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The Christian In His Community



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

The Christian in His Community

by Donald Stuckless

*Developed in Cooperation With
the Global University Staff*

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First, Let's Have a Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Author

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you have already experienced changes in your life. One of these changes probably was a change in your attitudes toward others. All of us are involved in relationships with other people. In other words, we all live in community with others.

We usually think of community as the place where we live. But you will learn that community is much more than the place where we live—it is a *spirit* or an *attitude* that we have toward others.

Do you know that you can be part of more than one community? You may be part of a school community, a church community, or a working community. All of these together may make up the community where you live.

In this course, we will discover principles of living in community with others. One of the underlying principles in making this course practical in your everyday life is to depend on the Holy Spirit. He will help you receive the teaching and turn it into life actions. Ask Him to help you as you study and as you put into practice the things you learn. A modern method of teaching yourself helps you to learn the principles easily and put them into practice immediately.

Your Study Guide

This book is a pocket-sized workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have some free time. Try to set aside some time every day to study it.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson and throughout the lesson development. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objective.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so that you can refer back to them when you review the lesson. The answers to study questions are given at the end of each lesson. Be sure to answer each question before you look at the answer we have given. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b*) 7 days. In your study guide, make a circle around *b*) as shown here:

- 1** A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b**) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b** The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| . 1 . . a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| . 2 . . b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| . 2 . . c | Marched around Jericho | |
| . 1 . . d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your Student Report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Author

Donald Stuckless is an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God. He served as a missionary for eight years, during which time he was an instructor in the Assemblies of God Bible Institutes in Bogota, Colombia, and Panama City, Panama. He presently pastors a church in the United States.

Mr. Stuckless is a graduate of Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, where he received his bachelor of arts degree, and of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Chicago, where he received his master of arts degree.

Now you are ready to begin Lesson 1. God bless you as you study!

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.

Lesson
1

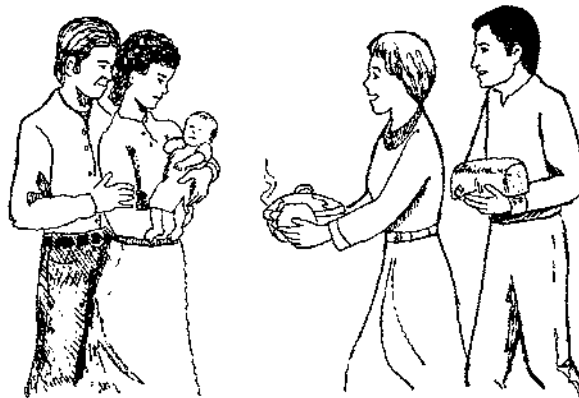
The Idea of Community

A baby is born and the family rejoices. A neighbor comes with food for the family and a friend arrives to help care for the new family member.

Perhaps you have experienced a happy occasion like this. How encouraging it is to see such kindness and concern for the well-being of the entire family! This is the spirit of community.

In this lesson we will study the background and biblical basis of community. The spirit of community was one of the first principles taught in the early church. It was also a principle of Christ, who taught us to love one another and care for one another. This lesson will help you to understand the idea of community. Then you will have a clearer understanding of how wonderful it is to be a part of the Christian community.

As you study this lesson, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to express the spirit of community in all of your activities with others.



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Meaning of the Word *Community*
The Completeness of Community
The Biblical Basis for Community

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain the meaning of community with examples from the Bible.
- Describe how you can be a part of God's community of believers.
- Explain that the spirit of community is a spirit of love and concern.

THE MEANING OF THE WORD *COMMUNITY*

Objective 1. *Identify words that define the idea of community.*

Community is a nice-sounding word because it makes us think of familiar people, places, and things. However, if we think of community in a wider sense, we will be able to appreciate it even more.

In the English language, the word usually refers to the people with common interests who live in a certain place. However, in the Spanish language, the word, *comunidad*, does not refer to the area or place in which a person lives. It refers to a love and concern that one person feels for another. This is a higher use of the word *community*.

Community can also be used to describe a group of people held together by a common cause. For example, in some countries, people doing the same type of work form an organization known as a trade union to better advance their common interests. A trade union is made up of members in *community*.

The second section of the Bible, the New Testament, was first written in the Greek language. The Greek word *koinonia* in the New Testament gives us an idea of the biblical meaning of *community*. *Koinonia* is often translated as “fellowship” or “partnership.” It implies being involved in something with someone else. It indicates a two-way relationship with emphasis placed either on the giving or the receiving. *Koinonia* is also translated as “participation,” “communion,” or “contribution.” The word is used for a close partnership such as a marriage relationship.

Here are some important examples of how the word *koinonia* is used in the Bible. Look up the Scriptures and read them carefully.

1. John 12:6—a common purse which Jesus and the disciples shared (a fund which they used to pay their expenses)
2. 1 Corinthians 10:16—the *sharing* in the blood of Christ as we take part in a communion service
3. 1 John 1:3, 6-7—*fellowship* between believers and God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ
4. 1 Corinthians 10:20—*partners*; a warning not to be “partners with demons”
5. Romans 15:26—an offering or gift of money which was taken to Jerusalem from the Greek Christians

In these references, the ideas of sharing, fellowship, and participation are seen. This is a good explanation of *community*.



For You To Do

In each one of these *For You to Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have studied. Answer each question or exercise before looking at the answer we have given.

- 1 Circle the letters in front of those words listed below which define *koinonia*, or *community*.
 - a) An offering
 - b) A desire
 - c) Partners
 - d) Fellowship
 - e) To govern
 - f) To share

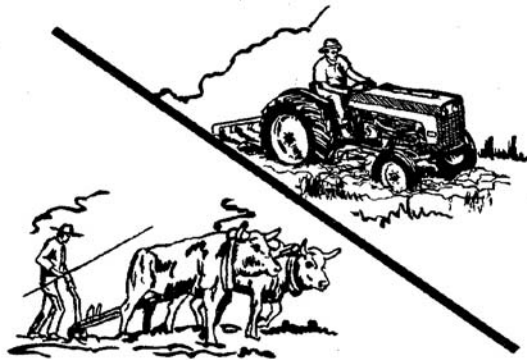
Check your answers with those given at the end of this lesson.

THE COMPLETENESS OF COMMUNITY

Objective 2. *Identify what is required to make community possible.*

Certain ideas are understood by almost everyone. Most of us understand the basic idea for farming, because we all need food. Soil must always be prepared to receive the seed. In some countries, people with hoes prepare the soil. In others, a team of oxen pulls a wooden plow. In still other places, tractors are used. However, the basic idea of plowing remains the same—loosen and turn the soil so that seeds can be buried and the rain can cause the seeds to grow. Then comes the hard work of keeping weeds out of the soil so that plants will have room to develop. Last of all, when the plant is mature, or ripe, the crop is harvested.

So this basic idea of plowing, planting, waiting, and reaping is found in almost every country. The methods may not be the same, but the end result is similar.



We can say the same thing about *the idea of community*. It makes no difference if you live in a small family group or in a big city. The basic idea of community is the same. It is people living with people. It is possible where 500 people live together or where only two live together.

Community is expressed by concern. Jesus told a story about a man named Lazarus and a rich man (Luke 16:19-31). There is no indication that the rich man was ever cruel to Lazarus. He simply was never concerned about Lazarus or his condition. In the story, the unconcerned rich man died and went to hell, because he did not accept the truth about God while he was alive. God teaches us to have concern for others.

Jesus told another story about a Jewish man who was attacked by robbers and badly beaten. He was left to die by the side of the road (Luke 10:30-37). Two very religious people came by, but they did nothing to help the injured man. At last a man from Samaria came by. It was not the custom for Jews and Samaritans to associate with each other. But immediately the Samaritan stopped, bandaged the Jewish man's wounds, put him on his own donkey, and took him to a hotel. He told the owner to take care of the injured man and that he would pay for his care. This is a beautiful example of the spirit of community in action.



Love and concern show the spirit of community. Concern is caring for others. We must have concern for people who live around us, as well as a universal or worldwide concern for those who live in other parts of the world. Jesus said, “if you have love one for another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples” (John 13:35). This is the spirit of community.



For You To Do

2 Read in the Bible the stories of Lazarus the beggar (Luke 16:19-31) and of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). Circle the letter in front of the example that shows the spirit of community.

- a) The story of Lazarus and the rich man
- b) The story of the Good Samaritan

3 What attitude makes the difference in these two stories?

.....

4 Circle the letter in front of those places where the idea of community is possible.

- a) In large cities
- b) In isolated villages
- c) In small groups
- d) Where a person lives alone
- e) Between two people

Check your answers.

THE BIBLICAL BASIS FOR COMMUNITY

Objective 3. Give examples of how the spirit of community is seen in the Bible.

The earliest example of community is found in the first book of the Bible, in Genesis 2 and 3. Here we have the story of the creation of the first man, Adam. Community at this time was only possible between Adam and God. Because Adam was without sin, his communion or fellowship (*koinonia*) with God was very personal. Every day they talked together and shared with each other. Therefore we could say that God and Adam had *community*.

In a short time God created a wife for Adam, and Adam called her *woman* (Genesis 2:23). Now community was possible between two persons. Adam, and the woman Eve, were in harmony with each other. They were in fellowship with God and at peace with all of God’s creation. A three-way community now existed. This was a perfect state of community!

However, this perfect state of community did not continue, because sin entered in (Genesis 3). The perfect community was broken because Adam and Eve did not obey God. They were separated from God and lost control over God’s creation. Adam had to enter into an imperfect state of community with his wife. God, in His mercy, allowed them to be a comfort to each other, even though He sent them out of the beautiful garden He had given them. Then they had to “work hard and sweat to make the soil produce” (Genesis 3:19).

The story of the children of Israel wandering in the wilderness is another example of community. It is recorded in the Bible, beginning with chapter 3 of the book of Exodus. For 40 years the Israelites traveled from Egypt, where they were in captivity, to freedom in the Promised Land. During this time they were wandering people without a permanent home. But even in this time of constant moving from place to place, they lived in a spirit of community.

Exodus 17:1 says, “The whole Israelite community left the desert of Sin.” Remember the qualities of community studied earlier. Israel was a *community* nation because *community*—a sharing, loving relationship—existed between the people. As you read the complete story in the book of Exodus, you will see that the Israelites shared many difficult situations as well as victories.

We read in Exodus 20 that God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments. These rules of behavior showed them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments were binding laws of God that were not to be broken. They taught that people should have love and respect for God first, and then for each other. This is one of the earliest teachings that we have on community relations. God was saying, “Obey these laws and you shall live in perfect community.”

In addition to the Ten Commandments, God gave many other instructions that would help Israel live in community. There were laws about altars, sacrifices, feast days, eating habits, personal conduct, and behavior toward others. These laws were given to help people live with devotion to God and with a spirit of community—fellowship, love, and concern toward each other.



Now, let’s look at an example of community in the New Testament. In the early church, after the Holy Spirit was outpoured on the Day of Pentecost, a strong spirit of unity and community existed. Read Acts 2:43-47. Verse 44 states that these people had “close fellowship” and “shared their belongings.” Now think back to our definition of community. These words show that “love and concern” and “close fellowship” were present in the early church. The New Testament church was a church of community because the people in it cared and shared. Let us do this also.



For You To Do

- 5 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a The Ten Commandments are one of the earliest sets of rules for living in community.
 - b The Israelites could not live in a spirit of community in the wilderness because they had no permanent home.
 - c Adam and Eve had perfect community with God, with each other, and with all of creation until they sinned.
 - d We know community existed in the early church because the Christians had love and concern for each other.
- 6 List four ways the spirit of community is seen in the examples we have studied in this section.

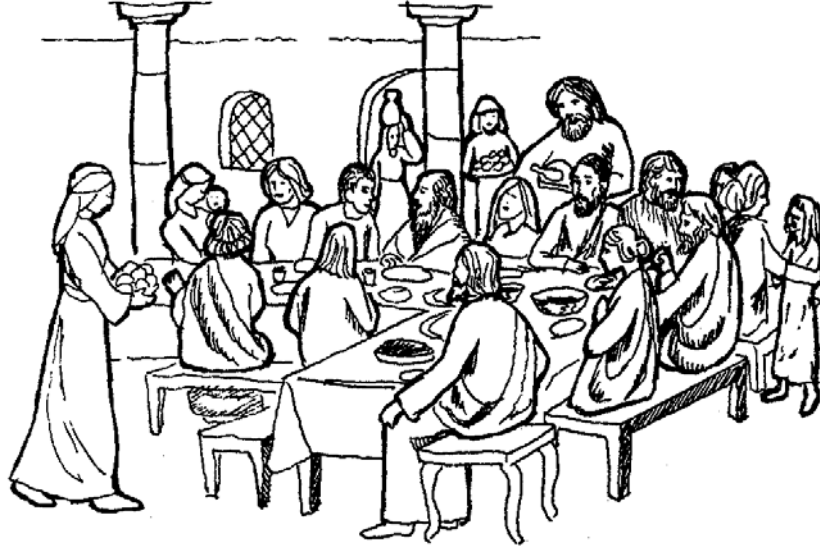
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7 What does this lesson tell you about how you can show a spirit of community?

.....

.....

If you are a Christian, you are a part of God's wonderful community of believers. Do you care for other members of the community? Do you share with those in need? This is the true meaning of community.





Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order, so that you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 4 a) In large cities.
b) In isolated villages.
c) In small groups.
e) Between two people.
- 1 a) An offering.
c) Partners.
d) Fellowship.
f) To share.
- 5 Statements **a**, **c**, and **d** are True.
- 2 b) The story of the Good Samaritan.
- 6 Any of these: Sharing, fellowship, showing love and concern, showing respect, caring.
- 3 Love or concern.
- 7 Your answer. I would say this: I can show love and concern for others.

Lesson
2

The Christian's Community

A chief is the head of a village. A mayor is the director of a town. A policeman maintains law and order within a certain area. The chief and the mayor have nothing to say about what is done in the next village or town. The policeman cannot enforce law outside his or her own area. All of these have boundaries, or limits. They have no authority outside their own boundaries.

It is different for a Christian. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told us to go “. . . to all peoples everywhere . . .” We do not have a limited area in which to work. Jesus sends us to the whole world. That includes all people everywhere!

In Lesson 1 we studied the *spirit* of community. In this lesson we will see how your community is a place where you can show this spirit. But as you study, remember that community is a *group of people* more than it is a *place*. No matter where you go, you can be part of a community as you share Christ with others!



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Four Communities of Acts 1:8
Jerusalem—Your Personal World
Judea—Your Country
Samaria—Your Surrounding Countries
Ends of the Earth—Your World

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe how the four areas mentioned in Acts 1:8 can be applied to areas of community in your life.
- Explain your responsibility as a Christian to each of these areas.

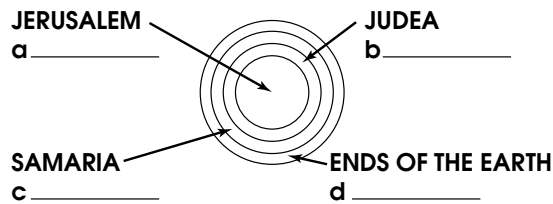
THE FOUR COMMUNITIES OF ACTS 1:8

Objective 1. *Identify the four communities of Acts 1:8.*

But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

In the Scripture quoted above, Jesus was talking to His followers. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Spirit. He said that after they received this power they would be witnesses.

A witness is a person who has seen an event and tells what he or she has seen. Jesus wanted His followers to tell others about all the wonderful things they had seen Him do—He healed sick bodies, raised the dead, died for the sins of the world, arose from death, and finally went back into heaven. They were to be witnesses to these events. First they were to begin right in Jerusalem, then move out from there to Judea and Samaria and beyond, until they had witnessed to the whole world. Jesus set no boundaries for their witnessing. The drawing below illustrates this:



For You To Do

- 1 Jesus' instruction in Matthew 28:19-20 is greater than that which is given to chiefs, mayors, and policemen because it
 - a) has boundaries.
 - b) does not have boundaries.
- 2 The spirit of community studied in Lesson 1 can be found
 - a) anywhere.
 - b) only in certain places.
- 3 Read Acts 1:8 again, then list the places Jesus told the disciples to be witnesses.

Check your answers with those at the end of the lesson.

JERUSALEM—YOUR PERSONAL WORLD

Objective 2. *Identify the area of your own “Jerusalem.”*

You must understand the setting of Acts 1:8. Jesus was in Jerusalem talking to His disciples and about 500 other followers. He told them something very exciting would happen to them on the Day of Pentecost. These followers did not fully understand that their ministry was to continue the ministry Jesus began. It is not even clear they understood their Lord was about to leave them. Then suddenly, after giving this promise that they would be filled with power as the Holy Spirit came upon them, Jesus disappeared into heaven and they did not see Him anymore.



The account of what happened next, on the Day of Pentecost, is recorded in Acts 2:1-6. Read these verses, and you will see that the believers received the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised. The people who saw and heard them were amazed and wondered about it.

Later, Peter had an opportunity to explain to the people what was happening (Acts 2:14-32). He reminded them of the resurrection of Jesus and he said, “We are all witnesses to this fact” (Acts 2:32). About 3,000 people responded to his message and believed in Christ.

The third chapter of Acts records many miracles. The apostles witnessed that the miracles took place through “faith in Jesus” (Acts 3:16). Chapter 4 tells about Peter and John preaching to the people, and the number who believed increased to about 5,000. The message was always about the death and resurrection of Jesus. In Acts 3:15 and 5:32, Peter stated again, “We are witnesses to these things.” Thus, they became witnesses in Jerusalem just as Jesus said they would.

Every Christian man and woman has a responsibility to tell others of the new life in Jesus. The gospel was spread to the ends of the earth by *other* Christian people, and not just by the apostles (Acts 8:1-4). These people were filled with the Holy Spirit. They had a strong desire to show Christian community to the world. They began to preach or tell the gospel story everywhere.

But where do we begin? We start where the Christians in Jerusalem started—at home in our community, among our own family and neighbors, where we come into contact with the same people every day. In your world, where you live, where you work, and where you spend most of your time—this is where loving, sharing, and caring must start. Let your personal world, your Jerusalem, your own people, those you live with, see the spirit of Christian community in you.



For You To Do

4 Read Acts 1:8, 8:1-4, 3:12-16, and 5:30-32 in your Bible. What are these verses talking about?

.....

- 5 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.
- a Only those called to be ministers or preachers have a responsibility to spread the gospel.
 - b According to this lesson, my first responsibility as a Christian is to witness about Christ to those I am with every day.
- 6 Your Jerusalem is the place where you live and spend most of your time. Write in a notebook the names of people that you have contact with from day to day. Then write ways you can witness to them and show a spirit of community. Pray that the Lord will help you to be an effective witness in your personal world.

JUDEA—YOUR COUNTRY

Objective 3. *Identify the area that can be called your “Judea.”*

As the followers of Jesus faithfully witnessed in Jerusalem, the religious leaders became jealous and began to persecute (punish or trouble) the Christians. Acts 8:1 tells us that all of the believers in the Jerusalem church began to suffer cruel persecution. Because of this, all of them except the apostles left Jerusalem and were scattered throughout the provinces of Judea and Samaria. (Provinces were divisions of the territory included in the Roman Empire.) Acts 8:4 tells us: “The believers who were scattered went everywhere, preaching the message.”

Because the Christians were forced to leave Jerusalem, they fulfilled the *second* part of Jesus’ command—to go to Judea as witnesses. Judea was the Roman province in which Jerusalem was located. The people who lived there were Jews who needed to hear about Jesus.

Many years earlier, God had called a man named Moses to go to his own people to free them from the slavery of the Egyptians. Moses did not feel capable of doing this. But God promised that He would go with Moses and give him the words to say (Exodus 3–4). Maybe it was good that Moses didn’t feel he could do it alone. This caused him to trust God completely.



Perhaps you feel the same way Moses did. The same answer that was given to Moses is your answer. God will be with you. He will help you. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know” (Proverbs 3:5).

After you have been faithful in ministering to your Jerusalem, you need to allow God to send you out into your Judea—your own province, state, or country. You say, “How can I help to bring my country to God?” The key is found in the answer to this question: “How do you eat a whole loaf of bread?” The answer is, “A bite at a time.”

In the Christian life, if you are faithful in the little things, God will open doors of opportunity. There are many ways to reach out to other people. For example, you can start by teaching a Sunday school class in your church. You can help your pastor visit the sick, or those in prison. You can take food to an older person, or to someone else in need. If you are traveling away from home, you can look for ways to show kindness or tell someone about Christ. Trust the Holy Spirit and He will help you find ways to show the spirit of community in your Judea—your country.



For You To Do

- 7 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.
- a The best way you can show community to your country is to make big plans and preach to big crowds.
 - b Your Judea is your province, state, or country.
 - c You must be faithful in small things before God will use you for greater things.
- 8 Pray for the people in your country. Pray that God will use you to minister to others with the spirit of community. Write down ways you can show this spirit in the area outside your personal world. (Use your notebook.)
- 9 What does the example of Moses teach us about trusting God?

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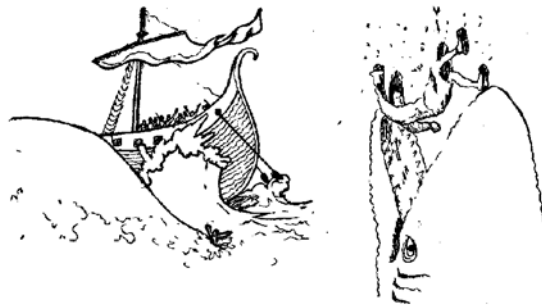
SAMARIA—YOUR SURROUNDING COUNTRIES

Objective 4. *Identify the area that can be called your “Samaria.”*

One thing is for certain—Samaria seemed a long way off for people living in Jerusalem! In fact, the Jews considered the Samaritans to be foreign people. The Jews had no dealings with the Samaritan people even though they were related. But we read in Acts 8 that after Philip was filled with the Holy Spirit, he went to Samaria to preach the good news about Christ. And Acts 10 tells us that God told Peter to go to a city in Samaria and witness to a man about Jesus. Peter didn’t want to go, but God showed him that he was to witness to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews.

There is another example like this in the Old Testament, in the book of Jonah. The prophet Jonah was a very proud and self-centered man. He received a message from the Lord to go and preach to the city of Nineveh, which was located in the country of Assyria. Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh because the people there were aliens to him.

Because Jonah was not concerned about these people, he refused to go. Instead, he went in the opposite direction on a ship. The Lord sent a great storm and the ship was about to sink. Jonah told the men on the ship that the storm had come because he had disobeyed God. He said, “Throw me into the sea, and it will calm down” (Jonah 1:12). This was done, and right away the sea was quiet.



Then the Lord sent a large fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah prayed from inside the fish and told the Lord he was sorry he had not obeyed. So the Lord had the fish spit Jonah out on dry land, and Jonah was ready to obey God. He went to wicked Nineveh and preached the Word of the Lord.

Many people repented of their sin and were saved. The Lord spared the city and taught Jonah a lesson in obedience.

God loves everyone. The Lord was merciful to the people of Nineveh, and He still wants to be merciful to all people. If we obey Him, He will help us reach people who live in countries near us. God does not favor one person over another. He will forgive all who call upon Him.

How can you share Christian community with people who live in countries near yours? First you can pray for them. You can give of your money or goods to help reach them with the gospel story. Some of you will even be able to go to them. Do not limit God. Allow Him to work out His plan in your life. You do not need a lot of money in order to win those in other places to Christ. If all Christians would obey the command of Jesus, the need would be met, and the gospel would be taken on its outward journey to the ends of the earth!



For You To Do

10 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** I can share Christian community with people in other countries by praying for them and giving money to spread the gospel.
- b** God did not care about Nineveh because the people there did not serve Him.
- c** God does not expect me to care about people unless I can speak their language.
- d** Jonah learned a lesson in obedience.

11 Is there a group of people that you consider foreigners or strangers? Who are they, and how can you help them?

.....
.....

Pray that these people will come to know God. Ask God how you can help to reach them for Him.

ENDS OF THE EARTH—YOUR WORLD

Objective 5. *Identify the meaning of “the ends of the earth” for you.*

It is certain that when you begin to care for people in your personal world, people in your country, and foreign people, you will soon have concern for the whole world. That concern includes every tribe and every nation.

The apostle Paul was the greatest missionary the world has ever known. He moved out of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and went to the ends of the earth. On each missionary trip he took he reached out further into the known world. His first journey took him into Asia Minor, near his home in Palestine. His second and third journeys took him as far as Greece. On his last journey he went all the way to distant Rome, and possibly to Spain. Truly Paul had a concern that reached to the ends of the earth—to tell everyone, everywhere, about Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). The boundaries of community are great. They are unlimited. They reach from your personal world to the ends of the earth. They touch all people everywhere. Do you understand now how you can show a biblical concern—a spirit of community? Let us reach out with arms of love and show our spirit of Christian community to the whole world.

I would like to tell you about a young woman from England who had an ends-of-the-earth idea of community. Her name was Gladys Aylward. In 1920, she was a servant to a rich family in London. However, she had a great desire to tell Chinese people about Jesus. But she didn't even know where the country of China was located.

Finally she learned that she could make the long journey to China by train. She bought a ticket and crossed Europe, then took another train through Siberia. She finally arrived in China after many days and nights of travel.

Gladys Aylward worked in China for more than 40 years telling the people about Christ. Once she stopped a prison riot. She helped many people find Jesus Christ as their Savior. She took care of many hundreds of orphans. During the Second World War she led 100 of these children to safety by taking them on foot over the mountains away from the fighting area. This little woman had a spirit of community that reached out far beyond her own city or country. Her beginning was humble, but her love was God-like. It reached from England to far off China.



For You To Do

Complete these sentences.

12 For Gladys Aylward the ends-of-the-earth was to go to

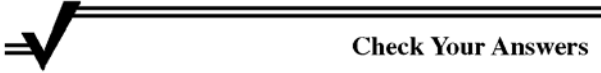
13 I can have an ends-of-the-earth spirit of community by

.....

14 In the space before each area of community listed on the left, write the number from the right that represents the group of people who live in that area.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a Samaria | 1) My compatriots |
| b Judea | 2) People in nearby countries |
| c Ends of the Earth | 3) My family and neighbors |
| d Jerusalem | 4) People in distant lands |

15 Now go back to the illustration at the beginning of this lesson. On the line under each area, write down what group of people it represents.



Check Your Answers

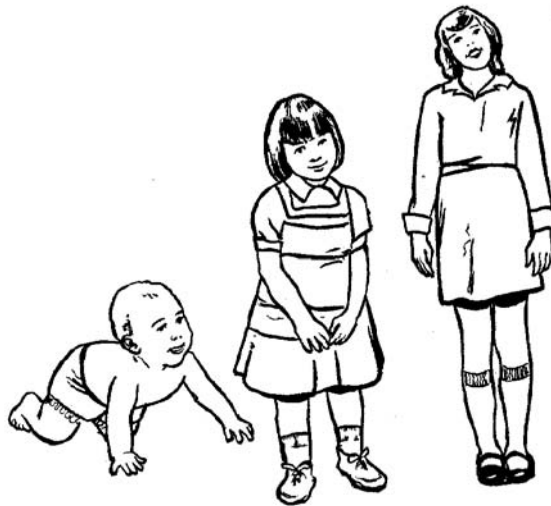
- 8 Your answer. As you pray, God will show you ways to reach out in ministry to more people.
- 1 b) does not have boundaries.
- 9 That whenever God asks us to do something, we can trust Him to help us do it.
- 2 a) anywhere.
- 10 Statements **a** and **d** are True.
- 3 Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
- 11 Your answer. You can pray for them, and ask God to show you ways to help them receive the gospel.
- 4 How the believers witnessed about Christ.
- 12 China.
- 5 Statement **b** is True.
- 13 showing love and concern for all people everywhere.
- 6 Your answer. I hope you are becoming more aware of the need to show a spirit of community and Christian love in all of your activities with other people.
- 14 **a** 2) People in nearby countries.
b 1) My compatriots.
c 4) People in distant lands.
d 3) My family and neighbors.
- 7 Statements **b** and **c** are True.
- 15 **a** *Jerusalem*: My family and neighbors.
b *Judea*: My compatriots.
c *Samaria*: People in nearby countries.
d *Ends of the earth*: People in distant lands.

Lesson
3

Growing in Community

Have you ever thought about how people grow? Babies start life just able to cry and eat. Within a year-and-a-half they are walking and talking. How is it possible? It is a miracle that most of us pay little attention to. Babies grow because they eat and they learn because those who take care of them teach them many things. Their physical and mental growth continues for many years until finally they are adults. When they become adults, we say that they are *mature*.

In lesson 2 we learned about Jesus' command to witness. In order to witness effectively, we must develop spiritually. In this lesson you will study how to become spiritually mature. Some people remain baby Christians after many years. This is not God's plan. God wants us to become mature. He wants us to grow spiritually tall, "reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature" (Ephesians 4:13). Then we will be able to grow in community with others.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Ways to Grow

- Know the Scriptures
- Think About the Lord
- Be Ruled by Christian Love
- Worship With Others

Principles for Growth

- Separation Unto God
- Separation From the World
- Tolerance and Moderation

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain ways in which you can grow in the Lord.
- Explain the place of separation, tolerance, and moderation in Christian growth.

WAYS TO GROW

Know the Scriptures

Objective 1. *State the result of reading and knowing the Scriptures.*

The Sadducees came to Jesus one day with a story they had made up. They said a certain woman married a man and he died. Then she married his brother, but he died too. This happened seven times. The Sadducees then asked Jesus whose wife this woman would be in heaven (Matthew 22:28).

The Sadducees invented this story to test Jesus. They did not believe in the resurrection. They wanted Jesus to say something against their beliefs so they could simply reject His teaching and feel good about doing so.

However, instead of answering the Sadducees, Jesus went to the root of the problem. He exposed their lack of understanding of the Scriptures. “How wrong you are! It is because you don’t know the Scriptures or God’s power” (Matthew 22:29). Notice the order Jesus used. He put knowledge of the Scriptures first, and God’s power second.

There is much to learn here. People seem to have a great desire for God’s power, but there is *not* a great desire to know the Scriptures. This is like putting the plow before the ox. It will not work. Do you want to have the power of God in your life? Then you must know and live by the teachings of the Scriptures.

The apostle Peter said, “Be like newborn babies, always thirsty for the pure spiritual milk, so that by drinking it you may grow up” (1 Peter 2:2). Just as it is necessary for babies to eat in order to grow and be healthy, we must feed on God’s Word to become mature, healthy Christians.

Psalm 119 has 176 verses. In almost all of these verses, the Scriptures are mentioned in one way or another. Among other things, these verses show the Word to be our defense against sin, our guide, our wisdom, and our joy.



If reading the Word of God is not a regular part of your life, you can ask the Lord to help you have the wisdom to read and understand the Scriptures. Sometimes we don’t do what we should just because we lack discipline. There are certain things that only God can do for me. There are other things that I must do for myself. For example, when it comes to daily prayer and Bible reading, I have to take the authority over myself and do it. This calls for an act of my will. No one is ever going to force me to do it. I must make myself do it. And as I begin to read the Word daily, I will experience the joy and satisfaction and growth that it brings.

Babies only grow as they receive proper milk and food from their parents. It is the same in the life of the believer. If you expect to grow in the Lord you have to let Him feed you. He feeds you through His Word. Plan a regular time each day for this purpose, just as you plan a regular time to eat every day. The Holy Spirit will help you understand what you read, and you will grow in the Lord.



For You To Do

- 1 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.
 - a Jesus exposed the Sadducees because they did not understand the Scriptures.
 - b God feeds us spiritually when we read the Bible.
 - c Jesus said that knowing the power of God is more important than knowing the Scriptures.
- 2 What is the result of regular Scripture reading?

.....

Think About the Lord

Objective 2. *Explain why prayer and meditation are important.*

Another aid to Christian growth is prayer and meditation, or thinking about the Lord. We need to train ourselves to think about God. We need to think about His Word, about yesterday's sermon, and about the things He has done for us. The apostle Paul, in Philippians 4:8, tells us to fill our minds with "things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable." We have a promise in Isaiah that God will keep us in perfect peace if we keep our minds on Him (Isaiah 26:3, AV). Thinking about the Lord makes our faith in Him grow.

We also need to pray that God will teach us His ways and direct our paths. He wants us to pray for a better understanding of His Word. We are instructed in Philippians 4:6 to ask God for what we need. And we read in Ephesians 6:18 to "Pray always for all God's people." When we pray for other Christians, we are showing the spirit of community towards them. We should also pray for those who don't know Christ, that they may be drawn to Him. When we pray for unbelievers, we have the spirit of community in a broader sense.



For You To Do

- 3 Why are prayer and meditation important?

.....
.....

- 4 Name two things the Bible tells us to pray about.

.....
.....

Be Ruled by Christian Love

Objective 3. Describe the new law that Jesus taught.

God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites as one of the earliest sets of rules for true community living (Exodus 20). The Ten Commandments deal with relationships between God and people, and with relationships between people. Everything the Israelites did had to be compared to these laws. Not one of them was to be disobeyed. However, Israelites found it very difficult to follow these rules.

God saw that the people who received these commandments were not strong enough to obey them. That is why He sent Jesus Christ. Read Romans 8:3 and Galatians 4:4-5. These verses show the mercy of God and His desire to have perfect communion (community) with humankind. People's relationships with others are improved when they have the right kind of relationship with God.

When I was young, I was assigned to work with an older man who was an expert in his work. But he was not an easy person to work with. I decided I would treat him with love no matter how badly he treated me. When he saw that his unpleasant way did not affect me, he changed his attitude toward me. He responded to my love. From him I learned many valuable lessons that still help me today. One of them was that no one can resist an attitude of love and concern.

When we accept Christ as our Lord, a change takes place in our lives. There is a different view of God, the Bible, and other people. Jesus does for us what the Ten Commandments, the Law, could not do. We become new beings when we enter into community with Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). He writes His law of love on our human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3). This means that a law of love has replaced the old Law. We want to obey Him because we love Him. His law of love rules our relationships with other people. Our conscience is made clean and our mind is renewed. Now we do by nature the things that are commanded by the Law. This is a wonderful way to live.



Has someone treated you badly since you became a Christian? Did you feel angry? If you allowed God's love to fill your heart, you were able to forgive the one who mistreated you. If you are a Christian, the power of God has changed your nature. His law of love becomes your rule of life and behavior. This is the way to have a spirit of community!



For You To Do

- 5 Complete the following sentences with the correct words.
- a God gave Israel a set of rules called.....
.....
 - b Jesus taught the law of
 - c It is possible to obey Christ's law because we
 - d Christ writes His law on our.....

- 6 Now that I am a Christian, it is easier to forgive someone who has wronged me because
- the Law tells me I must forgive.
 - when I became a Christian my nature was changed.

Worship With Others

Objective 4. *Explain how worshiping with others helps us to grow spiritually.*

Worshiping with other Christians will help you grow. We need to meet together to study God's Word. Regular church attendance and teaching build us up in the Lord. Sharing with others their problems and joys, and having them share ours, is a great help. A basic principle of community is that we need each other. We need to spend time with others who know and love the Lord as we do. Do you meet together with other Christians? Do you share in what they are doing? Do you share their joy when they are happy, and encourage them when they are sad? If you do, you are showing the spirit of community and love in its fullest sense.



For You To Do

- 7 Which of these statements best explains how worshiping with others helps us to grow spiritually?
- When we share the joys and sorrows of others, we realize that they need us.
 - Worshiping and sharing with other Christians gives us strength and builds us up in the Lord.

PRINCIPLES FOR GROWTH

Objective 5. *Describe the principle of separation unto God and from the world.*

As we mature in our Christian walk through studying God's Word, praying, thinking about God, worshiping Him, and loving others, God leads us into a life of *holiness*. The Bible sometimes speaks of this as *being separated*. The New Testament talks about two sides of separation. One is separation *unto God*, and the other is separation *from the world*. Both are very important.

Separation Unto God

God is calling you to be separated unto Himself. He wants you to be dedicated, set apart for His use. Romans 12:1 says, "Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him." This is the positive side of separation. Look at Acts 13:2: "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, to do the work to which I have called them." Also read Romans 1:1. In the King James translation of the Bible we read, "Paul . . . separated unto the gospel of God." Again, we notice that the separation was *unto God*.

Separation unto God calls for total dedication or commitment to Him, so that He can help us to live holy, Christ-like lives.



Separation From the World

In 2 Corinthians 6:14 we read, "Do not try to work together as equals with unbelievers, for it cannot be done. How can right and wrong be partners? How can light and darkness live together?" Here the message is that true partnership (community) cannot exist between a believer and an unbeliever. There is little basis for the spirit of community between Christians and unbelievers.

Notice the words “work together as equals,” “partners,” and “live together.” These words are the same ones used in the meaning of *community* in Lesson 1. This verse tells us not to enter into these kinds of relationships with unbelievers. It is talking about close relationships such as marriage or joining together to make money. It is not talking about daily contacts in the world.

We are often with people who have no faith in God. That is where God wants us. These people are the ones we are to win to Him. The secret in being a child of God in a wicked world is knowing God. You must allow the Holy Spirit to rule your life. You must have so much of God in you that every person knows it. You won’t even have to tell them. You are living in the world, but you are a citizen of heaven. You can be *with* unbelievers, but you must not be *like* them!

A man named George saw something different in the life of his new neighbor. He asked what it was. The neighbor said that he had asked Jesus to be his Lord. Soon George gave his life to Christ, because of his neighbor’s witness. George went to visit his mother in another town. She asked, “What has happened to you?” He told her about Jesus, and soon she, too, accepted the Lord as her Savior. They were both filled with the Holy Spirit. George’s problems hadn’t disappeared, but George had changed! When his mother saw the difference in him, she wanted what George had. Because George’s neighbor was separated unto God and from the world, two lives were changed!



For You To Do

8 Write YES in front of those activities which illustrate the principles of separation unto God or separation from the world.

- ... **a** Daily reading of the Bible
- ... **b** Choosing Christian friends for times of fellowship
- ... **c** Taking part in an activity that you think may not be pleasing to the Lord
- ... **d** Marrying someone who is not a Christian
- ... **e** Being too busy to pray regularly
- ... **f** Asking God to give you guidance
- ... **g** Showing love and concern for someone who has a need

Tolerance and Moderation

Objective 6. *Identify proper attitudes of tolerance and moderation in the life of a Christian.*

It is sometimes difficult for Christians to know the standards of behavior they should have. We should let the Bible be our guide in areas where it gives specific direction, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in other areas.

Some Christians say that we are no longer under the Law, so we are free to live according to our own standards. Others have a more *legalistic* attitude. That is, they try to gain favor with God by the things they do or don’t do. They try to make themselves acceptable to God by following a list of rules, rather than by faith in Christ. Either of these positions can be dangerous. Christianity is not a set of rules that one must follow. It is receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and allowing Him to become Lord of our lives. Jesus Himself said:

Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them but to make their teachings come true (Matthew 5:17).

When Jesus Christ is Lord of our lives, we want to do those things which are pleasing to Him. We do not want to do those things that would harm our Christian testimony. We are not bound by legalistic rules, nor do we feel that the grace of Christ permits us to do whatever pleases us. Christ's law of love helps us to practice *moderation* or *balance* in our standards of behavior.

God deals with us as individuals. He knows what we need. He will help us to be moderate, or have balance, in our Christian behavior.



Since God does deal with us as individuals, we must be careful not to judge others by our own standards. An explanation is found in Romans chapters 14 and 15, in relationship to eating certain foods and honoring certain days. However, the principles taught in these chapters apply to any other questionable areas of our lives. Here are some of these principles:

1. "Let us stop judging one another. Instead, you should decide never to do anything that would make your brother stumble or fall into sin" (Romans 14:13).
2. "We must always aim at those things that bring peace and that help strengthen one another" (Romans 14:19).
3. "The right thing to do is to keep from eating meat, drinking wine, or doing anything else that will make your brother fail. Keep what you believe about this matter, then, between yourself and God" (Romans 14:21-22).
4. "Accept one another, then, for the glory of God, as Christ has accepted you" (Romans 15:7).

These passages of Scripture make it very clear that we should be tolerant towards others whose standards of behavior are different from ours. To be tolerant means to be patient and accepting of others even when we are not in complete agreement with them.

God knows how to deal with us as individual people. He deals with us on a personal basis. He does this because He is bringing us into a closer relationship with Himself. He knows the areas in which we need help. He may require one thing of you, and something entirely different of another person. He can impress us to do certain things, and He can also impress us *not* to do other things. We should not try to make everyone do exactly as we feel God is telling us to do. We must accept other Christians as they are and expect God to lead them. We must be tolerant.

Jesus said that "God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others" (Matthew 7:2). Therefore, it is not wise to be harsh or critical in our judgment of others. Tolerance toward others is an example of the law of love and is present wherever there is a spirit of community.



For You To Do

| 9 Read the following statements and examine yourself. Write an X in the square that best indicates your attitude. | <i>YES</i> | <i>NO</i> | <i>SOMETIMES</i> |
|---|------------|-----------|------------------|
| a I am tolerant of other people’s opinions even when they are different from mine. | | | |
| b I do not judge others quickly. I try to be patient. | | | |
| c I ask the Lord to show me what He wants me to do, and then I try to do it. | | | |
| d If I feel God wants me to stop something I am doing, I obey Him. | | | |
| e I do not get upset when others feel free to do things that the Lord will not allow me to do. | | | |
| f I do not try to force upon others my opinions about what is right or wrong. | | | |

10 What two things do Romans 14:19 and Romans 15:7 tell us to do?

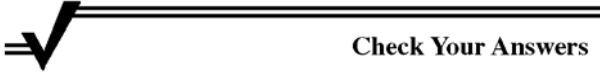
.....
.....

11 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.

- a The Bible clearly states what our behavior should be in all situations.
- b The Holy Spirit is able to show us what is right and wrong.
- c Christians should separate from other Christians whose standards are different.
- d If we judge others harshly, God will judge us harshly.
- e We should try to get other Christians to live by our standards.

12 What principle have you learned in this lesson about each of the following?

- a Christian behavior
- b Legalism
- c Tolerance



Check Your Answers

7 b) Worshiping and sharing with other Christians gives us strength and builds us up in the Lord.

1 Statements **a** and **b** are True.

8 **a** Yes.

b Yes.

c No.

d No.

e No.

f Yes.

g Yes.

2 We grow spiritually.

9 Your answer. Do you need to improve your attitude in any of these areas?

3 They help us to grow spiritually and we have a greater spirit of community.

10 Do things that make peace; accept each other.

4 Your answer. Any of the following: For God's direction; to understand God's Word; for our needs; for other Christians; for unbelievers.

11 Statements **b** and **d** are True.

5 **a** the Ten Commandments.

b love.

c love Him and want to obey Him.

d hearts.

12 Your answer. Here are some possible answers:

a We should let the Bible be our guide in areas where it gives specific direction, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in other areas.

b We should let Christ's law of love guide our actions, rather than follow a list of rules.

c We should accept others whose opinions may be different from ours, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide them.

6 b) when I became a Christian my nature was changed.

Lesson
4

Standing in Community

“Thank you, and here is your change.”

“But sir, you have given me too much change. Here, this is yours.”

“You are right. You are an honest man! There are not many people who would do that!”

“But I am a Christian, and the Bible teaches that we must always be honest!”

You probably have had an experience similar to this. Has a storekeeper ever shown surprise when you earned extra change that he gave you by mistake? Or have you in some other way shown a high Christian principle, when you could have done otherwise? This is an example of showing a true spirit of community. You were taking a stand for honesty.

In this lesson we will see what it means to take a stand. When we always stand for what is right, no matter what happens, we are standing in community.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Standing and the Word of God

Standing and Tradition

Standing and Regulations

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain the importance of taking a stand for right and against wrong.
- Describe ways you can be a witness through the observing of traditions.
- Explain why it is important to obey laws unless they oppose Christian principles.

STANDING AND THE WORD OF GOD

Objective 1. *Identify what it means to stand fast or firm in the Lord.*

Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil trick (Ephesians 6:11).

The Bible gives us this illustration of a soldier standing against an enemy, dressed in the armor provided by God.

What does it mean to stand? Does it mean just being *against* something, or does it also mean being *for* something? In most cases the Bible encourages us to take a stand *against* certain things. Certainly, when we are Christians we will be in *favor* of godly things. We will *want* to do what is right. To stand firm or fast means to obey God's will, as you have learned from the Scriptures. In some situations, you may have to stand against something that is wrong.

In the Scripture quoted above, we are told to put on God's armor. Armor in the military sense is metal clothing worn for protection. Notice that we are told why we should put on God's armor: ". . . so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks." We are not to be fooled by him.

God's armor is given to you for your protection. Paul mentions every piece of armor to illustrate how completely prepared you are to fight the enemy. The armor is for protection so that you can stand firm. This means that you will not deny what you believe.

Standing fast is being firm. It is deciding that a bad act or teaching will not influence your life. It is putting into practice good acts or teachings that will strengthen your Christian life.

We could illustrate this kind of action by a good Christian habit—going to church. You just know that when it is time to go to church to worship the Lord, you will do so. You do not have to decide this over and over. It is already the pattern for your life. For you it is the natural thing to do.

However, some situations in life call for standing *against* something. "And after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground. So stand ready. . ." (Ephesians 6:13-14).

In Daniel 3, we read that the king built a statue and said that all the people in Babylon should bow down and worship it. Three young men refused. Even after they were told that the penalty was that they would be thrown into a furnace, or oven, they would not change their action. The king became very angry. He had the fire in the furnace made hotter than ever before. The young men had taken a stand and refused to change it. They were thrown into the furnace. It seemed like certain death.

However, God did not let them die. He kept them from burning, which greatly amazed the king and his court. He called the young men out and said to them, "There is no other god who can rescue like this" (Daniel 3:29). These young men had taken a stand. They did not care what happened. They would not bow down and worship a false god. They were willing to burn rather than to bow. Do you have that kind of determination to serve God? Because these young men took a stand, the king and his people saw the great power of God and were amazed!



Your faith must be from the heart. You must have a desire to serve God more than anything else. When your friends see your spirit of community and your firm stand for what is right, they will respect you, and they will be aware of God's power in your life. When some practice would cause you to deny a part of your Christianity, make a decision to stand firm for what is right!



For You To Do

- 1 *Standing* means being against anything that
 - a) does not start in the church.
 - b) is against what the Bible teaches.
- 2 Taking a stand requires us
 - a) always to be against something.
 - b) often to be in favor of something.
- 3 The story of the three young men in Daniel 3 teaches us that we should
 - a) obey God more than people.
 - b) obey our rulers no matter what they demand.
- 4 We are taking a firm stand when we
 - a) obey God's Word even when it is not easy to do so.
 - b) do that which will cause the least difficulty.

STANDING AND TRADITION

Objective 2. *Explain how you can use tradition in your community to honor the Lord.*

A tradition is a belief or custom handed down from one generation to another. Although it is not always written down, it is very important to the members of the community. Many traditions are good and useful. They help people to remember their past. Other traditions are wrong for Christians. There may be times when traditions would lead us to do something that the Bible teaches against. At such times, we must take a stand for what is right.

For example, in some parts of the world relatives who have died many years ago are highly respected. This is not in itself a bad thing. We should remember with respect our relatives who have died. But we should not respect them to the point of worshiping them. When we worship our ancestors, we are disobeying God's Word. In Exodus 20:3, God said, "Worship no god but me." Those who have died have lived their lives and gone. We must leave them with God. Now we should live in such a way that we are sure of our own spiritual condition when we face death.

In some Latin American countries it is the custom to honor young people when they turn 15 years old. Usually a party is given to celebrate the occasion. However, many times things take place at these celebrations which are not pleasing to God.



José was a Christian. His daughter would soon have her fifteenth birthday. It was customary for men in his position to have a big party for such an occasion, and José's daughter would be disappointed if the party were not held. José rented a suitable place and invited a Christian singing group to entertain the guests. The evening was a great success. José's daughter was happy, and a Christian witness was shown. This was José's way of using a tradition as a Christian testimony.



For You To Do

- 5 Traditions are
- a) beliefs or customs handed down from one generation to the next.
 - b) written family laws that must be obeyed.
- 6 Christians should
- a) try to find ways of using good traditions for a Christian witness.
 - b) have nothing to do with traditions in their community.
- 7 a What is one tradition practiced in your community?
-
- b Is there a way that you can observe it without destroying your Christian testimony? Explain.
-
- c Are there traditional practices in your community which are not suitable for a Christian? What should you do about them?
-

STANDING AND REGULATIONS

Objective 3. *Identify ways to show Christian attitudes toward community functions.*

Governments, rulers, and authorities are given to us by God. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 we are instructed to pray for those who are in authority over us. As we pray for them, God will help them to be a blessing.

The Bible also teaches us to honor and obey the laws our rulers make. We are told in Titus 3:1 "to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, and to be ready to do good in every way." A Christian will obey government regulations even if he or she personally disagrees with them, unless they are contrary to Christian teaching and oppose God's Word.

Governments must decide which days are official holidays. Many holidays are connected with the religions of a country. Sometimes celebrations will be for days that are not special for Christians. Do not allow this to bother you. You can honor God every day of the year. When these

holidays come along, take the opportunity to rest and thank the Lord for shedding His light into your heart.

In some areas, holidays provide special opportunities for the Christian. People are in the streets and they will read gospel literature. If you are allowed to do so in your area, use these holidays to give out literature and witness to people who need Christ. It may even be possible to preach the Word in public places, if you are permitted to do so. Turn non-Christian days into workdays for the Lord!



Sometimes we may need to adjust our plans or schedules to meet government requirements. For example, in one country the government is making a practice of having political functions on Sunday mornings. Attendance is required for everyone. The churches must cooperate. What can the churches do in this case? God is not limited to being worshiped on Sundays. Most of the churches have a Saturday evening service. In this way Christians obey the law and still have a special time to worship the Lord.



For You To Do

- 8** Laws should be obeyed
 - a) under all circumstances.
 - b) unless they oppose God's Word.
- 9** Legal holidays should be
 - a) observed only when there is a religious reason for them.
 - b) looked upon as an opportunity to witness.
- 10** When government functions affect church functions, the Christian should
 - a) cooperate with the government as much as possible.
 - b) pay no attention to the demands of the government.

If we want our Christian testimony to be effective in our community, we must stand firmly for what is right. As much as possible, we should be loyal citizens and show respect for our government and our leaders. When regulations go against our Christian principles, we must pray and ask God for wisdom to know what to do. Then we must be willing to take our stand for God and leave the results to Him. Your testimony will show to others God's mighty power!



Check Your Answers

- 6 a) try to find ways of using good traditions for a Christian witness.
- 1 b) is against what the Bible teaches.
- 7 a, b, c Your answer. Do you understand why we must take a stand against those traditions that are ungodly?
- 2 b) often to be in favor of something.
- 8 b) unless they oppose God's Word.
- 3 a) obey God more than people.
- 9 b) looked upon as an opportunity to witness.
- 4 a) obey God's Word even when it is not easy to do so.
- 10 a) cooperate with the government as much as possible.
- 5 a) beliefs or customs handed down from one generation to the next.

Lesson
5

Building in Community

Two men are digging a ditch. A third man walks by, and asks a question:

“What are you doing with the shovel, sir?”

“Oh, I’m just digging this ditch.”

“And you, sir?”

“Well, I’m building a beautiful school!”

Do you see the difference in each man’s outlook or attitude? One man looked at his job as hard work. He couldn’t see beyond the job he had to do at the moment. The other man was looking ahead. He saw the beautiful school that was going to stand on that spot.

Are you like the first man, or the second one? Do you see a beautiful building, or just mud to dig? In this lesson we will consider the foundation on which we must build and how to build on that foundation. Let’s be builders in our community!



In this lesson you will study . . .

Building on a Proper Foundation
Building Together
Building Bridges

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain the foundation upon which you should be building.
- Explain the importance of building with other believers.
- Describe the difference between building “bridges” and building “walls.”

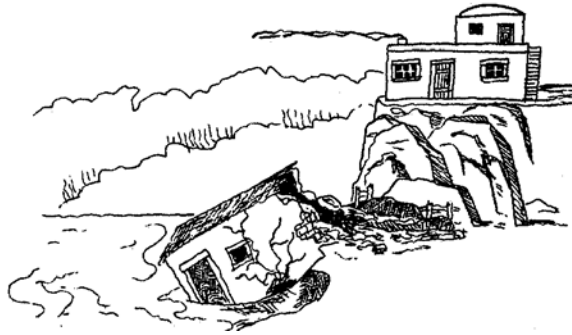
BUILDING ON A PROPER FOUNDATION

Objective 1. *Describe the proper foundation on which to build your life.*

Your Christian life is very much like a building. Beneath every great building there must be a solid foundation. Foundations are usually made of stone or cement. They support the whole building. If there is no foundation, the building will fall down. It is the same way in the Christian life. Your spirit of community must be based on the solid rock, Jesus Christ. He is your foundation. "For God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

A biblical foundation is necessary for spiritual growth. In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus told the story of two builders. One built his house upon a rock. That is to say, he had a good, solid foundation. The other man built his house on the sand, without a proper foundation. The floods came and the storm raged. The house on the sand fell. The house on the rock did not fall.

In this story, Jesus said the wise man who built on a rock is like a person who obeys the words of Christ. The rock that he or she builds upon is obedience to the teachings of Christ. The man who built on sand is like a person who does not obey the words of Christ. The sand that he or she builds upon is disobedience to the teachings of Christ.



It is one thing to say we believe in Christ and quite another thing to walk in obedience to His words. Jesus said, "Not everyone who calls me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only those who do what my Father in heaven wants them to do" (Matthew 7:21).

You need a solid foundation in your life to support you when the storms come. They come in many different ways: the death of a loved one, sickness, loss of possessions, or temptation. When we have built upon the foundation of obedience to God, we have a clear conscience and we can have confidence that He will help us in the time of storm. In 1 John 3:21-22 we read these words:

If our conscience does not condemn us, we have courage in God's presence. We receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him.

Only our faith and our foundation in the Lord and His Word will keep us during difficult times. Is He your foundation? Are you obedient to His Word?



For You To Do

- 1 Complete the following sentences with the best word or words:
 - a If there is not a solid the building will fall down.
 - b Those who build upon the rock the teachings of Christ.

- c A house built upon the sand will during a storm.
 - d The foundation upon which we should build our lives is
- 2 Think back over your life since you accepted Christ as your Savior. Can you say you have been walking in obedience to Christ?.....

If your answer to the last question is *yes*, you are laying a solid foundation. If not, ask God to help you to obey Him.

BUILDING TOGETHER

Objective 2. *Name attitudes of believers that show the spirit of community.*

After the foundation is laid, we can start the actual building. Now comes the thing that will be seen. We are not only building as individuals, but we are also a part of the universal church of Jesus Christ—all believers together being built into a complete structure, with Jesus Christ as its foundation. The Bible tells us to “Come as living stones, and let yourselves be used in building the spiritual temple” (1 Peter 2:5). And in Ephesians 2:20-22 we read these words:

You, too, are built upon the foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, the cornerstone being Christ Jesus himself. He is the one who holds the whole building together and makes it grow into a sacred temple dedicated to the Lord. In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through His Spirit.

We are all stones in the same building. The Scriptures give us much instruction about our relationships with each other. Here are some words of advice given by the apostle Paul to some of the churches:

Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. Do your best to preserve the unity which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together (Ephesians 4:2-3).

Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you (Ephesians 4:29).

Be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32).

Help carry one another’s burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

As often as we have the chance, we should do good to everyone, and especially to those who belong to our family in the faith (Galatians 6:10).

And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity (Colossians 3:14).

These verses make it clear that the community of believers has a great responsibility towards each other. Among believers, more than any place else, the spirit of community should always be seen—fellowship, communion, partnership, love, concern, giving, and receiving. The early church practiced this kind of community spirit (Acts 2:43-47).

When we build in community with others, we must be *adaptable*. I did not say *changeable*! An adaptable person is one who can fit into whatever ways are most suitable to meet the needs of others with a common goal. For example, a friend that you are witnessing to asks you to go to the zoo with him on Sunday evening. You have a habit of going to church on Sunday evening. So you suggest to your friend that you will go to the zoo with him earlier on Sunday, and then you would like to take

him to church with you. In this way, you have pleased your friend by sharing in a wholesome time of fellowship, and you have an opportunity to win him to the Lord.

If we want to win our community for Christ, we must have a plan. But our plan should always be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. If He wants to change it, allow Him to do so.

The city of Seoul, Korea has a population of several million people. There is a church in Seoul whose members minister to many thousands of people each week. But their building will not hold that many people, so they have learned to adapt to meet the needs of the people.

In Seoul it is common for people in the different sections of town to gather for public meetings in small “town halls.” Each section has its own leaders who meet with the people of that section. The pastor of the church has followed the same practice in ministering to the people. They could not all come to the church, so he has taken the church to them. He has *adapted* to meet their needs.

If three people live in the same part of the city, one of them opens his or her home for a weeknight meeting. They invite their friends and neighbors. As people find the Lord, the group grows. When there are 12 people, the group divides. Now there are hundreds of such small groups throughout the city, reaching 45,000 people every week.



Too often we forget that the church is not a building—it is people. It is important to worship together, but we need to be willing to adapt when necessary in order to reach people everywhere with the gospel.



For You To Do

3 Name six attitudes that we should have towards other people.

.....
.....

4 Now draw a circle around any of these attitudes that you need to develop in your own life.

5 Being adaptable means changing your method of doing something

- a) without changing your basic purpose.
- b) by changing your basic purpose.

6 If you want to win someone to the Lord you should

- a) wait until they go to church with you.
- b) make opportunities to witness to them wherever you are.

- 7 An adaptable spirit is one that is
- a) selfish.
 - b) unselfish.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Objective 3. *Identify the difference between “building bridges” and “building walls.”*

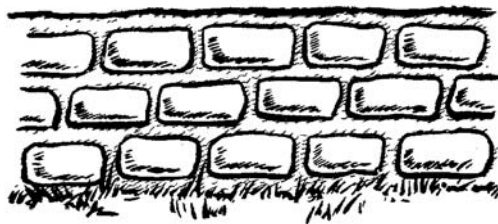
Bricks and stones have been used as building materials for many years. The same bricks or stones that can be used to build churches, schools, and hospitals can also be used for building prisons. The same pieces used for building bridges can also be used for building walls. The difference is in the plan of the builder.

Bridges make it possible for people to move in two directions to cross over barriers. They are a means of having community. They bring people together. Remember in our first lesson that one of the basic meanings of *koinonia* indicates a two-way relationship—a giving and receiving relationship. Bridges or walls can be built without the use of bricks or stones. We build bridges by showing friendship, helping people, and being available when they need us. Or we build walls by holding back our friendship and closing ourselves off from others.

Christians should try to have friends on all levels of society. We are building walls when we consider ourselves better than others. We are also building walls when we refuse to reach out to those whom we consider to be on a higher level than ours. Whether you are a farmer, a laborer, a clerk, or a government official, you can have friends on different levels than your own.

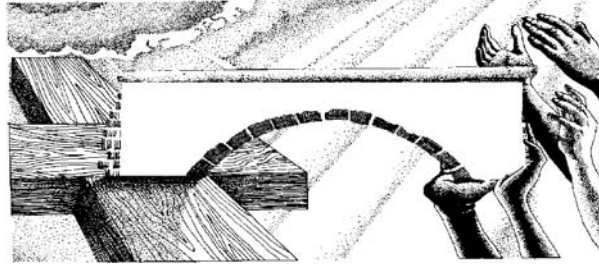
Then you should try to win them to the Lord. I have never won a man to the Lord without first of all making him my friend.

Walls divide and separate people. Probably you have read about the Great Wall of China, which was built many hundreds of years ago and still stands. It was built to keep some people out and to keep others inside the wall. It is safer to build walls than bridges. When we build bridges we take a chance on being hurt or rejected. But Jesus has promised to be with us, and He will bless us when we reach out to people. He said in John 16:33, “Be brave! I have defeated the world!” He did not pray that God would take us out of the world, but that He would keep us close to Himself and safe in the world (John 17:15).



Sometimes walls must be broken down before we can reach others. There are walls because of differences between people, such as their level in society, or race, color, or customs. Jesus had to break down some walls when He witnessed to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:7-9).

We must continually choose between building walls or bridges in our Christian community and in our larger community in the world. Are you building bridges or walls? Are you showing a true spirit of love to your community? Are you winning the lost to Christ by first of all winning them to yourself? Your community will know the true meaning of community spirit when you minister love.



For You To Do

8 Beside each statement, write **W** if the action would build a *wall*, and **B** if it would build a *bridge*.

- **a** Take care of someone who is sick.
- **b** Take someone to church.
- **c** Refuse when people different from you ask you to join them in a community project.
- **d** Clean the house of a sick person.
- **e** Visit people in a hospital or a prison.
- **f** Avoid people who are not on your level.
- **g** Invite someone to your home for fellowship.
- **h** Talk about people who have hurt your feelings.

Now that you have completed the first five lessons, you are ready to answer Section 1 of your student report. Review Lessons 1-5, then follow the instructions in your student report. After you have completed Section 1, send your answer sheets to your instructor, and continue with your study of the remaining lessons.



Check Your Answers

- 5 a) without changing your basic purpose.
- 1 a foundation
b obey
c fall
d Jesus Christ.
- 6 b) make opportunities to witness to them wherever you are.
- 2 Your answer.
- 7 b) unselfish.
- 3 Possible answers are: gentleness, patience, humility, tolerance, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, a tender heart.
- 8 a Bridge.
b Bridge.
c Wall.
d Bridge.
e Bridge.
f Wall.
g Bridge.
h Wall.
- 4 Your answer. The Holy Spirit will help you to develop right attitudes.

Lesson
6

Learning From Jesus and His Community

A mother and her small son are talking.

“Mother, where did you live when Jesus was a boy?”

“Why, I wasn’t alive then, son. Jesus lived a long time ago—almost 2,000 years ago.”

“Oh, I thought He lived when you were little. You always seem to be talking about Him.”

It is a wonderful thing to be known as someone who is always talking about Jesus. It is clear that the things we talk about the most are the things that are closest to our hearts.

In this lesson you will study about the childhood, ministry, and influence that Jesus had when He lived on earth, and the influence He is still having. He is the greatest teacher of community who ever lived. Following Him closely will help us to live more like Him.



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Childhood of Jesus

Jesus’ Relationship to His Community

Ministering to Needs

Submitting to Authority

The Influence of Jesus

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain ways Jesus showed the spirit of community.
- Describe Jesus’ influence in the world from His own time to the present.
- Desire to be involved in your community as Jesus was in His.

THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

Objective 1. *Describe ways in which Jesus was involved in His community during childhood.*

Even as a child Jesus was involved in the activities of His community. His parents were Jewish people who followed Jewish customs. Luke 2:21 tells how they took Jesus to be circumcised and named when He was a week old. By doing this, they conformed to the teaching of the Old Testament. Circumcision was an important tradition in the Jewish community. It was a physical sign of God's covenant (agreement) with the nation of Israel (Genesis 17:9-14). It was right for Jesus' parents to follow this tradition.

The time of Jesus' dedication was a happy time for His parents, Mary and Joseph. They made the trip to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. You can read about the history of this ceremony in Exodus 13:1, 2 and Leviticus 12:3, 8. While in Jerusalem, Jesus' parents sacrificed two doves or pigeons according to the Law of Moses (Luke 2:22-24). Again, we see that His parents did what was expected of them as devout Jewish people. They identified with their community.

At the time of Jesus' dedication, an old man named Simeon was waiting for the Lord to send the Messiah. In Luke 2:27 it says, "when the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms." He blessed Him, saying that Jesus was the Messiah and light to the Gentiles. He also prophesied about Jesus' ministry.

Next a woman named Anna came into the temple, and she also began to praise the Lord for sending this child to lead and show the way to freedom. Their expressions of joy at seeing Jesus confirm that God's will was done. God was pleased by this act of following the culture and religious tradition.



Joseph and Mary were ordinary people chosen by God to be the earthly parents of Jesus. We are told very little about Jesus' childhood. It appears that He was raised in a normal way. The Bible does not tell us anything more about Jesus until He was 12 years old. At that time, as they did each year, Jesus' family took a long journey to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, which was a sacred Jewish holy day.

Read the entire story of Jesus in the temple in Luke 2:41-51. When the feast ended, Jesus' family started home, along with others of their community. After a day of traveling, they realized that Jesus was not with them. Mary and Joseph were very tired and worried as they searched for Jesus. When they found Him, they still did not understand why He had stayed behind. But He explained, "Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). Even at this early age, Jesus was aware of His mission to His community and the world.

Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents and “was obedient to them” (Luke 2:51). Jesus submitted to the authority of His parents—the Creator submitting to part of His creation. Truly this is amazing! Luke 2:52 is the key verse to understanding Jesus in His community: “Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and men.” He grew physically, mentally, and socially. He gained favor with God *and* people. He was in touch with God and with His community.



For You To Do

- 1 Jesus was taken to the temple because He was
 - a) different from other Jewish children.
 - b) presented to God just like the other Jewish children.
- 2 Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem every year because
 - a) it was the custom to attend the feast there.
 - b) they liked to visit friends there.
- 3 The Bible indicates that as He grew, Jesus was
 - a) well accepted by His community.
 - b) not a part of the community.
- 4 We know that Jesus
 - a) never let people tell Him what to do.
 - b) obeyed those who were over Him.

JESUS' RELATIONSHIP TO HIS COMMUNITY

Ministering to Needs

Objective 2. Name events in the life of Jesus that show how He was involved in His community.

Jesus' ministry began when He was about 30 years old. During His three years of ministry, He was constantly involved with other people in His community.

Jesus had His closest fellowship with His 12 disciples. He spent much time training them. The disciples and Jesus lived in very close communion during the three years of His ministry. They even shared a common purse or expense fund (John 12:6). They experienced true community living.

Jesus also had other followers who were in communion with Him. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were His close friends. On one occasion Jesus sent out about 70 men into the towns around Him to prepare people for His visit (Luke 10:1-12). Many others are mentioned in the Scriptures who loved Him and had community with Him.

It is important to note that Jesus began His public ministry in His home province, Galilee. He ministered to the needs of people and healed the sick. Blind, lame, deaf, demon possessed, and people with every other sickness were completely cured. “As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36).

Many times Jesus told lepers who were healed to go and show themselves to the priests and offer the proper sacrifices according to the Law. He said, “Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true” (Matthew 5:17).

We know that Jesus associated with people in all levels of society and in all aspects of life. He attended a wedding along with His mother and disciples in Cana of Galilee. There He began to show an interest in the problems of others, and He performed a miracle to help them (John 2:1-11). In Matthew 9:9-11 it is recorded that Jesus sat to eat with tax collectors and sinners. At other times He sat with the Pharisees (Luke 7:36; 11:37). The Gospel of John tells us about a Samaritan woman with whom Jesus talked (John 4:1-30).

Jesus Himself expressed His ministry with these words from the book of Isaiah. (See Isaiah 61:1-2.)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save people (Luke 4:18-19).

On two occasions Jesus fed the multitudes. (See Matthew 14 and 15.) He was concerned with the earthly condition of mankind. He pitied mankind in their poverty. In Matthew 25:31-40, Jesus talked about the final judgment. He said that as often as you have helped the poor and visited the sick and imprisoned, you did it for Him. If you have failed to do this, you have failed to minister unto Him.



We can say then that Jesus came to *fulfill* the Law. He came to bring a new day to His people, and to all people who would follow Him. His purpose was not to enforce a list of laws. He came to write the Spirit of the Law on the hearts and minds of people. His death and resurrection completed this. Has Jesus' ministry affected your life? Are you in fellowship with Him? Pray and ask Him to take your life into His control. He will help you to minister in your community just as He did in His.



For You To Do

- 5 Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.
 - a Jesus ministered only in His hometown of Nazareth.
 - b Jesus ministered to people from all levels of society.
 - c Jesus observed the laws of His community.
 - d Jesus did not get involved with ungodly people.
 - e When we help those in need, it is the same as doing it for Christ.
- 6 Name three ways in which Jesus showed the spirit of community.

.....

.....

.....

Submitting to Authority

Objective 3. Give an example that shows that Jesus submitted to those in authority.

Although Jesus was the Son of God, He accepted the authority or rule of those in power in His community. For example, we read in Matthew 17:24-27 that He submitted to payment of the temple tax. To submit means “to surrender or yield.” Note that Jesus did not really feel obligated to pay this tax. We know this because of the way He discussed the matter with His disciple Peter. But He did not want to offend the people. He told Peter to go fishing and he would find enough money in the mouth of a fish to pay the tax.

On another occasion, Jesus did not accept a custom that was contrary to the will of God. Moneychangers were doing business in the temple court known as the *Court of the Gentiles* (Matthew 21:12). This was the only place a seeking Gentile could worship God. How could people pray when the buyers and sellers were making all kinds of noise? They couldn’t. Also, the moneychangers were taking advantage of the poor. They were charging too much interest to change foreign money for money used in the temple. They were also keeping sincere seekers from finding God. They had violated Isaiah 56:7: “My Temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations.” In this instance Jesus was more concerned that His Father’s will be accomplished. He acted *against* human customs because He was obeying a *higher authority* (Acts 5:29).

Jesus is the perfect example of one who showed the spirit of community. Yet He did not allow people’s customs to overrule God’s will.



For You To Do

- 7 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a Jesus did not feel obliged to pay the temple tax, but He did so because He didn’t want to offend people.
 - b Jesus ate with the tax collectors because He loved them and wanted to forgive their sin.
 - c Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the temple because they were not paying taxes.
 - d Jesus did not usually obey authorities in His community because He was the Son of God.
 - 8 Name one time that Jesus submitted to those in authority.
-

THE INFLUENCE OF JESUS

Objective 4. Describe ways that Jesus has influenced mankind and their community.

True Christianity brings freedom. Jesus said, “If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32). “If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free” (John 8:36). Christianity frees people from superstitions and bondage to sin. It puts within them the desire and ability to live above sin.

The ministry of Jesus still has an influence on our world. Jesus raised women to new heights of respect. He highly honored His mother. Even on the cross, He was concerned about her. He said to Mary, “He is your son,” and to John, “She is your mother” (John 19:26-27). After that, John took Mary to live in his home and cared for her.

Luke 7:36-39 tells us of a woman who came and anointed the feet of Jesus. He did not turn her away even though she had been a sinful woman. Instead, Jesus forgave her sin and changed her life.

He honored her for her ministry to Him. Another time, in Samaria, He ministered to a woman who was an outcast, and her life was changed. Today, in many places where the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, women are given great love, respect, and honor.



The life and ministry of Jesus has greatly influenced the whole world. Think of the way the western world measures time. Years are numbered in B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (after Christ).

God started the seven-day week. In His creation of the world, He rested on the seventh day and commanded that it be kept holy and used as a day of rest. The day of rest changed after Jesus came. He arose from the dead on the first day of the week. Now many people in the world accept Sunday as their day of rest and worship.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

Many of the highest standards of living in the world are enjoyed where the gospel can be preached freely. Our modern system of law has its roots in the Scriptures. The desire that moves many people to work hard is based on biblical teaching.

One of the most important concerns of Bible believing Christians has been to teach people to read. Why? So that they could read the Bible for themselves. Christian missionaries have put many languages into writing for the first time. Missionaries in many countries of the world have started schools, so that boys and girls could learn to read. These schools have blessed many communities throughout the world.

The influence of Christianity has been great upon modern people and their world. Religion enslaves people; true Christianity frees them. When Christ died, His teaching did not stop. You are an extension of His ministry—you represent Christ to the world. When you show true Christian community, the world is better. In the next lesson we will discuss some ways you can extend Christ’s ministry in your community.



For You To Do

9 Name two ways the world would be different if Jesus had not come.

.....

.....

10 List two influences of Christianity on women.

.....
.....

11 State one way in which Christianity has changed you as an individual.

.....



Check Your Answers

- 6** There could be many answers. Some possible answers are: He shared money with the disciples; He ate with sinners; He healed the sick; He fed the multitudes; He attended happy occasions such as weddings.
- 1** b) presented to God just like the other Jewish children.
- 7** Statements **a** and **b** are True.
- 2** a) it was the custom to attend the feast there.
- 8** When He paid the temple tax.
- 3** a) well accepted by His community.
- 9** Your answer. Any of the many ways mentioned in this lesson, and other ways as well. Can you see how your own world would be different if He had not come? Aren't you glad He came?
- 4** b) obeyed those who were over Him.
- 10** Possible answers: Women are given greater love, honor, and respect where the gospel is preached. They are set free from sin and superstition. They may have greater opportunities for schooling.
- 5** Statements **b**, **c**, and **e** are True.
- 11** Your answer.

Lesson
7

Shining in Your Community

In the Panama Canal Museum, there is an old signal light. It was made in France in the 1800s and taken to Panama when the French were trying to build an overland canal. They were unable to continue the construction of the canal because of sickness and lack of money. However, the old light stayed on. It served for many years as a signal for ships at sea.

Inside the light is a place for a small kerosene lamp. Surrounding the lamp are rows of cut glass in long narrow strips which serve as reflectors. There are perhaps 800 reflectors around the lamp. They have no light in themselves, but they reflect and send out the light of the lamp. And so, the tiny light from the kerosene lamp is multiplied many hundreds of times to make a brilliant, shining light. For many years, ships and boats were guided to shore by this faraway light. It showed them the way to safety.



In the same way, we reflect the light of Jesus Christ to the world. The Bible compares a Christian to both light and salt. In this lesson you will see how you can be light and salt to your community. You will see that having your mind influenced by Christ will help you to reflect His love to the world.

In this lesson you will study. . .

Being a Light to Your Community

Being Salt in Your Community

Having a Renewed Mind

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe ways that salt and light can be compared to qualities in a Christian's life.
- Explain the results of having a renewed mind.

BEING A LIGHT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Objective 1. *Describe ways a Christian can reflect the light of Jesus.*

Jesus said, “I am the light for the world” (John 9:5). He also said, “You are like light for the whole world . . . your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14, 16). We have no light in ourselves, but we reflect the light of Jesus, much as the reflectors in the old signal light in Panama reflected light from the lamp.

One of the purposes of light is to shine on paths to make it possible for people to see and walk safely. The Bible says, “Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105). People may not read God’s Word, but they observe our lives. As we study the Word and walk in its light, others will be better able to see the right path. We will be serving as reflectors of Christ’s light and helping others find the way to Christ.



Another purpose of light is to warn of danger. Lighthouses are built to warn ships of rocks beneath the water, or of rocky coasts. There are many such lights on the shores of the English Channel. Christians serve as lights to warn of the dangers of sin. Another Bible verse says, “I keep your law in my heart, so that I will not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11). Not only does God’s Word help us to avoid sin, but also it is reflected from our lives to warn others. Often it is necessary for us to give a warning against sin.

Light also makes it possible for people to see things as they really are. Hebrews 4:12-13 says:

The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of man’s heart. There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes.

When our hearts are open to the Word, it causes us to see ourselves as God sees us. In turn, when people who are not Christians look at our lives, it should cause them to recognize their sin and their need for the transforming power of Jesus. “You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky, as you offer them the message of life” (Philippians 2:15-16).



For You To Do

1 Name three purposes of light given in this lesson.

.....

.....

.....

2 Apply each of these purposes to our responsibility as Christians.

.....

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.....

BEING SALT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Objective 2. *State how a Christian can be like salt in his or her community.*

You are like salt for all mankind. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it (Matthew 5:13).

One function or purpose of salt is to purify. To be pure means, “to contain nothing that does not properly belong.” When salt is used to purify, it destroys those things that do not belong.

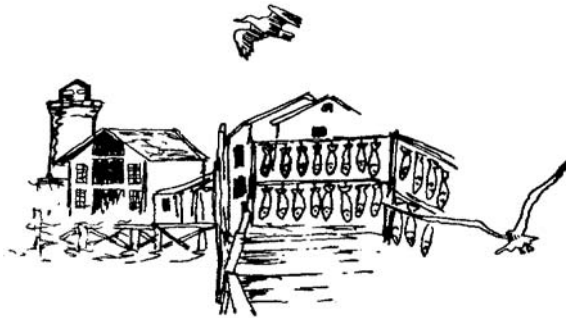
Salt water is often used as a home remedy for removing infection or swelling. Once I had a badly infected toe. It was red, swollen, and very painful. My wife suggested that I soak the toe in very hot salted water. I didn’t like doing it, but I found that it helped a great deal, and the toe got better. You might say that the salt *purified* the toe.



Purity is a virtue or quality that Christians are to show to their community. To be pure means that our lives do not contain anything unholy. By being pure ourselves, we can influence our community towards purity. The spirit of the world is trying to lower the level of honesty and moral goodness. The Christian holds high the standard of purity in speech, behavior, and thought. Sin is like an infection. We are to act as a healing agent to destroy it and to keep it from spreading. When we speak out against sin, we are serving as salt in our community.

Salt is also used to preserve. For example, we use it to preserve fish and meat. This keeps the fish or meat from getting rotten. I was born on the island of Newfoundland. A common meal there is a “salt meat dinner.” This name is used because salt was used to preserve the beef.

Newfoundland is also a great fishing country. I can remember visiting the fishermen’s docks where they have tons of fish packed in salt. After much time the salt preserves the fish and it will not spoil. Then it is packed to be sold.



In both of these cases, the salt preserves the meat so it can be eaten later. The meat keeps its natural qualities. It does not lose its flavor. The Christian is to be the salt of the earth. He is to be a preserving agent in the world. In certain people's company, it is easy to be good. They are good people. Others have a bad influence. A Christian must influence others for good. He or she must be a preserving agent, and make it easier for others to be good in an evil world.

The most common quality of salt is its ability to flavor. It has flavor in itself, but salt's best use is to bring out the flavor of food. Christianity is to life what salt is to food. It flavors life. Take Christianity and its influence out of life and you have a very dull life with no meaning or purpose. Christianity gives flavor and meaning to life—it gives us something to live for.

We Christians should be pure ourselves and influence others to be pure. We should do all in our power to preserve that, which is right and good. Our own lives should show to others that Christianity gives purpose to life. Then we are serving as salt, as Jesus said we would.



For You To Do

- 3 Fill in the blanks.
 - a Infection is like.....
 - b In a sinful world, the Christian must be
 - c A pure Christian is like because he or she helps to purify his or her community.
- 4 Name three functions of salt.
.....
.....
.....
- 5 Apply each of these functions to our responsibility as Christians.
.....
.....
.....

HAVING A RENEWED MIND

Objective 3. *Identify attitudes of a renewed mind.*

We have just learned that we have no light of our own—we simply reflect Christ's light. Neither do we have power to preserve, purify, or flavor our world. The power comes from God, who gives us wisdom to use His power for the good of others.

It is the same with your mind. You cannot really understand how it works—only God can understand it. Therefore, the more your mind or thoughts are yielded to God, the more He can influence your mind.

Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind."

A transformation or complete change takes place in us when we find the Lord. Everything takes on new life. We see things differently. We think different thoughts. Our mind is renewed. That means it is fresh and clean, like a new mind. God is now in control of our thoughts and ideas.

We need to get into the habit of allowing God to influence us through our minds. Allow God to impress your mind with His thoughts. As you pray, you will become sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He will give you wisdom in your relationships with others. As you follow His leading, your mind will be transformed and renewed, and you will truly be salt and light to your community.

In 1 Corinthians 2:16 the apostle Paul says, “We, however, have the mind of Christ.” He also says in Philippians 2:5, “The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had.” Then he goes on to tell about the attitude Christ had. Read Philippians 2:5-11, then study the chart below until you understand the attitudes of Christ and God’s response to those attitudes.

| ACTION OF JESUS | HIS STATE OF MIND | GOD’S RESPONSE |
|--|-------------------|--|
| He gave up all He had (v.7). | Submissive | God raised Him to the highest place (v.9). |
| He took the nature of a servant (v.7). | Humble | God gave Him the name greater than any other name (v.9). |
| He walked the path of obedience (v.8). | Obedient | God gave Him a place of honor (vs.10-11). |

Do you have the kind of mind Christ had? Are you submissive, humble, and obedient? Ask the Lord to help you have a renewed mind—the mind of Christ.

Having His mind will help you relate His love and concern to your community.



For You To Do

- 6 Write down an example of how you can be
 - a submissive.
 - b humble.
 - c obedient.
- 7 Do you need to be more
 - a submissive? Yes . . . No . . . Sometimes . . .
 - b humble? Yes . . . No . . . Sometimes . . .
 - c obedient? Yes . . . No . . . Sometimes . . .
- 8 How does a renewed mind make us more effective?

.....

.....



Check Your Answers

- 5 A Christian should be a healing agent to those around him or her, he or she should preserve that which is right, and he or she should show how Christ gives meaning to life.
- 1 To help us see our path; to warn of danger; to help us see things as they really are.
- 6 Your answer. Were you able to think of examples for all three?
- 2 We reflect Christ's light to help others find the way to Him, to warn them of the dangers of sin, and to help them see sin as it really is.
- 7 Your answer. You can improve your attitude by practicing these three qualities more.
- 3
 - a sin.
 - b pure.
 - c salt.
- 8 When my mind is renewed, I have the attitudes of Christ, and I can influence others to follow Him.
- 4 To purify, preserve, and flavor.

Lesson
8

Belonging in the Church Community

Chee Kim was an orphan. Although he was only six years old, he lived in the streets of Hong Kong. He didn't belong to anyone.

One day a kind man met Chee Kim and took him to a home where many other boys and girls lived. Here he was given good care, and he was taught about Jesus. Soon he learned to read and to write his own name.

After a few months Chee Kim was taken to the home of a lovely Chinese family. He was adopted and treated like a true son. He now was very happy because he belonged to a family.

One of our basic needs is to belong. Belonging to a family gives a sense of comfort and security. When you became a Christian, you became a part of God's family. In this lesson you will study what it means to belong to the family of God—the community of believers who make up His Church.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Worshiping Together
Fellowshipping Together
Ministering Together

This lesson will help you . . .

- Understand how belonging to a church can help you to be a better person in your community.
- Describe some results of the combined ministry of believers in the church.
- Involve yourself in the ministries of your church to your community.

WORSHIPING TOGETHER

Objective 1. *Identify the values of worshiping God with other believers.*

In an earlier lesson we said that the church is not a building—it is a body of believers united to do the work of the Lord. When we become Christians we become part of the body of Christ. We are part of His worldwide Church. This body of people unites together to do the work of the Lord and to worship Him together. They form church groups in their

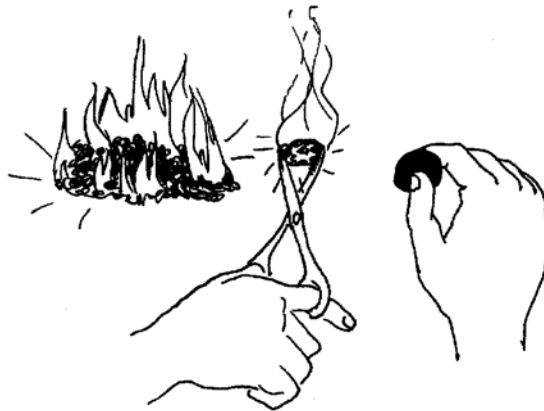
community. In the book of Acts we read about the early church, and about how the Christians went from one community to another, helping to form new church groups. These early believers had a great desire to meet together to worship their Lord.

Worshipping God means giving your devotion to Him. You give Him honor and praise. You adore Him more than any other. Sometimes we worship Him alone. But sometimes it is easier to worship God with other people.

God made people so that they like to be with other people. It is natural for believers to want to join together in worship. We receive encouragement when we worship with others, and we give encouragement, also.

There are many ways to express worship to God. In the Psalms we are instructed to worship Him in different ways—by clapping our hands, by singing unto Him, by praising Him with our voices, by praying, by using musical instruments, and in other ways. When we join with other believers in worshiping in these ways, we find it easier to express our love and adoration to God.

A man was absent from church several times. The pastor visited him to tell him he had been missed. As an example to show the man how much he needed to worship with other believers, the pastor went to the fire and took out a hot coal. It glowed red hot for a while, but then went out. The man received the lesson. When we “stay in the fire” we are more likely to “glow for the Lord.” Worshiping with other believers gives us greater strength to serve God.



Another way to express worship to God is through service to others. True worship, an expression of love and adoration to God, naturally results in expressing love and kindness to other people. This is expressed in Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:3, which we have seen in another lesson. When we serve others, we are doing it as unto the Lord.



For You To Do

- 1** Circle the letter in front of the statements that describe values of worship with other believers.
 - a** We receive strength.
 - b** We become more concerned about ourselves.
 - c** We give and receive encouragement.
 - d** Through service to others, we honor God.
 - e** We find it easier to express our worship.
 - f** We find it harder to think about God.

2 Make a list of some ways to worship God.

.....
.....

3 Now draw a circle around those ways that have helped you in your worship.

FELLOWSHIPING TOGETHER

Objective 2. *Describe ways to fellowship with other believers.*

In our first lesson we saw that one of the meanings of *community* is “fellowship.” We need fellowship with other people. The highest form of fellowship can be found among Christians.

The local church is a good place to find fellowship with other believers. Young people enjoy being with each other and sharing in times of recreation and work. Adults, too, need to get to know one another and share in activities together.

Through fellowship activities in the church, the whole community can be reached. Special activities for the children can be a means of bringing in other children. Getting together for a picnic, or to work on a project together, or just for a time of talking and sharing are all ways of getting to know people better. And as we get to know each other, we are better able to minister to one another when there is a need.

There are many accounts in the Gospels of Jesus eating with people. He used these informal times of fellowship to share deep truths about the kingdom of God, or to minister to individual needs. We all need times to relax, to enjoy one another, and to get better acquainted. Often, community members not part of the local church are brought into fellowship with the Lord and the church in this way. Sharing, caring, and loving are shown to be community actions.



For You To Do

4 Christians can fellowship best with

- a) people they work with.
- b) their neighbors.
- c) other believers in the church.

5 A major benefit of fellowship is that we

- a) learn how to study together.
- b) get to know others better.
- c) forget our own problems.

6 Describe some ways to fellowship with other believers.

.....

MINISTERING TOGETHER

Objective 3. *Identify the results of joining with others in ministry.*

One of the greatest advantages of regular church attendance is the privilege of studying with other Christians. In most churches Sunday school classes or Bible training sessions are held. Regular study of the Bible gives a person a good background and understanding of the Word.

Pastors prepare sermons to help us grow and become mature. As we are ministered to in these ways, we in turn become able to minister to others.

Chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Titus have a lot to say about Christian conduct and responsibility. In these verses the apostle Paul speaks of the things that agree with sound doctrine or teaching. Helping widows, instructing youth, and teaching workers to be submissive are all mentioned here. All of these things are part of the ministry of a church.

People joined together can do things they could never do alone. When my wife was a small girl living on a farm in Canada, the farmers would help each other harvest the crops because they had no machines to do this work. People would leave their own work to help another farmer pick his corn or harvest his wheat. As everyone worked together, all of the crops were harvested. They could not have done the work alone.

The same principle works in the church. For example, the Bible needed to be translated into the language of the people of Burma. The project was too large for one person or even for one church. So a large number of people from many churches put their money together and paid to have the Bible translated.



As you become mature in the Lord, you have a greater desire to minister to others. Your world gets bigger. You become sensitive to the needs of others.

When some people hear of others going hungry it doesn't bother them. They just think people should work harder so they will have money to buy food. But when Christians hear of people suffering from lack of food, they feel pain for them. Jesus said, "Much is required from the person to whom much is given; much more is required from the person to whom much more is given" (Luke 12:48). In other words, if God has given you many things, it is His blessing to you. However, you will be held responsible for how you use the things He has given you, and how you respond to the needs of others.

When you hear of people on the other side of the world suffering from lack of food, or from a terrible storm or earthquake, does it trouble you? A sign of your maturity is how these things affect you. Ask yourself these questions: Do I really care about my neighbor? Is it really important to me if thousands of people die in some faraway place? Am I really concerned about being involved in a worldwide ministry? Am I helping in my church to minister to those in need?



For You To Do

- 7 God expects us to give to others
- a) everything that we have.
 - b) according to the measure that we have received from Him.
 - c) only when we want to do so.
- 8 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a One of the true marks of Christians is that they have concern for others.
 - b As you become mature in the Lord, you become more sensitive to the needs of others.
 - c When Christians hear of suffering and destruction, they feel pain for the people involved.
 - d Much more is required of people who have received little.
 - e When God has given you many things in this life, it does not necessarily mean that more will be required of you.
 - f People working together can accomplish much more than individuals working alone.
- 9 Examine yourself by answering the following questions.

| | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| a Are you a member of a local church? | | |
| b Are you faithful in attendance? | | |
| c Do you enjoy fellowship with other Christians? | | |
| d Do you support the church with your money or in other ways? | | |
| e Does your church have activities to minister to the community? | | |
| f Do you need to do more to be involved in any of these activities in your church: Worship? Fellowship? Ministry? | | |

Now that you have studied some of the benefits of belonging to a local church, ask God to help you to be more involved with other believers. Then you will have a more effective ministry in your community.



Check Your Answers

- 5 b) get to know others better.
- 1 Statements **a**, **c**, **d**, and **e** are True.
- 6 Your answer. Some answers are: Eating together, talking or sharing together, working on a project together, sharing in recreation.
- 2 Your list might include these: singing, praising with our voices, using musical instruments, clapping our hands, praying, or serving others.
- 7 b) according to the measure that we have received from Him.
- 3 Your answer.
- 8 Statements **a**, **b**, **c**, and **f** are True.
- 4 c) other believers in the church.
- 9 Your answer. If you answered NO to some of these questions, think about them again. Think of ways you can improve your relationship to God through your local church.

Lesson
9

Contributing to Your Community

In almost every country of the world the Red Cross Association is at work. Their work is one of service to mankind. They help people in times of disaster, such as famine, or heavy storms, or earthquakes. They help everywhere—in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and wherever there is a need.

The Red Cross is supported by contributions, or gifts. People give money, supplies, and blood so the Red Cross will be ready to help when trouble comes. People do not contribute because they will get something in return. No! They contribute because they have a desire to help others in times of emergency and trouble.

It is the same with our contributions to our community. We do not help because we will receive some great gift in return. No, we contribute our time, money, and talents to community needs because it is right and good to do so. In this lesson we will see how we can prepare ourselves to serve our community better.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Preparing to Serve
Becoming Involved
Contributing Skills

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the most important service that you can give to your community.
- Prepare yourself as a witness to your community.
- Describe ways your skills can be contributed to help your community.

PREPARING TO SERVE

Objective 1. *List ways you can prepare yourself for a Christian witness in your community.*

Before we can serve someone, we must be prepared for the service we are giving. The greatest service Christians can give to their communities is to win souls. Here are three ways to prepare yourself to be a witness in your community:

1. *Have personal assurance of salvation.* How can you feel secure in your home? By making sure all the doors and windows are securely locked when you go to bed. How can you feel sure of your salvation? By having a secure relationship with the Lord. You can do this by praying and studying the Word of God. When you know the author of a book you have a greater desire to read the book. As you get to know God better, you will have a greater desire to read His Word—the Bible.

Sometimes our feelings cause us to doubt our salvation. Allow your trust in God to be based on what the Bible says, and not on how you feel if you feel that nobody loves you—God still does! If you feel that you have failed, cheer up! God still loves you! He loves you because He loves you! Accept His love and place your faith in His Word rather than in feelings.

If you have failed the Lord or for some reason have begun to doubt your relationship with Him, remember these verses in Ephesians 2:4-5:

God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved.



Can you earn God's love? No, you can't. So just accept this free gift and live in a way that shows God you are thankful. Rest in God's love.

Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it? . . . No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us (Romans 8:35, 37).

When we accept Christ as our Savior, we can have complete security in our salvation because of His mercy, and not because of our feelings.

2. *Know how to lead someone to God.* Have you ever had someone say to you, "Follow me, I know the way," and then you ended up lost? That is not a pleasant feeling. We like to follow people who really do know the way.

If we want to lead other people to God, we must know the way. Many verses in the Bible help us to lead someone to Christ. In the following chart I will list a few that you might want to memorize to get you started:

| Verse | Message |
|-------------|--|
| Romans 3:23 | All people have sinned and need a Savior. |
| Romans 6:23 | People deserve death, but God offers life. |
| John 3:16 | God has provided a sacrifice for our sins. |
| 1 John 1:9 | If we confess our sins, God will forgive us. |
| 1 John 5:13 | We can know we have eternal life. |

If you would like to use these verses to show someone how to find Christ, first of all memorize them. Put the page number of the first verse inside the cover of your Bible. Then at the bottom of the page where the first verse is found, put the page number of the next verse. Do this until you have listed all five of the verses.

Then you will have a simple but effective way to use your Bible to lead someone to Christ. You are prepared to serve. As you find other verses that will help you to witness, mark them in the same way.



3. *Depend on the Holy Spirit.* No matter how well you know the Bible, you must still depend on the Holy Spirit to help you. He will give you guidance, and will bring the right words into your mind as you witness.

The Holy Spirit draws people to God and makes them sorry for their sin. He knows the condition of each person's heart. As you pray for His direction, He will help you to serve your community through your personal witness.



For You To Do

1 Without looking back, try to list the three ways you can prepare yourself to serve your community as a soul winner.

- a
- b
- c

- 2 Write in the correct word or words to complete each statement below.
- a I will have greater desire to read the book if I personally know the
 - b My relationship to God does not depend on how I
 - c It is by God's grace that I have been
 - d In order to properly lead someone to a personal experience of salvation, I must know
.....
 - e I will receive help in leading others to God from the.....

BECOMING INVOLVED

Objective 2. *Identify ways you can be involved in your community to influence it for God.*

Christians can serve and influence their communities in many ways. We should be better citizens, neighbors, and friends because we are Christians. Our community should be better because we are there.

If we hope to influence our community for God, we must take part in community activities. But we must decide which activities are good, and which ones would harm our Christian testimony. How do we decide?

First of all, when you need to decide whether to become involved in an activity, ask yourself: "Is it against basic Christian teaching according to the Bible?" If the answer is no, then ask yourself this question: "Can I be a witness for God, enjoy the activity, and come away unharmed?" If the answer is yes and if you have prayerfully considered it, then go.

If you do go and find after you have been involved for a while that the activity does not meet the standards given above, then leave, and thank the Lord for teaching you a lesson. The Holy Spirit will give you wisdom in making decisions such as this one.

Christians can involve themselves in their communities and let their lights shine in many ways. For example, they can be good citizens by notifying the police if they see a crime being committed. They can help provide wholesome activities for the youth of the community, so that they will not have time to be involved in trouble or crime.

Christian parents and other Christians can take an interest in the local schools, and help the teachers and leaders in whatever ways are possible. You might even be able to help get Christian teachers for your school. Show an interest in getting better school buildings, books, and libraries if they are needed.

Another good way to influence your community is to become friends with community leaders such as police officers, teachers, doctors, and those who operate businesses. Look for opportunities to witness to them about what Christ has done in your life. Try to get acquainted with your mayor and representatives in your local government. Remember, they need the Lord, too.



It would be impossible to list all the ways we can serve our community. When we are given opportunity to vote for leaders or laws which encourage righteous living, it is our Christian responsibility to do so. If the community is trying to raise funds for a worthy project such as a hospital or an orphanage, Christians should help with these projects.

In all our relationships, it is important that we be examples of Christianity. This is especially true in our business dealings. The Bible tells us that we should “be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).



For You To Do

- 3** Circle the letter in front of the TRUE statements.
 - a** Christians can attend any kind of activity as long as they testify about Christ there.
 - b** If Christians attend a function and find that it is not according to Bible teaching about what Christians should do, they should leave.
 - c** It is possible to attend any function as long as you don't let people there know you are a Christian.
 - d** Being a Christian should make you a better citizen, neighbor, and friend.
- 4** Draw a circle around the letter in front of the good examples of Christian community spirit.
 - a** John has decided not to vote because he doesn't care who is chosen to lead the community.
 - b** James has offered to organize youth activities at the school after the soccer games.
 - c** Ruth goes to the hospital twice a week to help sick people by reading to them, writing letters for them, or visiting with them.
 - d** Mary will not attend school activities because she is not as well educated as the teachers.
 - e** Robert saw a young man rob a storekeeper, but he didn't report it because he didn't want to get involved.
 - f** Philip makes it a point to smile and greet people on the street, such as the postman, the policeman, or the neighbors.
- 5** Try to become friends with at least two leaders in your community this month. Write here the names of those you will try to get to know.

.....

.....

CONTRIBUTING SKILLS

Objective 3. *List ways that Christians can use their skills to witness to their communities.*

John Brown is a Christian. He gave his life to Christ many years ago. Everyone in his community respects him as a good worker and an honorable man.

Mr. Brown is also known in his community as a good builder. When the mayor asked for volunteer help to build a recreation area downtown, Mr. Brown offered to direct the new building project. Everyone is happy, because they have confidence in Mr. Brown.

Notice the important aspects of this story:

1. John Brown is an excellent builder with a good reputation.

2. He has offered his skill to help in a community project that will provide enjoyment for many people.

These two things are of interest to the community. Many people probably do not even know that Mr. Brown is also a Christian. However, everyone involved in the project will come to know that he is a Christian as they work with him. He loves God, and Christian principles will shine out of his life.



Perhaps you have skills that your community needs. Can you offer your services as a contribution to everyone? If you can, you will be a blessing to others, and you will have an opportunity to give your Christian testimony by using your skill to help others.

The community needs many skills. Farming, building, nursing, caring for small children, and helping to clean or beautify your community are only a few ways to be involved. What is your special ability? Have you offered it to God and your community?

“You have received without paying, so give without being paid” (Matthew 10:8).



For You To Do

6 Discuss two ways your skills can be used as a witness to your community.

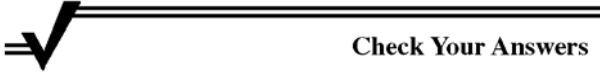
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7 Can you think of some ways that you have been involved in your community through service or by using your skills? List them here.

.....
.....

8 Name one way that you will try to become more involved in your community.

.....
.....



Check Your Answers

- 5 Your answer.
- 1 a Have personal assurance of salvation.
b Know how to lead someone to God.
c Depend on the Holy Spirit.
- 6 Your answer. As you contribute your skills, people will see your Christian witness and you will be able to lead them to Christ. You will bless your community by your attitude and involvement.
- 2 a author.
b feel.
c saved.
d God's Word.
e Holy Spirit.
- 7 Your answer. Can you see ways that you could do more?
- 3 Statements **b** and **d** are True.
- 8 Your answer. God will bless you as you give freely to others what He has given to you.
- 4 a Wrong attitude.
b Christian attitude.
c Christian attitude.
d Wrong attitude.
e Wrong attitude.
f Christian attitude.

Lesson
10

Continuing in Community

During World War I, a professor in a European university was teaching his students when an order came to dismiss classes because of the war. The students were not able to meet again as a class for a number of years.

When at last the school reopened, the professor began his first teaching session with these words: “As I was saying . . .”

He just continued where he had left off before the classes were stopped. This spirit of continuation shows a certain determination, doesn't it? We need to have this same kind of determination to keep an ongoing relationship with our community.

In this lesson you will study ways in which you can continue to put into practice the principles taught in this course. The most important way is to depend on the Holy Spirit. Paul told Timothy, “Continue in the truths that you were taught” (2 Timothy 3:14). The Holy Spirit will help you to continue in community.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Be Yourself
Make Your Witness Personal
Depend on the Holy Spirit
 He Is the Revealer
 He Is Our Teacher and Reminder

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain the importance of having a personal and reliable Christian witness.
- Trust in the Holy Spirit to lead you into a continuing ministry to your community.

BE YOURSELF

Objective 1. *Explain why the right image is important in representing Christ to your community.*

A young woman was going to a foreign country to work for the Lord as a missionary. On a radio program she was asked, “What are you going to do over there?” Her reply was, “I’m just going to try to be what I say I am.”

Are you what you say you are? You are really best at being yourself. If you try to act in away that is not really your way, you will be giving a false image.



The best way to influence your community toward God is to give a true image all the time. If what you are isn’t something you can be happy with, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a new image. Be a person of worth and value, one that people can rely on at all times. Ask God to make you what you ought to be, and what He wants you to be.

Do people see you one day as a cheerful, happy person, and the next day as an unpleasant, moody person? Do you have a steady, reliable witness every day, regardless of the unpleasant things that may happen from day to day?

People who keep the right attitude all the time give the best witness. The Spirit is the greatest changer of character. If your nature is not cheerful, ask God to change it. Then begin to act as you know God wants you to.

My friend, John, was a grouchy, complaining person. Even though he was a Christian, he made excuses for his attitude, and said he couldn’t help being the way he was. Then one day he realized that God could help him to be a different person. He practiced being pleasant, kind, and considerate until it became the natural way for him to be.

In 1 Corinthians 14:8, we read: “And if the man who plays the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will prepare for battle?” That means that your life must give others a true picture of what a Christian life should be. If people are not sure, when they see you, that you are living a Christian life, you will not be an effective witness when you try to tell them about Christ. Make your call clear—then others will follow you.



For You To Do

1 How can people change their personalities if they do not like the way they are?

.....

.....

2 Why is it important to develop the right image in order to effectively represent Christ to your community?

.....

.....

3 The best witness is given by people who

- a) study the best ways to talk to people.
- b) carry their Bibles with them everywhere they go.
- c) keep the right attitude at all times.

MAKE YOUR WITNESS PERSONAL

Objective 2. *Give examples of ways to show a positive personal witness.*

When I was 17 years old I graduated from secondary school and took a job with a large company in my hometown. The first morning, as I left for work, my mother called me aside. She said, “Remember, son, any old dead fish can go with the tide. It takes a live one to swim against it.”

I have never forgotten my mother’s words. Ever since that time, I have tried to make sure that I was not just “drifting with the tide.” It is not always easy to be different from the crowd. Sometimes in our work or other activities we may be the only Christian in the group. If we want to have a personal witness, we must be willing to stand for our Christian principles even when it would be easier to go along with the group.



In 1 Peter 3:15 we are advised to “Be ready to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have in you.” Our hope is in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again that we might have eternal life. We must maintain a good personal testimony at all times if we want to help others find Christ.

Do you realize that God knows you better than you know yourself? Well, it’s true! Consider this verse of Scripture:

There is nothing that can be hid from God; everything in all creation is exposed and lies open before his eyes. And it is to Him that we must all give an account of ourselves (Hebrews 4:13).

God wants us to show the world what He is like. Make your witness for Christ a *personal* thing. Let people see the results of God's grace in your life. God has made His Holy Spirit available to help us do this.

If you are to reach your community for God you will have to be very "transparent." This means you are open before people. They can see what you really are. Our lives must be like open books for the entire world to see. The apostle Paul said, "Imitate me, then, just as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Can you say the same thing to those in your community?



For You To Do

- 4 Which of these are TRUE examples of a positive personal witness?
 - a Doing something you know isn't right because a friend asked you to, and you don't want to offend him.
 - b Saying no when saying yes would harm your Christian testimony.
 - c Showing you are upset when your plans don't work out the way you want them to.
 - d Doing more than your share of work in a project.
 - e Being friendly and kind even when you don't feel like it.
- 5 Which of these attitudes represents the most personal concern for those who don't know Christ?
 - a) I will do my best to witness for the Lord, but I can't help it if people don't show an interest in following Christ.
 - b) My whole life should be a testimony to those who don't know Christ, so that I will not cause them to turn against Him.

DEPEND ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

He Is the Revealer

Objective 3. *State three reasons why Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit.*

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples, "It is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go away, then I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). *Helper* is one name given in the Bible for the Holy Spirit.

When we understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we can trust Him more. For example, if you put two people who speak different languages in the same room, they will have a hard time communicating and understanding each other. But if their language is the same, they will be able to talk together and get to know one another. Talking together will help them understand each other.

Understanding brings confidence. It is the same with the Holy Spirit. As you come to understand Him and His ministry, you will learn to trust Him.

One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to reveal or show Christ to us. When Christ is made known to us, we realize our need of Him.

The Helper will come—the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God and who comes from the Father. I will send him to you from the Father, and he will speak about me (John 15:26).

Another purpose of the Holy Spirit is to convict of sin and draw people to God. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would speak about repentance. He also said that the Spirit would “prove to the people of the world that they are wrong about sin and about what is right and about God’s judgment” (John 16:8).

Joe Smith had never given his heart to God. One day he heard the story of Jesus and His love for men and women. A week went by, and Joe could not get this story out of his mind. Why? Because the Holy Spirit had revealed Jesus to him, and had also caused him to feel sorry for his sin. Joe felt that he had to do something. It wasn’t long until he gave his heart to the Lord and became a Christian. The Holy Spirit has a ministry of calling people to Jesus. Aren’t you glad He brought conviction to your heart and revealed Jesus to you? And as we witness to others, we can depend upon the Holy Spirit to do His work in their hearts also.



For You To Do

- 6 Repentance is the act of
 - a) getting to know someone.
 - b) feeling sorry for sin and confessing it to God.
 - c) being drawn to God by the Holy Spirit.
- 7 When we learn to trust the Holy Spirit we can
 - a) depend on Him.
 - b) leave the work of soul winning to Him.
 - c) live without sin.
- 8 Write down three reasons why Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit.
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

He is Our Teacher and Reminder

Objective 4. *Explain the value of relying upon the Holy Spirit to be our teacher and reminder.*

Here are the words of Jesus recorded in John 14:26: “The Holy Spirit will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.”

In this verse two more ministries of the Holy Spirit are mentioned. First, the Holy Spirit will teach us what the Word of God means, and how to apply it to our hearts and lives. The Holy Spirit is wise, and He can give us wisdom, too.

Tom Green was not an educated man, but he was teachable. After the day's work was done, Tom would read and study his Bible. He learned many things from the Bible. Tom and Betty Green had two sons. The instructions in the Bible helped them raise these sons so that they, too, loved God and wanted to obey Him. Both of their sons are now married and have children of their own. They are raising their children in the same way. Because Tom and Betty Green studied God's Word and allowed the Holy Spirit to teach them, their family was blessed.

The Bible shows us many ways that the Holy Spirit will teach us. Find the verses listed below in your Bible and write them down so that you will remember them.

1. *Ephesians 1:17*—He gives us wisdom and reveals God to us.
2. *Ephesians 6:18*—He teaches us to pray as He leads.
3. *1 Corinthians 2:10-12*—He teaches us truths about God and His purposes.
4. *Galatians 5:16, 22-23,25*—He directs our lives, and produces in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control.

According to John 14:26, the Holy Spirit will also help us remember all the things Jesus told us. This means that as we study the Word of God, the Holy Spirit will bring the Word to our minds when we need it.

We can't remember all of the things we read in the Bible. However, when we need to remember, the Holy Spirit brings to our minds those teachings, which will help us at that particular time.

Have you ever talked to someone about the Lord, and it seemed you had all the right answers? Or the Holy Spirit brought to your mind exactly the right Scripture verse to fit the occasion? It is very rewarding to feel God's help in such times. Without the Holy Spirit's help, many times we would feel lost as we tried to witness to someone.

Sometimes when we are tempted to do wrong, the Holy Spirit reminds us that we should obey God. He reminds us to keep a good attitude in our relationships with other people. Sometimes we forget to show a spirit of community, but the Holy Spirit is faithful to remind us.



For You To Do

9 Why do you need to rely upon the Holy Spirit to be your teacher and reminder?

.....
.....

10 Look back over this lesson, and write down in your notebook all the ways the Holy Spirit helps us. Then look over your list, and draw a line under all the ways that He has personally helped you.


You have now come to the end of this study. I hope you have received much help for your Christian walk through these lessons. You have begun a new understanding of the ministry of Christians in their communities. You can only put all of these teachings into practice as you allow

the Holy Spirit to help you. Only by the Holy Spirit's power can we do the things we should do. Trust Him, and He will help you apply these teachings in your life and ministry to others.

Continue in the truths that you were taught and firmly believe (2 Timothy 3:14).

Be sure, then, to keep in your hearts the message you heard from the beginning. If you keep that message, then you will always live in union with the Son and the Father. (1 John 2:24).

Now you are ready to fill out the last half of your student report for Lessons 6-10. Review these lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. When you send your answer sheets to your instructor, ask him or her about another course of study. May the Lord bless you as you continue to practice the spirit of community.



Check Your Answers

- 6 b) feeling sorry for sin and confessing it to God.
- 1 They can ask the Holy Spirit to change them, and then they can practice being the kind of person they want to be.
- 7 a) depend on Him.
- 2 Because people will not want to follow your example and accept Christ if they do not like what they see in you.
- 8 Any of these: The Holy Spirit came to draw near to God; to convict of sin; to reveal Jesus; to tell us about God's judgment; to help us witness to others.
- 3 c) keep the right attitude at all times.
- 9 Your answer. I would say because we need His help in our witnessing, in our ministry to our community, and in making the right decisions, so that our lives will glorify God.
- 4 Statements **b**, **d**, and **e** are True.
- 10 Your answer.
- 5 b) My whole life should be a testimony.

One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are joyful people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems which trouble almost everyone in the world. These people believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus, who gave His life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions, or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book you should find a card called *Decision Report and Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions, or make requests for prayer or information.

The Christian in His Community

UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

STUDENT REPORT DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the answer sheet for that unit. Do only one unit at a time. Return each answer sheet to your ICI instructor or office in your area as soon as you have completed it.

The following are directions on how to indicate your answer to each question.

EXAMPLE

There is one best answer. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 1** To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*, so you would blacken space **b** like this:

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | C |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|

Now read the questions in your Student Report and mark your answers in the answer section as we have shown in our example. Choose your answer and blacken the space **a**, **b**, or **c** according to your choice.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** The key concept behind Christian community is
 - a) partnership.
 - b) master-servant relationship.
 - c) detailed roles.
- 2** Which of the following shows a spirit of community?
 - a) The Good Samaritan
 - b) The rich man in Luke 16
 - c) A farmer with a tractor
- 3** The perfect community between Adam, Eve, and God was destroyed when
 - a) Adam and Eve named the animals.
 - b) Adam and Eve left the garden.
 - c) Adam and Eve did not obey God.
- 4** The best definition for the word *Church* as discussed in this course is a
 - a) body of all believers in Jesus Christ.
 - b) building where Christians meet.
 - c) group of believers meeting in one place.
- 5** In the area of witnessing, our “Jerusalem” is
 - a) the country in which we live.
 - b) the community where we work and live.
 - c) our surrounding countries.
- 6** Praying for revival in our country is a means of ministering to
 - a) “Jerusalem.”
 - b) “Samaria.”
 - c) “Judea.”
- 7** When God called Jonah to minister to Nineveh, it was like going to
 - a) Judea.
 - b) Samaria.
 - c) the ends of the earth.
- 8** To minister to people in distant lands would be fulfilling God’s call to go to
 - a) Samaria.
 - b) Judea.
 - c) the ends of the earth.
- 9** The Sadducees’ attempt to test Jesus exposed their lack of
 - a) knowledge of the Scriptures.
 - b) insight into human affairs.
 - c) empathy for people’s problems.
- 10** An important way to grow in community is to
 - a) think about all our responsibilities.
 - b) think about God and His ways.
 - c) demonstrate our own strength.

- 11** A person's relationship with Christ will not fall apart when trouble comes if he or she is
- doing the things he or she likes to do.
 - living a life of obedience to Christ.
 - doing what is expected of him or her.
- 12** Our spiritual growth requires that we worship
- together with others.
 - when we are happy.
 - on special occasions.
- 13** A principle of spiritual growth is separation from the world, which means
- have no associations with unbelievers.
 - live outside of densely populated areas.
 - form no close partnerships with unbelievers.
- 14** When we are tolerant, we will
- do as we please, regardless of how others feel.
 - respect the convictions of others.
 - take the convictions of everyone else as our own.
- 15** To be protected from our spiritual enemy, we must
- stand in our own strength.
 - give money to the church.
 - wear God's armor.
- 16** A biblical approach to community traditions is to
- celebrate them in a way pleasing to God.
 - refuse to participate in them altogether.
 - compromise our beliefs for the sake of standing.
- 17** In a society where a holiday is provided to worship the dead, the Christian should
- join in with the activities.
 - use the day as an opportunity to witness.
 - observe but not take part.
- 18** The man who built upon a rock is like a person who
- does not want to obey God.
 - chooses a weak foundation.
 - obeys the teachings of Christ.
- 19** An adaptable person is one who will
- insist on doing things his or her own way.
 - allow sinful traditions to remain in his or her life.
 - fit into the plans of others to meet a common goal.
- 20** Which of the following is an example of building a bridge between people?
- Talking about others beyond their presence.
 - Inviting someone into your home.
 - Refusing an invitation to someone's home.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** When Jesus was a child, He was
 - a) despised by His community.
 - b) well liked in His community.
 - c) seldom involved with His community.
- 2** When Jesus was 12 years old, He
 - a) began His public ministry.
 - b) preformed His first miracle.
 - c) showed great interest in spiritual matters.
- 3** Which of the following is true of Jesus?
 - a) He avoided contacts with wicked people.
 - b) He showed concern for everyone.
 - c) His concern was only for the poor.
- 4** As a result of Jesus' life on earth,
 - a) it is no longer necessary to set aside a day of worship.
 - b) many people now accept Sunday as a day of rest and worship.
 - c) the church building is Jesus' kingdom on earth.
- 5** As Christians reflect the light of Jesus, they
 - a) show others the path to Jesus.
 - b) condemn others for their sins.
 - c) are honored as special people.
- 6** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." As Christians we should
 - a) reflect Christ's light.
 - b) show forth our own light.
 - c) try to keep our light hidden.
- 7** When a Christian is salt in his or her community, he or she is like
 - a) an irritant that exposes sin.
 - b) a healing agent that destroys sin.
 - c) a judge that issues a punishment.
- 8** Christians are like salt because they
 - a) help to preserve righteousness.
 - b) are free from sin.
 - c) dress in white.
- 9** We can have a renewed mind when we
 - a) accept Christ and let Him control our thoughts.
 - b) conform to the standards of those around us.
 - c) let random thoughts fill our mind.
- 10** The value of worshiping God with other believers is the
 - a) standing that it gives us.
 - b) opportunity for using our talents.
 - c) strength to serve God that it provides.

- 11** Belonging in the church community is nurtured by
- a) having fellowship together.
 - b) keeping out of each other's way.
 - c) listening to sermons in church.
- 12** Which of the following is a purpose for the existence of the church?
- a) To build beautiful buildings.
 - b) To have a place to show off our musical ability.
 - c) To preach the gospel.
- 13** We have learned that our salvation comes through
- a) our service to God.
 - b) the good things we do for others.
 - c) the grace of God.
- 14** The Holy Spirit is given to us to teach us how
- a) to show that we have Bible knowledge.
 - b) to understand Bible truth.
 - c) our traditions were formed.
- 15** We should not be involved in a community activity if
- a) sinners are present.
 - b) it would hurt our Christian testimony.
 - c) it is an athletic event.
- 16** Our witness in our community will have a greater impact as we
- a) offer our criticism or advice about city affairs.
 - b) contribute our skills for the benefit of others.
 - c) remove ourselves from non-spiritual activities.
- 17** The best way to represent Christ in our community is to try to
- a) be something that we aren't.
 - b) recite verses from the Bible.
 - c) keep the right attitude all the time.
- 18** To maintain a positive personal witness, we must
- a) do nothing to cause someone to reject Christ.
 - b) know all the right answers.
 - c) compromise in order not to offend someone.
- 19** Believers in a community can only accomplish God's purposes as they
- a) obey the teaching and direction of the Holy Spirit.
 - b) refuse to submit to those in authority.
 - c) become involved in civil government.
- 20** Relying on the Holy Spirit to be our teacher
- a) is necessary when we are tired.
 - b) helps us be more disciplined.
 - c) increases our wisdom.

End of requirements for Unit Two. Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your ICI instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

The Christian in His Community

Answer Sheet for Unit One

CL6360

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

Age Sex.....

Occupation

How many members are in your family?

How many years have you studied in school?

If you are a member of a church, what is the name of your church?
.....

.....

What responsibility do you have in your church?

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone? In a group?

What other ICI courses have you studied?
.....

.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT ONE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A | B | C |
| 2 | A | B | C |
| 3 | A | B | C |
| 4 | A | B | C |
| 5 | A | B | C |
| 6 | A | B | C |
| 7 | A | B | C |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 8 | A | B | C |
| 9 | A | B | C |
| 10 | A | B | C |
| 11 | A | B | C |
| 12 | A | B | C |
| 13 | A | B | C |
| 14 | A | B | C |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 15 | A | B | C |
| 16 | A | B | C |
| 17 | A | B | C |
| 18 | A | B | C |
| 19 | A | B | C |
| 20 | A | B | C |
| | | | |

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....
.....
.....

Now look over this answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your ICI instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page of your study guide.

| |
|-------------------------|
| For ICI Office Use Only |
| Date Score |

Christian Life Program

The Christian in His Community

Answer Sheet for Unit Two

CL6360

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number

(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The ICI office in your area will be happy to send you information about other courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT TWO

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A | B | C |
| 2 | A | B | C |
| 3 | A | B | C |
| 4 | A | B | C |
| 5 | A | B | C |
| 6 | A | B | C |
| 7 | A | B | C |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 8 | A | B | C |
| 9 | A | B | C |
| 10 | A | B | C |
| 11 | A | B | C |
| 12 | A | B | C |
| 13 | A | B | C |
| 14 | A | B | C |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 15 | A | B | C |
| 16 | A | B | C |
| 17 | A | B | C |
| 18 | A | B | C |
| 19 | A | B | C |
| 20 | A | B | C |
| | | | |

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We have enjoyed having you as a student and hope you will study more courses with ICI. Return this student report answer sheet to your instructor or to the ICI office in your area. When we have checked your answers, we will send you a certificate for this course in your program of studies.

Please print your name below as you want it to appear on your certificate.

Name

| |
|-------------------------|
| For ICI Office Use Only |
| Date Score |

Christian Life Program

**CL6360 The Christian
in His Community**

Decision Report and Request Card

After studying this course, I have placed my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I am returning this card with my signature and address to your ICI office for two reasons: first, to testify to my commitment to Christ and, second, to request information about more material to help me in my spiritual life.

NAME.....

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE



**THE GREATEST OF ALL
IS THE SERVANT OF ALL**

Serving is one of the greatest ways we can show our love to God. ICI courses prepare you to better serve others.

Using our courses will create an orderly system of Bible Study and encourage a better understanding of spiritual truths.

The following courses will assist you in becoming an able servant of the Lord to others:

- THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- GOD LOVES YOU
- WHO JESUS IS
- WE BELIEVE
- GOD'S DESIGN—YOUR CHOICE
- CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
- ALIVE IN CHRIST
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY

If you desire a more detailed description about each course or directions on how to enroll in any of these courses, contact your local ICI director.

**SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES
OF YOUR FRIENDS**

We will send them Lesson 1 of
“The Great Questions of Life.”

Print Clearly

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

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Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

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E-mail.....

Your Name

Mailing Address

City

Province or State

Country

E-mail