1. The DNA of New Life Fellowship of Churches Cambodia
   The Apostle Paul encourages the Christians at Ephesus to have one mind and one heart. We can do more together as a team than we can individually. The DNA of New Life Fellowship is what holds us together and moves us forward in success.

2. The Heart of a Leader
   Our heart is associated with our character. Our heart and character is the foundation of our leadership. God is looking for men and women with a good heart to lead his people.

3. The Snares of Leadership
   God wants us to succeed as a leader who leads his people in his way. The devil wants us to fail. We must know and avoid the snares of leadership so as to finish the race the Lord has given us to run.

4. The Potter and the Clay
   God is the Master Potter. He has a plan for our life. God will allow us as leaders to go through a process like a pot goes through a process to become a vessel he is able to use and which brings glory to him.

5. Making Decisions by the Will of God
   The decisions we make determine our destiny. A wrong or right decision can affect the future of our children and our children’s children positively or negatively. God shows us how to make wise decisions as a leader.

6. The Importance of the Word of God to Leaders
   Knowing the Word of God and knowing how to study the Word of God to bring truth to our own life, our family and those we lead is essential. We must not only read the Bible, but study the Bible rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

7. Four Essential Doctrines
   Even if a person doesn’t have a personal Bible and doesn’t know how to read and write, the Apostle Paul shares four essential doctrines every Christian should keep.
8. Casting Demons Out of Yourself and Others
   We know we are in a spiritual war. Before we were Christians demons had various levels of influence over us. After we are Christians sometimes demons still have influence over us. We must know how to cast demons out of others and ourselves.

9. Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
   A Christian leader must know how to discern and use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which we have received from God.

10. Making Disciples with a Sharp Eye
    We are called and commissioned to make disciples. Our reward and fruit are the people whom we lead to Jesus and help grow as a disciple. As a leader, we must have a sharp eye always looking for men and women who have a heart to become a disciple and leader.
Lesson 1

The DNA of New Life Fellowship

Introduction

New Life Fellowship has three foundation classes for all Christian in our church:

1. *A Changed Life Class* is for unbelievers and new believers and newcomers who want to become members of our church.
2. *Disciple’s Life* is the next step. This is a class to help create Christian habits that lead to success as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. *Servant’s Life* is a class for helpers in the church to learn how to work together as a team and discover their spiritual gifts, heart motivation, abilities, personality and experiences in life so as to find a ministry in which to serve. This is a bridge class to leadership in our church.

We expect that all people who want to become a member in our church study all lessons in each class.

We have two more classes for leaders:

4. *Leader’s Life Class* which will help you understand the characteristics of a Christian leader at New Life Fellowship.
5. *The Complete Life Class* which will help you manage yourself and lead yourself to all that God has prepared for you.

In this lesson we will review our NLF Vision and DNA. DNA is the chemical in the body of humans that give us our characteristics. Our DNA determines if our nose is long or flat. Our DNA determines if our hair is straight or curly. DNA is passed from one generation to another generation from parents to children. The DNA is New Life Fellowship is the characteristics that we believe come from God for a Christian and a local church. This DNA came from our spiritual fathers and we pass it on to our natural and spiritual children and disciples.
THREE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP DNA

1. **We put a high value and priority on evangelism.**
   2 Timothy 4:1-2
   - This is the Apostle Paul’s command to his son in the faith, Timothy.
   - These are very strong words from the Apostle Paul. This is something Pastor Timothy must do and he must insure that his church in Ephesus evangelizes.
   - “In season and out of season.” This means we evangelize when it’s convenient and when it is not convenient. We must share the Gospel with people at every opportunity before they die and stand before God as an unsaved sinner.

Romans 10:14-15

Our DNA Must Pass From One Generation to the Next

Someone said that if our faith is not passed to the next generation then our faith will die. If Christianity is not passed from this generation to the next generation then Christianity will die. If our DNA is not passed to the next generation then our DNA will die.

**Pastors Eric and Jenny Dooley** put the first DNA into New Life Fellowship of Churches. They sacrificed the comfort of their family in 1993 by leaving Singapore and moving their family to Cambodia to bring the Good News to the Cambodian people. Whether it was easy or not, they obeyed God. This is part of our spiritual DNA – we sacrifice.

**Pastors Chuck and Cynde McCaul** left the United States of America in 1994 and moved their family to Cambodia. There was a war in Cambodia. It was very difficult to live in Cambodia at that time. But God said, “Now is the time for Cambodia. Go!” Pastor Chuck moved his wife and four children to help plant a church that would make disciples and plant more churches in Cambodia. This is part of our DNA: We obey. We evangelize. We make disciples. We plant churches.

When we look at all of our problems they seem too big! Often we feel that are lives are full of personal problems, but I promise you if we focus on evangelizing and reaching other people 80% of our problems get smaller and smaller!

People who are not busy evangelizing focus on their problems. When we focus on others we realize our problems are small.
2. **We put a high value on making disciples.**

   **Mark 3:13-15**

   Jesus called his disciples to “be with him” before he asked them to do something for him. The key to being a disciple or making disciples is to be with Jesus. Relationship with Jesus. Our effectiveness with other people is the result of us spending time with Jesus. We lead people to Jesus, not us.

   - We pray with them.
   - We study the Bible with them.
   - We lead them into the presence of God.
   - We deliver them from bondage.
   - We encourage them.
   - We help them to discover their spiritual gifts and serve others.

   We do what we can do but our goal is for the to have a relationship with Jesus!

**Four-Fold Process for Making Disciples**

1. I do and you watch.
2. We do it together.
3. You do and I watch.
4. You do and report to me.

**Matthew 28:18-20**

- We have authority
  - God gave authority to Adam. Adam gave authority to the devil. Jesus overcame the devil and took back the authority. Jesus gives his authority to us.
- We must go. We do not make excuses….we obey.
  - Go to the homes of family, friends and neighbors
  - Go to the schools
  - Go to the market
  - Go to the workplace
  - Go to the cities
  - Go to the villages
  - Go to other nations
- Make disciples of all nations
  - Not just a believer, but a disciple.
  - God wants every person in every nation to be his disciple
- Don’t just go and tell them, but bring them to the church, the cell group the Bible Study
- People don’t become disciples by themselves; they are made to become disciples. We must help others become disciples.

- Baptize them
  - We baptize in association with the local church. The local church is the sheepfold for the sheep. The local church is the family for the new believer. If a new believer is not added to a local church his faith will be weak and probably die.

- Teach them to obey
  - A disciple is someone who obeys the commands of Jesus Christ if it is easy or if it is difficult. He obeys if it according to his tradition or if its against his tradition.

2 Timothy 2:2

1st Generation: Paul

2nd Generation: Timothy

3rd Generation: Others who are faithful and have some ability who will teach others

4th Generation: More others

How to help someone become a disciple:

1. Have a relationship with them.
   - Eat with them
   - Pray with them
   - Go places with them
   - Share your heart with one another
   - Be an model for them to follow as a disciple

2. Teach them systematically.
   - Have a plan to teach them what they need to know to become a strong Christian
   - Use New Life Fellowship’s books and resources or other books and resources

The Hebrew word for “disciple” is “mathetes.” This is what the name “Matthew” means. The Hebrew idea of a disciple is that of someone who spends time and studies with someone else to learn to be like them. An example is someone who wants to study to be a carpenter. They spend time with the Master Carpenter. They watch closely. They ask questions. They sacrifice to be with him. The Master Carpenter tells his student everything he needs to know to become a Master Carpenter, too.
3. We are a church that prays and worships.
Matthew 16:18-19

- Prayer is not begging
- Prayer is releasing on earth what God has already done in heaven

We represent God on earth
Genesis 1:26-28

- We bind and forbid
- We have authority to forbid the devil to do what he wants to do:
  - In a life
  - In a family
  - In a church
  - In a city
  - In a nation
- We release God’s will:
  2 Corinthians 1:20 – We say “Amen!” Yes!
  - In a life
  - In a family
  - In a church
  - In a city
  - In a nation
- We release God’s will by our words:
  2 Corinthians 4:13
  - Jesus has finished everything already. Our role is to establish his will on earth by our words and obedience.

Matthew 17:14-20

In this story Jesus just came down the mountain where he was in the shining glory of God. He returned to see his disciples struggling to cast out a demon. Jesus told them they must fast and pray to build up the strength of their spirit to overcome the stubbornness of demons like this. Jesus also rebuked them because their faith was small. He told them their faith must be like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is very durable. A mustard seed can endure very difficult situations and still produce. Jesus is telling his disciples and us to not give up! Keep rebuking the demon. Keep declaring the promises of God. Be durable like a mustard seed! If we do not give up we will have victory! This
is the lesson from this story. The original language of the Bible says our faith should be “like” a mustard seed, not “small” like a mustard seed.

**Conclusion**

We are a church that evangelizes. We are a church that makes disciples. We are a church that prays, declares, worships and establishes God’s will on this earth. This is the DNA of New Life Fellowship of Churches Cambodia. You are one person in a line of generations. It’s essential that you receive the DNA into your life and let is transform you. You must pass the DNA to your disciples and push them to pass allow it to change them and pass it on to their disciples until we disciple every sphere in this nation and send Cambodians to disciple other nations.
Lesson 2
The Heart of a Leader

Introduction

The English translation of the Bible uses the word “heart” at least 762 times. The heart of a man or woman is important to God. When God talks about the heart in the Bible he is not referring only to the organ that pumps blood through our body, but he’s talking about our deep motives, thoughts and character. The Bible teaches us that our heart is the foundation for our success in life. A person may have many skills and ability but if his heart is corrupt it will affect his long-term success in every area of life.

Discuss

What is the difference between the heart and the head? Break into groups to discuss this, then report back to us all.

Bible

Psalm 78:72

King David was a leader who lead with his heart and also with his skills. David had a good heart and he had skills, too.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Various Kinds of “Hearts” Described in the Bible</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Broken heart</td>
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<td>• Humble heart</td>
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<td>• Covetous heart</td>
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<td>• Compassionate heart</td>
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Our heart is associated with our character. God is interested in our heart and character more than our skills.

1 Samuel 16:7
Our heart is the foundation of our leadership. Our character is the foundation of our leadership and success in life. We use our skills to build on that foundation.

1. People will follow us if they believe they can trust us.
2. It’s essential for us to have a right heart to have influence.
3. Most people focus on the outside rather than the inside.
4. We do what is right before we tell others what the right thing to do it.
5. We can persuade people to follow us because of our skills but they will stay with us because of our good character and good heart.
   - Our spiritual gifts and skills will cause us to shine, but people will follow us and be faithful to us because of our good character and heart.
6. A good heart is not a spiritual gift but we create a good heart by overcoming and making good decisions daily.
   - We reject temptation
   - We are honest, persevere, do right when everyone else is doing wrong. We forgive others when they hurt us.

Proverbs 4:23-26

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

24 Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.

26 Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways.

Break into small groups and share which two of these six points have touched your heart. Which ones must you improve in?
Pray

Take time to pray now and ask God to reveal your heart to you and help you be a leader with a good heart and good character.

God is looking for people with a good heart, not people with a lot of skills.

1. Gideon was fearful but God saw he had a good heart and some ability.
   Judges 6-8

2. God chose Moses because he had a good heart. Moses tried to do God’s will in his own strength and failed but after forty years of learning to trust God in the wilderness God restored Moses to be a leader who delivered Israel from Egypt.
   Exodus 2-3

A Leader with a Good Heart:

1. A leader with a good heart does not show off. He has nothing to try to prove that he is a leader.
2. The leader who has a good heart is not afraid to lose anything. He is not jealous because he is not seeking a position.
3. A leader with a good heart has nothing to hide. His life is open. He does not wear a mask.

Bible

Philippians 2:3-8

1. Jesus didn’t show off. He didn’t show his glory from heaven and he didn’t draw people’s attention to himself. He just did the work of God.
2. Jesus humbled himself and lost everything.
3. Jesus’ life as an open book. He didn’t hide anything. He didn’t try to conform to other people’s ideas of who he should be. He just did the work of God.
**Five Levels of Leadership**

When God chooses us as a leader we start at the lowest level of leadership. As we allow God to work in our lives and as time passes and we gain more experience and skill we rise to the next four levels of leadership.

1. **People follow us because of our authority or right.**
   a. People follow us because they must follow us.
   b. How does this affect our volunteers who do not receive a salary to follow us?
   c. This is not an effective way to lead.

2. **People follow us because of relationships.**
   a. People allow us to have an influence in their lives because we have a relationship with them. (This is better than Level 1)
   b. Relationships are essential in leadership
   c. However, if someone relates to us because they want to grow and eventually they see we cannot help them grow to the next level, they will look for someone else to lead them to the next level.

3. **People follow us because of the fruit we produce.**
   a. We need relationships but we also need results.
   b. We want to grow in our skills

4. **People follow us because we develop people.**
   a. We have spiritual children and grandchildren
   b. Some people have fruit but don’t know how to develop people
   c. We must be committed to develop people. This will be fruit that lasts.

5. **People follow us because people admire us.**
   a. People admire us because of who we are as a person
   b. People admire us because we have long-term successful leadership
   c. Only a few people rise to this level
Conclusion

The heart, character and moral habits of a person is the foundation for successful leadership. We develop a good heart, good character and good moral habits by overcoming difficulties and doing the right thing even when it’s difficult to do the right thing.

There are at least five levels of leadership. We must continue to be faithful at the level we’re at and seek to grow in our leadership skills, experience and influence. In the following pages are 50 questions that will help you evaluate your level of leadership. Answer ‘Yes” or “No” to the questions.
Lesson 3

The Snares of Leadership

Introduction

A snare is a trap used to catch animals. There are also snares that leaders fall into. These snares are not physical objects but they are attitudes and actions. Share with the teacher some of the snares a leader might fall into.

We don’t want to fall into snares and ruin our calling as a leader. In this lesson we will study about one important leadership snare that is often the root of other snares.

Pray

Overcoming the Leadership Snare of Insecurity

Emotional insecurity is when we feel we don’t have value or importance in the eyes of other people. When we lead with an insecure heart we meet with many other snares. What happens when we lead with an insecure heart?

1. **We compare ourselves with others.**
   Matthew 20:1-16
   In this story the laborers who were hired in the morning agreed to a salary for that day. Their salary was enough and it was fare. But because they compared themselves with others they became jealous and angry. They felt they did not have value in the eyes of the landowner. In their thinking this was unjust. However, in fact, they were valuable and they received the salary they agreed on. They were jealous because of their insecurity. When we compare ourselves with others we may feel insecure. Believe that you have value.

2. **We have a Victim Mentality**
   A Victim Mentality is when we think we always lose. We think people and situations are always against us. We think, “It’s happening to me again. Bad things always happen to me.”
If we don’t see our name on the list we feel rejected. If someone forgets to call us and invite us to the event we feel rejected. If we lose or phone or watch we feel we are the victim.

When someone who has a victim mentality becomes a leader they can be dangerous. People with a victim mentality who receive some power or authority sometimes think now that they have power and authority they will show everyone else that they have value, so they become a hard, difficult or abusive leader. They are thinking that they will use their authority to establish their leadership.

3. We compete with others
People with victim mentalities keep track of points. They try to do more and gain more because in their mind they are competing against others and they must win. Pastors compete against other pastors. Department heads compete against other department heads. Cell group leaders compete with other cell group leaders because in their mind they must win to have value. The problem with this is a competition mentality causes our character to fall. We do things that are not appropriate. We hurt people, lie, cheat or work too much that affects our health or family because we feel we must always win.

Everybody has some level of insecurity at times in their life. However, we must find our security in who we are in Christ.

4. We seek approval from others
Insecure people accumulate possessions, skills and try to have a good reputation to gain approval from others. We do want to please others, but we don’t want to please others to gain their approval. There is nothing wrong with possessions, skills and a good reputation, but when we try to gain these things because we want approval from others we have a wrong motive. Don’t worry about pleasing others so much, but do all you can to please God.

5. We blame and judge others
Insecure people look for the faults in others. This causes us to be critical and harsh and mean toward others. This kind of attitude drives people away from us. We do this because we are not satisfied with ourselves. God is very patient and gracious toward us so we must be the same with others.
6. **We try to control others and our situation**

   Insecure people control others too much. They try to force people to do what they think is best. This comes from the fear of failure. This comes from the fear of things not being perfect. Insecure people think if they fail or things are not perfect then they have no value.

**The Solution to Insecurity**

Emotional Insecurity started with Adam and Eve when they sinned against God. They felt their guilt and hid. They didn’t have a good feeling about themselves. They had an Orphan Mindset.

**Genesis 3**

Sin is one root of insecurity and an Orphan Mindset.

- We are born separated from God. We know we are lacking something in our heart.

Our family situation is another root of insecurity and an Orphan Mindset.

- Parents are to represent the love of God to their children. But sometimes parents do not know how to show God’s love and they hurt their children and wound the spirit of their children. Sometimes parents abuse and abandon their children which creates emotional insecurity and an Orphan Mindset.

An Orphan Mindset is based on fear.

**Galatians 4:6-7**

- We were orphans but now we are children of God
- We were slaves but now we are children of God
- We have value because we are children of God
- We have a new identity as a child of God who has value
- God removes the root of an Orphan and replaces it with the identity of a child of God
- The Christian leader must live and lead as a child of God, not one who is fearful of his Master
Romans 8:15-16

• We are no longer slaves so we do not live in fear
• We have been adopted so we are a child of God
• We call God our Father
• We live by love and we trust God

Conclusion

As a leader we must be careful to not lead out of insecurity. We must allow God to heal our wounds and set us free so we can lead with purity and confidence and love out of knowing that our value comes from our position as a child of God, not what we achieve.

The Heart of a Child of God

• See God as a loving father
• Knows the value of needing others
• Peace and security
• No fear
• Pleases God and others out of love
• Wants to be holy to because of love for God
• Finds fulfillment in his relationship with God
• Rejoices in the successes of others
• Humble
• Seeks to restore others in love
• Patient
• Sacrifices for others
• Respects and honors others
• Free
• Receives correction

Pray
Lesson 4

He is the Potter, We Are the Clay

Introduction

We all admire a beautiful pot which we buy at the market to put flowers, plants in our yard or something else. We love the shape and the color. We also look at the quality and strength of the pot. However, we often don’t think about the process of making that beautiful pot which we use to beautify our house or office. In the same way the pot goes through a process from ordinary clay to a beautiful pot, God is our Potter and he puts us through a process to become the beautiful vessels he can use to accomplish his mission on this earth and in eternity.

Read the Bible

2 Timothy 2:20-21

Jeremiah 18:1-6

Pray

Pray that God will enlighten us to the process he uses to make us into leaders. Pray that God will humble us and give us grace to submit to the process to become vessels he can use and that will bring glory to him.

The Process of Becoming a Vessel the Lord Can Use

When we choose to become a leader we choose to put us in a place for God to work in our lives in a unique way. God expects every Christian to allow him to change them and purify them, but for leaders it’s essential. It’s important to understand that God will hold leaders more accountable than other Christians. (James 3:1). Leaders have influence over others. Therefore, we must allow God to work deeply in us and put us through the specific process for the specific purpose he has for us.
• God uses a process to make us into the kind of person he wants to use. He sees the end and knows the exact process necessary for each person to become the kind of leader he can use to fulfill his mission on this earth and in eternity.

• God does not use some people in leadership because they won’t submit to the process to become a leader. Each person has a choice and we must choose to allow God to develop us or not.

• If we are independent God cannot use it. God uses circumstances and other people to develop us as the leader he wants us to become.

• We may not be the most educated person, but if we can hear and obey God he can use us as a leader.

The Journey of the Clay and the Pot

There was a field of clay. This field of clay was famous for the good quality of clay that the potter’s used to make beautiful pots for the king. One day a potter came into the field looking for a good piece of clay to make a special pot for the king to put in his palace. Every piece of clay was excited and hoping they would be chosen for this special project for the king’s house. As the potter walked in the field he stepped in one place then stepped in another place. He picked up the clay and felt its texture and examined its color and smell. Finally the potter came to one place. He bent down and picked up a handful of clay and felt its texture, smelled it and looked carefully at it. He said to his helper, “This is it. This is the clay I want to use for the king’s house. Dig here and bring all the clay I need to make this pot for the king’s house. This will be the most beautiful pot in the kingdom.” The clay was so excited that he almost shouted out loud with joy. The potter chose him! From among all the other clay he was chosen to be the piece of clay that would be used for the most beautiful pot in the king’s palace! He felt honored, special and valued to be chosen by the potter.

The servant dug the clay and carried it to the potter’s workshop. He took the clay out of the cart and put it in water. He then pushed and pulled the clay as it was under the water. The clay was shocked! “What is happening to me? I can’t breathe”, it said. “It hurts when you push and pull me! Stop! Stop, it screamed. But no one heard the scream of the clay because it was under water. The clay panicked. It was confused. What was happening? Something is wrong with this process!

After what seemed like days in the darkness of the water the clay was removed from the water. It thought, “Finally I can breathe! Finally I can see light! Finally I will become the most beautiful pot in the king’s palace. However, suddenly, the potter took the clay and put it on a
machine that spun very fast. The clay spun faster and faster until it was so dizzy it was sick. Then the potter started poking the clay with his fingers. The potter was pushing and pulling and poking. “Ouch,” cried the clay. Now what is happening? Why is the potter torturing it like this? The potter seemed like he was a good man. Maybe the potter lied. Maybe the potter really didn’t have a plan to make the clay into the most beautiful pot in the king’s palace. Maybe this is the sad destiny of the clay to be drowned, spun and tortured!

The clay was exhausted. He was without strength and without hope. It seemed like the potter deceived him. But finally the potter began to gently touch the clay as it was spinning. The potter was shaping the clay. It felt good. As the clay began to take the shape of a pot its confidence grew. It felt its dignity returning as he could feel the potter shape the clay into the form of a large, pot that would be useful to the king.

After the clay was formed by the potter into a large pot it was removed from the potter’s machine it was put on a shelf in the potter’s workshop. The clay thought “Now I will be taken to the king’s palace and be honored by the king as he uses me as he desires.” However, the clay sat for a few hours and was not removed. It sat for a night and another day. It sat for several days, then weeks. The clay was bewildered. “Where is the king? Why am I here on this shelf? I’m ready to be used by the king. I’ve been drowned in the water and poked on the wheel. Now I have shape and I’m ready to be useful for the king.” However, it sat. After a long, long time the clay lost hope. Finally one day the potter came into the room and picked up the clay. “Finally, the clay thought! The time has come! I’m going to the king’s house to serve him!” The clay was so excited!

The clay felt stronger than before. It felt sturdy. The clay was confident it was ready to serve the king for many, many years. However, the potter took the clay to the kiln. As the clay came closer and close to the kiln it was hotter and hotter. “What’s happening?! What’s happening?!” The potter is putting me into the fire! No! No! No! I will die! It’s too hot. I’ll burn! I’ll die! No, no, no!” It seemed the end for the clay. The kiln was too hot. It would break. It would melt. It didn’t want to die this way. It was chosen for glory. It was chosen to serve the purposes of the king. Why is this happening? It seemed that the journey of the clay was a miserable journey. It remembered when it was in the field. It had no purpose then, but at least it was safe and comfortable. Now it is suffering and will die a horrible death and will never be in the king’s palace.

The clay was in the fire and out of the fire. In the fire and out of the fire. Again and again. Finally it was removed and gently placed on a workbench. The potter smoothed the pot and painted it. When he was finished it was beautiful! The pot was amazed! Before it was in the field with no beauty and no purpose. But now it was presented to the king as a beautiful, glorious pot that was useful for the king’s purposes. This is the Journey of the Clay.
Six-Step Process

1. **Choosing the Right Clay: Chosen because we have value**
   There is much clay in Cambodia. Most of the clay is used for brick to build apartments and houses. Some of the clay is used to make puts. Some pots are simple and some are very beautiful. As a normal person we see the clay, ride our motorcycle or bicycle through it and don’t value it. In fact if it’s slippery sometimes we complain about the slippery clay. However, a Master Potter sees the value of clay. He sees the potential of the clay to become something useful and beautiful.

   God sees us as clay. Some people see us as normal or having no value or only a little value. However, the God of the Universe, who is the Master Potter, sees our potential. When he sees us he doesn’t look at the outside but he sees the potential for our life if we submit to him. He sees us and chooses us. The Master Potter uses a five-step process to make the normal clay into a useful vessel.

2. **Submerge the Clay in Water: To cleanse us from our sin**
   The second step to prepare the clay to be made into a useful vessel is to submerge it in water. The potter must clean the clay first. The clay has small rocks, grass and other small things in it that will make it not useful. The clay feels as if it’s drowning, but this is a necessary process to prepare the clay to become a holy vessel the Lord can use. Therefore the potter must wash the clay first. Ephesians 5:25-27

   God does the same for the Christian and especially the leader. God cleanses the life of a leader by allowing us to meet with difficulties. The difficulties reveal the impurities on the inside that will hinder us as a leader if they are not removed from our lives. Which difficulties has God allowed you to meet?

   - Various Temptations
   - Problems with parents
   - Problems with spouse
   - Financial problems
   - Health problems
   - Rejection
   - Rebuke by a leader
   - Failure

   How do we respond to this process? We cannot bypass this first step in the process. God tests every leader whom he uses. The tests God uses are some of the difficulties mentioned above. For example:
• Noah was tested.
• Abraham was tested.
• Joseph was tested.
• David was tested.
• Jeremiah was tested.
• Jesus was tested.
• The Apostle Paul was tested.

These men allowed these tests to raise them up to a new level in their relationship with God, holiness and power. If we fail the test, God loves us and will allow us to go through the test again. He will not take his hand from us.

Pray

Pray that God will help you submit to the cleansing and he will reveal to you any impurities in mind, motive or habit that will hinder him using you as a vessel to bring glory to him.

3. Spin the Clay Around and Poke it: Not to remove sin, but to remove hindrances

The second step in the process of preparing a leader is the potter puts the clay on a machine and spins it and pokes it. The action of poking the clay is to get the air bubbles out from the inside. The clay has been washed already but there are now small pockets of air inside the clay. If the air is allowed to remain in the clay it will not form properly and will be weak in those areas.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

Even after we are cleansed there are still issues in our life that will hinder us from finishing the race successfully. We must cast off every burden and sin that hinders us. Some issues in our life are not sins, but they are burdens and they hinder us. Sometimes
we make excuses for small things in our life but we must understand that as a leader we will experience more pressure, obstacles and temptations because we lead God’s people.

God pokes us to reveal the burdens that hinder us from running fast and far.

- How do you spend your free time?
- How do you spend your money?
- What do you do for entertainment?
- What do you think about?

Questions to Ask Yourself:
- Does this lead me closer to God or not?
- Is this a good example to others?
- Will this hinder me in any way from being the leader God wants to make me?
- Would my Mentor do this?
- What would Jesus do?

Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

4. The potter starts to give the pot a shape: God helps us to discover our spiritual SHAPE

Christians and leaders are different from one another. We have a different SHAPE:

- Spiritual Gifts
- Heart Motivation
- Abilities
- Personality
- Experiences in life

Therefore, we should not compare ourselves with the success or fame of other leaders. Some leaders are more public...like the mouth of the body...some leaders are like the insides of the bodies. Don’t become jealous because others receive the praise when you do the work! Remember, God will make you the kind of pot he wants you to become according to his purposes.

- We go through seasons. God changes us
from one level of glory to another. He develops us as a process. The level of leader we are today may not be the level we are in 10 years if we continue to submit to what God wants to do in our life.

After God forms us we now look like a vessel ready to use! We have a shape. We can be useful!

5. The pot must dry on the shelf: This is the time we wait for God’s perfect timing for our ministry

The pot must dry and become hard to be painted and used. After God washes us and spins us and pokes us and we begin to take a shape we suppose he is finished with us and we can move into the ministry that God has prepared for us. Not yet. The potter puts the pot on a shelf or in a room and allows it to sit and dry. Sometimes the pot must wait a long time before it is dry enough to be painted and used.

It’s very important that we understand this process of God. Noah waited 120 years for God to use him. Abraham waited 25 years for God’s promise to be fulfilled for him. Moses, Joseph, David, Jesus, Paul and every leader whom God wants to use must go through this process of waiting. It is during this waiting process that God does a deeper work in our character.

It is at this point that many leaders whom God is preparing make a mistake. They think they are ready but the must wait more. Sometimes they are angry at their leaders. Sometimes they are angry with God. They think they have ability and spiritual gifts and experience. Why must they wait more? Sometimes they think their leader is jealous or wants to hinder them from rising up. At this point we must guard ourselves from rebellion, pride and independence. We studied in our book “Life as a Disciple” that God works through people who hold authority in our life.

**Hebrews 13:17**

God is not urgent like we are urgent. He knows the end from the beginning. He knows what we will need to be the leader he is developing us to become.

- Sometimes we think we are big, but we serve in a small role
- Sometimes we think we have experience to lead a ministry but we must assist someone with less ability
- Sometimes we move out from under God’s protection of authority in our life
- Sometimes we are impatient and start something in our own strength and by our own plan

It is always better to wait for God to move us up rather than do it by our own plan and timing. Don’t fear. God knows your situation and has a plan. Wait for his timing and way.

6. The Pot is Put in the Fire: To make us strong on the inside and outside

After drying the pot must be put in the fire. The potter puts the pot into a kiln of fire as a next step in the process to make it harder than before. The heat in the kiln drives out every bit of water and chemicals and makes the clay hard like a rock.

God’s process of purifying us and preparing us to be a leader that lasts and has lasting fruit continues all through our life through various kinds of tests. Below are five different kinds of tests God uses to continue the process of making us leaders who last:

a. The Test of Temptation.
   - Money
   - Power
   - Lust/Sex
   - Distraction
   - Improper Marriage

b. The Testing of our Faith
   Abraham waited for 25 years for God’s promise to be fulfilled for him and Sarah. However, during that time his faith was weak for a moment and he choose to have a son in a way different from God’s plan – Ishmael. Abraham was impatient and tried to help God. The result was many problems in his descendant’s lives.

   God also tested Abraham’s faith when he was commanded to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. However, this time his faith overcame the test.

c. The Test of Spiritual Warfare
   Ephesians 6:10
   To overcome the test of spiritual warfare you must know who you are in Christ.

d. The Test of Persecution
   2 Timothy 3:15
   Christians will be persecuted. We don’t look for persecution, but we will meet it.
e. The Test of Difficulties
1 Peter 1:3-9
In this life we will have difficulties. God uses these difficulties to purify and increase our faith and raise us to another level of leadership and being used by God. We must allow the difficulties to do the work in our life and not reject them.

Conclusion

Becoming a leader is a process. The purpose of the process is to prepare us to truly know God, trust God and know ourselves – our strengths and weaknesses. Where are you in the process of God developing you as a leader? How are you responding to what He’s doing in your life?

Pray

1 Peter 1:3-9
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

To go up you must give up.

Respond to the Word of God in this lesson and the work God wants to do in your life to make you the kind of leader he wants you to become in the way in which he wants to work in your life.
Lesson 5
Making Decisions by the Fear of God

Introduction

There was a young man who used to attend our church. He was a young man who had lots of potential. He was a cell group leader and had many followers in our church. He had an opportunity to go to the United States by a false marriage. He did this and is now married and living in the United States. He has not abandoned his faith, but he doesn’t attend any church and he has no influence as a Christian or a Christian leader. He works in a donut shop in California. His decision to marry wasn’t a sin, but it seems to be the wrong decision for him. Ten years after he left Cambodia his is not doing anything for God.

Here’s something to think about:

- Sometimes God gives us a second chance like Jonah.
- But our decision will affect the effectiveness of our ministry in the future.
- Our decisions will affect our relationships – friends, family, children, spouse.
- There are negative consequences for bad decisions, like that of King David.

God can give us wisdom to make good decisions according to his will. In this lesson we want to learn how to make decisions by the Fear of God.

Pray

Pray that God will speak to all of us today and reveal to us how to make decisions according to the Fear of God and will of the Lord.

Read the Bible

Hebrews 11:24-15

Moses made a very difficult decision. He rejected the riches and a reputation in the world to endure difficulties serving what he knew was God’s calling and purpose for him.
Psalm 25:12

*Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose.*

Here is an important Bible verse to remember.

- If we fear the Lord
- He will guide us in the way to choose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To fear the Lord means to honor him in everything we do and consider what he wants us to do rather than make the decisions of life without regard for him.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Our lives are not our own. We have been purchased by God.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This is the key to decision-making!*

What are the big decisions we make in our life?

- To believe in Jesus
- Which church to attend
- Which career to choose
- Which job to work at
- Who to marry
- How to raise our children

**Six Steps to Know the Way to Choose**

1. Make a way for God to speak to you.
   God will speak and show us, but we must make a way to listen.
   a. Don’t be stuck in sin.
   b. Don’t have two hearts regarding God.
   c. Don’t let anger, bitterness or jealously control you.

   Our hearts are our antenna to hear God. Our heart must be pure and one heart.
d. Put your heart in neutral. This means put your heart, mind and emotions in a place where you are willing to do whatever God tells you to do whether you like it or not. Try not to lean toward one side or the other.

In Numbers 22 we read the story of Balaam. Balaam was a prophet and was hired by an unbeliever to put a curse on Israel. The unbelieving king offered him many possessions to put a curse on Israel. God told Balaam clearly to not put a curse on Israel, but Balaam asked God about it three times. On the outside it seemed as if Balaam wanted to do what God wanted to do, but on the inside his heart was toward what he wanted – the possessions of the king. Sometimes we pray and ask God what he wants, but in our heart we already know what we want. We should try to put our hearts in neutral so as to really hear what God wants and not what we want.

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**PRAYING WITH AN IDOL IN YOUR HEART**

**Ezekiel 14:4**

*Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any of the Israelites set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet, I the LORD will answer them myself in keeping with their great idolatry.*

This verse is saying that when we have something in our heart that we want more than God’s perfect will, this is called an idol. This desire or thing in our heart is stronger in us than our desire for the perfect will of God. It is an obstacle to keep us from hearing God clearly and receiving clear direction from God. We see the thing we want more than we see God. When we pray to God and ask him to guide us we don’t receive a clear and accurate answer because we hear and see God’s answer through the idol – our own desire. We must examine our heart to our heart is pure and we only want God’s will, not our will. Then we can hear God clearly. We must remove the idol from our heart and have an open heart to what God wants to say to us.
2. **We must know how to wait on God.**  
*Psalm 25:3a*

Some decisions seem to be urgent. However, quick decisions are often wrong decisions. God will test us in this to know if we really trust him and hope on him by waiting. If we wait we will not be ashamed. Don’t rush to make decisions.

3. **Don’t give in to pressure.**

Do you suppose Moses had pressure from the king of Egypt? Do you suppose he has pressure from his many friends in the palace of the king of Egypt? These are external pressures. I’m sure Mosaic had internal pressure too, such as fear, doubt, uncertainty about the future.

Remember this when you meet with external or internal pressure regarding a decision:

- **On the last day we will stand before Jesus, not family or friends, to answer for our decisions in this life.**

4. **Continue to pray.**

- Pray again and again
- Pray more and more
- We pray so we can see how God sees our situation. God sees the future and the end. We don’t see the future and we don’t see the end.
  - God will never take something away from us or forbid us to do something or make us wait unless he has a good reason. He is a good father who has a good future for us.

5. **Trust in God’s promises.**

In order to find out what God wants you to do in a situation you must believe his promises. He assures us he will answer the prayers of those who ask, seek and knock (Matthew 7:7). If you will faithfully read the Bible each day he will lead you to Bible verses that will guide you in your decisions.

6. **Wait until you have God’s peace in your heart.**  
*Colossians 3:15*

The opposite of a heart full of peace is a heart full of worry, doubt, fear or confusion. God will give you his peace to assure you that you are doing his will. That does not mean that fear or doubt will leave forever. Demons will try to place a thought of doubt or fear in your mind, but you must search your heart to confirm that God has given you peace about your situation.

a. God will not tell you to do anything against his Word.
b. God will not tell you to do anything sneaky
   c. God will not tell you to do anything deceitful or in the dark
   d. God will not tell you to do anything dishonest.

**Conclusion**

When you are faced with a decision and you don’t know what to do, remember that God’s Word is the primary source for him to speak to you. Sometimes God’s Word is specific about something and sometimes we discover principles in God’s Word that apply to our situation. Seek God’s Word. Seek God’s peace. Seek advice from mature Christian leaders who have a successful life.

Below are some principles to use as a guide when making decisions and you’re not sure of God’s Word:

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Does the result of this decision help me in my spirit, mind or body as a Christian?</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 6:12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Can I do this or make this decision with no doubt in my heart at all that I am doing the right thing? If I doubt, I should wait.</td>
<td>Romans 14:23</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Will the result of this decision enslave me or bring me under bondage?</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 6:12</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>If I make this decision will it bring glory to God?</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 10:31</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>By making this decision am I using money and time wisely according to what would please God?</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 4:2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>If I make this decision, will the result cause me to be dry in spirit or draw me away from God a little?</td>
<td>Matthew 5:8</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>If I make this decision will the Holy Spirit rejoice with e or will I quench the work of the Holy Spirit in my life?</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:30</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Will the results of this decision be for the good of others?</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 10:33</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>If I make this decision do I want others to follow my example?</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 11:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>If I make this decision and others know about it will it cause them to stumble?</td>
<td>Romans 14:21</td>
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Lesson 6

The Importance of the Word of God to Leaders

Introduction

All of us as leaders have the role of sharing the Word of God with others from time to time. Sometimes we’re hesitant to share the Word of God because we don’t understand it clearly ourselves. In this lesson we want to give you confidence to understand and share the Word of God.

Pray

Pray that God will help us to understand key principles about the Word of God.

Read the Bible

2 Timothy 2:15

Underline this phrase in your Bible: “…rightly dividing the Word of Truth…” Our goal is to correctly share the Word of God and not share if falsely with others.

1. When we study the Word of God we must understand the Context of any verse.

   We hope you open the Bible each day and read it a lot, but we also hope you study the Word of God.

   We read the Word of God to understand God’s Big Story in the Bible. We study the Word of God to understand the details and how to apply the to our life.

   To understand any Bible verse correctly we must understand the context of that one Bible verse or passage:
   - Covenant Context (Old Testament or New Testament)
   - Book Context
   - Chapter Context
Passage Context

We must understand the situation of the writer, the recipients of the Word of God at that time and the purpose of that part of the Word of God.

We must read the verses before the verse we’re interested in and the verses after those verses.

Read the Bible: 1 John 1:9

Break into groups of not more than 5 people. Read this Bible verse together. Also read 1 John 1:1-10.

Question: What is the meaning of this verse? Does this verse mean that if we confess our sins we will be saved? Each group answer, “Why” or “Why not.”

Read the Bible: 1 Peter 3:3-4

Stay in your same groups and answer this question:

Does this verse teach that women should not wear jewelry? Explain your answer.

2. Mediate on the Word of God

Joshua 1:8

In the Hebrew language this word means “to mutter.” It would be like you are on your way to the market to buy something and you don’t have a pencil or paper to write it down so you say it over and over again to yourself so you won’t forget. This is what God wants us to do to find success in life – mutter the Word of God to remember it.

A cow has four stomachs. When a cow eats grass it goes to the stomach then the cow goes to a place to rest. As it is resting the food comes back up from the stomach to the mouth to be chewed again. This happens again and again.

The example for us Christians to learn is to read the Bible and think about it again and again and again and allow God to reveal more truth to us.
3. **Find yourself in the passage of the Bible**

**Luke 4:17-21**

In this story in the Bible Jesus goes into a Jewish Synagogue and is asked to open the Old Testament and read to the congregation. Jesus looks for a specific passage in Isaiah 60. He reads this passage that is speaking about him, the Messiah of Israel, and his mission. Even though the name “Jesus” is not mentioned in this passage it is talking about the work and ministry of Jesus.

You and I can do the same thing. When we read in the Bible words like:

- In Christ
- In Him
- In God

These verses are talking about us because we are “in Christ.” We can and should put our name in those passages.

For example, what do these Bible verses say about your identity in Christ?

- Ephesians 1:3. blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- Ephesians 1:4. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.
- Ephesians 1:7. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,
- Ephesians 1:11. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

Read these Bible verses and put your name in them. Some of these and many other Bible verses may have not been 100% fulfilled in your life, but these are your inheritance.

4. **Declare the Word of God**

**Romans 10:8-10**

What we see of ourselves in the Bible we must declare. God created the universe by the words He spoke, not just the words He thought. If God says this Bible verse is true about us we must use our voice to declare it and see it come to pass.
Conclusion

Our faith and everything we do is built on the Word of God. As Christian leaders we must know the stories and the details of the Word of God thoroughly. We must read the Bible a lot and we must also study. When we teach we must insure we teach correctly by rightly diving the Word of God and sharing clearly. We must meditate on the Word of God so it moves from out head to our heart. We must allow the power of the Word of God to change our life so we can use it to change the lives of others. This involves finding ourselves in the Word of God and helping those we lead find themselves in the Word of God and also declare what God says about is with our mouth.
Lesson 7

Essential Doctrines

Introduction

This lesson will be about doctrine. “Doctrine” means “what does the Bible teach?”

About:

- God
- Jesus
- Creation
- Satan
- Everlasting Life

There are two ways to study the Bible:

1) We look for Bible verses to support what we already believe.
   - This is a wrong way to study
   - This is the way false Christian denominations study. They look for Bible verses to support what they already believe.
     - For example, if we don’t like the idea of hell, then false Christian denominations look for Bible verses to support what they believe. The will twist Bible verses to say something they want it to say rather than allow the Bible to declare God’s truth.

2) We study the Bible and allow the Bible to teach us and we submit to the Word of God rather than our own ideas.

During the first century of the Christian Era there were two types of Christians:

1) Jews who believed in Jesus
2) Gentiles who believed in Jesus

(We who believe here in Cambodia are Gentiles, because we are not Jews. However, the Bible declares that New Testament Christians become the Israel of God – Romans 2:28-28; Galatians 6:16)

In those days the people of Israel knew the Lord for many centuries already. They knew the One True and Living God through Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses, Joshua, the Prophets and their ancestors. They had some of the Word of God prepared as a Bible and
they had their traditions. However they did not have personal Bibles. The Gentiles knew nothing about the One True God and his doctrine and his ways. They had no Bible and in the first century there was no New Testament written in a book. The writings of the New Testament were not gathered together until 4th Century AD. The various books of the Bible had to be copied by hand until the printing press was invented.

The Gentiles did not know about Adam, Even, Abraham, Moses, etc. It was not their tradition and they didn’t have a Bible to have. Therefore, we want to ask “what is the doctrine that the Apostle Paul felt necessary to teach these Gentile new believers who had not Christian Culture and had no personal Bible?”

Take a Minute and Discuss
What do you think were the essential doctrines the Apostle Paul taught these new Gentile Christians to teach them to live for God?

Read the Bible
Galatians 1:6-9

Galatia was a district in what is now the country of Turkey. The Apostle Paul and his team traveled through this area preaching the Gospel, gathering believers and planting a church. This was in about 51 AD. Acts 15:36 – 16:10

Paul continued to communicate with the new Christians by writing letters. The Book of Galatians in the Bible is written to the Christians from the churches Paul planted in the region of Galatia.

Paul heard about a problem among the churches in Galatia. There was someone who was teaching false doctrine among the churches. This person was a Jew who was teaching the Gentile Christians that they must obey the traditions of the Jews. He was teaching them to only eat food that Jews eat, obey the clothing style of the Jews and obey the religions holidays and laws.

There is a difference between culture and doctrine. Many Christians are confused about the difference between culture of their nation and the doctrine of the Bible.
We must be careful about forcing our culture on someone as if it is doctrine that comes from God. The Apostle Paul was a Jew but God called him to preach the Gospel among the Gentiles. Paul had the experience to know the difference between Jewish Culture and New Testament Doctrine. The Apostle Paul is correcting the Christian believers in the region of Galatia and bringing them back to their foundations.

In the Book of Galatians the Apostle Paul teaches the Four Doctrines for living life as a Christians. This is not about our salvation, but about how we live after we are saved.

1. **Live by Faith**
   
   **Galatians 2:16-3:11**
   
   Question: What does it mean for us to live by faith?
   
   Answer: We believe in what Jesus has done for us already

   **Romans 1:17**
   
   We become righteous by believing in our heart what Jesus did already on the Cross.
   
   • Believe = Trust in. Rely on. Hold to.

   Charles Blondin was born in France. When he was five years old his parents sent him to gymnast school. After only six months of training he performed publically. In the 1850s he became famous for crossing the Niagara Falls on a tightrope. The rope was 340 meters long, 8.3 cm in diameter and 49 meters above the water.

   In July 1859 Mr. Blondin pushed a wheel-barrow across Niagara Falls with a person in it. This is what we call Faith! Our faith is like the woman in the wheelbarrow – she believed in Mr. Blondin’s ability 100% - enough to put her life in his hands! If we believe, we will show our faith by our actions!

   The first step for Christians is to believe in our heart what Jesus has done for us already. The second step is to live by faith every day.

   • Persevere until God’s Word comes to pass in our life
   • Don’t turn back
   • Don’t give up
   • Declare and speak what God says not what we see or hear or what others tell us
2 Peter 1:3; Romans 1:17
Our faith is in what Jesus has already done on the Cross. We have received all things pertaining to life and godliness already. Our journey begins by faith in the Cross – the righteousness of Christ. Our journey continues by faith in what Jesus did on the Cross and results in our righteousness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jesus’ Responsibility</th>
<th>Our Responsibility</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians 1:20</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is finished…</td>
<td>We believe by faith and say “Amen”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He has done it already.</td>
<td>(Yes…we agree!)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hebrews 6:12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>We have faith in what Jesus has already done on the cross.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have patience when it seems like a long time before we see the results of what Jesus did already occur in our life.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Declare Together:

“I will not live by what I see, but I will live every day by what Jesus has already done for me. I will declare, I will act and I will persevere until it comes to pass in my life.

Hebrews 10:35-39

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

2. Live by Love

Galatians 5:14
In those days they didn’t have a personal Bible and many of the new believers couldn’t read and write. They didn’t have the details of how to live a life pleasing to God. One of the only doctrines they knew was to live by love.

Religion tells us “don’t do.” Like the Ten Commandments of God:
1. Don’t worship other gods.
2. Don’t make idols.
3. Don’t knee and worship idols.
4. Don’t covet

**Jesus teaches us to love.**

- Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind
- Love others like Christ loves us

If we love others we won’t lie to others. If we love God we won’t worship false Gods. If we love others we won’t hate others.

**Pray**

“Lord, let my heart be filled and overflowing with your love for me and in return, love you back and love others as you have loved me.

**3. Live by the Leading of the Holy Spirit**

**Galatians 5:15**

God created us for a relationship with him, not just to hold a religion. He gave Christians his Holy Spirit to live in us to have a relationship with him every day.

**Romans 8:1-6**

- Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you:
  1. Family problems
  2. Work problems
  3. Relationship with other people problems
  4. Money problems
  5. What God wants you to do every day
- We must learn to listen to the Holy Spirit:
  1. A daily quiet time like we learned in the book *Life as a Disciple*
  2. Learn to overcome your thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
  3. Learn to discern the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit

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**Our life is not our life. Our Master is Jesus. We must seek his will from morning until night and ask him what he wants us to do. We call this a relationship, not holding a religion. Our God talks to us and guides us.**
We don’t have to go to Bible School to know these doctrines. We don’t have to have a personal Bible to know these doctrines. We don’t have to be able to read and write to know these doctrines:

1. Live by Faith
2. Live by Love
3. Live by the Holy Spirit

4. **Live by Helping One Another**

   *Galatians 6:2*

As a Christian we should look for opportunities to help other people each day. With our neighbors, with our colleagues, with our fellow students and other Christians. With people who love us and people who don’t love us. It’s also part of the normal Christian life to allow others to help us.

   - Use your spiritual gifts to help others
   - Use your abilities to help others
   - Use your experience in life to help others
   - Allow others to help you in your Christian life
   - Allow others to help you grow in areas you need help

**Conclusion**

Continue to grow in your knowledge of God, His Word and His Ways. But remember that is is the four essentials that we need to focus on as we live our Christian lives. Essential doctrine for the first Christians is the same kind of doctrine we should follow, too:

1. Live by faith
2. Live by love
3. Live by the leading of the Holy Spirit
4. Live by helping others

**Pray**

“Lord, help me to be an obedient child of God. Help me to not make the Christian life complicated. Help me to help others live their life for Jesus by at least following these four essential doctrines that will please you and grow as a disciple and leader.”
Lesson 8
Casting Demons Out of Yourself and Others

Introduction

We can do every kind of ministry in the church and serve God in every area, but if we don’t understand spiritual warfare we lack. It is essential that we know how to cast demons out of ourselves and others. We want to erase all confusion about this important truth.

Take a Minute and Pray

Let’s take a few minutes and pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten us and help us to understand about spiritual warfare and casting out demons.

Pastor Jesse’s Testimony

Pastor Jesse shares his testimony about how he learned how to effectively cast out demons and overcome strongholds in his own life. Pastor Jesse used to study the Bible a lot, fast one day per week and he prayed a lot, but he still struggled with some strongholds in his life. He lacked freedom in some areas. He tells the story of one day many years ago he locked himself in a room in his house and prayed and did spiritual warfare for 30 minutes, 60 minutes or 90 minutes. He didn’t pay attention to the time but he committed he was going to overcome those spiritual strongholds. He followed the steps that are taught in this lesson. When he left that room he had freedom that he had never experienced before.

Put your roots in the local church. Love God’s Word. Pray and Fast. Serve others. Use the authority God has given you as a Christian to command demons to leave you and others!

Step #1: Must Know the Devil’s Schemes

A. We must know the characteristics of the devil to know his schemes.
   1. Matthew 12:43-44
      • Demons have the ability to make decisions. They have a will.
      • This demon said, “I will…” This means a demon can decide to go inside someone or not and it can decide to leave someone or not.
      • A demon has the ability to consider its options.
2. Acts 19:15
   • Demons have knowledge and memory. They know history and they now
     the lives of people and the ancestors they have been assigned to for many
     years or generations. They also communicate information to one another.
   • They also know God’s Word in the Bible.

3. James 2:19
   • Demons have emotions. They are afraid and worry and have other
     emotions.

4. Mark 3:11-12
   • Demons have a voice. Sometimes they use their voice and sometimes
     they use the voice of the people they inhabit.

B. How do demons enter someone?
   • Demons do not have the freedom to enter someone any time they want.
   • Demons must have a door that is opened for them to enter.

In the Khmer language we say “the ghost enters.” Ghosts are not the spirits of a
dead person. They are a demon who impersonates a person. 2 Corinthians
11:13-15 Demons to not have the freedom to enter anyone anytime; they must
have a door opened for them.

A curse is a door for a demon to enter. A curse cannot come on a person unless there is a
cause. A demon cannot enter a person unless there is an open door.

There are two kinds of doors:

1. The doors we open such as sin or the occult
2. Doors others open such as trauma and generational curses

Sometimes a demon will manifest through a person – they will scream, curse,
shake, fall down or show some other physical manifestation. Some people say
the demon just entered that person; this is not true. A demon manifests itself
because the presence of God is near them. The demon manifests because
someone with the authority of God is near them.
• Demons enter because of sin. Sin opens the door for demons to enter and have right and authority in a person or place.
  Deuteronomy 28:15-68
• Demons enter because of worshipping idols
  Exodus 22:5-6
• Demons enter by doors that are opened to our life through others when we were babies, before we were born or when we were small children
  - Before we were born, when we were sick as a baby or child, when the parents made a deal with a witch doctor or when we experienced trauma such as kidnapping, sexual or physical abuse or abandonment.
• Demons enter by doors we open ourselves:
  - Fear
  - Anger
  - Bitterness
  - Unforgiveness
  - Drugs
  - Immorality
  - Hate

The Spiritual Warfare of Job

In the Book of Job, chapters 1-2 we see that the devil attacked Job and his family. The source of Job’s problems was the devil and demons. However, in Job 3:25 we see that Job's fear opened the door for the devil to attack him like this. However, in the end, God restored to Job all that the devil stole. (Job 42:12-17) The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus comes to give mankind abundant life. God will use the evil that the devil and demons commit against you to turn out for your good. (Romans 8:28)

• Demons enter by doors we open ourselves:
  - Fear
  - Anger
  - Bitterness
  - Unforgiveness
  - Drugs
  - Immorality
  - Hate

Step 2: If We Resist the Devil and Demons, They Will Flee From Us

Colossians 2:15

Our victory rests on what Jesus has already done for us and to the devil. Jesus have taken the power of the devil and demons already and given us power and authority to represent him on earth in every situation. The victory is ours already, but we must fight to obtain that victory.
James 4:7

- Our role is to resist the devil
- To “cast out” means to force someone or something to leave when they don’t want to leave.
- We must continue to resist and cast out the demons until they submit to us.

Mark 1:25-26

Jesus told this demon to be quiet and leave. However, it did not obey him immediately. It continued to scream out and not leave. Even though he was the Son of God the demon did not obey him immediately. The devil is rebellious and stubborn. It will test our faith and authority.

- Don’t be amazed when demons don’t leave immediately or resist you. They did the same to Jesus. They hide, lie and are patient as they test our faith and endurance.

Mark 5:6-8

This man full of demons ran to Jesus, bowed down and worshipped. This is strange because demons usually run from Jesus or manifest and resist him. Why? If you read these verses we see the man with the army of demons ran to Jesus because Jesus had been commanding the demons to leave.

- Notice that Jesus didn’t just command the demons one time. This sentence is in the continuous tense, meaning that Jesus commanded them again and again. Sometimes we must fight again and again until the demons finally submit to us and the authority of the Word of God.
Step 3: Resist the Devil and Cast Out Demons in Yourself and Others

1 Peter 5:8-9

This is how we resist:

1. Be honest with God. Don’t hide anything from him. Confess it.
2. Humble yourself and admit you need God’s help.
3. Repent.
   • Close the doors. Reject demonic strongholds.
   • “I don’t want to be like this anymore. Demon, I reject you and command you to leave.”
4. Use your voice to reject them.
5. Receive forgiveness.
   • “Thank you Lord for forgiving me. I receive it.”
6. Ask God to deliver you now.
7. Do spiritual warfare. Start casting the demons out.

Conclusion

God wants mankind free from the devil and demons. Jesus has defeated the devil and every kind of demon and has given his people authority to cast them out and overcome them. We must resist every thought, every voice, and every temptation that comes to us to live in the victory that Jesus has obtained for us already.
Lesson 9

Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Introduction

We are going to open this lesson by praying in tongues for about five minutes. Remember, two things about speaking in tongues:

1. The person who speaks in tongues speaks to God (1 Corinthians 14:2). Therefore, when you speak in tongues focus your mind and emotions on God.
2. The person who speaks in tongues builds himself up. (1 Corinthians 14:4)

Today we want the Word of God to enlighten us about speaking in tongues and about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Understanding Speaking in Tongues

1. When we speak in tongues we speak to God.
   1 Corinthians 14:2
   - Focus your mind, thoughts and emotions on God and don’t be distracted.
2. When we speak in tongues we build up ourselves.
   1 Corinthians 14:4
   - Speaking in tongues gives us new energy and new fire of the Holy Spirit.

3. Speaking in tongues is a language.
   1 Corinthians 13:1
   - There are languages of men and languages of angels. God will add new words and increase your spiritual language like your natural language increase.

4. Allow God to translate the meaning of the words you are speaking.
   1 Corinthians 14:13
   - Speak, sing, pray and declare in tongues.
   - Speak, then stop and listen and expect God to reveal to you what you are saying.

Let’s stop and apply this right now. Speak in tongues, expect God to add new words to your spiritual language and expect God to reveal to you what you are saying so you can pray, sing, speak and declare in your natural language, too.
Understanding the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

We understand that there are the:

1. Gifts of the Father (God)
3. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1. The Gifts of the Father

The Gifts of the Father are gifts that people have from birth. Unbelievers have these gifts, too, but they do not use them for the purposes of God. These gifts include:

Romans 12:6-8

- Serving
- Teaching
- Giving (Generosity)
- Encouragement
- Leading
- Mercy

1 Corinthians 12:28

- Helps
- Administration
- And many more

2. The Gifts of the Son

The Gifts of the Son are the Five-Fold Ministry he gives to lead the church.

Ephesians 4:12-16

- Apostle
- Prophet
- Evangelist
- Pastor
- Teacher

We discover these gifts as we continue to grow as a Christian.
3. **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are the spiritual gifts of power and signs and wonders that come to the Christian as a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. *Acts 1:8*

- We have authority when we are born again
- We receive a release of the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit
- God baptizes us in the Holy Spirit to be a witness for him through evangelizing, doing miracles and casting out demons.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

After being baptized in the Spirit God can show his power in us toward others, because the gifts of the Spirit are for others. They are gifts for others.

- Because we have all of the Holy Spirit, we have all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever we need one, but some gifts are stronger in some people rather than others.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-10**

1. The Word of Wisdom, v. 8
   - Different from normal wisdom. Wisdom from God to solve problems and extend his Kingdom in that situation.
2. The Word of Knowledge, v. 8
   - The ability from God to know something about a person or situation which God wants to use to show his power in their life.
3. Faith, v. 9
   - Different from normal faith. Supernatural faith to believe God for miracles and to fulfill his Word.
4. Gifts of Healing, v. 9
   - Healing can be instantaneous or a process. Healing for believers and unbelievers.
5. Miracles, v. 10
   - Something that cannot happen naturally but only by God showing his power.
6. Prophecy, v. 10
   - The ability from God to know something and speak outloud about it associated with the future or something God wants to do in a situation or person’s life. Prophecy can build up, encourage or comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3)
7. Discerning of Spirits, v. 10
8. The ability from God the activity or presence of evil spirits.
9. Speaking in Tongues, v. 10
• The ability to pray, sing and declare the heart of God in a language that God gives you and you don’t study to learn it.

10. Interpretation of Tongues, v. 10
• The ability from God to know what is being said when you or someone else speaks in tongues.

God touches our heart to do something for him so he can release his power and accomplish his plan through us. But we must choose to respond. We can respond to the touch of the Holy Spirit in our heart and mind and obey God or we can give into fear, doubt or laziness and not respond and God’s plan is not accomplished in that situation or that person’s life.

These spiritual gifts are not just for the church meeting, but also must be used in our home with our family, neighbors, school, business, market or dorm. Please do not limit God.

The way you utilize the gifts of the Spirit is the same way you utilize the gift of speaking in tongues. You take a step of faith when prompted by the Holy Spirit.

**Praying for Others**

1. Before we pray:
   a. Ask questions. (Don’t immediately start praying)
      - About their sickness (where do they hurt? What do they think is the source of their sickness? Is it physical? Demonic? Generational curse? Accident? Disease?)
   b. Listen to the Holy Spirit. (Wait and pray in tongues quietly)
      - God may reveal how he wants you to pray and the root of the problem
   c. Decide how to pray.
      - Jesus did not pray for demons or sicknesses to leave – he commanded them to leave
      - Cast out the demons and the sickness
      - Command
      - Release the healing power of God
      - Close any spiritual doors they opened to the problem
   d. Ask how they are feeling.
      - Any strange feelings, pictures or thoughts?

2. When we pray:
   a. Pray with your eyes open to watch their faces and bodies to see any manifestation of the sickness or demons
b. Pay attention to their bodies. Are they hot, cold, shaking? This sometimes indicate a healing or a demon

3. After we pray:
   a. Ask them how are they feeling.
   b. How is their pain? Sometimes the pain moves, indicating it is a demon.
   c. Listen to the Holy Spirit and do what he tells you to do (Continue or stop)
      (Jesus prayed two times for the blind man and then he was healed) **Mark 8:24-25**
   e. When we pray for a sick person, let one person lead the prayer and the others agree.
      Do not two or more people pray for different issues or in different ways at the same time. Jesus said “if we agree on anything on this earth it will be done in heaven.” Everybody focuses themselves with one mind on how to pray. **Matthew 18:19**
   f. If people fall down while we pray for them pray for them while they are on the floor

**Conclusion**

God wants to show his power through is children on this earth. He wants to set believers and unbelievers free into an abundant life. We must believe and be bold to allow God to use us. As children of God we have everything we need to do everything God wants us to do.
Lesson 10

Making Disciples with a Sharp Eye

Introduction

What we teach in this lesson MUST happen in our life as a Christian and especially as a leader. When we study this we must not only know the truth of this lesson, but apply it all our life as a Christian. This is a key that we must understand as we lead people because it will help us to be more efficient in leading others.

Take a Minute and Pray

Ask God to prepare your heart to receive and apply His Word.

Do you remember the main points of Lesson 1?

1. _____________________________

2. _____________________________

3. _____________________________

4. _____________________________

2 Timothy 2:2

Discuss

1. Does anyone have experience hunting animals in the forest? How does that work?

2. Does anyone have experience hunting birds that fly in the sky? How does that work?
In some countries wild ducks fly together in flocks. However, ducks like water so sometimes they fly to the water to eat and rest. The duck hunter will put decoys on the water and use a duck call that makes the sound of the duck to lure the ducks to the water. The hunter is hiding in the grass near the water. When the ducks come to the water the hunter shoots them with his gun.

The hunter is not disappointed because he doesn’t kill all of the ducks. Sometimes there are a dozen or more ducks. In fact, he doesn’t have a plan to kill the whole flock. His plan is to focus on one or two ducks to kill and take home for his family to eat.

Like a good duck hunter, a good leader has a clear plan and focuses on his target. The target of the duck hunter is not the entire flock. He focuses on one or two ducks. An effective leader does the same. When it comes to making disciples, an effective leader does not only focus on the crowd of people. Instead, he focuses on 1, 2 or 3 who are faithful. (Faithful…not perfect)

2 Timothy 2:2

We look for the faithful and those who have some ability. We all work with groups of people in our office, at our work, in our school. Among those groups of people we must pray and have a sharp eye to look for those who are faithful and have some ability.

Faithful = They want to know more. They have an open heart. They join us regularly.

Ability = They understand. They have some ability to do what we tell them to do.

We focus from the large group to the medium group to the small group to make disciples.
Many people will come and many people will go from your groups but we must have a sharp eye to look for those who are faithful and who have some ability.

**Mr. Charles Simeon**

Charles Simeon was appointed to be the new pastor of an Anglican Church in England. His church building was next to a Bible School with about 1,000 students. Most of the people in his church didn’t respect him. He was not the first pastor so they always compared him with their previous pastor. For many years they didn’t respect him. However, Pastor Simeon decided to spend time with the Bible School students. First he visited the campus and spent time with various students getting to know them and their situation and their heart. He was not in a hurry. He knew it would take a long time to build relationships with some of the students in this big crowd of students. Some of the students were more interested in him than others, but he had a sharp eye and looked for students who were faithful and had some ability. After a long time he selected 15 students and began to meet with them each week for dinner. He built deeper relationships with them and discussed the things of God and Christian Leadership. From those 15 he selected 3-4 more and began to train them as a pastor.

Pastor Simeon led his church for 54 years! During those 54 years he trained and sent out 1,100 church planters. This isn’t counting all the other leaders he trained who served the church in leadership but were not pastors or church planters.

He didn’t only focus on the crowd, but he had a sharp eye and focused on the few who were faithful and had some ability. He went to where the large crowds were. He met in small groups to train leaders. He met in smaller groups to train pastors.
Discuss

- Break into groups with 4 people in each group. Answer this question:
  “Where are the groups of people for you to reach?”
- How can you go to them, spend time with them and help them become a disciple of Jesus?

Remember:

- Groups of unbelievers
- Groups of believers who are not mature
- Groups of believers who are hungry

Train them according to Jesus’ Method of making disciples and training leaders:

1. Spend time with them
2. Give them some responsibilities and watch them
3. Appoint them
4. Watch them, evaluate them and correct them
5. Send them

Luke 6:12-13

Jesus went up to the mountain to pray all night. At that time perhaps he had many people following him. He went up to the mountain to pray for our Heavenly Father to show him who to choose for his small group to make disciples and train as leaders. He choose 12 men.

Process of Making Disciples

1. I do, you watch
2. We do it together
3. You do, I watch
4. You do

Conclusion

Pray and ask God to show you who to choose. Go to where the crowd is. Have a sharp eye for those who are faithful and have some ability. Gather them into small groups. Train them according to Jesus’ method. Don’t get discouraged because a lot of people come and go. Focus.