

Discipleship
Journeys
with *Jesus*
QuickStart



QuickStart Sessions

Mentoring

Prayer

Bible Study

Giving

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Discipleship Journeys with Jesus exists to disciple people in actionable, biblical wisdom.

Our vision is to take 100 million people on discipleship journeys with Jesus.

“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”

(2 Timothy 2:2 NLT)

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DR. MARK ALAN WILLIAMS

Mark is an author, speaker, pastor, and parachurch leader. Since 1981, he has served in full-time ministry, starting churches, writing resources, and training leaders worldwide. He has traveled to over 75 countries and has spoken on every inhabited continent in the world.

In the fall of 2016, he founded **Discipleship Journeys with Jesus (DJJ)**, a discipleship ministry that helps fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to "make disciples." These free Bible-based lessons and videos guide people worldwide in becoming followers of Jesus as they interact with Scripture. The long-term vision is to take 100 million people on discipleship journeys with Jesus.

For 18 years, Mark served with **Dynamic Church Planting International (DCPI)**, helping to build the ministry from the ground up. His last position at DCPI was Vice President of Global Church Planting Materials. Mark wrote and oversaw resources used to train over 25,000 leaders each year in more than 100 countries. These materials have been translated into 55 languages so far.

Mark's blog, **MarkAlanWilliams.net**, is about "**Making Discipleship Doable.**" Through it, he helps people figure out the world and live a dynamic, God-centered life from an interdenominational Christian perspective. His site has been read in over 140 countries.

Mark is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, Biola University, Talbot Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary, where he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree. In 2010 he was honored to be the Moody Bible Institute's "Alumnus of the Year."

Over the years, Mark also has:

- Served as an intern with author and speaker Josh McDowell.
- Been a Church Planter, followed by ten years as Senior Pastor. During that time, his church started several daughter and partner churches.
- Served as a part-time denominational church planting director.
- Spoken and trained in countries as diverse as Pakistan, Siberia, Egypt, Peru, The Congo, Australia, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Myanmar, Colombia, and many others.
- Authored or co-authored six books.

Mark's hobbies include playing basketball, singing, playing guitar, and reading. Mark & Carolyn have been married since 1979. They love to go hiking, work out at the gym, and travel. Mark & Carolyn have three sons, Gabe, Danny, and Ben.

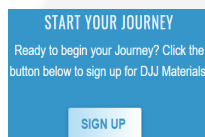


Overview of Discipleship Journeys with Jesus

WELCOME TO QUICKSTART

Welcome to QuickStart. During this class, we will be studying four areas of discipleship: **Mentoring, Prayer, Studying the Bible, and Giving.** Be sure to watch the videos that go with each session (if you are able). Our prayer is that you will grow deeper with God as you walk through these Discipleship Journeys with Jesus.

First, QuickStart is part of a 52 lesson series from the New Testament. If you want to access those materials for yourself, **go to djjministry.org**, to create a free account and gain access to the journey videos and other resources. From the home page, click on the “Start Your Journeys Here” button.



After signing up, use the Login tab to sign on and access your materials.

Discipleship Journeys with Jesus (DJJ) is a discipleship resource that takes people from A to Z in what it means to follow Jesus, from both the New and Old Testaments. The studies are divided into quarters, 4 in the NT, 4 in the OT, with 13 journeys each quarter (104 total lessons.)

New Testament Studies:

- Quarter 1, Foundational Journeys with Jesus (The Gospels)
- Quarter 2, Church Planting Journeys with Jesus (Acts 1-16)
- Quarter 3, Journeys to Maturity in Jesus (Acts 17-28)
- Quarter 4, Deeper Journeys with Jesus (The Epistles)

Old Testament Studies:

- Quarter 1, Journeys with Jesus from Prehistory through Numbers (The Pentateuch)
- Quarter 2, Journeys with Jesus in the History of God’s Chosen People (The Historical Books)
- Quarter 3, Journeys with Jesus in Wisdom and Emotions (The Poetic and Wisdom Books)
- Quarter 4, Journeys with Jesus in Prophecy (The Major and Minor Prophets)

Also, the studies can be done by following an area of focus:

1. **Inner Life:** These journeys focus on inner spiritual and emotional discipleship, the Kingdom within us, and lead to a greater maturity of spirit and character.
2. **Deeper Discipleship:** These journeys focus on more in-depth spiritual disciplines that bring greater intimacy levels with Jesus.
3. **Spiritual Leadership:** These journeys focus on spiritual leadership lessons from both the positive and negative examples of biblical leaders.

Each journey includes a study of the Scripture passage, two videos recorded on location in the lands of the Bible, and a practical application of the teaching.

DJJ studies can be used in many contexts, such as small groups, classes, one-on-one mentoring, homeschools, house churches, family devotions, leadership training schools, youth classes, and so on!

Through the generosity of those who support **Discipleship Journeys with Jesus'** ministry, these resources are provided online without charge. If they bless you, please consider supporting the ministry. Please go to djjministry.org/donate to donate.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible, consisting of all the books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired, only infallible, authoritative Word of God. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are without error or misstatement in their moral and spiritual teaching and record of historical facts. They are without error or defect of any kind. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.** We believe that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of the lost and sinful men. We believe in the Holy Spirit's present ministry by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost. They are saved unto the resurrection of life and are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. **We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.**

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

(2.5-hour class)

Session 1-Why should I be In a discipleship/small group (35 minutes)

Session 2-How should I structure my prayer life? (35 minutes)

Break (10 minutes)

Session 3-Why should I study the Bible? (35 minutes)

Session 4-What does the Bible say about giving? (35 minutes)

REMINDER

Jesus always was and is with us; therefore, every journey is a "Jesus journey." "For by Him, all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and things invisible." Colossians 1:16a, "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20

Let us get started! If you can, watch the "QuickStart Intro" video now.



Session 1

Why Should I be in a Discipleship Group?

Focus: Mentoring

NT Journey 4 Jesus' Journey to a Mountain



If you can, watch the "Journey 4 Intro" video now.

LUKE 6:12-16 [WEB]

JOURNEY PASSAGE

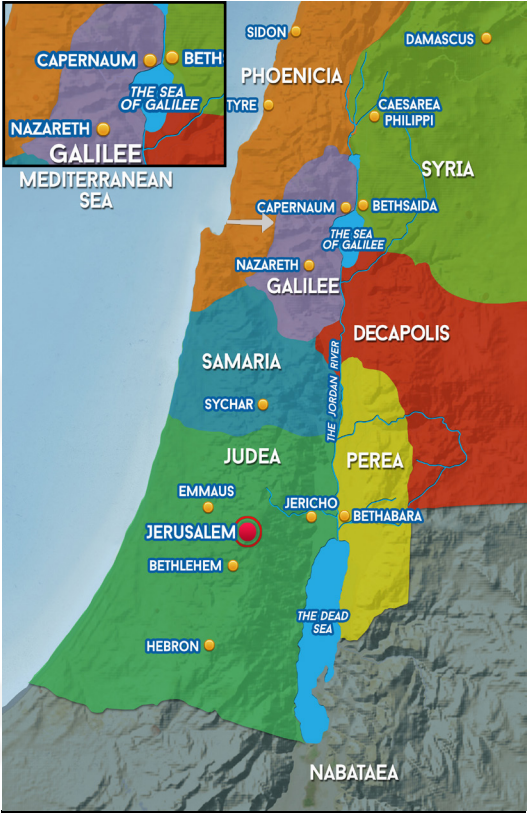
¹²In these days, he went out to the mountain to pray, and he continued all night in prayer to God. ¹³When it was day, he called his disciples, and from them, he chose twelve, whom he also named apostles: ¹⁴Simon, whom he also named Peter; Andrew, his brother; James; John; Philip; Bartholomew; ¹⁵Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Simon, who was called the Zealot; ¹⁶Judas the son of James; and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor.

TRAVEL QUESTIONS

ANSWERED IN THIS JOURNEY:

What does this journey tell us about mentoring?

1. Why did Jesus go to a mountain? (verse 12) _____
2. Why do you think He chose a mountain setting?
Luke 5:15-16 _____
3. How long did Jesus pray? (verse 12) _____
4. What does the fact that Jesus "continued all night in prayer" tell us about the importance of Jesus' selection of the twelve disciples? _____



The Holy Land in the Time of Jesus

5. What did Jesus do after it turned daylight? (verse 13) _____

NOTE: A disciple means “a devoted learner and follower.” An “apostle” means “a sent one.” These two terms describe what the twelve were to do: learn from Jesus and then be sent out to do His work. Mark 3:14 describes this saying, “He appointed twelve, that they might be with him, and that he might send them out to preach.”

6. While there were twelve original disciples or apostles, all followers of Jesus are also His disciples. We are to follow Jesus’ example: “Jesus, therefore, said to them again, ‘Peace be to you. As the Father has sent me, even so, I send you.’” (John 20:21) If we’re to follow Jesus’ example and He mentored disciples, what are we to do? _____

Please list the names of those you would like to mentor in the Christian faith. List up to 12, like the original 12 disciples of Jesus:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

NOTE: Mentoring can be done one-on-one but is probably best practiced in small groups, as Jesus did. To avoid opposite sex complications in one-on-one mentoring, men should mentor men, and women should mentor women. (Titus 2:1-6).

If you are studying this journey on your own, without a mentor, then work to find one so that you can then disciple others. Here are some steps to locate mentoring for yourself:

- Pray for a group or mentor who might disciple you.
- List the names of potential groups or mentors.
- Join the best group or ask the best individual to meet for prayer and fellowship.
- If things go well, ask to continue meeting, either on a scheduled or “as needed” basis.
- If things don’t work out, go to the next option on your list until you find the right mentoring group or individual.

7. What does verse 16 tell us about Judas Iscariot? _____

8. What does the story of Judas Iscariot tell us about the potential that some of our mentees might fall away?

Does the potential that some will fall away mean that we should ever give up mentoring others? _____

THE NUMBER OF CHRIST’S...

... followers have grown from these original few to billions. This passage is a pattern for this growth. We are to be mentored in the faith and to mentor others.

A small group of twelve is often a helpful target number. But it is not the only possible number of mentees. Jesus also sent out 72 (see Luke 10:1). He also had an inner circle of three: Peter, James and John (see Matthew 17:1).

The important issue is not the number of our mentees but simply that we are mentoring others as we have been mentored.

ARRIVAL

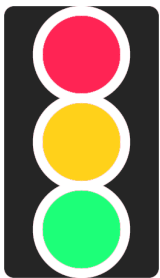
ARRIVAL QUESTION: What does Jesus' journey to a mountain tell us?

HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP

As disciples of Jesus, we are to follow His teachings and do what He did. Jesus mentored disciples. We must do the same. Jesus prayed and then chose those he would personally mentor. Utilizing these **Discipleship Journeys with Jesus'** studies, you have a tool for mentoring. God expects and even commands us to make disciples.

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE ON?

Honestly, check the option that most accurately describes your current discipleship journey.



- RED:** I am stuck. I need help from a mentor.
- YELLOW:** I am not sure, but I am willing. I need to learn and grow more first.
- GREEN:** I am ready to mentor others or am already mentoring others.

MEMORY VERSE

“The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” **2 Timothy 2:2**



If you can, watch the “Journey 4 Closing” video now.

CHECKPOINTS ON YOUR JOURNEY

Here are some important biblical teachings you should know. Study the Scriptural passages to understand the biblical basis. Please check each one to affirm that you understand and accept the Bible's teaching:

- Christians are to be like Jesus** (1 John 2:6) **and do like Jesus** (John 20:21).
- To be like Jesus and do what He did, we must mentor others and then send them out to multiply.** (Mark 3:14)
- Our greatest success in ministry should be the impact of those we mentor.** (John 14:12)

Session 2

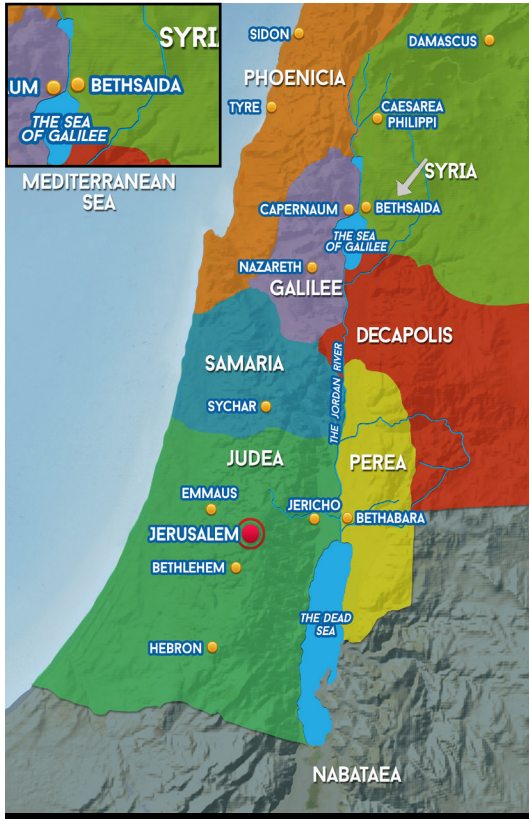
Why Should I Structure My Prayer Life?

Focus: Prayer

NT Journey 6 Jesus' Journey to Bethsaida



If you can, watch the "Journey 6 Intro" video now.



The Holy Land in the Time of Jesus

MARK 6:45-46 [WEB] JOURNEY PASSAGE

45 Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat, and to go ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he himself sent the multitude away. 46 After he had taken leave of them, he went up the mountain to pray.

TRAVEL QUESTIONS

ANSWERED IN THIS JOURNEY: What does this journey tell us about prayer?

1. Mark 6:45 begins by saying, "immediately after this." What is this referring to? **See Mark 6:30-44.** _____

What did Jesus have the disciples do, according to Mark 6:45? _____

What did Jesus do with the people? _____

NOTE: Bethsaida literally means "house of fish." It was a fishing village on the Sea of Galilee and also, Philip, Andrew and Peter's home town (John 1:44).

2. Mark 6:46 tells us that Jesus went to the hills. Did he have anyone go with him? _____
Why did He go there? _____

NOTE: Jesus was both fully God and fully man. (Please see the "Checkpoints on Your Journey" section for passages describing both.) No one questioned His humanity during His life on earth, although they only gradually understood His divinity. After His life on earth, Christians have commonly accepted His divinity but struggle to understand and accept His humanity.

3. Mark 6:30-44 describes a time of intense ministry for Jesus. Soon afterward, he went up into the hills to pray. Remembering that He was fully human, what do you think He might have felt which prompted this time away in prayer:

Emotionally? _____

Physically? _____

Spiritually? _____

4. Read Luke 5:15-16. Was it unusual for Jesus to go to secluded places to pray? _____
 What implications might this have for your personal walk with God? _____

5. Read Mark 1:35-37. Where did Jesus go? _____ Why? _____
 Who went to find Him? _____
 How do you think they felt when they had to search for Jesus? _____

NOTE: Jesus' practice of going away to pray sometimes disrupted others' plans for His schedule; however, that did not deter Him from making prayer a priority. We cannot ignore our responsibilities as employees, parents, leaders, and so on. Yet, our time alone with God should be a high priority, even if it means getting up very early, as Jesus did.

6. One of the challenges Christians have in prayer is they don't know how to pray. Thankfully, Jesus answered this need when His disciples asked, "teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). In response, Jesus gave an outline for prayer known as "The Lord's Prayer" (found in Luke 11:2-4 and in Matthew 6:9-13). It is not so much a rote prayer to be prayed, but an outline for prayer.

OUTLINE FROM THE LORD'S PRAYER

- I. **ADORATION:** "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." (Matthew 6:9)
 - Thank God for blessings.
 - Praise God for who He is.
- II. **SUBMISSION:** "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)
 - Submit yourself to the Lord again.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you again. (Ephesians 5:18)
 - Read and submit to God's Word, the Bible.
- III. **PETITION:** "Give us this day our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11)
 - Bring to the Lord prayer requests for others and yourself.
 - Listen to God's gentle whispers of love, guidance, and conviction.
- IV. **CONFESSION:** "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)
 - Forgive others and yourself after you have confessed your sins.
- V. **PROTECTION:** "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6:13)
 - Pray for protection from evil and the evil one.
- VI. **BENEDICTION:** "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." (Matthew 6:13)
 - Pray that God will be glorified through your life and the building of His Kingdom.

For a deeper explanation of how to pray (available in English), please go to markalanwilliams.net to download your free eBook titled: 10 Prayers to Unlock Heaven on Earth.

ESTABLISHING A DAILY PRAYER TIME

What do the following verses suggest about **when** and **where** you should pray?

When? Psalm 5:3; Mark 1:35 _____

NOTE: Praying in the morning helps to set the tone for your day. It also guarantees that other priorities won't squeeze out time in prayer. Although an early morning time is often the example we're given in the Scripture, some have found that another time works better for them.

Where? Matthew 6:6 _____

Considering your own circumstances:

When is the best time for you to have a regular prayer time? _____

Where will it be? _____

ARRIVAL

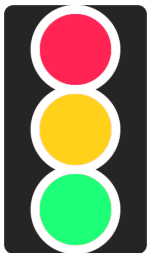
ARRIVAL QUESTION: What does Jesus' journey to Bethsaida tell us?

Like Jesus, we must spend regular time alone with God in prayer. God expects us to have a regular prayer life.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE ON?

Honestly check the option that most accurately describes your current discipleship journey.



- RED:** I am stuck. I need help from a mentor.
- YELLOW:** I am not sure, but I am willing. I need to learn and grow more first.
- GREEN:** I am spending time with God in prayer each day.

MEMORY VERSES

“Pray like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. Bring us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.’” **Matthew 6:9-13**



If you can, watch the
“Journey 6 Closing”
video now.

CHECKPOINTS ON YOUR JOURNEY

Here are some important biblical teachings you should know. Study the Scriptural passages to understand the biblical basis. Please check each one to affirm that you understand and accept the Bible’s teaching:

- Jesus was fully God.** (John 1:1, 1:14, 5:18, 8:58, 10:30-33, 20:28; Colossians 1:16, 2:9; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 1:6; 1:8; Revelation 19:16)
- Jesus was fully human.** (John 1:14, 11:35; Matthew 26:38; Luke 2:7, 2:52; Hebrews 5:7; 2 John 7)
- While God listens and answers our prayers** (Matthew 7:7-8), **that does not mean that we can order God to do anything we want Him to** (1 John 5:14).

Session 3

Why should I Study the Bible?

Focus: Bible Study

NT Journey 27 Jesus' Journey to Berea

If you can, watch the
"Journey 27 Intro"
video now.



TRIP PREPARATION

As we begin Session 3, we pick up Paul and Silas' account, the missionary team, going to Thessalonica, where they began preaching. Thessalonica was the capital and largest city in Macedonia. It had a natural harbor, but it was also prominent due to being on the Egnatian Way, which was its main street.

Paul's customary strategy was to go to the synagogue and reach out to those who would most likely receive the Gospel: those already familiar with the Scriptures—Jews and God-fearing Gentiles. While Acts 17:1 says they passed through "the cities of Amphipolis and Apollonia," that does not mean they did not preach in those cities. Later, Paul wrote, in Romans 15:19, that he had preached the gospel "from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum." Apollonia was in the district of Illyricum. The missionaries boldly shared Jesus wherever they went.



Map Location: Berea

Paul Preaches at Thessalonica

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ² Paul, as was his custom, went in to them; and for three Sabbath days reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

⁴ Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas: of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and not a few of the chief women.

Jason Seized

⁵ But the unpersuaded Jews took along some wicked men from the marketplace and gathering a crowd, set the city in an uproar. Assaulting the house of Jason, they sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ When they didn't find them, they dragged Jason and certain brothers^t before the rulers of the city, crying, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ whom Jason has received. These all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus!"

⁸ The multitude and the rulers of the city were troubled when they heard these things. ⁹ When they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

Paul and Silas at Berea

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹ Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so. ¹² Many of them therefore believed, also of the prominent Greek women, and not a few men. ¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there likewise, agitating the multitudes. ¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent out Paul to go as far as to the sea, and Silas and Timothy still stayed there.

TRAVEL QUESTIONS

ANSWERED IN THIS JOURNEY: What does this journey teach us about diligently studying the Bible?

1. What habitual activity did Paul do in Thessalonica? (verses 1-3) _____

2. Acts 17:2 tells us that Paul preached in the synagogue for three Sabbaths. That does not mean he was not teaching during the week as well. During these initial three weeks, what three groups responded? (verse 4)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
3. Who were the instigators that caused an uproar? (verse 5) _____

NOTE: Apparently, they heard that Paul and Silas stayed at the home of a new believer named Jason.

When they did not find the missionaries at Jason's home, what did they do? (verse 6) _____

What was their accusation against Jason and all the believers? (verse 7) _____

NOTE: Jesus is not a threat to the authority of any government. He is seeking to be king and ruler in hearts and lives, not in government (see John 18:36).

Acts 17:9 says they let Jason and the others go after “_____”
This means they gave Jason and the others a financial fine. They were also given orders that they could not house the missionaries any longer and were to instruct the missionaries to leave town immediately.

4. What city did the missionaries escape to that night? (verse 10) _____

NOTE: Beroea or Berea was an out of the way seaside town, well off the Egnatian Way. Paul hoped to preach there while things quieted down in Thessalonica.

In Berea, where did they go? _____ What do you suppose they did there? _____

5. Verse 11 tells us that the people of Berea were more “noble” (or receptive) than the people of Thessalonica. What were two reasons this was true?

- a. _____
b. _____

NOTE: These are two wonderful characteristics for all to follow. Christians must be eager to receive instruction from God’s Word by teachers. But, at the same time, we must be like the Bereans, who studied the Bible for themselves to see if things taught were true. Our final authority must be the Bible, not a Bible teacher, a church or other organization, philosophy, psychology, sociology, religion, law, science, and so on. If someone is preaching something contrary to clear biblical teaching, then you must reject their teaching.

6. How often did the Bereans study the Scriptures? (verse 11) _____

AN EXAMPLE FOR ALL CHRISTIANS

- **We need God’s Word each day to nourish us spiritually:**
“As newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby”
1 Peter 2:2.
- **We need God’s Word each day to keep us on the right path:**
“Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path” Psalm 119:105.
- **We need God’s Word each day to be blessed by God:**
“Blessed is the man who doesn’t walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand on the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffer; but his delight is in Yahweh’s law. On his law he meditates day and night” Psalm 1:1-2.

These Discipleship Journeys with Jesus’ lessons are a great way to study the Scriptures, but it is not all you need. You need to feed yourself from God’s Word every day for the rest of your life.

ONE THOUGHT METHOD BIBLE STUDY

While there are many ways to read, and study the Bible, here is a simple three-step process.

- a. Select a passage of Scripture.
 - b. Ask God to show you a special truth from His Word.
 - c. Read until you receive one thought from God, based on your Scripture reading.
 - d. Write out a prayer based on this thought.
7. What was the result of their openness to studying God's Word? (verse 12) _____
 What happened next? (verses 13-14) _____

NOTE: Paul is now separated from the rest of the missionary team. In our next journey, we will see how they were reunited.

SEEING JESUS ON THIS JOURNEY

Jesus has always been and always will be. (John 1:1-3; 14, 8:58, 17:5, Philippians 2:6-8, Hebrews 1:10) Following Jesus means following the entire Bible. Why? Because, as He explained, Scripture confirms and explains His identity: "Beginning from Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and these are they which testify about me." (John 5:39)

Jesus affirmed that the Scriptures are authoritative and said in John 10:35b, "The Scripture can't be broken." In Matthew 5:19, He declared the authority of Scripture, saying, "Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." When tempted in the wilderness, Jesus answered the devil with Scripture that He had memorized. He warned against replacing Scripture with tradition or personal beliefs; see Matthew 5:17; 15:1-9; 22:29; Mark 7:1-12.

In Jesus' earthly lifetime, the only Scriptures available were the Old Testament books. However, He promised that after His ascension, the Holy Spirit would come and teach the disciples. He said the Spirit would "guide you into all truth" John 16:13. Thus, in a similar process to the writing of the Old Testament, the Spirit guided the writing and compiling of the New Testament Scriptures. Today we have a complete Bible of 66 books, with Jesus at the center of all of them. We can see Jesus on each page of Scripture if we look closely, like the Bereans.

ARRIVAL

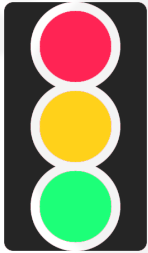
ARRIVAL QUESTION: What does Jesus' Journey to Berea teach us about studying the Bible?

HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP

God expects all believers to study the Bible diligently and to be transformed by its teaching.

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE ON?

Honestly, check the option that most accurately describes your current discipleship journey.



- RED:** I am stuck. I need help from a mentor.
- YELLOW:** I am not sure I want to study the Bible.
- GREEN:** With God's help, I will diligently study the Bible, possibly using the "One Thought Method," and allow its teaching to transform me.

MEMORY VERSE

"Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**

If you can, watch the
"Journey 27 Closing"
video now.



CHECKPOINTS ON YOUR JOURNEY

Here are some important biblical teachings you should know. Study the Scriptural passages to understand the biblical basis. Please check each one to affirm that you understand and accept the Bible's teaching:

- The Bible is trustworthy and without error.** (Numbers 23:19; 2 Samuel 7:28; 22:31; Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18, 24:35; Luke 24:44; John 17:17; Acts 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- While God has provided gifted teachers** (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:1-12), **we must always do as the Bereans did and read the Scriptures for ourselves to see if the things taught is what the Bible says** (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 5:12-13; 1 Peter 2:2).

ONE THOUGHT METHOD BIBLE STUDY

Use the “One Thought Method” of Bible Study as you examine the Checkpoint passages above and record your experience here:

a. Select a passage of Scripture. Passage: _____

b. Ask God to show you a special truth from His Word.

c. Read until you receive one thought from God, based on your Scripture reading. Thought:

d. Write out a prayer based on this thought. Prayer:



Session 4

What Does the Bible Say About Giving?

Focus: Giving
NT Journey 47 Jesus' Journey to Sacrificial Giving



If you can, watch the "Journey 47 Intro" video now.

TRIP PREPARATION

In this passage, Paul wrote about a special offering being taken for the poor believers in Jerusalem, "It is indeed unnecessary for me to write to you concerning the service to the saints" (2 Corinthians 9:1, see also verses 12-14, 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 and Romans 15:26).

This offering is an example of Christians' duty to alleviate the needs of the poor in Jesus' name (see Matthew 25:35-40; Proverbs 19:17, 21:13, 22:9; 1 John 3:17-18). While this Jerusalem relief project is the subject of this passage, there are other lessons about generosity that apply to all kinds of Christian giving. In addition to this lesson, we offer another lesson that concentrates on generously giving in our Old Testament, Quarter 2, Journey 76.

In this lesson, we address some common misperceptions about the teaching about tithing under the Old Covenant Laws (Law Giving), how much Christians should give under the New Covenant's teaching on grace (Grace Giving). Understanding Grace Giving (New Testament giving) ought to inspire us to give even more than a tithe because of our love for Jesus and appreciation of His' sacrifice for our sins.

Also, we recognize that you may have questions, so this journey includes some of the "Frequently Asked Questions" that people have on this vital spiritual discipline.



Map Location: Philippi

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15 [WEB]

JOURNEY PASSAGE

⁶ Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work. ⁹ As it is written, “He has scattered abroad. He has given to the poor. His righteousness remains forever.”

¹⁰ Now may he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, supply and multiply your seed for sowing, and increase the fruits of your righteousness, ¹¹ you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹² For this service of giving that you perform not only makes up for lack among the saints but abounds also through much giving of thanks to God, ¹³ seeing that through the proof given by this service, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the Good News of Christ and for the generosity of your contribution to them and to all, ¹⁴ while they themselves also, with supplication on your behalf, yearn for you by reason of the exceeding grace of God in you. ¹⁵ Now thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift!

TRAVEL QUESTIONS

ANSWERED IN THIS JOURNEY: What does this journey teach us about sacrificial giving?

- How is giving like farming? (verse 6) _____

 - What should a Christian's attitude be towards giving? (verse 7) _____

- When we give, what should our attitude not be toward giving? _____

- How should verse 6 impact our decision on how much to give? _____

3. When we give willingly, generously, and cheerfully, what does God promise? (verse 8) _____

NOTE: When God blesses us as we give, we must respond by giving even more generously. It is an endless cycle of blessing and giving in ever-increasing amounts.

4. What other results of generously giving do you see in the following verses?

Verse 9a. _____

NOTE: This verse quotes from Psalm 112:9, which tells how righteous people help the poor.

Verse 10 _____

Verse 11 _____

5. What two results are going to come from our giving in the lives of others? (verse 12)

a. _____

b. _____

NOTE: Not only do we give to please God, but we can also give sacrificially to meet desperate needs in the world. For example, our giving can help alleviate social problems such as disease, homelessness, persecution, lack of clean drinking water; sex trafficking, starvation, addictions, and so on,

6. Is giving an act of obedience? (verse 13) _____ Who is glorified by this? _____

NOTE: If we do not give sacrificially, we show our lack of obedience, and God is *not* glorified. Malachi went so far as to call a lack of giving “stealing” from God (Malachi 3:8).

7. As we give, what two positive results come from those whose needs are met? (verse 14)

a. _____

b. _____

NOTE: While we should be glad for the appreciation shown to us as we give, that should not be our motivation. Instead, our motivation should be to glorify God.

8. What is God’s gift referred to in verse 15? _____

HINT: Read or recite John 3:16, Romans 6:23, and Ephesians 2:8-9. Nothing we give could compare with the greatest gift ever given.

If you are still unsure about accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, we have provided a valuable lesson called “God’s Invitation” on our website. You can find it under the New Testament, Quarter 1, Journey 1 videos in the link called “God’s Invitation.”

SACRIFICIAL GIVING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between tithes and offerings?

- The Hebrew word translated “tithe” in English means “tenth.” The Old Covenant command to tithe, therefore, meant to give one-tenth (10%) of one’s income. It was given God’s work in the tabernacle, and later, after the temple was built in Jerusalem, it was given there (see Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:26; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Malachi 3:10).
- In addition to the initial tithe, there was other required giving under the Old Covenant. See Deuteronomy 14:22-27 regarding the tithe of the feasts and Deuteronomy 14:28-29 regarding the tithe for the poor.
- Tithing was part of each believers’ obligations under the Old Testament Laws. These requirements ended with the coming of Jesus and the New Covenant of Grace (see Romans 6:14; 7:4-6; Luke 22:19-20 and review Jesus’ Journey to the Jerusalem Council, New Testament, Quarter 2, Journey 24)
- Many today refer to “offerings” as any amount given above a tithe of 10%. But this is a misunderstanding since all giving under the New Covenant is freewill offerings.

In the light of the teaching about tithing under the Old Covenant Laws (Law Giving), how much should Christians give under the New Covenant's teaching on grace (Grace Giving)?

- While believers are no longer under the Old Covenant Laws, it is wrong to think that it is not essential to give at least a tithe (10%) to God's work. Instead, understanding Grace Giving (New Testament giving) ought to inspire us to give even more than a tithe because of our love for Jesus and appreciation of His' sacrifice for our sins.
- "Remember this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6) Small giving results in small blessings, and big giving results in big blessings. So, give extravagantly to God's work and consider a tithe (10%) a helpful doorway to the joys of Grace Giving.
- Tithing is a great place to start, but it should not be our ending point. Tithing can help launch us into the mindset and practice of Grace Giving. As God blesses, we should not be limited to 10% and should give even more "bountifully."

When Scripture promises that as we give, we will "reap bountifully," does that mean God promises to make us wealthy?

- God often blesses generous givers with increased material prosperity. However, His blessings also come in other ways. Money is not the focus of this passage, and it should not be our motivation. (see Proverbs 11:28; Psalm 62:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- This journey passage emphasizes a holistic understanding of God's blessings in all areas of life and for eternity: "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency **in everything**, may abound to every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) "You being enriched **in everything...**" (2 Corinthians 9:11a, emphasis added)

How can I decide the exact amount I will give in my Grace Giving?

- Our passage says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV) To decide "in your heart," first pray and ask for God's guidance. This prayer should not be a last moment prayer as the offering is being taken. Instead, pray and decide in your quiet time as you seek the Lord. If married, it should be a mutual decision along with your spouse. To help eliminate indecision and ambiguity, write down your giving decision and then practice it regularly until God gives further guidance. A personal application exercise is provided in this lesson to guide you through this process.

Where should I give money for God's work?

- Christ's disciples are stewards of resources that ultimately belong to God. "The earth and everything on it, including its people, belong to the LORD. The world and its people belong to him." (Psalm 24:1 CEV) We must be good stewards of God's resources. "...it is required of stewards, that they be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2). Therefore, it is vital to give to ministries that are:
 1. **Committed to the historic doctrines of biblical Christianity:** "But say the things which fit sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1)
 2. **Gospel-centered, evangelizing, and disciple-making:** "For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?" (Mark 8:36)

3. **Faithful stewards of resources entrusted to them and effective in ministry:**
“Other [seeds] fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.” (Matthew 13:8)
4. **Accountable to others and transparent in financial reporting:** “Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but in the multitude of counselors there is victory.” (Proverbs 11:14)

- The church and any other ministries they give to must fit the four biblical criteria listed. Others might do charitable work but remember that Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me. He who doesn’t gather with me scatters.” (Luke 11:33)
- Most disciples recognize that their local church, where they are shepherded and spiritually fed, should be their first priority in giving.

TRIP SUMMARY

Sacrificial giving is an act of both obedience and faith. We, first, obey God’s instruction by giving generously. Then, we trust that God will cause that which is sown to result in an abundant harvest of blessings.

Multitudes of believers have done this and found God’s promises to be true. God always blesses us in various ways when we give. God wants you also to give generously and allow Him to prove His faithfulness.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Analyze your giving and then plan your future giving by considering the following questions: :

My current average weekly or monthly income is: _____

My current weekly or monthly giving to God’s work is: _____

My giving equates to _____ percent of my income.

As I pray about my giving, I feel the Lord wants me to increase or maintain my giving habits.

If changing, my new plan is to give: _____ weekly/monthly to God’s work.

“Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart; not grudgingly, or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

SEEING JESUS ON THIS JOURNEY

Jesus has always been and always will be. (John 1:1-3; 14, 8:58, 17:5, Philippians 2:6-8, Hebrews 1:10) Following Jesus means following the entire Bible. Why? Because, as He explained, Scripture confirms and explains His identity: “Beginning from Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27). “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and these are they which testify about me.” (John 5:39)

Jesus is found in this journey because He is our example of what it means to give sacrificially. He gave His life when He died on the cross for the sins of the world. 2 Corinthians 9:15 says, “Now thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift!” Paul reminds us that because Jesus gave the gift of salvation and eternal life, we should be motivated out of gratitude to give sacrificially to the work of God. For Christians, generously giving should be a way of life to model what Christ has done for us. Our giving should be done willingly, cheerfully, and voluntarily. It should not be legalistic, burdensome, or compulsory, nor should it cause division within a home or marriage.

ARRIVAL

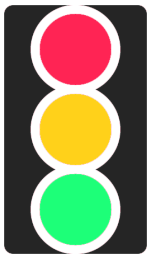
ARRIVAL QUESTION: What does Jesus’ Journey to Sacrificial Giving teach us?

HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP

God expects all believers to give generously to His work with a cheerful heart and see how He blesses them abundantly.

ARE YOU READY TO MOVE ON?

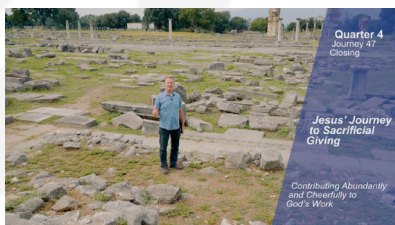
Honestly, check the option that most accurately describes your current discipleship journey.



- RED:** I am stuck. I need help from a mentor.
- YELLOW:** I am not sure I can give generously.
- GREEN:** With God’s help, in obedience and faith, I will give generously to His work.

MEMORY VERSES

“Let each man give according as he has determined in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.” **2 Corinthians 9:7-8**



If you can, watch the “Journey 47 Closing” video now.

CHECKPOINTS ON YOUR JOURNEY

Here are some important biblical teachings you should know. Study the Scriptural passages to understand the biblical basis. Please check each one to affirm that you understand and accept the Bible's teaching:

- Our primary motivation in giving should be to obey and glorify God.** (Matthew 6:24; Luke 11:42; 16:13; Romans 11:35-12:1),
- God has promised to bless us when we give, both spiritually** (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 16:9; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:10; Philippians 4:17) **and physically** (Psalm 41:1-3; Proverbs 3:9-10, 11:24-25; Malachi 3:10-12; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:11).
- Giving a tithe (meaning 10%) is often a good starting point** (Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30; 2 Chronicles 31:5; Malachi 3:10), **but should not deter us from giving more, so God can bless both the receiver and the giver more** (Luke 18:18-23, 21:1-4; Acts 4:34-37; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:7-8).

ONE THOUGHT METHOD BIBLE STUDY

Use the “One Thought Method” of Bible Study as you examine the Checkpoint passages above and record your experience here:

- a. Select a passage of Scripture. Passage: _____
- b. Ask God to show you a special truth from His Word.
- c. Read until you receive one thought from God, based on your Scripture reading. Thought:

- d. Write out a prayer based on this thought. Prayer:

We are hoping that you consider taking your discipleship journey to new levels and chose Discipleship Journeys with Jesus' free digital lessons. If you have enjoyed the lessons today, please consider signing up for New Testament Q1 by going to djjministry.org.

Remember that Jesus called us not just to be disciples, but to “go and make disciples.” (Matthew 28:19) You can do so as you take others through these discipleship journeys, at home, in groups, or individually.



The most important part of being a disciple is making disciples!

Discipleship Journeys with Jesus freely provides this discipleship training according to Jesus' teaching to “give, and it will be given to you.” (Luke 6:38) We depend entirely on the Lord's provision through the generosity of those who give to support this ministry. Please prayerfully consider donating to continue to bless more and more people and eventually fulfill **our vision to take 100 million people on discipleship journeys with Jesus!**

Information on “how to donate” can be found at djjministry.org

“Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matthew 10:8b)

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