



AN UNDIVIDED HEART

Study Workbook

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THE CHRISTIAN RESOURCE CENTER©

DEFINING A DISCIPLE'S LIFESTYLE

Maybe you think of worship as something that travels on music. Maybe you think of worship as something that only occurs in church, and only at specific times of the week. In reality, worship means ascribing worth to something. A disciple ascribes worth to God in thought and action every day. A disciple pursues God by deciding to value a relationship with God above all else. That is, at its very core, appropriate worship.

The Bible is filled with examples of men and women worshipping God. The Word is very direct about the commands. Read the following verses and record what you learn about worship:

Exodus 34:14 _____

2 Kings 17:36 _____

2 Kings 17:39 _____

Psalms 29:2 _____

Psalms 95:6 _____

Psalms 99:5 _____

Luke 4:8 _____

The mandate for worship could not be more clear; the dilemma is in how to proceed. Clearly, it has something to do with God's mercy and has a spiritual element to it. (Romans 12:1)

I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

It has to do with God's kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

It has to do with the fact that God is the creator.

Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.

In this class, we will look at the concept of discipleship in the Bible and review and think over the writings of others who have begun the quest for a real lifestyle of discipleship.

We will come face to face with the truth that real discipleship is a lifestyle worship experience. It is characterized by excellence in work and integrity in character. It is revealed when the situation is terrible but our responses are right. Real worship essentially recognizes that God is in control; therefore, He can be worshipped even when the going gets tough.

Real worship holds on even in the difficult times because it recognizes that God can be trusted in all things at all times.

He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

As we begin our look at discipleship, write your definition here. (We will come back to it at the end of the class) _____

You may have some questions: What is worship?: Is it good for my business? Does it guarantee corporate success? If I worship enough, will God rescue me from this drab job and make me a king like David, or at least a senior vice-president? If I am a good worshiper, will God bless me with a big house in an affluent neighborhood? How about a BMW? If I worship well, will God make me popular? Will it help me feel good about myself? Is it culturally relevant? If worship can't be counted like cash, if it can't be seen like sailboats, and if it can't empower my position, who needs it?

Briefly, the answers are: more than you think, maybe, no, not likely, not likely, not likely, not likely, yes, yes, and YOU DO!

John Garmo, Lifestyle Worship

In both the Old and New Testaments, the concept of following God involves both rendering homage and service; that is to say that the concept is one of ascribing worth to God and His plans and His ways. Our word worship comes from an Anglo-saxon word "weorthscipe" which can be translated "worthship." It basically tells us that worship is ascribing worth to something or someone.

OLD TESTAMENT

Shachah: worship 7812; to bow down; to prostrate oneself before; to reverence; to worship

Deuteronomy 11:16 "Beware, lest your hearts be deceived and you turn away and serve other gods and worship them."

Abad: worship 5647; to work; to serve; to become a slave to; to worship

Psalm 2:11 Worship the Lord with reverence, and rejoice with trembling.

NEW TESTAMENT

Proskuneo: worship 4352; to kiss the hand; to bow down; to worship

1 Corinthians 14:25 ...the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

Latreia: worship 2999; service, particularly that has been hired or purchased

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

The New Testament concept of worship makes it clear that our service of God is not something that should be considered optional; the discipleship worship appropriate for the church has been purchased at great price by the blood of Christ.

Read the following verses and record what you learn about "latreia" worship:

Revelation 7:13-15 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their

robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they **worship** Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

The martyrs described in these verses have continued in faithfulness even to the point of death.

Continue your thinking by reading the following verses:

Philippians 3:3 _____

Hebrews 9:8-10 _____

Romans 1:1-9 _____

As you read through the Romans 1 passage above, reflect on the reasons Paul referred to himself as a "bond-servant" of Christ. Complete your study today by reading the following passages, recording what you learn:

Revelation 5:9 _____

Acts 20:28 _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

Worship is both an inward attitude and an outward response of discipleship. God is worthy of our worship because of who He is. He is due our worship because of what He has done. In everything we do or say, we should show that we believe God is worthy of our true discipleship.

ABIDING AND SERVING

In chapter one, we learned that discipleship is the result of an inner attitude and an outward response of service. Good questions at this point might ask where this inner attitude comes from, or how we can “rev ourselves up to do service.” In fact, if this is our approach, we haven’t yet understood lifestyle worship at all!

While people may measure our worth by our list of accomplishments, God is very concerned about the attitude from which the service flows. In fact, if the attitude is wrong, the service is pointless.

Read the following verses and record what you learn:

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 _____

Matthew 22:37-40 _____

Worship is an attitude of willful devotion that is revealed with integrity in a variety of situations. Read the following verses and record some of the situations:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 _____

In the last verse of this “love chapter” of 1 Corinthians 13, Paul gets to the heart of the worship experience. As you read this verse, record why you think that only these three spiritual attributes are spoken of as “abiding.”

1 Corinthians 13:13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

If time permits, do a word study on “abide” and record your results here:

Jesus had some important insights to share about the “abiding” relationship between God and His people. Read John 15, the story of the vine and branches, and record some of your insights here: _____

The branch exists to bear fruit. But if it is not connected to the vine, the branch dies and is fruitless. Fruit is the reason for the branch, but it is the product of the vine!

Our fruit is the product of God’s work in our inner attitudes of heart. It is seen outwardly as qualities of character. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 _____

Galatians 5:22-23 _____

We have the capacity to seek sustenance from other sources than the true vine. But this would invite personal disaster!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

Abiding involves both attitude and action: the attitude is a choice to remain true to the vine; the action is drawing nourishment from the vine and waiting for fruit in season. Fruitfulness is the reason for the branch but it is also the product of the vine.

DISCIPLESHIP IS A CHOICE

Last week we learned that remaining true to the vine and trusting God to produce fruit are key to lifestyle worship. Matt Redman, one of the most respected worship leaders of our times, offers this explanation:

This world is full of fragile loves—love that abandons, love that fades, love that divorces, love that is self-seeking. But the unquenchable worshipper is different. From a heart so amazed by God and His wonders burns a love that will not be extinguished. It survives any situation and lives through any circumstance. It will not allow itself to be quenched, for that would heap insult on the love it lives in response to.

Matt Redman, The Unquenchable Worshipper

Today, we will look in the Word for examples of lifestyle worshippers who have made the choice to stay connected to the vine, even in the face of difficult personal circumstances. We will begin our look today in Acts 16.

This chapter describes the beginning of Paul's second missionary journey. Some very strange circumstances have been encountered. As you read Acts 16, record anything that seems "out of the ordinary." _____

Beginning at Acts 16:16, record the reason that Paul and Silas were in jail: _____

Reading Acts 16:25, record the response of Paul and Silas to their situation: _____

Reading in Acts 16:29-33, record the result: _____

Many times our worship veers off course because of circumstances in our life that are very difficult. Learning to trust God during the times of difficult circumstances--learning to abide in the vine—is not always easy even though it may genuinely be what we desire. We long to move into the state described in Song of Songs 8:6,7:

Song 8:6-7 "Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord. Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it;

The second passage that we will consider in this section is the entire book of Habakkuk. Do a bit of research on this Old Testament prophet, and describe the times in which he lived: _____

Read Habakkuk 1:13 and describe the problem that Habakkuk is bringing before God: _____

Even as Habakkuk brought the complaint, he recognized God's sovereignty. Read Habakkuk 2:1 and paraphrase below Habakkuk's comments: _____

Eventually, Habakkuk would make the decision to be a worshipper. Read Habakkuk 3:17-18 and record his worshipful response: _____

We long, as Paul and Silas and Habakkuk, to be disciples whose love and worship and service cannot be extinguished by circumstances.

There are three ways to extinguish a fire:

- 1. Cool it down by throwing water on it**
- 2. Take away the source of oxygen**
- 3. Remove available fuel**

We have already discussed the way that circumstances can “cool down” our zeal for God and quench our fervor for discipleship.

Removing the source of oxygen is also a valid concern. Because we worship and serve by the Holy Spirit, we must be careful not to trust too much in the flesh thereby quenching the Holy Spirit of God. Our lives must be a suitable dwelling place for the Holy Spirit that lives within us.

**Philippians 3:3 ...for we are the true
circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God
and glory in Christ Jesus and put no
confidence in the flesh,**

Now, read Ephesians 4:20-30 and record what this lifestyle should look like: ____

We might also extinguish the fire of discipleship by cutting off the fuel that feeds the fire. God’s revelation of himself is the fuel on which the fire of our worship and service burns. We never reach the end of this fuel; it is our choice to continue to put ourselves in situations where we can receive additional revelation. We do this by reading the Word, praying, and having fellowship with other believers. We can also do this by reverently observing things that God has made.

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

If your lifestyle worship seems like it has been extinguished, ask yourself if you have let circumstances cool the flame; ask yourself if you have in some way grieved the Holy Spirit that lives within you; ask yourself if you have been actively fueling the fire.

REPENTANCE AND DISCIPLESHIP

Last week we looked at some of the things that might cause our fervor for lifestyle discipleship to be extinguished. Certainly worship and service do not mean refusing to acknowledge things that are wrong in our lives. There is a time and place for brokenness and repentance in our discipleship relationship with God. There comes a time when we realize that our attitudes have not always been right; our motives have not always been pure; our worship has become tainted.

Read Psalm 51:17 and record what you learn about David: _____

Clearly, there is a time to be joyful and comfortable in our relationship with God. But there are also times when God moves us outside our comfort zone. During those times, we come to see ourselves in light of God's character. We come to realize the nuances of life, the unspoken thoughts and attitudes that we accept in ourselves but which offend the heart of God.

Today, we will be looking at the life of Isaiah, one of the greatest prophets who ever lived. Specifically, we will be looking at Isaiah's response to God's call on his life. Read Isaiah 6:1-5 and record what you learn: _____

Isaiah's vision was his commission to be God's messenger to his people. Isaiah was given a difficult mission. He had to tell people who believed they were blessed by God that instead God was going to destroy them because of their disobedience.

Isaiah's lofty view of God in Isaiah 6:1-4 gives us a sense of God's greatness, mystery, and power. Isaiah's example of recognizing his sinfulness before God encourages us to confess our sin. His picture of forgiveness reminds us that we, too, are forgiven. When we recognize how great our God is, how sinful we are, and the extent of God's forgiveness, we receive power to do his work.

The throne, the attending seraphim

or angels, and the threefold *holy* all stressed God's holiness. Seraphim were a type of angel whose name is derived from the word for "burn," perhaps indicating their purity as God's ministers. In a time when moral and spiritual decay had peaked, it was important for Isaiah to see God in his holiness. Holiness means morally perfect, pure, and set apart from all sin.

We also need to discover God's holiness. Our daily frustrations, society's pressures, and our shortcomings reduce and narrow our view of God. We need the Bible's view of God as high and lifted up to empower us to deal with our problems and concerns. God's moral perfection, properly seen, will purify us from sin, cleanse our minds from our problems, and enable us to worship and to serve.

Isaiah's response may have been in part dictated by the actions of people that he had witnessed, the concept of God that many Jews shared.

Read 2 Chronicles 26:16-20 and record what you learn about King Uzziah: _____

At this point of considering worship, it is helpful to compare Isaiah and Uzziah:

Uzziah	Isaiah
Insensitive to sin	Recognized sin
Ceremonially unclean	Cleansed
Excluded from temple worship	Included in temple worship
Saw God as subject to him	Saw God "high and lifted up"

When seen next to the purity of God's holiness, the impurity of human sin is all the more evident. The prophet's unclean lips probably symbolized his attitudes and actions as well as his words, for a person's words reflect his thinking and relate to his actions.

Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

It is clear that Isaiah felt an identification with the people of Israel. Paul saw and felt a similar repentance on behalf of the people of Israel.

Read Romans 9:1-8 and record what you learn: _____

**All our falls are useful if they strip us
of a disastrous confidence in
ourselves, while they do not take away
a humble and saving trust in God.
Fenelon, Talking With God**

Many things can lead us to a point of brokenness and repentance: a glimpse of God's glory, His help in a situation where we have failed, a simple phrase from the Word, or the help of an accountability partner. It is encouraging, therefore, to read through to chapter 40 in the book of Isaiah. In this beautiful chapter, God gives comfort. Read Isaiah 40:1,2 and record what you learn: _____

In our life journey, God leads us on to new areas and challenges. Our goal should be to move on having internalized the lessons we learned in our time of brokenness so that our dependence becomes more and more on God and less and less on ourselves.

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship and it's all about you....

I'm sorry, Lord, for the things I've made it, when it's all about you...

AN EXTRAVAGANT LIFE OF LOVE

Love does not stop nicely to calculate the less or more; love does not stop to work out how little it can respectably give. With a kind of divine extravagance, love gives everything it has and never counts the cost. Calculation is never any part of love.

William Barclay, The Mind of Jesus

One of the most interesting stories in the Old Testament is found in 2 Samuel 6. It is the story of David bringing the Ark of the Covenant into his capital city, Jerusalem. This trip was neither uneventful nor quick. There was a major problem along the way.

Read 2 Samuel 6:3 and Exodus 25:14 and 1 Chronicles 15:2 and record what you learn: _____

From these verses, we learn that David's desire to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Israel was a good desire; however, the efforts were hampered by lack of knowledge of the appropriate way to transport the Ark. This unfortunately resulted in human death and a delay in returning the Ark to Jerusalem.

Something had been missing in David's worship of God that was restored that day. Read 2 Samuel 6:9 and record the missing element: _____

Now read 2 Samuel 6:12-23 and record what you learn about the rest of the story: _____

One of the first things that scripture teaches us about David is his trust in the Lord. It is found in his youthful encounter with Goliath, the champion of the Philistines.

1 Samuel 17:44-45 The Philistine also said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the beasts of the field." Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.

It is clear that David already knew something about the value of a relationship with God and the power of His name.

It is also clear that Michal, David's wife, was not acting out of dislike for David when she ridiculed his worship. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

1 Samuel 19:12 _____

1 Samuel 18:28 _____

Michal's problem was failure to recognize that true worship sometimes abandons self completely and focuses on God entirely.

**2 Samuel 22:4 "I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised;
And I am saved from my enemies.**

Praised: *halla!* 1984; to act insanely; to go mad; to make fools; to glory; to sing praises

From this word for praise, we get our word "Hallelujah," which means "praise Yahweh." In light of this definition, how would you define Hallelujah? In one sense it may seem utter foolishness—but it is really a picture of extravagant worship that overflows from the abundance of love for God. A disciple understands such extravagance!

Jesus gives us a bit of teaching on this subject. Read Luke 6:45 and record what you learn: _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

There is no room for selfish pride in real discipleship. It's an offense to distract attention from God. God must increase; we must decrease.

NEW EVERY MORNING

**John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship
Him must worship in spirit and truth."**

There are many traditions with regard to worship in the church. Litany and form are not wrong and in fact can be reassuring to worshippers because of familiarity. But tradition can also become cold, continuing for the sake of tradition alone, and it can kill the spontaneous expression of love between creature and creator. Some balance of tradition and spontaneity must be sought in the lifestyle of worship.

There is nothing more special than knowing that the Holy Spirit has interrupted our sameness and breathed new life into us. It is an unpredictability that gives freshness to our existence. Just such a worship event is recorded in Mark 14. Read Mark 14:1,2 and record what you learn of the events in Jesus' life:

Now continue reading Mark 14:3-5 and record the actions of the woman: _____

Jewish women from wealthier families frequently had two jars of costly perfume given to them at the time they were considered adult. The first jar was to anoint her on her wedding day; the second was set aside for her burial.

The woman anointing Jesus (probably not the same event as recorded in Luke 7:36-50) was most probably Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. Historical accounts record that she was a widow; therefore, her jar for anointing on her wedding day had doubtless been used previously. This must mean that she anointed Jesus with the jar that was set aside for her own burial. This gives particular explanation to Jesus' comment that she had anointed him before hand for His burial.

This event of spontaneous worship is so important that it is recorded in other gospels as well.

Now, read the account again in each of these gospels:

Matthew 26:7-12 _____

John 12:3-8 _____

Our thinking in this chapter focuses on spirit and truth in worship. Because God is spirit, we are to offer spiritual worship. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to assist us in knowing truths about God.

John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

One of the most profound verses in the entire Bible speaks of God's desire to have us worship Him.

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

God is seeking people who will worship Him in spirit and truth. He is actively looking for those people who will respond to the Spirit and worship according to the truths that have been revealed to them. Dependence on the Holy Spirit is the key to all authentic lifestyle worship.

There is a very real sense in which the Holy Spirit is the worship leader of our lives. He helps us to know truths about God that can only be revealed by spiritual means and guides us into relationship with God that we cannot fathom on our own.

It is interesting to note, from Mark 14, that the account of the conspiracy by the religious leaders and Judas (Mark 14:1-2, and Mark 14:10-11) is divided by the account of Jesus' anointing in Bethany (Mark 14: 3-9). In this way Mark emphasized the striking contrast between the hostility of those who plotted His death and the loving devotion of one who recognized Him as the suffering Messiah and spontaneously worshipped at His feet.

If time permits, do a word study on "Messiah." Record what you learn here:

In Jewish tradition kings, priests and others had to be anointed for service. But Jesus here stresses a different kind of anointing, which Mary may not have intended: anointing a body for burial. Her act of love and worship was the only anointing Jesus would receive.

Jesus' commendation of Mary is especially touching.

**Mark 14:8 "She has done what
she could;**

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

God is seeking people to worship in Spirit and truth. The Holy Spirit is key to all authentic worship. We must reverence Him more and rely on Him more. Without the help of the Spirit flowing from our relationship with God, our discipleship becomes only works.

UNVEILED WORSHIP

One of the most interesting stories about a personal encounter with God occurs in Exodus 34. God was beginning a revelation of Himself and His righteous standards through the giving of the Law to Moses. Clearly, the people were accustomed to other gods being in the picture, because while Moses was on the mountain, they made an idol down in their camp. When Moses descended from the mountain the second time, something interesting is recorded.

Read Exodus 34:29-35 and record what you learn: _____

Moses' face is not the only place that we read about a veil separating people from the glory of God. Read Leviticus 16:2 and record what you learn: _____

Only the high priest went behind the veil, and only one time each year on the Day of Atonement.

Scripture describes Jesus as our High Priest who went behind the veil once for all; the veil was torn at the time of Jesus crucifixion, symbolizing that the way into God's presence was being opened to believers. In fact, Hebrews 10:20 describes Jesus' flesh as the veil.

Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Matthew 27:51 _____

Mark 15:38 _____

Luke 23:45 _____

In 2 Corinthians 3:9, Paul is saying that if the old covenant had its glory (and certainly it did), just imagine how glorious the new covenant is. The Law was wonderful because, although it condemned us, it pointed us to Christ. But in the new covenant, the Law and the promise are fulfilled. Christ has come—by faith we can be justified (made right with God)!

When Moses came down Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, his face glowed from being in God's presence. Moses had to put on a veil to keep the people from being terrified by the brightness of his face. Paul adds that this veil kept them from seeing the radiance fade away.

Moses and his veil illustrate the fading of the old system and the veiling of the people's minds and understanding by their pride, hardness of heart, and refusal to repent. The veil kept them from understanding the references to Christ in the Scriptures. When anyone becomes a Christian, Christ removes the veil, giving eternal life and freedom from trying to be saved by keeping laws. And without the veil, we can be like mirrors reflecting God's. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

2 Corinthians 3:7-18 _____

Those who believed they were saved by keeping the Old Testament law were soon tied up in rules and ceremonies. But now, through the Holy Spirit, God provides freedom from sin and condemnation (Romans 8:1). When we trust Christ to save us, he removes our heavy burden of trying to please him and our guilt for failing to do so. By trusting Christ we are loved, accepted, forgiven, and freed to live for him. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

The glory that the Spirit imparts to the believer is more excellent and lasts longer than the glory that Moses experienced. By gazing at the nature of God with unveiled minds, we can be more like him. In the gospel, we see the truth about Christ, and it transforms us morally as we understand and apply it. Through learning about Christ's life, we can understand how wonderful God is and what he is really like.

As our knowledge deepens, the Holy Spirit helps us to change. Becoming Christlike is a progressive experience called sanctification. The more closely we follow Christ, the more we will be like him.

Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Romans 8:29 _____

Galatians 4:19 _____

Philippians 3:21 _____

1 John 3:2 _____

Jesus actually invites us, those who believe in Him, into an intimate and personal relationship wherein we are unveiled worshipers. Look at His invitation in Revelation 3:20 and record what you learn. Specifically, look at the audience He is addressing: _____

Although many people think that this message is one of evangelism, it is clear that Christ was speaking to those who are already believers; He is inviting His people to greater intimacy with Him. The invitation is to "eat." This word doesn't mean just the consumption of food. It represents the main meal where there was fellowship and quality time set aside. Culturally, it wasn't a hurried event; it was where you hung out and got to know each other.

There is a powerful union of respect, awe, and reverence that goes along with this intimacy.

Read Psalm 25:14 and record what you learn: _____

In view of these truths, we need to realize that God has invited us to closeness with Him; we must never take that for granted. We must never forget who we are approaching.

Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Ecclesiastes 5:1,2,7 _____

We are to stand in awe of God. (In fact, sometimes we don't even stand! We may be flat on our face!)

As we end our study for today, read the following verses and record the reaction to God's presence:

Revelation 1:17 _____

Revelation 4:10 _____

Psalm 72:11 _____

Isaiah 45:23 _____

Romans 14:11 _____

John 18:4-6 _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

In an age of informality and irreverence, true disciples treasure the call to intimacy with Him. Transfixed by His glory and transformed in His presence, we become ever more like Him. We are different. We are radiant, for all to see, and shining with the glory of God.

FEAR NOT!

A wonderful story is told about Charles Wesley, who lived in England during the 1700's. He was in a prayer meeting at Leeds, in an upstairs room, when the floor collapsed and 100 people crashed through the ceiling into the room below. People were screaming and crying. Wesley himself was hurt in the collapse but from where he lay bleeding, he yelled out, "Fear not! The Lord is with us; our lives are all safe." Then he began singing the Doxology, "praise God from whom all blessings flow."

A fun study is to look at all of the places in the Bible where the words "fear not" or "do not be afraid" are written. It is amazing to look at the stories of people who kept going when the going was tough. It is incredible to see how some persevered in the face of danger, opposition, or even death.

Read Acts 5:41 and record what you learn about the early church: _____

People who are real disciples frequently meet with opposition from the world and from the devil. We have already looked at the way that David's wife, Michal, despised him for his worship of God. But people who are really lifestyle worshippers are so passionate about God that they are unstoppable by opposition. They are unwilling to see God's name be maligned.

Read Psalm 69:4 and 7-9 and record what you learn: _____

Neither the Jews nor the Romans could stop Paul's lifestyle of discipleship. The only way to stop him was to kill him. While Paul was imprisoned, he wrote the book that we know as Ephesians, a letter to the church in Ephesus. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Ephesians 6:19,20 _____

David expressed something of the same sentiment in 1 Samuel 17:46. Read that verse and record David's motivation: _____

We know the stories of the great men and women of God, who answered His call on their lives, and whose lifestyle of worship could only be ended in death. In Acts 7, we read about one of these men, Stephen, the first martyr of the church.

Read Acts 6:8 and record what you learn about Stephen: _____

Now, read Acts 6:9-15 and record who opposed Stephen, and why they opposed him: _____

In Acts 7:1-50 we read Stephen's sermon to the people who opposed him. It was less a defense for himself than a presentation of the gospel message. Read his sermon and record the main points here: _____

Although verse 54 tells us that the sermon resulted in more opposition, including Stephen's stoning death, we also read something of God's revelation to Stephen. Read Acts 7:55 and record what you learn: _____

Jesus himself carried out an act of fearless worship in coming to earth to die for us. He had some words of instruction for his disciples. Read Luke 12:4,5 and record what you learn: _____

On the night He was betrayed, scripture tells us that Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples. According to tradition, a final hymn was sung before leaving the room. Read Mark 14:25,26: _____

This hymn was usually Psalm 136. As you reflect on the perseverance of lifestyle disciples, record what you learn about God in Psalm 136: _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

Disciples do not fear what the world or the devil can do to them. They will pay any price to see God's will done in their lives; they will even die to see God's name lifted up.

SECOND VIOLIN

Leonard Bernstein, the famed conductor, once said that it is hard to find anyone who really wants to play second violin. Everyone knows who the first violinist is; everyone wants to enthusiastically play first violin. It is much more difficult to find someone who can play second violin with enthusiasm. But Bernstein also observed that without the second violin, there is no symphony!

In our culture, so much emphasis is placed on the person who is “up front,” the visible person, the celebrity. Some people will do almost anything to be recognized as important. Whereas people are concerned with the public presentation, God is much more concerned with the hidden condition of the heart. He sees the small, private offerings that people make—not for attention for themselves, but to honor Him.

Today, we will begin our reading with a section from Luke 21. The story is known as “the widow’s mite.” Read Luke 21:1-4 and record what you learn: ____

This woman did not give her offering to get attention from the world. The world would not have seen her offering as having much value. To the world she was largely unnoticed; but to God, her act of devoted worship was very important.

Jesus had much to say about public service vs private service. Clearly, there is a place for both. Equally clearly, there is no place for pride.

Matthew 6:3-4 "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Matthew 6:5-6 "And when you pray, you are not to be as the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

One of the greatest struggles of the Christian lifestyle occurs when our gifts and/or callings are recognized by other believers and we are called to service that is public. Maintaining the heart motivation of our “second violin” service becomes harder when we move up to first chair.

David gives us a good (and bad) example of the toll taken on our lives in the public arena. David was still young when the prophet Samuel gave a famous description of him. Read 1 Samuel 13:14 and record what you learn: _____

When David was in the shepherd’s field, his song and prayer was to God alone. But when his leadership was acknowledged, and he became king of all Israel, the challenge was to keep the simple heart of devotion to God. David had some notable failures—times when he let his station in life impact his good judgment. Pride in his position caused him to act with power that was not under God’s control.

One of the most important things we will ever learn in our Christian walk is that authority and power go together. One without the other is useless in God’s service.

Authority is the right to act in a given situation, within certain boundaries, and according to pre-determined rules.

Power is the ability to act in areas where authority has been granted.

Read Matthew 28:18 and record how much authority was accorded to Jesus after His death and resurrection: _____

Even though Jesus clearly spoke of having all authority, he commanded his disciples to also wait for the power that would team with the authority to enable His people.

Luke 24:49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Read Acts 1:8 and record what you learn: _____

Read also the following:

Proverbs 11:2 _____

Proverbs 16:18 _____

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

God treasures even the simplest of acts of service when they are done with a worshipful heart that is right before Him.

AN UNDIVIDED HEART

**Psalm 86:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will
walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.**

One of the most unsettling things about our culture today is the acceptance and tolerance of religious pluralism. Essentially, the pluralistic mindset tells us that there can be many ways to God—that there must be some huge list of optional ways to come to Christ. Clearly the Bible teaches otherwise.

But it is not only these concepts which cause our hearts to be divided. Often, even “good” things can draw our attention and devotion away from the Lord. The heart that seeks to be undivided before the Lord will have both a defensive mode and an offensive mode. There is a time to defend; there is a time to attack; there is a time to guard your heart and a time to speak your heart.

Read James 1:27 and record what you learn: _____

Because both elements are important, God has equipped believers with all that is needed for both. Read Ephesians 6:13-19 and list the offensive and defensive weaponry discussed: _____

Deciding to keep your allegiances undivided is a choice that is made every day of our Christian life. The Bible speaks of this choice as a decision to “set the heart.”

Read Ezra 7:10 and record what you learn: _____

1 Chronicles 12:14 _____

As we begin to learn more and more about God, as His character is revealed to us, and as we move forward in lifestyle worship, we find that we fear the world

less and less. And as our fear diminishes, our ability to set our heart on God alone greatly increases.

Daniel 10:12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

Lifestyle worship then has two distinct components:

1. Pure hearts, set on God; determination to let nothing take our focus off of God
2. Devotion that takes action to maintain the honor of God's name and seeks every opportunity to tell others about Him through our lifestyle, character, values, service, and motivations

As you end your reading for this lesson, record truths that you learn from Luke 10:38-42 _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

It is possible to work hard at tasks God has called us to do and still maintain a heart that is undivided toward Him. Jesus did this. But it is an exercise in balance: there are times to push forward and times to let everything else fade into the background as we sit at the feet of Jesus.

MADE FOR ANOTHER WORLD

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. C. S. Lewis

People who are really entering into a lifestyle of discipleship frequently look at the world and just know that “it isn’t supposed to be this way.” They realize that there is something more and they long to find it themselves and then to show it to others. Matt Redman describes a three-part tension in the believer’s life:

1. We have only glimpsed God
2. We live knowing that our world is broken
3. We live awaiting our completion

These tensions don’t make us bad disciples, but they do make us understand the incomplete nature of our redemption and long for the completion that will come in another time and place.

In his letter to the Corinthians church, Paul describes the tension that comes from only glimpsing God. Read 1 Corinthians 13:12 and record what you learn:

John wrote concerning the state of creation after the fall. Read 1 John 2:16 and record what you learn: _____

Continue reading in Romans 8:20-22 _____

Not only does the creation groan awaiting redemption, but believers are also awaiting the redemption of their bodies—the time when they are given a glorious spiritual body. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Romans 8:23 _____

1 Corinthians 5:2-9 _____

Jesus has paid the price for the complete redemption of the earth and its people; although He has redeemed us spiritually if we have accepted His redemptive work by faith, we have not yet been redeemed bodily.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 _____

As you reflect on the future redemption of our bodies and of the earth, take time to follow the scriptural references coming from the kinsman redeemer model below.

WHY ONE NEEDS A REDEEMER

1. Had become enslaved – kinsman redeemer paid the price to redeem the enslaved relative
2. Had lost control of land – kinsman redeemer paid the price to redeem the land
3. Family murder – kinsman redeemer served as the judicial executioner of the murderer
4. Had produced no heirs – kinsman redeemer married the one without heirs and produced heirs

WHO COULD SERVE AS A GA'AL

The nearest blood relative who: (Leviticus 25:48)

1. Was willing to pay the price (would use his own resources to pay the price)
2. Was able to pay the price (was qualified i.e. sufficient resources and not himself a slave: Ruth 4:6)

MANKIND (ADAM) NEEDED A REDEEMER

1. After the fall, mankind was enslaved to sin (John 8:34: Jesus answered them, "truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.")
2. Mankind had lost dominion of the earth (John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out")
3. Mankind had been murdered (John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning...")
4. Because of sin, there were no heirs for the kingdom (Romans 4:14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified.)

HOW JESUS REDEEMED US

1. We had no eligible kinsman to redeem mankind because no one was able (i.e. not himself enslaved to sin) Sin entered through being a descendant from Adam's seed)
2. Jesus became eligible for us by meeting the requirements:

- a. He became a blood relative (Hebrews 2:14 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same)
- b. He was able because he wasn't born of Adam's seed and therefore was not born enslaved to sin
- c. He was willing

JESUS' ACTIONS FOR US

- 1. Redeemed any of enslaved mankind who choose His redemption
- 2. Will redeem the land over which Satan took control (Earth)
- 3. Will include the judicial execution of our murderer (Rev. 20:10, 14)
- 4. Will include marriage to those who had produced no heirs, making them His bride (the church)

EXAMPLES OF REDEMPTION

Ruth and Boaz (he redeemed the land and married her) Ruth 4:1-13

Jeremiah 32:10-14 (he redeemed the land and put the deed in a jar of clay)

Articles redeemed were "sealed" as a mark of ownership and authenticity. Only the rightful purchaser could break the seal, which was both placed and broken before witnesses.

REDEMPTION TERMINOLOGY

- 1. 2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (referring to saved spirits in fleshly bodies)
Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise
- 2. Revelation 19:9 And he said to me, "write, 'blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And He said to me, "these are true words of God."

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

As we embark on a lifestyle of worship, we know that we will one day reach our final destination. But for now, each step is just a reminder of the glorious inheritance that awaits the saints.

FOREVER WORSHIP

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
And there I'll serve my king forever, in that holy place.
Melody Green**

When the tensions and pressures of life on earth weigh heavily on us, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that we are making choices for eternity. Decisions that we make while we live on earth cannot be undone after we die. So it is very important to make good decisions now. Scripture tells us that we are clearly making one of two choices. Read the following and record what you learn:

2 Peter 1:4 _____

1 John 2:16 _____

Knowing what is awaiting us causes us to long for another time that is still to come. Even the apostle, Paul, expressed his longing for the "forever" sort of worship. Read Philippians 1:21-24 and record what you learn: _____

We are a people who are on an incredible journey. We know our destination. The prize is incredible.

1 Corinthians 9:24 _____

Philippians 3:14 _____

2 Timothy 2:5 _____

In view of the incredible new life that awaits us, it is easy to see this life as just a dress rehearsal—a way we mark time until the real stuff comes—a waste of time. But this clearly is not what the Bible describes.

Revelation 1:6 _____

Colossians 1:13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...

The kingdom of this world, whose ruler is Satan, and the kingdom of Heaven, whose ruler is God, are in conflict now, on earth. But there is good news.

Read Matthew 16:18 and record what you learn. Specifically look over the verses for context: _____

There will be a time when we are with God forever; we are in His presence forever. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and list all of the specific things that you find: _____

But, these wonderful truths in no way supersede the need for the church to be about kingdom business here and now. Read the following verses and write down any truths you learn about God's kingdom here on earth:

Matthew 6:10 _____

Matthew 6:33 _____

Matthew 16:19 _____

Colossians 1:13 _____

1 Thessalonians 2:12 _____

2 Timothy 4:8 _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

It is true that one day believers will be with the Lord forever. But disciples understand that this does not minimize the importance of being about God's business now, on earth. They understand that their service now is just the beginning of worship that will last forever.

TRANSFORMED BY TROUBLES

**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2**

The story is told of some men who were taking sheep out of a truck. As the sheep came down the loading ramp, a worker held a staff across the ramp. The first sheep jumped over the staff and went on. The second sheep jumped over the staff and went on. The third sheep jumped over the staff and went on. Then the staff was taken away. But, the rest of the sheep kept jumping a nonexistent staff. This is a great example of mindless conformity. It is also a wonderful example of why people are called sheep!

Satan is waging warfare against us. He wants to prevent us from being saved; if he cannot do that, he wants to neutralize us—make us useless for the kingdom of God. But God wants us to learn to think like He thinks—to have minds that are transformed by His truth. Much of what we learn about this transformation occurs when we find ourselves in times of trouble.

The world loves us when we conform to its standards. But when we begin to conform to Christ, we can expect that the world will give us trouble. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

John 16:33 _____

Romans 12:21 _____

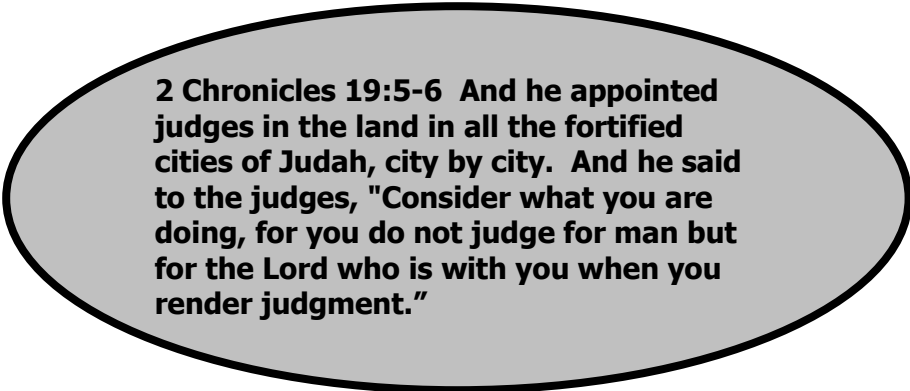
2 Peter 2:19 _____

Today, our study will look at the life of a man who didn't do things the world's way. We begin his story in 2 Chronicles 17:3. Read this verse and record what you learn: _____

Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa became king in 872 B.C. His reign lasted until 848 B.C. He was well regarded by surrounding countries and enjoyed the prestige of position, riches, and honor. It is also clear that, although he sometimes strayed, he generally enjoyed a good relationship with God.

Read 2 Chronicles 17:10 and record what you learn: _____

There was a time of relative peace under Jehoshaphat. He was not only a military and civil leader, but also played a part in the spiritual leadership of Judah. He began a series of teaching seminars given by good teachers who traveled through Judah instructing people in the Law. He also began some significant judicial reforms, appointing judges and charging them to let the Lord lead their judgments.



2 Chronicles 19:5-6 And he appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city. And he said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord who is with you when you render judgment."

Jehoshaphat's secure world threatened collapse when news of an invading army reached him.

2 Chronicles 20:1 Now it came about after this that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat.

We might liken the situation to first gulf war when Iraq was poised on the border of tiny Kuwait to invade it. The similarities stop there, for Jehoshaphat's response was not like anything seen in recent times. Jehoshaphat sent messengers throughout Judah to call on the people to fast. Then they came to

Jerusalem to seek help from the Lord. People came from every town in the kingdom to gather in front of the temple. This meeting point was extremely significant because the temple had been built with the understanding that if they were ever faced with impending doom, they would stand there together in God's presence and cry out to the Lord, requesting deliverance. There, before the Lord, the people gathered to express their faith and to pray.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:10-12 and paraphrase the prayer the Jehoshaphat offered to God: _____

Jehoshaphat is best remembered for his statement of trust in 2 Chronicles 20:12:

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.

Now read God's response to Jehoshaphat that is recorded in 2 Chronicles 20:15-17: _____

It is especially noteworthy that Jehoshaphat put those praising God in front of the army as they went to battle.

2 Chronicles 20:21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His lovingkindness is everlasting."

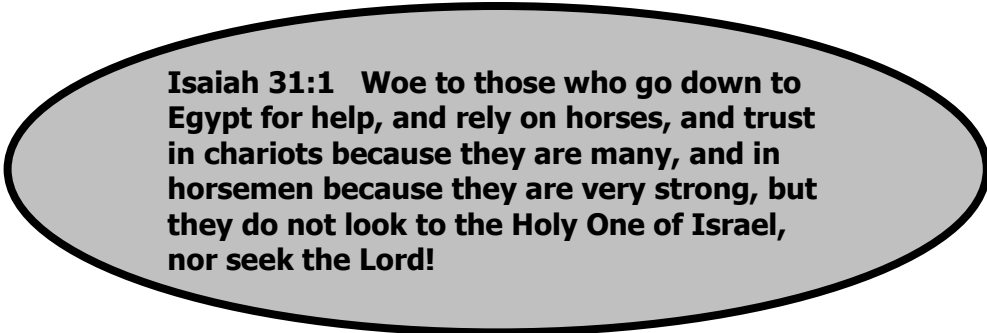
Complete your reading today with 2 Chronicles 20:22-27. Record all pertinent facts about this victory: _____

Jehoshaphat's approach to an invading army was definitely not conformed to the world's way of thinking! But there are some notable points to consider. When Jehoshaphat was confronted with trouble:

- ♦ **He committed the situation to God, acknowledging that only God could save the nation.**
- ♦ **He sought God's favor because his people were God's people.**
- ♦ **He acknowledged God's sovereignty over the current situation.**
- ♦ **He praised God's glory and took comfort in his promises.**
- ♦ **He professed complete dependence on God, not himself, for deliverance.**

To be God's kind of leader today, follow Jehoshaphat's example—focus entirely on God's power rather than your own!

We might say that Jehoshaphat's approach was counter-cultural! It is a wonder that the people actually took this approach. It certainly defies the world's usual pattern of priorities. The people had made a constant, willful choice to look to God for their salvation rather than trusting in weapons of warfare. They had made this choice because God had told them to make this choice.



Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, and trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but they do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord!

It is brave and courageous to stand in the face of an enemy when the Lord has told you to do so!

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

Colossians 3:1-2 "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth." As we enter into lifestyle discipleship, thinking and functioning as God designed us to, we will loose our self-centered orientation as we move within God's will.

JUST DO IT!

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God 1 Corinthians 10:31

Within all of us is the desire to make our lives really count. We want to be significant, if only in small ways. We don't want to be trapped into just doing anything, or just earning a paycheck. We long for our work to be worthwhile. We want to make a difference!

How do we know when we've done this? We make a difference when our action or interaction results in a positive change. These sorts of actions don't just occur within the confines of the church. They can be associated with our jobs or our families or many other daily situations. We long to make a difference so that we please God. He is the reason we long to do things well.

Whenever you have an appropriate opportunity to make a difference, big or small, just do it! Do it for the fun of it, for the improvement of it, and as a way of worship.

Sometimes we aren't aware that we're making a difference. Sometimes we work diligently to make a difference and don't see that we have. Missionaries can give testimony to this fact! To begin our thinking today, think of those people who have made a difference in your life. List them here: _____

As an act of worship, you can "pay it forward." How do we go about doing this—how do we interact with our sphere of influence?

Read John 7:38 and record what you learn: _____

What are some practical ways to do this?

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

When we make worship of God an attitude, our attitudes toward ourselves, others, and work change. Our hearts become thankful, and thoughtful. Part of our worship is disciplining our thought habits and processes. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Philippians 4:8 _____

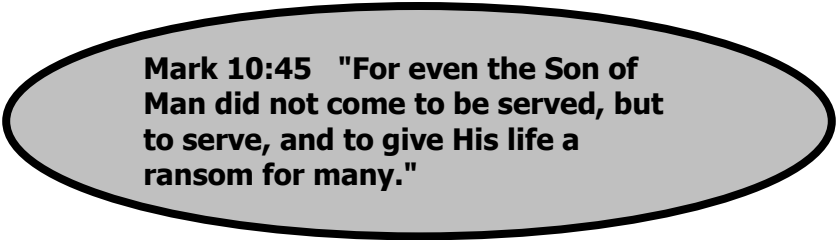
Titus 1:5-9 _____

1 Timothy 3:1-13 _____

As we begin to see our lives as both a privilege and responsibility before God, we begin to fulfill our callings in His way. What might other people notice about us as a result of such disciple's lifestyle of worship?

PERSONAL INTEGRITY We do what we say. In Ephesians 4:17-32, Paul gives 16 verses of specifics, then challenges us in Ephesians 5:1-2: Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP God's ultimate glory is more important than our immediate comfort.



Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

VISION We try to see the big picture rather than just our little part. We concern ourselves with how our part fits into the whole work that God is doing. We don't let the tail wag the dog (even if we're the tail!)

PRIORITIES People are more important than projects.

The first perfect happening on earth was creation. God did it. The last was Christ's sacrifice for our sins. God did that too. You probably can't think of a project between or since that hasn't been a compromise. Why? Because of people. Why does God let it happen time after time? Because to Him, people are more important than projects.
John Garmo

As we begin to "just do it," we need to remember those whose lives we impact. One of the most significant building projects in the Bible was carried out by a man named Nehemiah.

Despite the fact that the returned exiles had been in Jerusalem for many years, the walls of the city remained unrepaired, leaving its people defenseless and vulnerable. Upon hearing this news, Nehemiah seeks permission from the Persian king to go to Jerusalem. Arriving in Jerusalem, he mobilizes the people to begin rebuilding the wall. Faced with opposition, both from without and from within, Nehemiah persevered until the project was complete and the city resettled. Seemingly impossible tasks can be accomplished when God is helping those who honor him and when their efforts are united.

Nehemiah wasn't the first of the exiles to return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. Zerubbabel had led the first group back in 538 B.C., more than 90 years earlier (Ezra 1-2).

Ezra followed with a second group in 458 B.C. (Ezra 7).

Nehemiah led the third major return to Jerusalem (445 B.C.)

When he arrived after a three-month journey, he saw the completed temple and became acquainted with others who had returned to their homeland. But Nehemiah also found a disorganized group of people and a defenseless city with no walls to protect it. Before the exile, Israel had its own language, king, army, and identity. At this time it had none of these. What the Jews lacked most was leadership; there was no one to show them where to start and what

direction to take as they tried to rebuild their city. As soon as Nehemiah arrived he began a back to the basics program. He helped care for the people's physical needs by setting up a fair system of government and rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. He also cared for their spiritual needs by rebuilding broken lives. Nehemiah is a model of committed, God-honoring leadership.

Nehemiah was concerned about Jerusalem because it was the Jews' holy city. As Judah's capital city, it represented Jewish national identity, and it was blessed with God's special presence in the temple. Jewish history centered around the city from the time of Abraham's gifts to Melchizedek, king of Salem (Genesis 14:17-20), to the days when Solomon built the glorious temple (1 Kings 7:51), and throughout the history of the kings.

Nehemiah loved his homeland even though he had lived his whole life in Babylon. He wanted to return to Jerusalem to reunite the Jews and to remove the shame of Jerusalem's broken-down walls. This would bring glory to God and restore the reality and power of God's presence among his people.

Nehemiah broke down and wept when he heard that Jerusalem's walls still had not been rebuilt. Why did this upset him? Walls mean little in most present-day cities, but in Nehemiah's day they were essential. They offered safety from raids and symbolized strength and peace. Nehemiah also mourned for his people, the Jews, who had been stifled by a previous edict that kept them from rebuilding their walls (Ezra 4:6-23).

Nehemiah was deeply grieved about the condition of Jerusalem, but he didn't just brood about it. After his initial grief, he prayed, pouring his heart out to God and he looked for ways to improve the situation.

Read Nehemiah 1:5-11 and record what you learn: _____

Nehemiah put all his resources of knowledge, experience, and organization into determining what should be done. When tragic news comes to you, first pray. Then seek ways to move beyond grief to specific action that helps those who need it.

Nehemiah fasted and prayed for several days, expressing his sorrow for Israel's sin and his desire that Jerusalem would again come alive with the worship of the one true God. Nehemiah demonstrated the elements of effective prayer:
(1) praise

- (2) thanksgiving
- (3) repentance
- (4) specific request
- (5) commitment

Heartfelt prayers like Nehemiah's can help clarify (1) any problem you may be facing, (2) God's great power to help you, and (3) the job you have to do. By the end of his prayer time, Nehemiah knew what action he had to take. (Nehemiah 1:11). When God's people pray, difficult decisions fall into proper perspective, and appropriate actions follow.

In this study, we have looked at the lives of Jehoshaphat and Nehemiah. Both were men of prayer. Prayer was in integral part of their lives even though neither was a priest. Nevertheless, their lives modeled lifestyle worship.

Nehemiah was an example that spurred others on to good works.

Read Hebrews 10:24 and record what you learn: _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

God has created us for meaningful work. Everything we do should be done as an act of worship, to glorify Him.

MASTERING MAMMON

Money is wonderful! Like dynamite, it has enormous potential. Like dynamite, it is dynamic; it can build and it can destroy. It can be a marvelous tool and a malicious master. John Garmo

When we turn to the biblical perspective on money, we find that it is always a means, not an end. The world is quick to catalog the salaries of various people: a movie star or a professional athlete. The world is never quite so eager to discuss how those people use the money they earn.

In God's economy, money is important only as a contributor to our ability to really function as He intended us in giving glory to Him. Our money is not to be enshrined in our hearts; it is not to be our master.

The Bible admonishes us to choose our career based on the ways that God has equipped and gifted us rather than on how much it pays. Read Hebrews 11:24-26 and record what you learn about Moses: _____

The Bible also tells us that we show our love for God and each other, thereby storing up treasure in heaven, when we share with others who are in need. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

John 13:35 _____

1 Timothy 6:17-19 _____

We can worship God by treating those who are poor with the same respect as we do those who are wealthy. Read James 2:1-9 and record what you learn:

The Bible also tells us that money reveals our true values. When we look at how people spend their money, we see what is really important to them. Another way to put this is that our funds reveal our heart.

Read Matthew 6:19-21 and record what you learn: _____

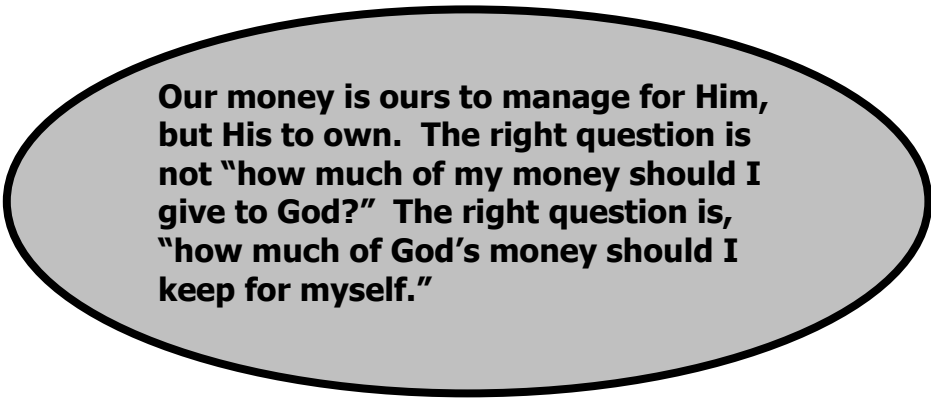
ALL OF OUR MONEY IS REALLY GOD'S! The tithe is not all that belongs to God. It all belongs to God. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Psalms 50:10 _____

Job 1:21 _____

Ecclesiastes 5:19 _____

1 Peter 4:11 _____



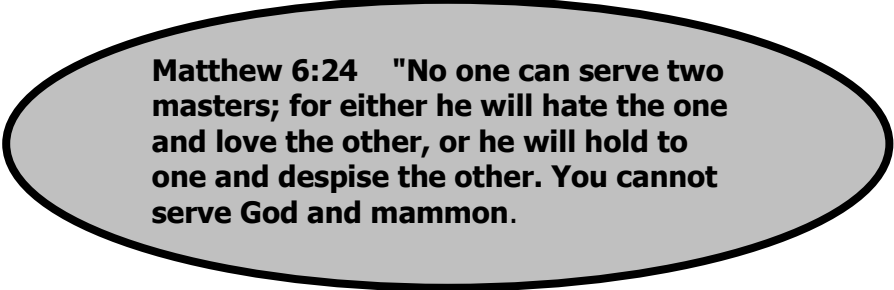
Our money is ours to manage for Him, but His to own. The right question is not "how much of my money should I give to God?" The right question is, "how much of God's money should I keep for myself."

Luke 19:11-27 gives us God's perspective on money management. Read these verses and record what you learn: _____

Money is God's to distribute as He sees fit. We are required to faithfully manage all that is entrusted to us.

1 Corinthians 4:2 In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

Jesus Himself made it very clear that wealth can produce anxiety and take God's place as master if you let it get out of control.



Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Continue your thinking by reading 1 Timothy 6:9-10 _____

One of the most challenging areas of money management is control. We are strongly influenced by godless expectations, either self-inflicted or imposed by others in our lives. We are influenced by unwarranted comparisons (keeping up with the Joneses). This is what makes control of money so hard. We spend money on emotion more often than on reason. Advertisers know this and use it to the max! It's a trap that delights Satan since it wastes our money and reduces the amount of money that could be channeled into kingdom-building purposes.

Paul tells us that he had learned the secret to money control. He had learned to move from poverty to wealth without waste or pride; he had learned to move from wealth to poverty without envy or greed. Read Philippians 4:11-13 and record how he did it: _____

Paul's secret was contentment. Continue your reading with these verses:

1 Timothy 6:6 _____

1 Timothy 6:8 _____

Hebrews 13:5 _____

TRUTH FOR THE DAY:

All money belongs to God. We are His stewards. Apply the truths from today's study by asking yourself these questions:

1. How would you describe your relationship to money? _____

2. Is wealth a sign of God's approval on your life? _____

3. How can you make your money management an act of worship? ____

EXTENDING YOUR INFLUENCE

**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.**

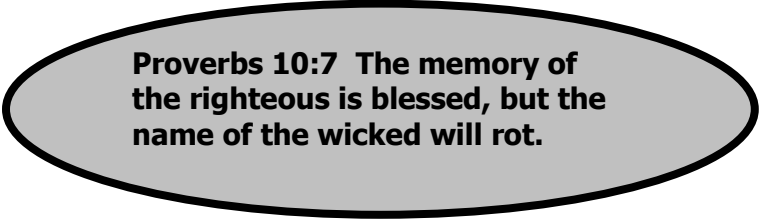
In 1992, my grandmother died, leaving me to administer her estate. It wasn't a big job since she didn't have much in the way of worldly goods. She used to joke that she was an "oil heiress" and that she would leave her "oil interests" to me when she died. She did this in her will. Rarely is the income over \$250 per year. Her money wasn't the legacy that she left to me.

At her estate sale, a friend who had known her for most of her life (and who always reminds me that she used to baby-sit my father) struck up a conversation with me. She was interested in our ministry with students and in hearing about the young people who come to our home. My grandmother's friend said that she wasn't surprised that we were doing something like this—it was, she said, just an extension of my grandparents' lifestyle.

Life on earth is brief. Her comments made me begin to think about those people that we influence. How can we extend our sphere of influence? How can we leave a lasting legacy of lifestyle worship?

Some are weaving a legacy with their preaching; others through their writing. Some use the radio as a medium; others have used music. Some impact others through their leadership; others through their teaching. Some of these avenues may be limited to specific people and specific giftings. But there are opportunities for each believer to extend his area of influence and to leave a lasting legacy.

As I have gotten older, I have come to realize the precious role that memories can play in the lives of others. I enjoy hearing about people in my family, some whom I have never met, who were serving God. Their memory is a part of their lasting legacy.



**Proverbs 10:7 The memory of
the righteous is blessed, but the
name of the wicked will rot.**

Often in scripture, God tells His people to make memories for future generations. Read the following verses and record what you learn:

Exodus 12:14 _____

Exodus 28:12 _____

Joshua 4:6, 7 _____

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up."

Will people have memories of you pouring out your love for God in thankful and fulfilling service to others? Will they remember you abiding—hanging tightly to Him—in good times and bad?

Memories can be made in many ways:

- ◆ **verbally**, by telling others what has happened in the past
- ◆ **pictures**, that show previous events
- ◆ **journal**, that records God's blessings and delineates "ebinezers"
- ◆ **trips**, to places where significant things happened

In addition to making memories, our legacy can be extended by mentoring another person. The Bible calls this "discipling." It is the means put forward in scripture to advance knowledge of God and His Word.

Read 2 Timothy 2:2 and record what you learn: _____

A discipler is a trusted counselor who is willing to help a less experienced believer reach his or her goals. The process simply makes the discipler's personal strengths, resources, and network available to help another less mature believer reach his or her goals. The purpose of the process is to make a disciple, trained according to his or her giftings. The purpose is NOT to reproduce a clone of the mentor. However, there is a sense in which the disciple should be like the discipler.

Read the following verse and record what you learn:

Luke 6:40 _____

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 _____

1 Corinthians 11:1 _____

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.
Psalms 1:1-3

As we end our study today, it is time to rethink the question we asked in lesson one. Write your new definition of discipleship here: _____

Spend some time going back to page 3 to review your definition from the beginning of the class.

As we conclude, here are some practical questions to begin your journey of lifestyle worship:

Think back to times of personal joy. What caused each of them? _____

Think back to times of satisfying achievement. What did you do, and how did you do it? _____

Reflect on compliments you have received. What have others affirmed about you? _____

The book of Leviticus speaks of the "wave offering" in several places. The wave offering was waved before the Lord and presented to Him as a gift. It was then used for God's work and God's workers rather than consumed by fire.

One of the most interesting section of scripture addressing this offering is found in Numbers 8:11. Read this verse and record what you learn here: _____

The priests, those who ministered to the Lord, were also presented as a wave offering. The reason was to qualify them for service to the Lord. Here is our word ***abad***, service as worship.

Believers, those who can go unveiled into worship, are called a priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a HOLY NATION, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

As you read the verse above, record the purpose of our priesthood here: _____

We will end our study by revisiting Romans 12:1-2.

Romans 12:1-2

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Like the Old Testament wave offering, our lives are presented to the Lord as an offering. He returns them to us to invest in our “spiritual service of worship.”

Who you are is God’s gift to you. Who you choose to become is your offering to God. Have you made your life—all that you are, all that you have, and all that you will become—a wave offering to God? Lifestyle worshippers long for their hearts and lives to be the kind of worship that God desires.