

February 2016 Focus In Our Prayer Closets

Living in collaboration with God is the way to instill meaning into your days. Begin each day alone with God, so that you can experience the reality of God's Presence. (Substance of Faith)

Hold God's hand in deliberate dependence on him, and God will smooth out the path before you.

Lesson 1's Devotional Message: "Lord Teach Us To Pray"

Lesson 1 – Closing the Doors; Just Pray

Objective: To emphasize the fact that we should pray always.

We are to come as children, for God is the Father of all who have accepted His Son, Jesus Christ, as Savior. Jesus not only taught how we should pray, but he also taught how not to pray.

- Many people play-act to be seen as super Christians to make an impression on whoever they can, because they are needy and want to be admired by others.
- We use carefully chosen words as well as long, meaningless words to demonstrate our spirituality.
- Do we pray with fervor to hear the shouts of others, or is our fervent prayer to God?
- When we pray, we know that God hears us and knows exactly what we mean.
- We do not need special words or phrases, but we can pray courageously with wisdom and faith because our requests are in line with God's will.
- We pray because we know that God holds it all together and we can come to Him both openly and in secret.

THERE IS A BLESSING IN UNANSWERED PRAYERS

Lesson 2's Devotional Message: "Developing An Attitude of Prayer"

Lesson 2 – Pray For Spiritual Growth

Objective: To emphasize the need for spiritual growth in the life of every believer.

In Order to have an attitude of prayer, we must also have an attitude of forgiveness. Ask forgiveness of God as well as the person whom you offended. God through Jesus Christ has forgiven us; and unless we forgive, God will not forgive us.

- A mark of spiritual growth is seen when we exemplify faith in our walks as well as shown genuine love for others.
- This has nothing to do with "talking " about love, but it has everything to do with putting our faith and love into action.
- We need to encourage New Christians to study God's Word and grow in His Word.
- False teachers are everywhere, and new Christians can be gullible because of a yearning to grow spiritually.
- **Wisdom is not just intellectual;** it is insight, discernment, being controlled and yielding to the will of God for one's life, as well as being able to apply it one's life.

Lesson3's Devotional Message: "Pray Boldly! Pray Daily!"

Lesson 3 – Take A Prayer Break

Objective: To emphasize the importance of setting aside a special time for prayer

When we are victims of forces that seem to be more than we can manage; our prayers will come out of a believing spirit; we express our prayers through faith and motivated by thankfulness. Prayer is characterized by a trusting and rejoicing spirit. It is a privilege to talk to our Heavenly Father in Jesus' name. We must go boldly on a daily basis to our Heavenly Father who knows all, sees all, and hears all.

Bruce Wilkinson, in his book *The Prayer of Jabez*, states, "Ask" promised Jesus, 'and it will be given to you' (Matthew 7:7). You do not have because you do not ask,' said James (James 4:2). Even though there is no limit to God's goodness, if you didn't ask God for a blessing yesterday, you didn't get all that you were supposed to have. If you don't ask for God's blessings, you forfeit those that come to you only when you ask.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Lesson4's Devotional Message: "Be Thankful!"

Lesson 4 – Trust God For His Provisions

Objective: To emphasize the need for believers to trust that God will provide for our needs.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus Concerning you”(I Thessalonians 5:18). Be thankful for God’s grace and mercy. Live a life of thankfulness. We do not deserve God’s blessing; therefore, no matter what happens in life be thankful. We have a God who never changes.

There are times in our lives when we need to be alone with God. **We need to go into our secret closets and commune with God.** Life can be hectic, and it can be devastating. There are time we must deal with unpleasant circumstances, but we must continue to obey and trust God.

Remember: God made provisions for the salvation of the world through His Son, Jesus Christ.

TRUST God for His provisions!

MARCH 2016 FOCUS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

GROWING AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

March Focus: Under Construction

Lesson 1's Devotional Message: "Helping One Another"

Lesson 1 - Pressing Forward

Objective: To affirm the need for Christians to press forward in Jesus Christ.

We are designed to work together in the Christian journey. When we are witnessing Jesus Style, we apply the Christian walk with our daily walks of life.

There is no fear of fatigue, darkness, or defeat. When you press your way, you are going to meet with resistance, you will grow weary, but Jesus is always with you. We must press on even when there are signs of Risk and Danger. We must PRESS On. Jesus pressed on for us. Now we must continue to press on for Him. Pressing on in Christ guarantees complete victory.

Lesson 2's Devotional Message: "Wait on the Lord"

Lesson 2 - Shortcuts Create Barriers

Objective: To emphasize the importance of not taking shortcuts in developing our spirituality.

Never jump to conclusion about anyone or anything, always wait on the Lord.

When we take **spiritual shortcuts**, we disobey God. This disobedience sometimes results in the forfeiture of tremendous Blessings. There are no shortcuts, no barriers to the blessings God has in store for those who fully commits to doing His will His way!

Lesson 3's Devotional Message: "Sowing Good Seeds" (Joseph & Daniel)

Lesson 3 - Creating Environments of Trust

Objective: To show the importance of trust in relationships

We have to believe that God is in control. We have to hold our faith in an environment of Trust. We have to trust that our breakthrough is right here. The Lord is moved by our Faith not our disbelief.

We must sow words of encouragement and support others in their "Dreams" and we must Trust God for the delivery. Remember, if your desires line up with God's will, then you can ask for the desires of your heart and God will deliver.

Whatever matters to you, it matters to God. God is into the "Small Stuff" in our lives.

Let us always strive in whatever we do, to create and maintain an environment of trust.

Lesson 4's Devotional Message: "Sunrise of Opportunities"

(Jonah & Jesus)

Lesson 4 Retreat and Recharge

Objective: To emphasize the urgency and importance of submitting to the will of God.

When the Lord guides us, there is no shadow of turning, but bright hope for tomorrow. It is crucial that we realize we can never escape the lessons the Lord has for us.

God's love is for everybody. We are God's vessels that carry his Word of love and mercy.

Jonah's three-day retreat in the belly of a whale was orchestrated by God Himself. As we engage in mission duties, let us always remember how our Lord and Savior retreated (in the heart of the earth for 3 days) and recharged for us. So let us be vigilant in order to be recharged to serve God and others!

Lesson 5's Devotional Message: "Jesus Is Alive!"

Lesson 5 Victory Through Witnessing

Objective: To emphasize the power that is inherent in witnessing to God's greatness and goodness.

Because Jesus Lives, we can face tomorrow. He died and now He Live. Tell somebody that Jesus Lives in you and He lives in me.

There is no need to ever wonder if Jesus will love us after a brief separation by way of sin. Jesus is always here, waiting for us with open arms. There is no need to ask anyone to verify if Jesus still loves us. Yes, Jesus loves us. Jesus always has and Jesus always will love us.

FOCUS: Jesus Said It; We Believe It !

“ FOLLOW ME ”

“I Will Make You Fishers of Men”

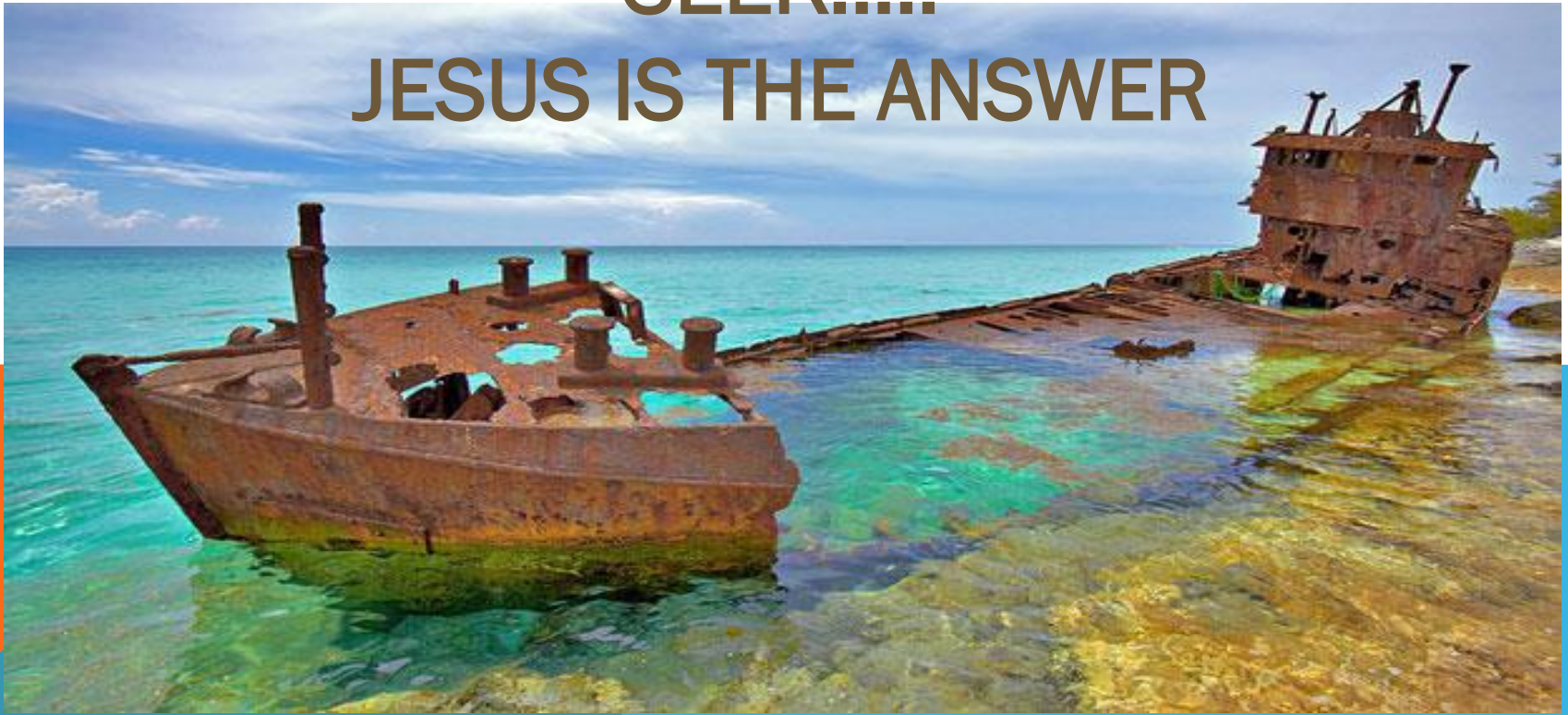
Lesson Objective

To learn how to reach out to people with the Good News of Salvation.



**DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU ON
WRECKED SHIP? FEELING OF
HOPELESSNESS, LOST IN YOUR OWN
THOUGHTS, SEARCHING FOR
SOMETHING BUT WHAT IS THIS YOU
SEEK.....**


JESUS IS THE ANSWER



WHY WERE WE CREATED

Revelation 4:11 King James Version (KJV)

¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy **PLEASURE** they are and were created.



THERE ARE 3 TYPES OF CATEGORIES OF GIFTS

To minister to His Church and to accomplish His work in the world.

Motivational Gifts: “. . . *Diversities of gifts . . .*”(I Corinthians 12:4).

How God works in a believer to shape his perspective on life and motivate his words and actions. (See Romans 12:3–8.)

Ministry Gifts: “. . . *Differences of administrations . . .*”(I Corinthians 12:5).

How God works with what a believer does to serve and meet the needs of others. (See Ephesians 4:11–13 and I Corinthians 12:27–31.)

Manifestation Gifts: “. . . *Diversities of operations . . .*”(I Corinthians 12:6).

How God works through a believer in a given situation to demonstrate His supernatural power. (See I Corinthians 12:7–11.)

Motivational Gifts

At the Moment of Salvation, a Believer Receives One of

SEVEN MOTIVATIONAL GIFTS

- ✓ Prophecy
- ✓ Serving
- ✓ Teaching
- ✓ Exhorting
- ✓ Giving
- ✓ Organizing
- ✓ Mercy

Motivational Gifts

This gift of God's grace **shapes how the believer views life, relates to others, and impacts the Body of Christ.** A motivational gift can be compared to a set of eyeglasses from God, given so that the believer can see people and circumstances through that particular set of "lenses."

The following are simple descriptions of the seven motivational gifts, explaining how a person with each gift would "see" his or her role in the Body of Christ:

Motivational Gifts

PROPHECY: Reveals truth by exposing sin, so that fellowship with God can be restored and/or maintained

SERVING: Demonstrates love by meeting practical needs, usually through tangible work

TEACHING: Discovers and validates truth so that the Church maintains accuracy

EXHORTING: Encourages Christians to grow spiritually by teaching, discipling, and counseling others

GIVING: Conserves and shares resources in order to meet needs.

ORGANIZING: Carries out projects by recruiting workers, organizing tasks, or delegating responsibilities

MERCY: Demonstrates God's love and compassion by responding to hurt

Motivational Gifts



God works through the spiritual gifts in the Body of Christ to help the Church grow and remain healthy.

By God's grace;

1. Prophets warn believers of sin.
2. Servers guard against slothfulness.
3. Teachers steer us clear of heresy.
4. Exhorters watch out for hopelessness.
5. Givers stand against selfishness.
6. Organizers ward off chaos.
7. Mercy-givers demonstrate God's tender love

Ministry Gifts

Ministry gifts are the tools God uses to build up the Church. They are practical, essential, can-do types of gifts such as those described in Ephesians 4:11-13:

*“He gave some,
and some,
and some,
and some,
and*

*Apostles;
Prophets;
Evangelists;
Pastors
Teachers;*

FOCUS: Jesus Said It; We Believe It !

“THE LABORERS ARE FEW”

“Faithful Workers to Harvest ”

“The Harvest Truly Is Plenteous”



LESSON OBJECTIVE

To understand the necessity of asking God to send faithful workers into His harvest fields.



LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus doesn't say to recruit or solicit laborers. He tells us to pray for God to send laborers. We may be able to pressure people to work, but it won't last. Only God can move men and women to answer the call to service.



THE LABORERS ARE FEW

Open your eyes to see the harvest before you. God has placed each of us in different places for different reasons. Pray for those whom God places in our paths each day. God wants to use you to help bring in the harvest. Are you a willing vessel fully committed for His use? There is no limit to what God can do with a heart fully committed to Him.

THE LABORERS ARE FEW

We do not have to wait for the harvest . God has already called some of us to sow, others to nourish the seed, and some of us to be His instruments of harvest. The harvest was prepared long before we came alone. God has had people planting little spiritual seeds in the hearts of men and women down through history.



THE LABORERS ARE FEW

We promote our ideas, our pet projects, and forget that we are laborers together with God. Far too many of us, like the disciples in the periscope of the woman at the well in Samaria, have selective vision. We want to choose to whom we will witness. Maybe those whom we have in mind are not ripe enough for harvest.



THE LABORERS ARE FEW

God's work is never done. There are lost and hurting people everywhere. There are children who need to be taught God's Word. People are still trying to find the peace of God through a maze of religious requirements. People are still confused and aimless. Many are battered and bruised by life's circumstances. There is still an abundance of suffering, abuse and poverty. Jesus was and is concerned about human needs; we should and must be, also.

THE LABORERS ARE FEW

1. The church does not exist for heaven but for earth. We are so heavenly minded, we are so in to condemning ourselves . John 16:7 Go ye into all the world.. Heaven and Earth belong to God. The Earth is the Lord and the earth is not hell. When you stay on earth you are still in the present of God.
2. The church was created for earth not heaven.
God give us trials so you can be a living testimony, so others can see that someone have gone through many trials right here on earth, and no one but God could have delivered them through their trials. God has reconciled with his children through the blood and body of his Son Jesus Christ.

Salvation has many benefits. If you want to go to hell; reject Jesus Christ our Lord & Savior !