

**Seeking God Study:**

**Purpose:** To help a person understand what it means to whole-heartedly seek a relationship with God.

**Opening Question:**

1. Have you ever lost something valuable? (e.g. wallet, watch, ring, keys, jewelery)
2. What do you do when you lose this item? (you search for it). Where? (everywhere)
3. What do you do if you don't find it? (you ask others to help; you think when you last used that object)

**Comment:** In the same way, if we are to have a relationship with God, we have to seek him. To know him.

**1. Mt7:7, 13-14**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What happens if you seek? (You will find)	This is a promise made by Jesus. All who seek will find.
Does everyone who seeks, find? (No, only a few find)	If only a few find, then this means only a few are truly and sincerely seeking.
Why don't they find? (they are looking in wrong place, have had a bad experience, not truly seeking)	SHARE: seeking God only in trouble, when exams come, for selfish desires, etc.
What does a person's life look like on the broad road? (life in the fast lane) Narrow road? (obstacles, difficulties, no one wants to be on this road)	It is easy, nice, comfortable to be on the broad road. Everyone likes highways. Fast. Smooth. Lanes. No one likes the narrow roads.
What areas in your life need to change if you want to walk on the narrow road? Are you prepared to do this?	SHARE: What did you change

**2. Luke 13:22-24**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What question is Jesus asked here? (are only a few....)	
What was Jesus preaching which made this man ask this question? (Jesus was probably saying only a few were going to be saved)	This man was actually concerned about himself (am I going to be saved?)...but was asking in a round-a-about manner.
What kind of effort must you put in to be saved? (every possible effort)	e.g. getting into train in Mumbai; seeking admission in college; trying to win a gold medal in sports.
How can you tell if someone is putting every effort? (say in sports, or studies..) Do they try? (No..they practice hard, practice daily..to succeed). Why is it dangerous to simply "try"? What kind of effort should you make if you want to enter into God's kingdom? What needs to change?	If you "try" you won't make it. You have to put in every effort. Like getting into the train. Many will be surprised on the last day when they do not enter....because they did not put in every effort to know God and be saved (they put effort in other things). SHARE: What did you do?

**3. Mt 6:25-34**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What do we worry about today? (Food, drink, clothes)	Jesus says 3 times in this passage “Do not worry”
Why do we worry? (we don’t trust that God will take care of us, we don’t see examples of others trusting in God; all around us people are running after money, success, promotions, etc) What does it mean to be of “little faith”? (not trusting God)	God takes care of the birds. Everyday. You are more valuable to him than birds. Solomon (the richest king) was dressed in fine robes. The very best. Yet God makes the flowers of the field more beautiful. Every day.
What distracts you from seeking God first? (family, friends, job, studies, social life) What should be your first priority?	SHARE: How you were distracted. (Don’t allow things to distract you)
v33 What promise is made here? (God will meet all your needs, not wants). He will take care of you. For this promise to be fulfilled, what must you do? (seek God first). What does this mean? (to make time to study the Bible, come to the meetings, make new friendships, etc).	Seeking God’s kingdom should be #1 priority in your life (explain...a Kingdom is where the King is the ruler. He rules over his subjects, he takes care of them. God’s kingdom is not a physical place...it is the people who have put God as #1 in their life. Where He is their King). Seek those people for whom God is #1.
What does “righteousness” mean? (Being right with God)	SEEK to be right with God. Put him first
What changes should you make in order to make God’s kingdom and his righteousness a #1 priority in your life?	

**4. Matt 13:44-46**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What is the kingdom of heaven compared to? (Treasure and pearl of great value)	One was not seeking....he stumbled on the treasure. The merchant was looking. Which one describes you? SHARE: How did you find?
How did the 2 people react when they found.....? What did they do?	Finding God is like finding a great treasure or a pearl of great value. You will know when you find.
Are you willing to sacrifice your time, energy, money, etc to get hold of God? Will you be joyful in doing this?	A relationship with God and being in his kingdom is worth everything. God wants you to find him.

**5. Acts 8:26-39**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Was this Ethiopian man an important person? (Yes, Finance minister, in charge of all the money)	In those days, eunuchs were trusted men who served the Queen. They were loyal to her. They were trusted.
How can you tell he was serious about his relationship with God? What qualities did he have? Where was he seeking God v32? (in the Scriptures) Do you have your own Bible? (Give advice on where to get one) What does he do when Philip explains about Jesus to him? (eagerly accepts the message, gets baptized).	Busy man yet willing to travel a long distance, made time for God, humble, needed a disciple’s help, was studying the Bible even after he finished worshipping, he obeyed, etc.

What can you learn from this man? In what areas can you imitate him? How do you feel about being taught the Bible?	SHARE: what did you do?
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**Scripture Memory: Matt 6:33**

Other Scriptures to read for Home Work:

Jer 29:10-13

Heb 11:6

2 Chr 15:1-4

**Pray: Set up date and time for the next study.**

**Word Of God Study:**

**Purpose:** To help a person accept the Bible as God’s Word and to trust it completely (instead of one’s feelings, or emotions, or experiences, or family traditions, or other people’s opinions). To hold the Bible as the true standard upon which you live your life.

**Opening Question:**

1. From the “Seeking God” study, what changes have you made in putting God’s kingdom and his righteousness first?

**Comment:**

1. If you want to learn about Geography, which book would you learn from? (Geography). History? Maths? So to know and learn about God, we go to the Bible. There is no other book which says - This is what the Lord says. Or Hear the Word of God.... Or God said.... or God spoke to (Moses, Abraham, David, etc).
2. The Bible consists of 66 books, 39 in the OT, 27 in the NT. It was written by over 40 authors on 3 different continents over a period of 1500 years.
3. Even though it was written by different people who lived at different times, yet it is consistent from the beginning to end. Men wrote the Bible but God told them what to write (inspired by the Holy Spirit).
4. The Bible is a love story about God and man. A love letter. God’s love to his people.
5. The message of the OT is “Someone is coming”. A Messiah. A Saviour. The 4 Gospels tell us that THAT SOMEONE has come (All about Jesus). The rest of the NT (Acts to Rev) tell us that Jesus is coming again.

**1. 2 Tim 3:16-17**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>How much of Scripture is from God? (ALL)</p> <p>How are the scriptures useful to us? (4 areas)                      What are we doing right now? (teaching)                      What is a rebuke? (a strong form of correction)                      Has anyone ever rebuked you using the Bible?</p> <p>Have you trained for anything in life? What did you do?                      What do you understand by “training in righteousness”</p>	<p>We cannot accept only certain portions which we like. And ignore the portions which are challenging.                      (Hotel Menu illustration)</p> <p>(Small child playing with fire illustration)                      SHARE: In life, people yell, shout, slap, hit when they are angry at us. We get angry, mad. But when someone uses God’s word to correct /challenge us, it makes a big difference because God is speaking to us.                      The Bible trains you how to be right with God.                      (Athletes training for medal illustration)</p>
<p>If you allowed the Bible to train you, how would your life look like?</p>	<p>SHARE: How your life changed.</p>
<p>What does it mean to be “thoroughly equipped” (You don’t need anything else. If you want to live a righteous life filled with good deeds, all you need is the Bible).</p>	<p>Many people go for years to a seminary to learn how to become priests. You don’t need to do that. All you need is the Bible.                      RAMBO illustration (one-man army) for men                      RECIPE illustration for women.</p>
<p>Do you believe that the Bible is God’s word?</p>	

**2. Heb 4:12-13**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
So the Bible is “dead” and “inactive”? No. What does it say? (living and active) What does this mean?	Even though it was written 100s of years ago, it still has the power to change people’s lives today.
What is the Bible compared to? (A sword that is sharp on both sides) (very difficult to separate marrow from bone...or soul from spirit - they are inter-twined). Yet the Bible can separate the two.	The Romans invented the short, double-edged sword. They were very effective in battle (against other armies that used long swords sharp on only one side). They were the dominant power at this time.
Where does the Bible penetrate to? (The heart).	The Bible tells us what is inside our heart. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
If someone comes against you with a sword what will you do? (Fight back, run away)	People do this when approached with the truth of God’s word..they get defensive, they argue or run away. But if a doctor comes to you with a scalpel to perform an operation you would not run away.
Why is it good for the Bible to cut? (It cuts the bad out)	Surgeon’s scalpel illustration.
Is it going to hurt? (Yes) Is the operation necessary? (Yes) Do you want the Bible to help cut the bad out from your life?	SHARE: About when you studied the Bible..what was in your heart..how the Bible (and bro/sis) helped you.
What is going to happen on the last day? (We have to give a full account of our life to God. Cannot hide anything).  What will happen if we refuse to listen to God’s voice?	God knows everything. Our hidden thoughts and desires. Imagine if your thoughts were projected on a big TV screen, how would you feel? We cannot hide from God. Even when we are alone, he sees what we are doing, thinking.

**3. Jn 8:31-32**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Who is Jesus speaking to here? (Believing Jews)	These are Jews who believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
What does Jesus tell them? (Only if they hold/obey his teaching, they are really his disciples).	Intellectual belief is not enough. Today millions of people believe in Jesus. But very, very few hold/obey his teachings.
According to this Scripture, how does Jesus define a disciple of his? (One who holds/obeys his teaching). Where are the teachings of Jesus found? (Bible) If you don’t read the Bible, can you know the teachings? (No) If you don’t know the teachings, can you obey them? (No) If you are not obeying the teachings, are you a disciple? (No)	You must spend time building your relationship with God. Connecting with him. DAILY reading and studying the Bible will help. God speaks to you. Share what you learn. Ask questions. Put it into practice.
What happens when you put Jesus’ words in to practice? (You know the truth). What does knowing the truth do to you? (sets you free). Sets you free from what? (from sin, from tradition, from man-made rules, from guilt, from hurt, from your old way of living). What are some areas in your life you want to be set free from?	Only after obeying you get to know the truth. SHARE: How your life changed when you came to know the truth about Jesus. How Bible Study has changed your life.
How can you tell is someone is a disciple of Jesus?	They OBEY the teachings.

**4. Mt 15:3,7-9**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Why are the Pharisees upset?	Because Jesus and his followers were not following the traditions of the elders (The elders had made a tradition of washing hands in a very ceremonial way before eating. This was not in the Bible, but they made this a rule). It was not washing with soap and water..something more than that.
Why is Jesus upset? (because the Pharisees were breaking God’s commands and following their own traditions).	God had commanded the Israelites to take care of their parents. But the Pharisees taught the people that they could give this money (meant for the parents) to the temple as a gift - Corban (Mk 7:11). So the Pharisees used this money to enrich themselves and defraud the parents (and the children avoided taking care of their parents).
What word does Jesus call them? (Hypocrites) What does this mean?	(you say something but you do something else)
What does it mean to honor God with your lips? (Pay lip service...only saying, not doing). Why do people follow rules of men instead of commands of God? (because of tradition...they do what their parents did, who did what their parents did....and so on).	Worshipping God by tradition is worship in vain. It is useless. (BUS illustration) Following God’s commands is what counts. Not the teachings of men. SHARE: Any traditions that you used to follow.

**5. Acts 17:10-12**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Who are the two groups of believers here? What does it mean to be of “noble” character?	(Bereans and Thessalonians) To be honest, upright, a person of integrity, well-respected in the community.
Why were the Bereans of more noble character than the Thessalonians?	2 reasons. They received the message with GREAT eagerness. Eager to learn. They examined the Scriptures DAILY to see if what they were hearing was true or not.
How can you be like a Berean? (Be eager to study, not putting things off, meet regularly) Why must you examine the scriptures? (You could be taught incorrect things. You must check for yourself).	Get a notebook and pen to church and take notes. Go back and examine them. See if what you are learning is correct.
What was the result (v12) of Paul’s preaching?	Many got converted. Even prominent people.

**Scripture Memory:**

2Tim 3:16-17

Heb 4:12-13

John 8:31-32

1 Tim 4:16

**Other Scriptures to read for Home Work**

James 2:22-25; Rom 10:17; Psalms 119:11 and v105; Matthew 7:24-29

John 12:47-48

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

**Discipleship Study:**

**Purpose:** To help a person understand what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus. To clear any misconceptions about following Jesus. And to inspire them to follow Jesus.

**1. Acts 11:25-26**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>What does the word “disciple” mean?(Follower; apprentice)                  Who were called “Christians” here? (the disciples).                  Do these two terms mean the same thing? (Yes)                  How many times the word Christian appears in the Bible (3)                  How many times the word “disciple” appears (over 270)                  If you asked a crowd of 100 people “who here is a Christian”, how many hands would rise?                  If you asked “who here is a disciple?” how many hands would rise? (A lot fewer than the first). Why is that?                  Should there be any difference between the two? (no).                  Disciple = Christian = Saved</p>	<p>Background: The church in Antioch is experiencing great growth. Many are turning to the Lord. The word “Christian” appears here for the first time.</p> <p>The followers of Jesus were called disciples first. The term “Christian” came only later on. Disciples are called Christians. There should be no difference. (Most people think a disciple is more committed than a Christian).                  Let’s see what the Bible says about what it means to be a disciple.</p>
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**2. Mark 1:16-20**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>Let’s see the <b>very first time</b> that Jesus calls people to follow him.</p>	
<p>What is the invitation to Peter, Andrew, James and John?</p>	<p>To come follow Jesus.                  Jesus calls them into a <b>relationship</b> with him.                  A disciple follows Jesus (not the Pope or Father or some human being). You are called to enter into a relationship with the Lord.</p>
<p>What does Jesus say next? (I will make you fishers of men)                  What is your purpose in life today?                  If you are to follow Jesus, what should your purpose be?                  If you are not fishing for men, can you be a follower of Jesus? (no)</p>	<p>He gives them a <b>Purpose</b> in their life.                  Before their purpose was to catch fish. Now it is to catch men.</p> <p>SHARE: what was your purpose...and how your life changed.</p>
<p>For how long did they follow Jesus (till the end. They died for their faith).</p>	<p>They were <b>committed</b> to the end. Discipleship is for life.                  Relationship, Purpose, Commitment.                  Following Jesus means being taught, disciplined and trained for the mission.</p>

**3. Mt 28:16-20**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>Let’s see the <b>last time</b> Jesus addresses his disciples before he ascends into heaven. This is God’s plan to save the world.</p>	
<p>How do you behave when you are in the presence of a very powerful person? (Humble, obedient, respectful)                  How do you behave with your boss? Your Boss’s boss?                  How powerful is Jesus? (Lord of heaven and earth).                  What are his last words? How important are they?</p>	<p>Jesus has all authority given to him by God. When he comes he will destroy all authority (1 Co 15:24). Jesus chose his last words very well. The last words of a person are most important. It’s what you will remember all your life.</p>

Is “Go” an active command or a passive command?	We have to GO and make disciples. Not sit at home and expect people to come to our door.
Can you be born a disciple? (No, you have to learn how to become one. You have to be made a disciple).	SHARE: Someone had to teach me.....
After you make someone a disciple, what next? (baptize them) Can you baptize someone first and then make them a disciple? (No. That is going against what Jesus commanded). Why do some churches do this?	To Baptize means to immerse in water.  Because of tradition. They think they know better. This is very dangerous when you change God’s plan.
After baptizing a disciple, then what should you do? (Teach them to obey the commands) Which is easier - to teach someone or to teach someone to obey?	After baptism, the real work begins. You have to help the new disciple to follow and obey the teachings of Jesus for the rest of their life. This involves having close relationships, studying together, having fun, praying, seeking and saving the lost. Every person has to be taught to be a disciple of Jesus, baptized and then taught to obey the commands.
Which option would you prefer? Option 1: One lac rupees a day, everyday for 30 days OR Option 2: One rupee doubled every day for 30 days.	1 lac a day for 30 days = 30 lacs (1 <sup>st</sup> option) (2 <sup>nd</sup> option) Re 1 becomes Rs 2 on day 1, becomes Rs 4 on day 2, Rs 8 on day 3, Rs 16 on day 4, Rs 32 on day 5....Rs 1024 on day 10, Rs 10 lacs on day 20, Rs 107 crores on Day 30. Day 33...8 billion. Jesus’ plan is to multiply disciples..each disciple does his part.
Have you ever been taught how to be a follower of Jesus? What do you understand now?	

**4. Jn 8:31-32 (covered before in Seeking God study)**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Who is Jesus speaking to here? (Believing Jews)	These are Jews who believed that Jesus was the Messiah.
What does Jesus tell them? (Only if they hold/obey his teaching, they are really his disciples).	Intellectual belief is not enough. Today millions of people believe in Jesus. But very, very few hold/obey his teachings.
According to this Scripture, how does Jesus define a disciple of his? (One who holds/obeys his teaching). Where are the teachings of Jesus found? (Bible) If you don’t read the Bible, can you know the teachings? (No) If you don’t know the teachings, can you obey them? (No) If you are not obeying the teachings, are you a disciple? (No)	You must spend time DAILY reading and studying the Bible. Ask questions. Memorize scripture. Share what you learned. Put it into practice.
What happens when you put Jesus’ words in to practice? (You know the truth). What does knowing the truth do to you? (sets you free). Sets you free from what? (from tradition, from man-made rules, from guilt, from hurt, from your old way of living). What are some areas in your life you want to be set free from?	SHARE: How your life changed when you came to know the truth about Jesus. How Bible Study has changed your life.

How can you tell if someone is a disciple of Jesus?	They OBEY the teachings.
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**5. Jn 13:34-35**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Is this a New command? (no)	God has always told us to love our fellow-man
Then what is new about the command? (Jesus qualifies how we have to love one another...we have to love the way he loved) How did Jesus show his love to his disciples?	He taught them, told them the truth, fed them, listened to them, spent lots of time with them, knew their families, was patient with them, helped them, resolved relationship problems, gave them faith, challenged them....ultimately died for them.
Can we choose whether to love or not? (No..he says you MUST love one another). No option. You have to. What would it mean to love others this way? Are you willing?	Loving the lost Loving our family, loving the brothers and sisters. Loving the Poor, the weak, loving our enemies.
How will people know you are a disciple of Jesus?	By the unconditional love you have for others. This is not easy but it is a command of Jesus. Remember Jesus said "Father forgive them...." on the cross.

**6. Jn 15:7-8**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What promise does Jesus make here? What are the conditions of the promise?	We can ask anything we wish, and it will be given. We have to remain (abide, obey) in his teachings.
How does God get glorified? (when we bear much fruit) What does this mean? How does one show he / she is a follower of Jesus? (Just like a grape vine produces a bunch of grapes, so also a disciple's life produces a bunch of disciples). What if you say you are a follower of Jesus, but you don't produce (make) any disciples? <b>Jn 15:16 Why are we chosen?</b>	If you plant an apple seed, what tree grows up? (apple) What fruit does it produce? (apples) Mango seed? If you plant a disciple in a place, what happens? (more disciples). Jesus says we show ourselves to be his disciples by making more disciples (like he did, like the apostles did and like the early church did).

**7. Luke 9:23-26**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What are the 3 things Jesus says to people who want to follow him?	Deny self, take up your cross daily, follow him.
Does this standard change depending upon your situation? (no)	Whether you are rich or poor, sick or healthy, black or white, young or old, VIP or ordinary...it is the same for everyone.

<p>What does it mean to deny yourself? (Say “No” to your desires and say “yes” to God - what he wants you to do).</p> <p>What are some examples of how Jesus denied himself?</p> <p>What are some things you need to deny yourself of? (excess sleep, too much TV, long hours at work (or games); sleeping late at night, always on the phone, not helping at home).</p> <p>What does it mean to carry your cross? (carrying a cross in those days meant you were dead; for us it means to die to ourselves, identify with Jesus, not be ashamed, willing to be persecuted)</p>	<p>Selfish desires, sinful desires - saying NO to them.</p> <p>For e.g. waking up in the morning - you tell yourself 5 minutes more, but Jesus says Wake up.</p> <p>You want to watch TV but you have not studied. Jesus embraced his cross. Did not complain. Carried it willingly. We too have to take our burdens / difficulties and not complain. Give them over to God. Trust in him.</p>
<p>How do people try to save their lives today?</p> <p>What would life be like If you had Rs 100 crores? Would you be more dependent on God or less dependent?</p>	<p>Spend too much time in work, not being content but wanting more constantly, relying on money for the future (money is important but not at the cost of missing meetings, etc).</p>
<p>How can we be ashamed of Jesus and his words?</p>	<p>By thinking we know better than him and ignoring his advice.</p>
<p>Are you following Jesus the way he wants you to? What needs to change?</p>	<p>SHARE: What you did.</p>

**8. Luke 9:57-62**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>What are the different issues with each person?</p> <p>How can a “dead” person bury another “dead” person? Jesus is saying let the spiritually dead people (those not interested in following God) bury the physically dead.</p> <p>What happens if a farmer ploughs a field and looks back? (no straight lines...will not be able to plant crops neatly).</p> <p>Why does Jesus tell us not to look back when we decide to follow him? (we will get distracted, be tempted by the world, not be able to live our new life fully)</p>	<p>The first - thoughtless following. Does not realize what it means to follow. Jesus tells him - You have a nice standard of living. Are you willing to put me before that?</p> <p>The second, as the oldest son, may have wanted to fulfill his duty to bury his father (“let me stay with my aged father till he dies”), or stay till he got his inheritance or as per Jewish tradition stay close to the body (for 1 year) and rebury the bones (in case he was dead). (Note: for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person there is nothing wrong with going to a funeral or saying “goodbye” to family. But they both said “first” putting these concerns ahead of following Jesus).</p>
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**9. Luke 11:1-13**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>Why did his disciples ask him to teach them how to pray?</p>	<p>He prayed differently to anyone they had heard before</p>
<p>What does this tell you about the disciples?</p>	<p>They needed to learn from Jesus how to pray</p>
<p>The Lord’s Prayer is recited by millions but Jesus did not tell us to recite it. What is the point of the prayer?</p>	<p>It gives a structure to our prayer. It is not a grocery list of requests. It has everything (Praise, Asking, Confessing, etc)</p>
<p>Do you feel you need to learn how to pray better?</p>	<p>Set up a time.</p>
	<p>Disciples of Jesus pray. Just like he did.</p>

**10. Luke 14:25-33**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Who is Jesus speaking to here? (Large crowds)	Whenever large crowds followed Jesus, he would give them a “hard” teaching to sift out those who were really serious from those who only wanted to be fed or see miracles.
Does Jesus want us to hate our family? (No, in Mt 10:37 he says our love for him should be so much more that it appears we “hate” our family).	
Why should you count the cost before building a tower? (You don’t want to start something and not finish it. It will be foolish).	When you see half-finished buildings in the city it seems like the builder ran out of money, or did not get permission, or was doing something illegal, etc.
Why should the king with 10,000 men surrender? (he and his men will get slaughtered). Can he ask for terms of peace with conditions? (no it has to be unconditional surrender). If the king with 20,000 men is merciful, he may grant certain privileges to the other king, depending upon the other’s humility, etc.	Jesus is the king with 20,000 men. You are the king with 10,000 men. Who is going to win? What should you do?
How can you tell if someone is a disciple according to this passage? (willing to give up everything, to follow).	Giving up everything....it means exactly that. God may not take everything but he is looking to see if you have the heart to give up everything to follow him.
3 times Jesus says here “you cannot be my disciple”. So how can you be a disciple according to this passage?	

ASK: Now that you know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, can you tell me if you have been living as a disciple?

Do you want to become a disciple?

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

**SIN Study:**

**Purpose:** To help this person see himself/herself as God sees them (very sinful and separated from God). This realization should bring a desire for both forgiveness and repentance. (It is important in this study for you to be open and share your sins / past life. This will encourage the other person to be open).

**1. Rom 3:9-23**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
According to v23 how many people have sinned? (all) Has the Pope sinned? Mother Theresa? Our parents?	We are all under the power of sin. There is no one who is righteous (v10). No one can claim to be without sin! The whole world will be held accountable to God (v19)
What does it mean to fall short of the glory of God? (we fail to live up to God's standards for our life).	Use the Swimming illustration (from Juhu beach to Africa, no one makes it). Who would go the furthest? Meaningless question..all of us would fail. No one is good enough to get into heaven.
What would it be like to stand in the presence of a perfect God? (Terrifying...especially if you have messed up)	Only through faith in Jesus Christ can we be made righteous in the sight of God (v22). That is only through Jesus can we be <b>justified</b> ... JUST-IF-I'D never sinned.
Have you ever compared yourself to others to justify your sinful behavior?	SHARE:

**2. Rom 6:23**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What are wages? (something we earn for the work we do)	
What do we deserve for sinning? (death). So why aren't we dead? (this refers to spiritual death, separation from God , not physical death).	There are eternal consequences to sin. We reap what we sow - Life or Death.
What is God's gift to us? (eternal life through Jesus Christ)	Eternal life is a gift from God for all those who live for him. A gift has to be accepted.
Why do people choose to live in sin? (they don't know about the eternal consequences; they compare themselves to others and think they are better; they do "good deeds" to cancel their sins).	v23 contains a warning and a promise.

**3. Gal 5:19-21**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What does "obvious" mean? (very clear; no doubt, you don't need a PhD to understand what sin is).	
Why is sexual immorality listed as the first sin? (because it is so rampant). What type of sins does this include? Go over each sin and explain what it means (see list at end)	In almost all the sin lists in the Bible, sex.imm comes as the first or second one. Important to share from your life.
Which of these sins are part of your life or were a part of your life?	SHARE: Consider the first time you committed this sin. Then the next time. And the next. Consider your attitude towards God each time you committed that sin.

What happens to people if they live like this? (cannot enter heaven)	
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**4. Mk 7:21-23**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Where does Jesus say sin comes from?(our heart)	Take ownership for your sin. You are responsible.
Why does he say this? (because we tend to blame our sin on others, on circumstances, etc).	SHARE:
Which of these sins have you committed or are presently doing? With these sins in our heart, where do we stand before God? (defiled, impure, unclean)	SHARE:

**5. Eph 5:3-5**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What is the standard for a follower of Jesus? (Not even a hint). What is greed? (not being content with what you have). There is nothing wrong with being ambitious and wanting to move up, but do not think that having more will make you happy. Your joy and fulfillment should come from your walk with God rather than money or possessions.	You do not give others an opportunity to slander you, even though you may be doing nothing wrong. For e.g. someone sees you alone with a girl in your house with the doors locked. Going to films which have a lot of violence and sex. Being seen in a bar (even though you may not be drinking)
Why does it mention obscenity, foolish talk and coarse joking? (because these are not proper for God's people)	See Mt 12:36
What happens if you live in this manner?	Will not inherit heaven.

**6. James 4:13-17**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What is this passage teaching?	Today or tomorrow is not promised to us. Our life is a mist, we are here for a short while and then we are gone. We should not delay doing what we know is right for us to do.
Sins of commission (sins you commit) and sins of omission (you know the good you should do but you don't do it)	
e.g. not studying, drinking and getting drunk, not saying sorry, not telling the truth...	

**7. Isa 59:1-2**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Can God save you if he wants to? (Yes) Why would God not listen? What is the problem here? (your sins separate you from God...Draw the WALL diagram) How would you feel if God ignored you? Are there sins in your life that have caused separation between you and God?	In the diagram show Light and Darkness with a WALL in- between. Which side are you on? It does matter if you are close to the wall or far away. You are still separated. If you died tonight, what would happen? Where would you go?

For you to be connected with God (or to have a relationship with him) what has happen to the wall? (it has to be broken).  
Who can break the wall? (only Jesus)

You cannot break the wall. Even 1 sin is enough for the wall to come up.  
You may have repented (if they say they have) but the stain is still there (Napkin illustration)  
This is the bad news. It is not just about all your sins.... but the depth of your separation from God.

(If the person wants to share / talk about his sins now, then let him do so. Thank him for being open. Ask him if there is anything else he may have forgotten. If possible, ask him to go back home and write a "Dear God" letter where he shares what he has done in his life. He should spend some time reflecting on his life and all the wrong he has done and the people he has hurt).

Other Scriptures to read for Home Work

2 Tim 3:1-5

Rev 1:28, 21:24-27

1 Co 6:9-11

Col 3:5-11

Rom 1:21-32

Luke 7:36-50

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

**Also (before next study on The Cross), watch scenes from Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" from the point where Jesus gets arrested till the time he dies.**

Further description of sins:

**From Gal 5:19-21**

1. Sexual immorality - covers sex before marriage, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, touching someone's private parts, masturbation, child abuse, going to prostitutes, pornography, lust, etc.
2. Impurity: being impure in thoughts, in how you live (drugs, smoking, tobacco chewing), defiling yourself or others (means making dirty...bad language, porn, abusive language, cheating,), sexual immorality
3. Debauchery: doing anything in excess (eating, sex, drinking, movies). Sensuality, unrestrained in moral attitudes and behaviours;
4. Idolatry: worshipping idols; also putting someone else or something else before God (boyfriend, girlfriend, parents, job, money, hobby, etc) also greed (Eph 5:5)
5. Witchcraft: sorcery, consulting spirits, black magic, listening to palm readers, astrologers (regarding your future)
6. Hatred: enmity, hostility, lack of love for someone, wishing that person harm; not forgiving;
7. Discord: causing disagreement between people, strife, conflict, quarrels, rivalries
8. Jealousy: upset and angry against a person because of what qualities that person has (sings well or is beautiful, has rich relatives, etc), or because he/she loves someone else and not you. resentment
9. Fits of Rage: Yelling, losing your temper, angry outbursts, fury,
10. Selfish Ambition: self-interest, self-seeking, wanting to put yourself first, climbing over others by putting them down'
11. Dissensions: causing division, disunity, causing disagreements or quarrels or friction in relationships
12. Factions: Forming groups of dissenters (rival groups), forming separatist groups claiming status within the Christian community;
13. Envy: wanting what others have (TV, car, flat, jewelry, etc)
14. Drunkenness: drinking too much and losing self-control, making a fool of yourself
15. Orgies: involves groups..having wild parties, excessive feasting, group sex, group over-indulgence in eating, etc.

**From Mk 7:21-23**

1. Theft: Stealing something that does not belong to you
  2. Murder: Not only killing someone physically but also killing someone in your mind (you hate him).
  3. Adultery: Sleeping with someone else's wife or husband
  4. Greed: Wanting more; not being satisfied; Materialistic.
  5. Malice: wishing harm would fall on someone else; Bitterness towards others.
  6. Deceit: lying, not telling the full story. Not paying taxes; not giving your best at work.
  7. Lewdness: Vulgar talk, Flirting, making fun of body parts, sexual and lustful in a vulgar way
  8. Slander: speaking ill of someone behind their back
  9. Arrogance: Pride, thinking I know best, not taking advice, lack of humility;
  10. Folly: foolishness, doing stupid and foolish things (smoking, drugs)
- For women cover abortion.

**Cross Study:**

**Purpose:** To teach about God’s amazing love for each one of us. Jn 3:16 - “For God so loved the world....”

God sent his son Jesus to die for us. Good news. There is hope. We are saved through Jesus’ loving sacrifice. The person studying should see his need for Jesus and to understand his personal responsibility in putting Jesus to death.

**Opening Question: (did they watch :The Passion of the Christ”)** How did watching the suffering of Christ make you feel? Let’s see how the gospel writers describe this event.

**1. Mark 14:32-42**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
How is Jesus feeling at this time? (overwhelmed with sorrow, wants to die).	Have you ever experienced such a time in your life? Overwhelming sadness?
Why does he take Peter, James and John with him?	He wants his closest friends to be near him. For comfort, for help, for encouragement.
What does he pray? Why? (If there is any other way he can avoid this suffering)	If you know that great pain and suffering await you, what would you do?
How long does he pray? (at least 1 hour, v37) How do you think he felt when he saw the disciples sleeping? (when he needed them the most) How can one avoid temptation? (being alert and praying)	Felt let down; Have you ever prayed like this ...to not sin or fall into temptation?
How many times does he go and pray? (3) What do you think he is praying? How can we overcome our struggles?	Jesus had to align his will to God’s will for his life. At the start he did not want to go to the cross but after praying and praying he got his heart aligned to God’s will.
What does he say in v41-42?	Now you cannot stop him from going to the cross. He is committed. He started by being hesitant, afraid, unsure. Now he is ready! He is set. Prayer changed him.
Who was he thinking about when he was praying?	Us. You. Me. I’ve got to save them.

**2. Mark 14:43-52**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Who was Judas? (one of the 12 chosen apostles). What did Judas do (betray Jesus). How would you feel if one of your closest friends betrayed you?	Jesus loved Judas so perfectly that even at the last supper no one could tell who was the betrayer! SHARE: (if you have been let down / betrayed)
How would you feel if an armed crowd came after you?	Scared. Petrified.
Read Mt 26:53. What could Jesus have done? (Destroyed everyone). Why did he not do this? (he surrendered himself to God’s will).	A legion was approx 6000 soldiers. 12 legions meant 72,000 angels. One angel put to death 185,000 soldiers (Isa 37:36-37)
What did the apostles do when Jesus was arrested?	They all fled.
How do you think Jesus felt? (let down, all alone, hurt, lonely)	
Why did he allow this to happen to him?	He was thinking about us. About saving us.

**3. Mark 14:53-65**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Was this a fair trial? Have you been unjustly treated?	No it was in the middle of the night; Done in secret; no lawyer / defense for Jesus; False testimony that did not match;
How would you feel if you were brought before a very powerful and influential authority, who are looking to bring you down?	Intimidated; Helpless; No hope.
Why does Jesus not answer the false testimony? Have you ever felt unappreciated, that no one noticed all the good that you have done?	It is a rigged trial. It will not matter. He submits himself to God.
What is blasphemy?	Blasphemy is uttering something evil against God
How do they treat Jesus after his response?	Spit, blindfold, beat. Have you ever experienced this? How would you feel?

**4. Mark 14:66-72**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
How did Peter respond to the servant girls?	Denied that he knew Jesus.
Why did he do this? (Afraid for his life) How many times? (3)	In Luke22:60-62 Jesus sees him denying him.
How does Peter feel when he hears the cock crow?	He remembers Jesus' words (Mark 14:27-31)
Why did he weep? What are some ways in which we can deny Jesus?	Was broken that he had denied the Lord. Ashamed of himself.

**5. Mark 15:1-15**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
How would you feel if you before all the religious authorities and the head of the Govt. and they were accusing you?	Jesus had been up all night. Beaten. Spat on. Now he faces another trial early morning.
Who was Barabbas? (murderer). How would you feel if you were compared to him? (outraged, humiliated, sad). How would Jesus feel?	
Do you think Pilate wanted to put Jesus to death?	No..v9, v14. He tried to reason with the crowd. Also see Mt 27:19, Luke 23:4, 23:13-17, 23:20-22, John 19:6-12
Why did he give in to the crowd? (he wanted to please them)	
What was flogging like in those days? What do remember from the movie The Passion.....	Leather whip with bones and glass at the end.
Why did Jesus allow himself to endure such torture?	Because of his love for us. For you. For me.

**6. Mark 15:16-20**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
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How did the soldiers treat Jesus? (Mocked him). How do you feel when people make fun of you? Why the purple robe and crown of thorns? Why hit him on the head when the thorns were there? (to secure the crown).	Purple was the color of royalty. Crown was supposed to denote kingship.
When they take off the robe, what happens to his back?	The wounds reopen.
How do you think Jesus was feeling after this?	Totally broken, in great pain, body and mind screaming.
Why did he go through this?	Because he was thinking of us. Personally. By name. To demonstrate that he loves us immensely.

**7. Luke 23:32-43**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

How did crucifixion take place? (Nails driven through the feet and hands). Have you ever had an injection? How does it feel?	Excruciating pain. To breathe one has to pull oneself up using the nails. The pain is unbearable, so you sag down. This continues until all the energy is gone and you painfully suffocate.
What are the first words that Jesus says? (Father, forgive them...) What are your first words when you have had a bad day?	Incredible. He is still thinking of us (and his tormentors). He wants to save us.
Why is everyone sneering / mocking him?	They think he is a criminal or someone who has “fancy” thoughts about himself (King, Chosen One)
What do you think made one criminal change his attitude?(Mt 27:44 says both hurled insults)	By the way he saw how Jesus suffered (6 hours on the cross) and by what he uttered on the cross (7 sentences)

**8. Mark 15:21-39**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Why did the Romans force Simon to carry the cross?	Jesus was too weak to carry the cross by himself. But he did not ask for help. He embraced the cross.
Who are the different passers-by? What do they say? Why?	Their idea of God is very different from what God wants us (the world) to know about him.
Why does darkness come over the whole land (from noon to 3pm)?	God is making a point here. That the world is full of darkness (sin) and now even the “light of the world” gets extinguished because all the sins come upon him.
What words does Jesus cry out in a loud voice? What effort would this have involved? Why did he scream? (God had to abandon his Son because light cannot dwell in darkness). On the cross, something significant happened. Let’s see the next passage.	Eloi Eloi... Tremendous effort to raise himself up and yell. For the first time in his life he feels the separation from his Father. Up, until this point, the Father was always with him (John 16:32)

**9. 1 Peter 2:21-25**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>According to v21, why did Jesus have to suffer so much? (to give us an inspiring example to follow)                  Are you willing to suffer and endure opposition for being a Christian?                  How did Jesus react to his persecutors?(Silence)                  How do you react when people insult you?                  What did he bear on the cross? (our sins)                  What does Isa 59:1-2 teach us?</p>	<p>When you sin, how do you feel?(guilty) Imagine feeling all the guilt and shame of all your sins at one time. Imagine feeling the whole world's sins (all the lies, murders, injustice, corruption). Jesus felt the guilt, pain and anguish of all the world..as if he committed the sins.                  God was not with Jesus as he hung on the cross. Our sins separated him from his Father. We caused the separation.</p>
<p>Why did Jesus die for us?</p>	<p>His love for us. For us to die to sins and live for righteousness.</p>

**10. 2 Cor 5:14-15**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
<p>What motivated Paul to follow Jesus? (Christ's love)                  What should motivate us?</p>	<p>Paul was compelled (just had to do it) by the love shown to him by Jesus. We also need to be motivated to live new lives because of Jesus' love for us.</p>
<p>v15 Why did Jesus die for us?</p>	<p>So we no longer live for ourselves but for him.</p>
<p>Whom do most people live for?                  Who have you been living for?</p>	
<p>Are you serious about following Jesus, now that you know what he has done for you?</p>	<p>Eph 5:1-2 to start living a life of love.</p>

**Scripture Memory:**

Lk 23:34

2 Co 5:14-15

**Other Scriptures to read for Home Work**

Isa 52 and 53; Ps 22; Acts 2:22-38; Col 2:13-15; Eph 2:1-10

**Read the Medical account of the Crucifixion.**

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

**Repentance Study:**

**Purpose:** To understand biblical repentance, what it means to turn from a sinful life to a godly life. To repent means to “turn one’s mind”...understanding how you have lived in the past and changing your mindset, now that you know what Jesus has done for you.

**Opening Question:** How do you feel about what Jesus has done for you? Do you want to repent? (Repentance is the right response to the grace of God demonstrated by the death of Jesus on the cross)

**1. Luke 13:1-5**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What are the two options available that Jesus tells the people? (Repent or Perish). According to Jesus, who needs to repent? (All)	The people were asking / thinking that if you died horribly then you were a worse sinner than others. Jesus’ point is - don’t think how others died. Think about yourself. Have you repented...and stop worrying about others.
What does it mean to repent? (to turn one’s mind)	A change of heart and change of mind. Not just “feeling” sorry.
What happens if you don’t repent? Perish. Means? (to die...spiritually..be cut off from God) Why doesn’t everyone repent?	God does not force his will on us. 2 Pet 3:9 He is patient with XXXX not wanting XXXX to perish but to come to repentance. (XXXX - the person studying.. name)

**2. Acts 26:20-21**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What does Paul tell King Agrippa? How long does it take for a person to repent? (It is a decision, takes an instant....the effect lasts a lifetime)	That everywhere he went he preached to all - 1)Repent; 2)Turn to God and 3)prove their repentance by their deeds.
Is repentance only about giving up sin?	No..it also involves actively doing good. Draw the Repentance diagram. (Make a U turn)
How can you tell if someone has repented? (they prove it be their deeds). Will people notice? What would they notice?	A change in mind must lead to a change in behaviour. Otherwise it is shallow, or just a feeling.
Have you ever had a significant change in your behaviour - a time when everyone said, “You’ve changed”	

**3. 2 Cor 7:8-11**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
What are the 2 types of sorrow? (Worldly, Godly) What is the difference between them?	Worldly sorrow: Sorry you got caught; Feeling bad but no intention of changing....and this leads to death. (Getting caught without a ticket; crossing a Red traffic light). We rationalize our sin, have self-pity, pride. Godly sorrow - sorry you have hurt God and you change....and this leads to salvation

<p>What qualities does godly sorrow produce?            Earnestness = sincerity / seriousness (about changing)            Eagerness = keen to clear yourself, not delaying            Indignation = you are upset about your sin; anger            Alarm = shock (like in fire alarm or morning alarm), you act urgently            Longing = intense desire to put things right            Concern = a zeal to change            Readiness to see justice done = eager to put things right that are wrong;</p>	<p>If someone has these qualities they would not have to be pressurized to repent, they will be self-motivated.</p>
<p>Are you eager to do the will of God or do you have to be persuaded and pleaded with, to change?</p>	

**4. Mt 5:29-30**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>This passage shows a radical attitude towards eliminating sin and a zeal to do the will of God.</p>	
<p>Is Jesus telling us literally to “gouge out our eyes” or “cut off our hands”?</p>	<p>No..if this was literal there would be a lot of blind people and one-handed people 😞 The world’s attitude towards sin is that it is OK. God’s attitude is that sin is wrong and must be dealt with drastically. The “world” will think you are crazy but you must hate sin.</p>
<p>Do you have any sins to pluck out or cut off from your life?</p>	<p>SHARE: talk about painful decisions you have made, how you repented, what you did, how you felt.</p>
<p>Do you have God’s radical attitude towards sin - a radical aversion?            Have you repented the way the Bible teaches?            How many people do you know who have truly repented?</p>	

**5. Acts 3:19**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

<p>What happens when you repent? (you get refreshed)</p>	
<p>What would this feel like?</p>	<p>Clear conscience, no guilt, burdens lifted, peace with God.</p>
<p>Where does repentance come from? (God)</p>	
<p>What follows repentance? (forgiveness of sin..not covered here but in the next study)</p>	

**Scripture Memory:**

- Acts 26:20
- 2 Cor 7:10
- Acts 3:19

**Other Scriptures to read for Home Work:**

- 2 Tim 2:24-26
- Rom 12:1-2
- Acts 5:30-31

Luke 19:1-10

Titus 2:11-14

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

**Baptism Study:**

**Purpose:** To help a person understand how we participate in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and get forgiveness of sins through baptism.

**Opening Question:** Have you repented? Are you committed to repentance and discipleship? Have you ever been baptized? Tell me about that.

**1. Acts 2:36-41** This is the day the church started.

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
How did the people feel at the end of Peter’s sermon?	Guilty, convicted, cut to the heart
What was Peter’s command to them?	Repent and be baptised
What did he say would happen if they did this?	They would be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit
Does this command apply only to the people of that time?	No, otherwise he would not say the promise is for everyone. It applies today.
If you are baptized but you do not repent, will you be saved? (No) If you repent but are not baptized, will you be saved? (No)	
Why is it important to be forgiven? (to go to heaven) At what point is a person forgiven? (at baptism, not before)	
Why is it important to receive the Holy Spirit?	To help us fight sin, be faithful. The HS guarantees our inheritance (Eph 1:13)
Can you receive the “indwelling” of the Holy Spirit before you are baptized?	No. How can you receive the Spirit to guarantee salvation if you are not forgiven?

**2. John 3:1-5**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Who was Nicodemus? (Jn 3:1) What does he tell Jesus?	
To enter God’s kingdom, what has to happen acc. to Jesus?	Be born again (not a physical rebirth)
What elements are involved in being born again?	Water and spirit (Jn3:5)
When and where does this occur?	At baptism. 9Acts 2:28)

**3. Mt 28:18-20**

Questions to Ask	Comments to Make
Who is baptism for? (people being made into disciples).	People who are old enough to understand. First you make disciples, then you baptize them. This is a command of Jesus. His last words.
If someone has NOT decided to be a disciple, should they get baptized? (no)	Babies, people who don’t understand what it means to be a disciple, people who have not repented, those who do not understand the significance of baptism should not be baptized.
This verse is covered in the Discipleship study. Review, if necessary.	

**4. Rom 6:3-7**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What happens when we are baptized?	We join Jesus in his death, his burial and his resurrection. (Draw a sketch of the cross/burial/resurrection of Jesus and connect it with our old life/baptism/new life.
Baptism is a participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our new life begins after baptism, after our sins have been forgiven.	
How confident can we be in our salvation if we obey this teaching?	Very confident. v5 If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**5. Acts 8:26-40: (The Ethiopian Eunuch)**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What was the Ethiopian eunuch's (EE) attitude to learning?	Was committed, travelled all the way to Jerusalem, believed in the Bible, humble (asked Philip to explain the scriptures)
Why did the EE bring up the subject of water and baptism?	As Philip explained the good news, he must have told him about baptism...that is why the EE asked the question.
Why was he urgent to get baptized? (Why not wait till he reached Ethiopia, have a grand ceremony, invite the Queen, etc. etc)	He understood he would remain lost until he got baptized. He was urgent in wanting to get his sins forgiven.
How did he feel after he was baptized? (Joyful) Why did he go on his way rejoicing? (he was forgiven)	

**6. Acts 16:13-15; (Lydia) and Acts 16:25-35 (The Philippian Jailer).**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Describe Lydia. (v14). Who opened her heart to respond? (God)	
How did she respond to the message? (got baptized) Why didn't she wait? (wanted salvation)	Lydia was also able to influence her whole household. After baptism, she was gracious and invited Paul and his companions to stay at her house.
What time was it in v25? (midnight) In v35? (daylight) So when was the jailer baptized? (some time in-between)	About the Philippian jailer.
Why choose such a radical time? (it was urgent, it was necessary to be saved)	Paul spoke the word of the Lord to him and all the others in his house v32.
How did he feel after baptism (joyful)	Also his whole family were baptized.

**5. Acts 22:1-16**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What was Paul like before he became a Christian?	A violent persecutor of the church (Acts 8:3)
What happened to him on the road to Damascus?	Jesus appeared to him

Did he believe in Jesus, once Jesus spoke to him? (Yes) Was he saved just because Jesus appeared and spoke to him? (No)	He says "Lord".
What was he instructed to do? (Get up and go to Damascus). Was he saved yet? (No)	Acts 9:9-12 says he fasted for 3 days and 3 nights
Does fasting and prayer save you? (No)	
When did Paul get saved? (Acts 22:16)	When his sins were washed away, at baptism.
So Paul believed in Jesus, obeyed him, fasted and prayed for 3 days, was healed of his blindness...yet he was not saved because his sins were not forgiven. In his testimony he says he was baptized and his sins were washed away. What do you think you need to do, based on this study? When would you like to be baptized? Why do you want to be baptized?	

**Scripture Memory:**

Acts 22:16    Jn 3:5                Acts 2:38                Rom 6:3-4

**Other Scriptures to read for Home Work:**

Acts 9:1-20                Gal 3:26-27                Col 2:11-12    1 Pet 3:18-22

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

**Church Study:**

**Purpose:** To teach that every baptized disciple becomes a member of Christ’s body, united with Jesus (the Head) and his followers (His Body).

**Opening Question:** What is your impression of what the church is meant to be?

**Comment:** There are many false views and impressions of church today, shaped by 2000 years of traditions. This study will help us understand what God’s vision for the church is. The Greek word for church is “ecclesia” which means “a calling out” or “an assembly” or a “gathering of people for a specific purpose”.

**1. Col 1:18**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

How is the church described here? (A Body) Who is the head of the church? (Jesus)	The Head is not the Pope or the Bishop or a woman or a politician, etc. The Head is Jesus.
If Jesus is the Head of the body (church) what does that tell us about his function? (he tells the body what to do)	
What should the church do? (obey his commands)	
How can you tell if a church is a true church belonging to Jesus? (it obeys his teachings)	A true church obeys Jesus’ teachings. A false church will not.
If a church teaches things that are contradictory to the Bible, can it be a true church?(No)	Many churches teach wrong things today - things not based on the Bible. This means they disregard the Head
Have you ever seen 1 head with multiple bodies? Or Many heads and one body?	Explain - there are many denominations and divisions in Christianity today. During the apostles time there was just one body (church) and one head (Jesus). Today because of personality conflicts, egos, differences in doctrine, fights, etc. there are many “churches”. But we must be able to recognize a TRUE church from the false ones.

**2. Eph 2:19-21**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

How are God’s people (the church) described here?	Fellow-citizens, God’s household, a temple
If we are God’s household, what does that mean?	We belong there, we are part of the family. We are close. We care for one another.
What is the church built upon? (apostles, prophets, Jesus)	OT + NT (this is where their teachings are found). The Bible is the authority on matters of doctrine.
How can you be sure that a church is a real church of Jesus?	It obeys the Bible’s teachings.
	SHARE: what the church means to you.

**3. 1 Cor 12:12-27 The church is compared to a physical body.**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

How do we get to be a part of the body? v13	We are baptized into it. There is 1 body and this represents the church.
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What does this passage teach about us as parts of the body?	We are all different and we all have a role to play in the life of the church. All play a role. All are important.
Does the body need its parts? (Yes) What would happen if one of the parts became separated from the body?	That part would shrivel up and die. Therefore you need the church and the church needs you.
What does v25 mean?	No division in the church; equal concern for all. If there is conflict Mt 18:15-17 teaches us how to resolve it.
What do you understand by v27?	As members of Christ's body, we are connected to each other, no matter what our background is. We need to have great relationships with the other parts and be engaged with all and fellowship with all.
In what ways can you contribute to the body (church)?	SHARE:

**4. Heb 3:12-14**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Who is supposed to "see to it" that the heart does not get hard?	Each one of us. Not just the church leaders but every church member.
What is a hard heart?	Does not get broken about sin. (Explain about calluses on hand or foot). You don't feel anything after a while.
If we are to "see to it" what does this mean?	We take the initiative, we help each other out, study, warn, encourage, etc. This is serious, not optional.
How often should we be talking to one another?	Daily.
How do you feel about being open about your sin, heart? About asking others about their sin, heart?	SHARE: about your own struggles to be open; the blessings that come from having heart-to-heart talks.
	All Christians sin, but the sin does not have to become a habit. Being open keeps the heart soft towards sin, helps to live a repentant lifestyle and continually experience the joy of forgiveness. This is an issue of salvation v14.
The church helps us to stay away from sin, stay repentant and help us be our best for God.	

**5. Heb 10:24-25**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What does it mean to "spur" one another on?	To urge; to exhort, inspire, stimulate;
How can we do this to our brother / sister?	Think (before coming to the meeting) what can I say to this person to encourage him; how can I help him; write notes, cards, share a scripture, etc. SHARE
How does it feel to be encouraged by someone else? How do you feel about receiving biblical input that will result in greater love and good deeds?	You feel good. It is an upward call....to do more.

Why is missing meetings described as a bad habit?	It results in you slowly drifting away from the body.
How do you feel about coming to all the meetings of the body?	Sunday, mid-week, family devos, etc
What could keep you away? How could you ensure you make it to all the meetings?	Job, family commitments, hobbies, distractions
Coal Illustration: A coal removed from the fire will not stay hot for long. We are living coals who need to be around one another a lot to keep the fire burning. (We need one another to be our best for God)	

**6. Heb 13:7, 17**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

Why remember your leaders who taught you? What can you imitate about them? (their faith)	So you can appreciate them. Thank them. Pray for them.
Why obey leaders? Why submit to their authority? How can you make their work a joy, not a burden?	They have to give an account to God about you. Because they urge you to do what is right. By helping out, taking initiative to do things, studying with others, taking notes, visiting the sick, etc.

**7. Acts 2:42-27 The early church, our inspiration**

Questions to Ask

Comments to Make

What would it have been like to be part of that church? What were the members devoted (addicted) to? What else did they do? How often did they meet? What was the result? (more growth)	Exciting 4 things. 2 Co 8:7 God loves a cheerful giver. Our giving supports the body as we reach out to a world in need of Jesus.
Do you want to be part of a church trying to be like this?	Talk about ICOC.
What will it take for you to be part of the church? How do you feel about that?	
What changes can you make so that you can play your full part in the body of Christ?	

**Scripture Memory:**

Heb 3:12-13

Heb 10:24-25

Col 1:18

**Other Scriptures to read for Home Work:**

1 John 1:5-10

John 17:20-26

John 13:34-35

Rom 12:4-8

Eph 4:1-16

**Pray; Set up date and time for the next study.**

### **Counting The Cost:**

**Purpose:** To see whether the person is ready to follow Jesus as Lord of his life.

Jesus taught that anyone wanting to follow Him should first “estimate the cost” (Luke 14:28-33). While we cannot judge the motives of the heart as only God can, it is the goal of this study to help the seeker to fully understand their decision and to truly repent before baptism (Acts 2:38-41).

The following are a number of areas to be discussed with those seeking to be baptized and become part of the church.

### **I. God’s Plan for Salvation:**

(What is God’s plan of salvation? How does one become a Christian? Can a baby be baptised? Can you become a Christian by “praying Jesus into your heart”?)

Acts 2: 36-41

- 1) Baptism is an adult decision.
- 2) A person must hear message (belief/faith), repent, be baptized for forgiveness of sins and Holy Spirit in order to be saved.
- 3) There is no other practice in the scriptures for being saved. While God is the judge of all men and churches (not us) we must be faithful to the scriptures and fellowship only with those who have followed God’s plan for salvation and live according to His word.

### **II. Personal Relationship with God:**

(Your walk with God is the most important area of your life. It is possible that one become weak and fall away - Heb 2:1. What can you do to stay strong in your walk with God?)

Matthew 4:4 / Mark 1:35 / 2 Timothy 2:15 / II Timothy 3:16-17

1) Discipleship is a lifelong relationship with God that does not end even at death! Every disciple needs to maintain their own personal relationship with God. Daily devotion to God through prayer and reading of God’s word is the standard for all disciples.

### **III. Relationship with God’s Church:**

(What is the mission of the church? Our mission?)

A. The Mission of the Church - Luke 19:10 / II Corinthians 5:10-21 / Matt 28:18-20

(Are you willing to be open about your life, be humble, take advice, take correction?)

B. Discipleship - Hebrews 3:12-13

(How should your relationships be with others? Why should you attend all meetings of the body?)

C. Fellowship - Acts 2: 42-47 / Hebrews 10:23-25 - Sunday Service / Midweek / Small Groups

(Who should you marry? Why?)

D. Dating and Marriage - II Corinthians 6:14-17- Disciples date and marry other Disciples

(How can you serve others? What talents do you have? What can you start doing?)

E. Serve with your Gifts - Ephesians 2:8-10 / Romans 12:4-8

(The church is supported by its members. How much can you give monthly?)

F. Financial Support - Acts 2:45 / Like 6:38 / Luke 11:42 / Malachi 3:8-10 / I Corinthians 9:13-14

Who is God Study:

**Purpose:** To teach the seeker who God is. It is important to make sure we DO NOT focus on who God is NOT.

Acts 17:24-30

v.24

What is talked about God here?

Does people want a God whom they control?

v.25

What is talked about God here?

Who is the giver here and what has he given you?

v.26

Can you explain?

Who determined the times and places?

Who is the reason you are here in Mumbai?

Why is that God planned this so minutely?

v.27

Why did God do this?

Why did God do this to you? What does God want you to do?

Why should you seek? Who is He for you?

v.28

Who is God for you?

What do you mean by offspring?

Who are you today?

Who gave you all you have?

v.29-30

What is told about God here?

Who is NOT God here?

What is God calling you to do today? Turn to Him, change the direction, change the mind ...

God is NOT idol. Reference scriptures:

Psalms 135:15-17

*The idols of the nations are silver and gold,  
made by human hands.*

*16 They have mouths, but cannot speak,  
eyes, but cannot see.*

*17 They have ears, but cannot hear,  
nor is there breath in their mouths.*

Jeremiah 10:5

*Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field,  
their idols cannot speak;  
they must be carried*

*because they cannot walk.*

*Do not fear them;*

*they can do no harm*

*nor can they do any good.”*

Deuteronomy 5:8-9

*You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,*

1 Corinthians 10:14

*14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.*

Revelations 21:8

*8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

Then who is God? See what Bible says:

John 4:24

**24** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Who is God, Jesus says?

What do you mean by ‘God is spirit’?

There is NO form, doesn’t need a shape, there is NO body parts - which means he doesn’t need a mouth and vocal chord to speak, he is beyond time and space.

What does that mean? Can you understand?

COLOR illustration.

Truly its impossible to understand God. But those who seeks Him earnestly, He makes Himself known. (Hebrews. 11:6)