

THE  
Journey  
Your Walk With God

Leader Guide

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Printed in Canada 2001/11

# Introduction

You have taken on an exciting and important task. Choosing to be a leader of a small group brings both significant opportunity and responsibility. We are sure you will find it challenging and rewarding. As group leader you will need to quickly assess the spiritual maturity of the people in your group. Your approach to the study material will be quite different if the group members are mature believers doing The Journey as a 'refresher course' from the approach if the participants are new believers with very little Christian experience. You must be the judge of how best to lead the study.

Please note the following important information:

1. Each unit has far more material than you can possibly cover in a single session. It was never our intention that all the material should be reviewed. This Leader's Study Guide has selected out of each unit the things we think should be covered in the group study. However, you decide what you need to do – just don't try to do everything!
2. If you have not been through The Journey yourself you need to keep at least one complete unit (preferably two) ahead of the group members.
3. Always read the "Before the study" section for the next lesson before you lead the current one. This section contains special preparation notes, and may involve giving the group advance notice or instructions about the next study.
4. We have included questions you can use with the group. They are identified as follows:  
**?** What two kinds of 'life' did Jesus come to bring? [p5-7]
5. Information inside [ ] refers to the location in The Journey study book. [p5-7] above refers to Page 5 Question 7.
6. Page ii "Important things to know before you begin" at the beginning of The Journey study book refers to keeping a journal, a prayer diary, sermon notes, and ideas. Encourage group members to do this and ask them regularly throughout the weeks how they are getting along. It would be a good idea for the group to keep a prayer diary. Perhaps someone in the group would take on that responsibility.

# Unit 1 Gaining Confidence in God

Learning to develop confidence and trust in God's desire and ability to care for me.

## ***Before the Study***

Give each participant *The Journey*. Include a copy of the following letter, or one similar.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I'm really glad you are planning to join our new study group. The Journey will be our study guide. Don't forget to bring it and your Bible each week. Try to complete Unit 1 before our first meeting on \_\_\_\_\_[date] at \_\_\_\_\_[time] at \_\_\_\_\_[place].

Since this is a new group, we want to get to know one another a little as we start. I would appreciate if you would come prepared to tell us a little about yourself and share briefly your spiritual journey so far. It can be as short as you like but should not exceed three minutes.

Perhaps answering the following questions will help you frame your comments:

What is your name?

How long have you lived in this area?

What do you do for a living?

How long have you been attending our church?

When did you commit you life to Christ?

What brought you to that decision?

What difference has being a Christian made in your life?

Looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting.

In Christ,

[name]

Group Leader

## ***Getting Started – 30 minutes***

Starting with yourself, go around the room and ask people to tell their story.

- This will take a little time but it will be well worth it
- Suggest to everyone that they write down the names of each person as they speak, and a little about them, in the inside back page of their study book.
- Within the first two weeks provide everyone with a list of the group members, their addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

## Study Time – 40 minutes

- Review the “Our need” section [p4].
  - Sin is rebellion against God.
  - Sin brings eternal death if not dealt with.
  - The Bible talks about three kinds of death.
  - Physical death is the cessation of physical life that is inevitable for all of us.
  - Spiritual death is the state of an unredeemed person outside of Christ’s grace; we are born spiritually dead because of Adam’s sin.
  - Eternal death is the permanent state of the person who dies physically while still in a state of spiritual death.
  - Physical death is revocable because every person will stand before God’s judgment.
  - Spiritual death is revocable by the blood of Christ through repentance and faith in Christ.

📖 Read John 3:16 and John 10:10.

? What two kinds of ‘life’ did Jesus come to bring? [p5-7]

*Eternal life and life to the full (abundant life – KJV)*

? What is eternal life? [p3-4]

? What is different about knowing God versus being religious?

-Emphasize here the intimate relationship we have with Christ versus just a form of religious practice.

-It is first of all a relationship, not a religion.

-Knowing about God is very different from knowing God.

? Where do most people look for a ‘full’ life?

-pleasure

-success

-power

-money

-things

? What are some of the things Christ brings to our lives that make our lives full?

-peace of mind

-assurance of his presence

-genuine life-long purpose

-confidence he will supply our needs

-certainty in where we are going when we die

➤ Review the section “Jesus came to die for us.” [p6]

-Note that in Matthew Jesus clearly knew what he had come to do—he had come to die for our sins.

-It was also important that he conquer death in the resurrection so that we would know he can give us victory over death too.

➤ Review “Day 4 Memorizing Scripture.” [p7]

- Encourage people to do the memory work.
- Plan to review it each week.
- It is important that they get the word of God into their minds.

### ***Application – 10 minutes***

Allow people share the prayer they wrote in response to Day 5, Question 8 [p10-8].

### ***Prayer Time – 10 minutes***

Have people pray the prayer they wrote.

## **Unit 2 Knowing God**

Learning to know God as he relates to me as Father, Son and Holy Spirit

### ***Before the Study***

Prepare or purchase a large pie and divide it into three equal portions. Be sure you can get each piece out intact! (See Getting started.) Place the pie where everyone can see it. When the study is over you can serve the pie for dessert.

### ***Getting.Started – 10 minutes***

- Pointing to the pie ask, “What is it?”
  - obviously, a pie
- Take out each portion of the pie and set them on separate plates.
- Hold up one portion and ask, “Is this the pie?”
  - The obvious answer is that it is a part of it.
- Repeat the question holding up each of piece of the pie.
  - Explain:
    - each piece of pie is exactly the same size
    - each piece looks the same
    - each piece tastes the same
    - though it is not a perfect example it does illustrate some of the nature of the trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, one God but three persons
    - each the same
    - each equal to the other
    - each with the same attributes (taste)
    - we will see later that they are different only in what they do

## ***Study Time – 45 minutes***

- Review the different kinds of knowing from Day 1 [p12]
  - knowing about God from the evidence of creation (Psalm 19)
  - knowing because someone else has instructed us
  - knowing by believing he exists
  - knowing by faith (Heb 11:1)
  - knowing him intimately (Eph 1:17)
- Note the last paragraph on page 13.
  - knowing God is the journey

## **Knowing God the Father**

- ? When you think of a perfect earthly father what characteristics, attitudes and commitments come to mind?
- Review the parenting qualities people discovered in Day 2, question 1. [p15-1]
  - cf. James 1:7, Romans 8:15

## **Knowing God the Son**

- Review answers to Day 3, question 2. [p16-2]
- 📖 Read Philippians 2: 5-11
- Review answers to Day 3, question 8 [p17-8]

## **Knowing God the Spirit**

Note: some people mistakenly refer to the Holy Spirit as 'it.' Be careful to make clear that the Holy Spirit is not just a force sent from God but is a person of the Godhead.

- Review responses to Day 4, question 2. [p19-2]

## ***Application – 15 minutes***

Ask people to share at least some of the spiritual goals they wrote in the application section at the end of Day 5. [p22]

## ***Prayer Time – 20 minutes***

# Unit 3 Growing with God

Learning to commit to a growing walk with God.

## ***Before the Study***

No special preparation for this unit.

## ***Getting Started – 10 minutes***

What was it like to start a new job or move into a new community?

- I had to learn a whole new way of doing things
- I had to figure out how the phone system and the photocopier worked
- I felt like a real klutz until I got the hang of things
- I had to find out where everything was

Starting your walk with God is a bit like starting a new job or moving into a new community. In the beginning it is unfamiliar territory and, while you are glad to be there, you feel a little disoriented.

Coming to faith in Christ is the beginning of a new journey and a new life. It's going to take time to learn how it all works – in fact it is going to take a lifetime – but it's a wonderful journey.

Sometimes people become Christians and just learn the basics, just enough to get along. Then they settle into a comfortable routine and stop growing. Don't let this happen to you! Just as it is sad to see someone who has stopped growing physically before full maturity, it is also sad to see someone who has stopped growing spiritually.

We are going to discuss today what it means to grow in our relationship with God.

## ***Study Time – 45 minutes***

Day 1 is a review of the conversion experience. Whether the people in your group are very new Christians or have been Christians for many years take time to emphasize the importance of the “new birth” experience. The testimonies from last week should have given you some idea of how clear everyone is on their conversion.

- Review all of the material in Day 1. [p24-25] Have various people share their answers and clarify anything that seems unclear.

Don't put people on the spot if you sense uncertainty about their relationship to Christ but make sure you have a one-on-one conversation with them in the week following the study.

- ? We have explained that salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ alone. Look at Day 2 Question 2. [p26-2] What proves our faith is genuine and living?

📖 Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

These verses make a clear distinction between coming to Christ for salvation and living in Christ as a 'saved' person.

Note the following:

- we are saved by grace alone, God’s undeserved favour
- ‘faith’ is not a work, it is the recognition and acceptance of the work of another – Christ
- gifts are not paid for, they are gratefully accepted
- we are the work of God, that is why it is complete and permanent
- “to do good works” is now our purpose. We glorify God by what we do. cf. Matt 5:16

- ? Would some of you tell us how you responded to the question at the bottom of page 27, “What are some of the things that you know God wants you to do”?
- ? What did you discover when you answered question 1 on page 28? [p28-1]
- ? What might we be like if we were fully “conformed to the likeness of his son.”?
- Referring to “How God helps you follow his will” on page 29, briefly review the place of scripture, prayer, and godly advice as ways of understanding God’s will. This will be dealt with more fully in a future unit.

### ***Application – 15 minutes***

- Summarize the material under “Our purpose involves a process.” [p31]
- Share with us one of the goals you have listed in response to question 2 on page 32. [p32-2]

### ***Prayer Time – 20 minutes***

## **Unit 4 Using God’s word**

Learning to apply God’s word to my life.

### ***Before the Study***

Have two books ready for the study. One book should be a copy of the scriptures, the other one of the classics of secular literature. A copy of the works of William Shakespeare would be ideal but any classic would do as long as people recognize it as such. Before everyone arrives set out the two books in a location where everyone can see them when they are seated for the study.

### ***Getting Started – 10 minutes***

As you begin the study ask, What is the difference between these two books?

- let people share their answers

You might point out that both are:

- just paper and ink
- both are recognized as classics of literature
- both have stood the test of time and are still widely read

The difference is that one is the genius of a man; the other is the genius of God.

## **Study Time – 45 minutes**

- Review Day 2 “The Bible came by inspiration.” [p38]
- ? How did you answer questions 2 and 3 in day 2 [p38-2-3]
  - point out that the Bible is different because its ultimate author is God. If you think it necessary have someone read the paragraph at the bottom of page 38 and then emphasize the ‘confluent’ (God and the author of each book working together) nature of the writing of scripture versus the ‘dictation’ view (the writer was just a scribe).
- Review and discuss Day 1 section “Resistance to sin” [p37]
  - emphasize how important it is for each person to study the scriptures for themselves
  - it is important to listen to the scripture being taught by the pastor or another competent teacher but it is not enough
- Review and discuss Day 4 section “Meditating on God’s word” [p44]
  - underline a key statement in each of the paragraphs, for example:
    - “Meditation on God’s word is vitally important. Just as your physical food must be chewed and digested, so your spiritual food must go through the process of spiritual digestion. This requires thinking about it—or meditation.”
    - “Meditation is one of the highest and most distinctively human activities. The capacity to think deeply enables us to rise above the level of the beasts and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, enter the realm of the spiritual.”
    - “Meditation means carefully considering what God has said. As you read the Bible, anticipate that he will speak to you about areas of your life that need to be corrected or changed. Look for his direction about conforming your life to his standards. In other words, meditation is a way of discovering practical responses to the Bible that will make you think and act more like Jesus Christ.”(point out that underlining is a way of identifying the key idea in each paragraph and can be used throughout the study)
- Below is a definition of meditation taken from James Packer’s book, Knowing God:
  - “Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on and applying to oneself the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God.”

## ***Application – 15 minutes***

Have people share some of their responses to Day 3 question 9. [p43-9]

## ***Prayer Time – 20 minutes***

# **Unit 5 Talking with God**

Learning to establish my communication with God.

## ***Before the Study***

The “Concert of Prayer” suggested under the Application/prayer time will take some careful preparation. You may be able to work with someone else into group for the preparation and leadership of this. Note the extra time we are suggesting for this section.

## ***Getting Started – 10 minutes***

- ? What are the various ways we communicate with one another?
  - e-mail
  - letters
  - phone calls
  - face to face conversations
  - tone of voice
  - facial expressions
  - gestures
  - some might identify with the symbols used in e-mail to communicate emotion
  - have you ever seen an old silent movie where the actors had to be very visual with their communication
- ? Why is communication so important?
  - helps us know what others are thinking
  - it is the way we convey our ideas and opinions
  - it build relationship with other people
  - communication is the only way to intellectually, emotionally and spiritually interact
- ? Can you actually get to know anyone without some form of communication?
  - no, communication is essential. Our relationship with God is exactly the same; communication with God is essential.

## ***Study Time – 35 minutes***

- ? The answer to question 1 in Day 1 [p50-1] is obvious – “always” but what does it mean to “seek his face always?”
  - we need to be constantly aware of God’s presence

-we can have an ongoing 'dialogue' with God through the Holy Spirit and the scriptures

- ? What conditions do we need to meet for an effective prayer life? [p51-6] 2 Chronicles 7:14, 1 Jo 3: 21,22
- ? Christians often end their prayers with "In Jesus Name." Why do we do that? What does it mean? [p53-3,4]
  - refer the group to [p54-6]. Encourage use of the prayer diary.
- ? While we should always be in a spirit of prayer we also need to set aside time each day to specifically pray. What time of the day do you find it best for your prayer time? Why?
- Review "The Postures of Prayer" [p56-1].
- ? When you are having your private prayer time what posture do you prefer? Why?
  - some like to kneel because they feel this is their sign of respect
  - some prefer to sit in their favorite chair because they are comfortable and relaxed and can give full attention to prayer
  - some prefer to stand or walk so they won't become too comfortable and fall asleep
- You need to caution people about becoming too self-centered in their prayer. The ACTS or CAST outline can help avoid that. [p57]. -Review and discuss this approach.
- ? What aspect of prayer is easiest for you? Which one is the most difficult? [p58-4]
  - ask those who wish to share their responses

### ***Application/Prayer Time – 35 minutes***

Hold a mini "Concert of Prayer." Follow the Lord's Prayer outline in Day 3 [p54]. You may want to sing if that is suitable for your group. Intersperse the prayer time with scripture.

- Our Father in Heaven
  - prayers of thanksgiving that God is my Father-he loves me
  - prayers of thanksgiving that God is our Father-he has brought us all into his family
- Hallowed be your name
  - lift up worship and praise to God as the holy, pure and righteous one
- Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
  - acknowledge that God is the supreme ruler of the universe
  - express thanks that he is building his kingdom on earth through his church
  - prayers of commitment and request that God's will will be accomplished in our personal lives, our church and our world

- Give us this day
  - prayers of request for our daily spiritual, physical and emotional needs.
  - prayers for our church
  - prayers for our nation
  - prayers for our missionaries
- Forgive us our debts as we forgive
  - prayers of gratitude for his forgiveness
  - prayers of confession and repentance
  - (be careful here, people may not be willing to confess secret sin publicly-don't push-give a few quiet moments for individuals to privately confess)
  - request to help us be forgiving of others
- And lead us not into temptation
  - prayers of request for strength to meet temptation
- Close with a prayer of gratitude for God's love and compassion for us all.

## Unit 6 Loving our God

Learning to express my love for God.

### ***Before the Study***

Assign a good reader to read Psalm 46

### ***Getting Started–15 minutes***

- ? How do we show our love for the people we care about?
  - to a child
  - to a spouse
  - to a friend
- Gary Chapman in his book “The Five Languages of Love” identifies these five ways.
  1. Quality Time
  2. Physical Touch
  3. Acts of Service
  4. Words of Affirmation
  5. Receiving Gifts
- ? Which of these can we apply all these to our relationship to God?
  - briefly discuss each one

## Study Time – 45 min

- Read out loud in unison our memory verses for this week-Matt 22:37-39
  - this is the heart of true Christianity. Loving God (and others) is what makes Christianity a relationship and not just a religion.
- Review and discuss “What does worship mean?” [p62]
- ? According to Psalm 103 [p63] what part of our being does praise come from?
  - from our inmost being-true praise is a heart issue
- Have individuals in the group share the words of praise they wrote on Day 1 [p63-6]
- Praise can be loud and enthusiastic or quiet, thoughtful meditation. Have someone read (you may want to call them ahead of the study) Ps. 46. [p64]
- ? What leads the Psalmist to hear the voice of God saying “Be still and know that I am God” and what does he conclude from it?
  - he meditates on his understanding of who God is?
  - he concludes “the Lord Almighty is with us.”
- 📖 Worship needs to be private *and* public. Read Acts 2:42-47 [p64-1]
- ? How many times do you discover the word ‘together’ used?
  - 3 times
  - the whole passage is about being together.
- ? What are the benefits of worshipping together?
  - spiritual encouragement Heb 10:24, 25
  - enthusiasm of being together
  - learning from one another
- ? What other kind of service could we do together that would be “acts of worship” towards God? [p65-4]
  - let people share what they wrote
- 📖 Read Luke 10:38-42 [p66-1]
  - point out that good things can distract us from the best things. Martha is a good example of this.
- ? Worship can happen anywhere but there are three ‘usual’ places. What are they? [p67-Places for worship]
  - a quiet place
  - in our family
  - in our church
- A quiet place. Ask people to share their response to question 6 on Day 3 [p68-6]

- In our family life. Discuss the problems with holding family devotions  
Even if families got together once or twice a week for a family devotional time it would be better than no time at all.
- In the church. Discuss how people should prepare for worship as they come to church.
- Discuss what your group members like (or don't like) about worship in your church.
  - make sure the discussion is constructive
  - acknowledge that each person is entitled to their preferences and not everybody's expectations can be met all the time.

### ***Application – 15 min***

- Have group members relate how they answered question 8 on Day 3. [p69-8]
- ? How could we improve our response in worship opportunities?

### ***Prayer Time – 15 minutes***

You may want to use the ACTS acrostic for the prayer time

## **Unit 7 Taking my place in God's family**

Learning to become a vital member of God's family.

### ***Before the Study***

If you are not sure how people are processed for baptism and church membership find out from the Pastor or another knowledgeable leader. If there is material available for prospective members have copies available for your group

### ***Getting Started – 10 min***

- ? What are the benefits of being in a family?
  - support, love, caring
- ? What are the difficulties of belonging in a family?
  - getting along with other family members
  - sometimes having to forfeit my rights for the benefit of other family members.
- ? What are the responsibilities of belonging in a family?
  - caring for other members of the family
  - sharing in family chores
  - sharing in the financial cost of the family

Being a part of a church family is much like being a part of a biological family. There are benefits, difficulties and responsibilities. Just as being a physical family helps us grow, so being in a church family can help us grow too.

? Look at Day 2. What other metaphors does scripture give us for the church?

-body-it is an organism with different parts (members) contributing to the health of the whole.

-flock-we are the sheep of the flock and Jesus is the 'good shepherd' who cares for the sheep

## **Study Time – 45 min**

➤ Referring to the section "Who makes up the church" [p74] review the difference between the "universal" church and the "local" church.

? According to Acts 2:47, what were the two requirements for being added to the church?

-Accepting the message of Christ's salvation.

-Being baptized.

We do not know what process the New Testament Church used to identify and track church members. There is no one right way; it is up to each church to establish some method of knowing who are a part of their local body.

➤ Explain how your church processes people who request baptism and church membership. If you are not sure, talk to your Pastor so that you can explain it clearly. If your church has any literature they give to prospective members, have a copy for each member of the group.

## **Baptism**

➤ Take time to review Day 3 [p78] on Baptism.

The important things to note are:

1.It is a clear command of Jesus included in the "Great Commission" in Matt 28:19-20

2.It is an act of obedience to Christ not to the tradition of a church or a matter of personal preference.

3.Baptism is a symbol for our identification with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. Romans 6:6-13

## **The Lords Supper**

📖 Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

➤ Review groups members' responses to questions 1, 2, 3. [p81]

➤ Review responses to question 5 [p81].

📖 Read 1 Corinthians 11:27-30

? What kind of things should we be examining ourselves for before we come to the Lords Supper?

Right Attitude

Unconfessed sin

Out of fellowship with other believers

? What are the most important aspects of the Lord's table for you? Discuss.

### ***Application – 15 min***

➤ Let group members share some blessing they received through their contact with your church over the last few weeks.

-a sermon that helped them

-a worship time that was especially meaningful

-an event that they enjoyed

-contact from someone that was a special blessing

-a ministry they gave to someone else

### ***Prayer Time – 20 min***

## **Unit 8 Walking with God**

Learning to keep in step with God.

### ***Before the Study***

Select two or three people in advance to describe a friendship as suggested in the "Getting started" section.

### ***Getting Started – 10 min***

Ask a few people to describe a friendship that's particularly meaningful to them. What makes this friendship so important? What do they get out of it and what do they give to make it work so well?

Pick up on the aspects of these friendships that parallel our relationship with God.

### ***Study Time – 45 min***

NOTE: Depending on the knowledge and maturity of the group, there are lots of directions you could go in this study unit. Be careful not to get sidetracked.

The important issues of the study are:

The continual filling of the Holy Spirit in the believer

How to deal with sin in our lives

How to avoid getting trapped by sin

How to maintain a holy life

## The filling of the Spirit

There's a lot of confusion about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. You cannot deal with all the issues; try to deal with the material in the study book.

- Review the material in Day 1 [p86-87]

Explain the difference between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Spirit. We are discussing the filling of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is always in our life if we are Christians but we do not always give him control. We don't have more or less of the Spirit, but we can give him more or less control.

- 📖 Read Ephesians 5:8-21

-this is a series of instructions for what a believer should do and not do.

-verse 18 says we need to choose to be filled (controlled) by the Spirit

## The problem of sin - the wonder of forgiveness [p88]

- 📖 Read 1 John 1:8-10

- ? To whom are these words written, believers or unbelievers? [p88-1]

-1 John is written for believers

-verse 9 is not talking about us confessing our sin nature (we did that when we received Christ), he is talking about the specific sins (note the plural "sins").

- Confession, for the Christian, needs to be very specific. Review how people answered question 5. [p89-5]

- 📖 Read 1 John 1:9 again and review how people answered question 6. [p89-6]

- Review group responses to "Power to Overcome Sin." [p89].

- ? How did they respond to question 10? [p90-10]

- Review and Discuss "Grace Changes our lives" [p93]

## Application – 15 min

Encourage as many as possible to share how they answered question 13 [p96-13]

## Prayer Time – 20 min

Note: Ask everyone to come prepared to read their written testimony next week. See Unit 9 "Getting Started" in this Leader's Guide and Unit 9 Day 3 in The Journey study book.

## Unit 9 Sharing our God

Learning how to share God with others.

### ***Before the Study***

Ask group members the previous week to be prepared to share their testimony. Give them the following instructions.

- Use the format on page 104 [p104-7] to prepare your testimony
- Write it out on a sheet of paper
- It should take no more than 90 seconds to read it out loud

Assign each verse in “A Sample Presentation” to individuals in the group. Ask them to come prepared to share their explanation. [p108ff]

### ***Getting Started – 25 minutes***

Have group members read their written testimony.

### ***Study Time – 40 min***

- Briefly review Day 1 [p98-99]
- Let people share their response to question 6. [p99-6]
- Review the “Circles of Impact” on page 100 [p100]
- 📖 Read 2 Timothy 1:7-8 and discuss responses to question 2 [p101-2].
- Review the Cultivating, Planting, Reaping metaphor in Day 4 [p106].
- Ask each group member to tell about one name they have placed in the chart on page 107 [p107].
- Review “The Essential Elements” [p108]
- Review “A Sample Presentation” asking various people to explain the verses.

### ***Application/Prayer Time – 25 min***

Ask each person to pray for the people on the chart on p107 and to ask God for wisdom as they share their faith with them.

# Unit 10 Giving to God

Learning to manage the resources god has given me.

## ***Before the Study***

No special preparation for this unit.

## ***Getting Started – 10 min***

- What do people in our society put the most value on? Why?
  - material wealth
  - time
  - power
- 📖 The Christian ought to come from a very different perspective. Read the memory verse for this unit – Romans 12:1-2. Remind them that “bodies” refers to the totality of who we are. Let’s see the practical implications of making our lives a “spiritual act of worship.”

## ***Study Time – 45 min***

- 📖 Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 “As God’s new creations, we think, live, speak and act from this new context”. [p112] Discuss the implications of these verses and this statement.
- Ask group members to share one or two of their responses to Question 8 [p113-8].

## **Time**

- Review and discuss the section “How can we live wisely?”[p115]
  - Read the portions of scripture
- Review “Tithing our Time” [p116] and discuss the viability of the table of activities.

## **Possessions**

- ? What are the practical implications of each of the options in question 3? [p118-3]

## **Tithing**

- Discuss the principles in Day 4 [p120f]
  - Giving should be on a regular consistent basis.
  - Giving should be proportional to income.
  - Why is the tithe a good pattern?
  - Sometimes giving needs to be sacrificial.
  - Giving should be done in the spirit of joy.
  - Giving is an investment-not an expenditure

## **Application – 20 min**

- Review responses to Day 5 Questions 10, 11,12. [p123]

## **Prayer Time – 15 min**

# **Unit 11 Serving God**

Learning to find my place of ministry.

## **Before the Study**

Ask the Pastor or someone else in leadership what availability ministry opportunities there are in the church.

## **Getting Started – 10 min**

- Ask group members to think about their families, siblings or children and identify family members who have similar appearance and characteristics to their own.
- Discuss what makes them alike. You should be able to have some fun with this!
  - similar genetic make up
  - likes and dislikes
  - similar experience, etc.

We become like the people we spend the most time with and those whose lifestyle and characteristics we identify with. As Christians we have taken on the spiritual DNA of Jesus and as we spend time with him and serve him we should become more and more like him. As we spend time in our new spiritual family (the church), we will adopt many of its characteristics.

## **Study Time – 40 minutes**

- Review and discuss the group responses to question 3. [p126-3]

## **Gifted to serve**

- Read the definition of spiritual gifts in the first paragraph in Day 2. [p128] Discuss.

God does not leave us to serve him alone, he has given us his Holy Spirit who imparts to each believer the ability to serve God. No one is without spiritual giftedness. Though many may not really know what their spiritual gifts are.
- It would be worth reading out loud the four passages on spiritual gifts noted under “What the Bible Says”. [p128] (You may want to assign this reading ahead of time)
- Review questions 4,5 and 6. [p129-4,5,6,]

- Review the “Know your Gifts” section [p129] with special emphasis on the three questions.  
Christians need to try various areas of service and use these as opportunities to test their giftedness.
- Ask people to share the paragraph they wrote in response to question 1, Day 3. [p130-1]
- 📖 Read 1 Corinthians 3: 10-15 and review Questions 4 through 7. [p133-4-7]

### ***Application – 20 minutes***

Using the table on page 131 discuss the various ministries at your church. Everyone should know one another well enough by now that group members should be able to identify possible areas of giftedness in each other.

Let people know about available ministry opportunities at church.

### ***Prayer Time – 20 minutes***

## **Unit 12 Going on with God**

Committing myself to continue the journey with God.

### ***Before the Study***

You should make this a very special session. Whether your group is ending or continuing on together to another study, it is important to celebrate.

You may want to arrange a meal together in a home or at a restaurant. Whatever you decide to do, make sure you share the preparation load with other members of the group.

Here are some ideas for the study time:

By now you know your group quite well so you need to make the decision as to how to plan your celebration study time.

- Select key questions from Days 1 through 4 for discussion.
- Select one day from Days 1 through 4 for review discussion.
- Whatever you chose we suggest you give the last part of the study time to the two questions in Day 5. [p143] Give lots of time to this part.
- Conclude the time with a good time of praise and prayer. You may want to review the Group Prayer Journal.