

# FOLLOW THRU

He who began a good work in you...



**NEW BELIEVER SERIES**

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# **Follow Thru**

Welcome to the family of God. Some of you decided to follow Christ within the last few days or weeks and for others your decision to follow the Lord was years ago. This study is geared to help new believers gain their bearing in their new walk with God. There is a unique blend of responsibilities for the growth of the new believer. God has a part and so do we. In Philippians 1:6, we see God's part.

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”

The jest of this booklet is to help you understand how your part compliments God's part. We know that God will do what He says, the question at hand is

## **WILL YOU FOLLOW THRU?**

- Concept 1: Review and talk through the gospel
- Concept 2: Security of the Believer
- Concept 3: Forgiveness of Sin/Obedience of the Believer
- Concept 4: The Quiet Time
- Concept 5: Vision for growth

This is a specific game plan for helping a new believer grow in their faith. Each of the lessons are essential concepts that a person needs to understand and apply to move forward in their relationship with God. This is not an exhaustive list but is a good starter. One of the base assumptions is that the new believer needs to have a clear Biblical understanding of core discipleship principles. Work systematically and slowly through the verses and concepts. The goal is to learn these so that you can teach others (2 Tim 2:2). Make sure you have a Bible in a modern translation that is easy to read (we recommend the New International Version (NIV), The English Standard Version (ESV) or the New American Standard Bible (NASB)). Work through this study with a more mature believer who can help answer any questions you may have. You can prepare the lesson ahead of time or work through the verses together.

## **Recommended Translations**

[\*New American Standard Bible: 1995 update\*](#). (1995). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

[\*The New International Version\*](#). (2011). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

[\*English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

## Concept 1: Gospel Review

Talk through the Gospel (feel free to use the Bridge Illustration, the 4 Spiritual Laws or whatever you know) and discuss. The gospel means “good news”. Literally the good news that we have a way for our sin to be forgiven through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul describes the gospel in 1 Corinthians 15

**1** Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the Word, I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. **3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, **8** and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

### **Bible Study**

#### **All have sinned**

Romans 3:23

#### **Christ Died for our Sins**

Romans 5:8

#### **The wages of sin is spiritual death**

Romans 6:23

#### **There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus**

Romans 8:1-2

#### **We can be saved**

Romans 10:8-10

#### **What is next?**

Romans 12:1-2

## **Concept 2: Security of the Believer**

Imagine yourself in a vault at Fort Knox. You are surrounded by the untold riches of gold bullion stored there. The door is firmly secured and will not be opened until morning. There is a fully functioning life support system inside the vault and ample food supply for a month. You are safe and secure.

In like manner, the believer finds himself/herself safe and secure in the protective hands of a God who can keep him/her. The Scripture is clear about the fact that once a person becomes a Christian, the salvation of the believer is secure. Our faith rests not on the feelings of man but, on the facts found in the Bible.

Assurance of our salvation is a feeling. Security of the believer is a fact. We are secure whether we feel safe or not. Just like a person in a vault, they are safe from all harms from the outside world. To feel insecure because of an enemy on the outside would be silly.

However, most Christians today struggle with being assured of their salvation. We want to look at the facts of our salvation.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How do you know you are a Christian?
- How sure are you that you would go to heaven if you died today (0-100%)?

### **Secure in God's Hand**

John 10:25-30

### **Who has Eternal Life?**

1 John 5:11-13 (John 1:12, John 3:16, John 5:18-24, John 20:24-29)

### **What is Eternal Life?**

John 17:3

### **Nothing can Separate us from God's Love**

Romans 8:31-39

### **Made Alive in Christ**

Ephesians 2:1-10

### **Spirit's Role**

Romans 8:5-17 (focus vs 9, 14,16) (Galatians 5:16-24)

### **Practicing Righteousness Proves Salvation**

1 John 2:28-29

**Memorize 1 John 5:11-13**

## **Concept 3: Forgiveness of Sin/ Obedience of the Believer**

What happens when I sin after I become a Christian? Does God still love me? Am I still a Christian? What is up – I thought Christians didn't sin? What should I do? These questions and ones like them rage through the mind of the believer when they sin.

Coming to grips with how to deal with your sin after conversion is a foundational truth. Without a clear understanding of what to do or what to believe about forgiveness of sin will lead the believer to live a life of guilt and will ultimately cause an emotional rift between God and man.

Sin separates man from God. We just have to look at the garden of Eden to see how man runs and hides from the presence of God when he sins. We are not different today. When we disobey God we emotionally and sometimes physically run and hide from God.

We know from the first concept that the believer is secure in their salvation. So, what happens when I sin. That is the jest of this lesson.

### **Discussion Question:**

What do you think happens when a Christian sins?

### **Original Sin**

Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-3

### **How Sin Happens**

James 1:13-15 (I John 2:15-17, I Corinthians 10:13)

### **Practicing Sin**

1 John 3:1-10 (Psalms 19:12-14)

### **Confession/Repentance**

1 John 1:8-10 (Proverbs 28:13)

### **Suffering Sin**

Psalms 32:1-7

### **Complete Forgiveness**

Psalms 103:6-14 (Isaiah 43:25)

### **Battle of the Flesh**

Romans 7:14-8:2 (Galatians 5:16-25)

Our goal must be obedience, but when we sin, we must confess our sin and believe that God has forgiven us (according to His promise in 1 John 1:9). We must forsake our sin and yield our lives to the Holy Spirit who lives in us. Learning to keep short accounts with the Lord will lead to a fulfilling walk with God.

**Memorize 1 John 1:9**

## **Concept 4: Quiet Time**

The world revolves around relationships. Sometimes we get confused and lose sight of the relational aspects and focus on the myriad of things to be done. We have become a culture of the To-Do list. Tasks and goals begin to win out over friends and family. What a tragedy.

Unfortunately, our relationship with God is subject to the same pressures. We focus on what God wants us to do rather than what He wants us to be. We get caught up in serving God rather than knowing God. J.I. Packer has said it well, “We know a lot about God, but we don’t know God.” How do we change this around? A simple solution is the daily Quiet Time.

This one habit can make the difference in you living a fulfilling Christian life, where you are increasingly becoming more like God and growing in your relationship with Him. It has been said that we become like that which we worship. In our daily time with God we worship Him and become like Him. Relationships are built around time with another person. Learn to spend time with God and you will never be the same.

### **Discussion Question:**

What is the purpose of the Quiet Time? Talk through what it looks like.

### **One Thing is Needed**

Luke 10:38-42

### **Knowing God**

Jeremiah 9:23-24

### **Goal of Paul**

Philippians 3:7-11

### **Content of the Quiet Time**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (John 15:7)

### **Example of Jesus**

Mark 1:35 (Luke 5:16)

### **Seeking God**

Jeremiah 29:11-13

### **Goal of Life**

John 17:3

If you could learn only one discipline of the Christian life, the hands down choice would be the Quiet Time. No other use of your time is more significant. Life flows from time with God. But beware the QT is not the end but rather the means to the end: knowing God. Do not be committed to the method but to the Master.

**Memorize John 17:3**

## Quiet time Projects

We have included some practical projects to launch you with your quiet time with the Lord. A systematic approach with the Scriptures will aid in your time with the Lord. We would recommend that you spend some time every day. It might look like this.

**Opening prayer:** ask the Lord for guidance as you read the Word of God. You also might spend some time in confession of any sin you might have committed. With a clean slate before the Lord launch into your reading.

**Reading:** read completely through a chapter (or maybe just a paragraph or two), underlining, or highlighting versus that you like.

**Meditating:** after you have read the whole chapter come back and think about the specific versus you liked. Why did you like them? How do they affect you? Is there something you should do because of them? The Scriptures were not given to just increase our knowledge base but to change our lives.

**Write down your key verse and why you liked it:** You should get a Journal to write what God is teaching you. This could be as simple as a spiral notebook. Use this for your quiet time and sermon notes at church or in meeting with your mentor.

### **Pray using the ACTS method**

- **Adoration:** praise the Lord for who He is
- **Confession:** confess any sin the Lord may have brought to mind
- **Thanksgiving:** thankful for specific things he has blessed you with
- **Supplication:** this is another word for asking Him for things. Pray for your day. Pray for your needs. Pray for other people and their needs.

### **Suggested Reading Schedule**

- 24 days with Jesus- Luke
- 28 days with the Disciples- Acts
- Sermon on the Mount- Matthew 5, 6, 7
- The Road to Wisdom- Proverbs
- From the Beginning- Genesis
- Hearts Cry- Psalms

### **Example Journal Entry (Fill in)**

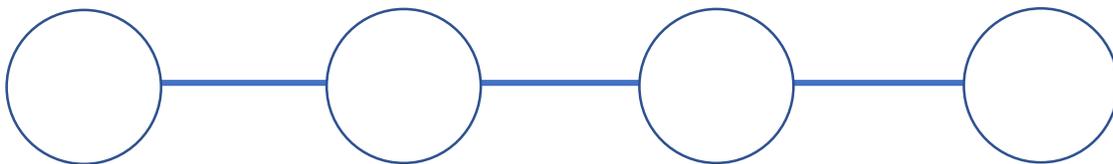
- Date
- Passage
- Favorite Verse
- Why I like it
- What should I do?

## Concept 5: Vision for Growth (Vision for Disciplemaking/Wheel)

Do you want to have an impact in this world? Not only while you were here, but long after you are gone. Do you want to impact eternity? The Bible teaches that there are only three things that lasts forever, and we can invest our lives in those things. God, the Word of God and the souls of men and women. Money, prestige, fame, power, and success will someday pass away. But God, His Word and the souls of men and women will never pass away. Unless you invest your life in these three things your life will not impact eternity.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He laid out a simple plan, that if you follow will ensure your life will impact attorney. Let us look at this marvelous plan.

### The plan- Matthew 28:18-20



### Addition versus multiplication

Addition (Evangelist)

Multiplication (Disciplemaker)

### The Key to Multiplication is Faithful Men and Women- 2 Timothy 2:2

### Be a disciple and get grounded in the basics (The Wheel Illustration)



Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2