding Our Mouths and Minds

I. SPEECH

1. James 3:2-12 – A terrific passage on the “tongue.”
2. Do not take the Lord’s name in vain. (Dt.5:11)
3. Do not swear. (Matt.5:33-37; James 5:12))
4. Psalm 139 – God knows our thoughts already
5. We are supposed to use our speech to: be encouraging, spread the good news, and speak wisdom (Ps.37:30-31; Pr.10:19,31)
6. Eph 4:29—Only say what will build one another up
7. James 1:26 - If you don’t keep reign on your tongue, your religion is worthless.
8. Mt. 15:17-20 – Out of the mouth comes the things of the heart....

QUESTIONS

- Do you ever struggle with swearing, or taking the Lord’s name in vain?
- Are you a negative (Pr.15:4) or positive person?
- Do you find yourself often caught up in gossip? (Pr.10:19)
- Do you often find yourself lying to others? Maybe just “white lies?”

APPLICATION

- Observe yourself this week to see if how you speak is glorifying God on a daily basis.

II. THOUGHTS (Sermon on the Mount, Mt 5)

1. The heart guides the mouth. (Pr.16:23-24)
2. Matt.5-7 – It is not only your actions that matter, but the attitude of your heart that God is concerned with:
 - a. Matt.5:27-28 – If you look lustfully at a woman, it is the same as committing adultery
 - b. Matt.5:21-24 - If you wish harm on your brother, it is the same as murder.
3. “The heart is deceitful above all things...”(Jer 17:9)
4. God hates sin, especially sins of the heart and mouths (Pr.6:16-23)
5. There’s no point in not being honest with God (in prayers, etc.)

QUESTIONS

- How is worship linked to “vulnerability?”
- How could you make Monday—Saturday just as much days of worship as Sunday mornings?
- How important is it to being a Christian that a person attends Sunday morning worship? (Heb. 10:25)
- How can we avoid being hypocrites in how we worship during the week and on Sunday mornings?
- What does it mean to seek to worship in “Spirit and truth.” - Jn.4:23
- What are some things that people worship besides God? Do you struggle with any of these “gods?”
- How are “idolatry” and “worship” different?
- What is the First Four Commandments? (Dt. 5:7-15) What did Jesus say was the most important Commandment? (Mt. 22:37-38)

APPLICATION

- Live this week trying to live in an active state of worship to God each day, and make your week a lead-up to corporate worship on Sunday morning.

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CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 5: Our Created Purpose

*Humans being were created to worship...so everybody worships...
...what do you worship?*

“What is the chief and highest end of man?”

“Man’s Chief and highest end is to glorify God and to fully enjoy Him forever.” (Westminster Lesser Catechism, Question 1)

I. WORSHIP

1. What is worship? Who/what do you worship? Why is worship important? Where do you worship?
2. What is the difference between corporate and individual worship?
3. How can worship be a spiritual discipline while also being the fruit/result of all the other spiritual disciplines?
4. Worship is not something that only happens on Sunday mornings...it is meant to be a continual state of humility and awe before God...it is a way of thinking...it is a way of life.
5. Brother Lawrence - “The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great a tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament.”
6. What are some types of false worship to God? (“playing church,” praying and reading the Bible resentfully out of a sense of obligation and boredom, making Sunday mornings just a “show,” praying out loud just to make people think highly of you, others?) (Mt. 6:1-18)
7. What are some ways we can prepare our minds/hearts for Sunday morning corporate worship more effectively?
 - a. Keep ourselves pure throughout the week.
 - b. Avoid doing, seeing, or reading something late Saturday night that will impact your emotions and mental state for Sunday morning
 - c. Pray before church that each person would get something out of it and that the pastor would speak the very words of God.
 - d. Come to church **early** in order to greet friends and “settle in” before the service actually begins.

- because He truly does know your heart. (1 Sam 16:7)
6. Think about these things... (Phil 4:8)

QUESTIONS

- Do thoughts prompt actions or do your actions dictate your thoughts?
- Which of these thoughts are you likely to struggle with?
 - Depression, insecurity, lust, envy, pride...?

APPLICATION

- Observe yourself this week to see how often your mind is thinking of Godly things and how often it is failing to think correctly.

NOTES

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Lesson 4: Stewardship of Resources

I. ABILITIES

1. What is the difference between a natural and spiritual gift?
2. Natural Gifts
 - a. Innate strengths and talents (music, abilities with math or writing, public speaking, athletics, abilities to fix/repair things, etc.)
 - b. Areas of education (music, teaching, science, religion, etc.)
2. Spiritual Gifts
 - a. Summary: 1Cor.12:1-11(gifts); 12-31(body)
 - b. Every Christian has at least 1, but no one has all of them
 - c. All are given by the Holy Spirit
 - d. All are to be used to support the “body of Christ”
 - e. Some can be given for just a short period of time
 - f. Gifts listed in the New Testament: Rom.12:6-8, 1Cor.12:28, 1Cor.7:1-9, 1Cor.12:6-10, 1Cor.12:29, Eph.4:11-13, 1Pet.4:10-11 (not comprehensive lists)

QUESTIONS

1. What are some of your natural strengths and abilities?
2. Have you noticed any other abilities growing since you became a Christian?
3. What spiritual gift(s) do you most identify with?
4. Have you ever considered the motivating, ministry and manifestation categorization of spiritual gifts?

APPLICATION

- Find some way to get involved in the local “body” this week using either a natural or spiritual gift.
- Think of a long-term area where you may be gifted to serve in the Church.

II. POSSESSIONS

1. Tithing vs. Offering
 - a. Old Testament – Deut.12:11, Is.66:2-3, Mic.6:6-8
 - b. New Testament – Mt.23:23, 2Cor.9:6-15, Mk.6:1-4, Mk.12:41-44, Mt.25:14-30

2. “Disciplined Sacrificial Giving” is what our church teaches. We believe that it is important to give a specific percentage of our income to God, but that it is not as important what that percentage is as it is that you give that same amount in a disciplined and faithful way.
3. Giving less money one week is actually “robbing God,” and can reveal a lack of faith on our part. (Mal. 3:7-10)
4. Don’t give in order to be seen by others... (Mt 6:1-4)
5. “Independent” churches vs. “denominational” churches – how God uses our tithes/offering.
6. Other possessions that we can “share” with the Lord: Homes, Cars, Boats, Books, etc. (How are we using them to serve Him?)
7. Time (Our most valuable possession...and the one we’re least willing to give up.)
8. Idolatry: If we’re unwilling to give back to God of some of our possessions, we may be guilty of valuing those things over God himself, which is idolatry.

QUESTIONS

- Have you discussed with God what regular amount of money you should give to Him every week?
- Do you ever use your material possessions in order to help others or serve God?
- What are some ways you could use them to help build up the “body?”

APPLICATION

- Take a look at your budget and see how much you make per week – then look at how much you give to the church per week...what percentage do you give? Make a decision this week as to how much you will give regularly to God, and then budget that amount to give faithfully every week as your offering
- Deliberately use one of your material possessions in a way that serves and pleases God.