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**PREPARING FOR MY MISSION TRIP
DISCIPLE GROUP LEADER GUIDE**

L.I.T.: Preparing for My Mission Trip
Disciple Group Leader Guide

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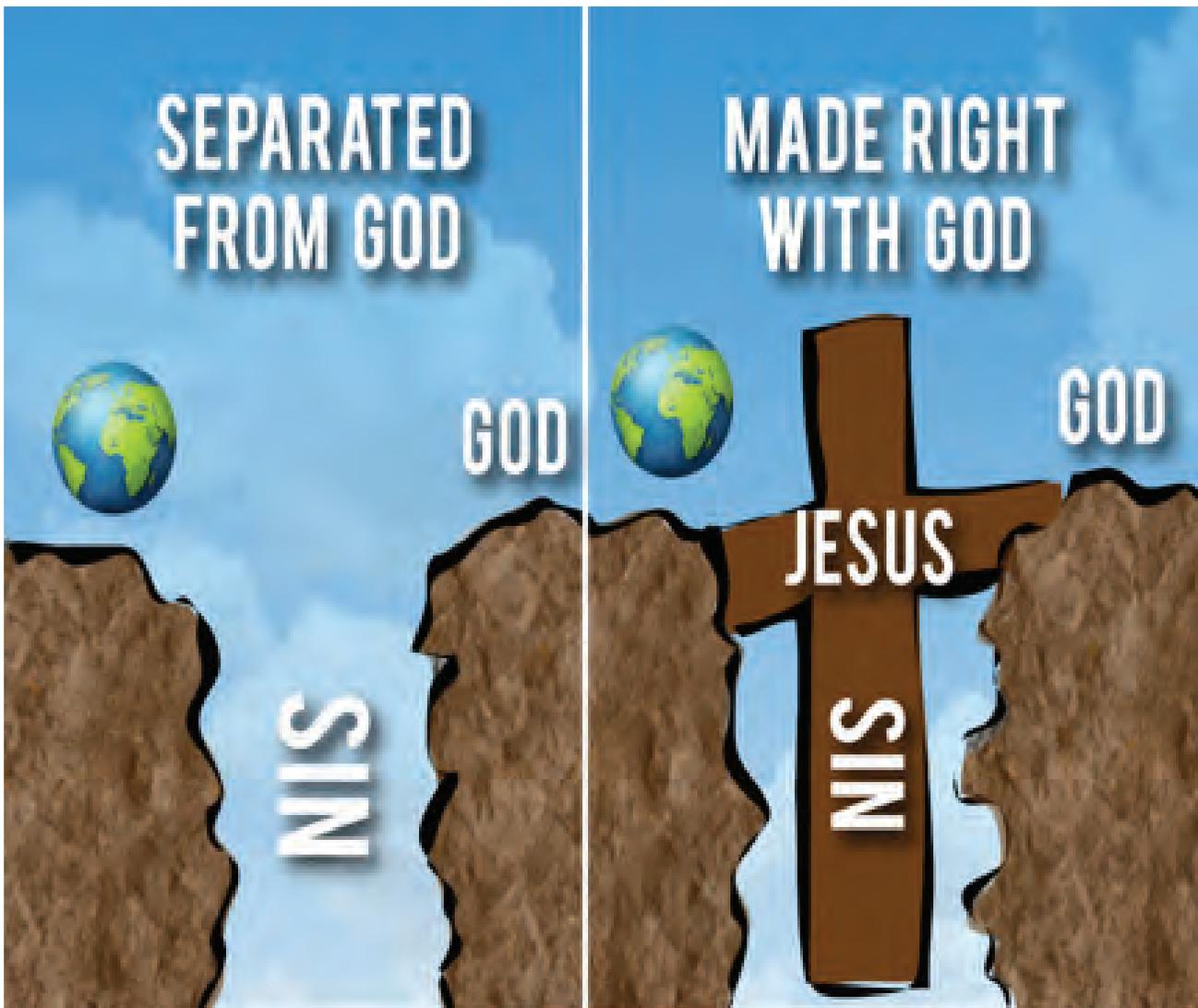


INTRODUCTION

Disciple Group Bible Study for L.I.T.s is a great opportunity to connect with and build accountability among the children in your group. The materials in this booklet are designed to help you succeed in preparing your students for their upcoming L.I.T. Mission Trip. This curriculum is very simple and should give you plenty to discuss and do during your Disciple Group time. The number one rule of teaching and being a discipler is to surrender. Surrender to God for His filling. He will empower you to model and exemplify Christ. He will also guide you as you lead your group in prayer, worship, Bible study, Bible memorization, and evangelism. Get ready for the next nine weeks as we go through Preparing for My Mission Trip.

Crossings

The children of Israel crossed two bodies of water: the **Red Sea** and the **River Jordan**. They escaped the slavery of Egypt when they crossed through the sea. This was a major occurrence in their lives as they witnessed the deliverance of God. As God parted the waters and they crossed the middle of the sea on dry ground, they were delivered from a foreign land and a tyrant leader under whom they had to labor to survive. In crossing the Red Sea, they began a journey with God as He provided for them. Similar to the Israelites' experience of crossing from "death" to "life," when a person trusts Christ, they cross from death to life. We often use a picture or illustration to show the separation between a sinner and God (see below). There is only One who can bridge the gap between a person and God—Christ is our bridge between death and life. He is the one and only way to eternal life (John 14:6).



When the people of Israel came near the River Jordan the first time, Moses chose certain men to go into the Promised Land and spy it out. When they returned, two of the spies felt that they could take the land, but ten others did not. When the people of Israel heard the news, they took the side of the ones who did not think they could do it. Instead of trusting God, they believed the men, left the river, and wandered in the wilderness for forty years. If only they had trusted God with their lives, they would have crossed over and experienced all that God had planned for them. After wandering for forty years, a whole generation died off. They were given a second chance, and they were ready to do things God's way. They came to the Jordan River and followed every step that Joshua told them to do, as he was directed from God. In obedience, they crossed over and had tremendous victory because they submitted to the leadership of the Lord.

Israel's journey is similar to ours. The Red Sea crossing brought deliverance from labor and a harsh master for the people of Israel. As they passed through the sea, He brought the waters crashing in on the army that pursued and still sought Israel's death. When we give our lives to Christ, we find rest from our struggle to overcome our sin and are no longer defeated by Satan. Jesus' death defeated that enemy, and sin is buried beneath His shed blood.

When Israel, after wandering in disbelief for years, finally followed God into the land He promised them, they found rest and peace. As they crossed the Jordan, the ark of God stood in the middle of the river and held the waters from sweeping them under the flood. The death of Christ stands between us and sin. We must have faith in His ability to defeat sin if we will ever survive the raging waters of sin and find the rest for which we search. To get to the home God promises, we must trust in the work of Christ, leave the enemy's land, and cross into the kingdom of God.

Many Christians never experience all that God has to offer. There is more to the Christian faith than our salvation experience. There is new life in Christ (John 10:10). When we accept Christ, we cross over from death to life (Romans 6:23). Now the next step is to fully trust Christ with our lives through surrender (Romans 12:1). Yes, there is another crossing for the Christian into the abundant life that Christ offers—surrendering to Jesus' Lordship. Christ calls us to deny ourselves and take up the cross daily (Luke 9:23).

As you study and teach these materials, you will be challenging preteens to make many deep decisions for Christ and for themselves. If you have not made these decisions yourself, you are missing out on all that God has planned for you.

You will begin to see dramatic changes as the children in your group begin to apply what they have learned. As they surrender their lives to Christ daily, they will be pleasing and acceptable before God. They will be transformed by the renewing of their minds daily through Bible study and Scripture memory. They will not realize it, but the Word of God will begin an inward change in their lives that others will notice.



DISCIPLE GROUP GENERAL INFORMATION

Each Disciple Group will consist of four to five children. Before going to your Disciple Group, go through the materials and become familiar with the materials you will be presenting to the students. The Disciple Group Bible study will complement what your group studied the previous week. The following is a basic outline of each week's lesson:

Learning Objective

The Learning Objective is the desired outcome of each week's Disciple Group Bible study time. This identifies the goal your group should try to achieve each week.

Memory Verse

The L.I.T.s are given a Memory Verse to learn each week. One of the most important parts of Disciple Group time is reciting the memory verse. Take time each week during the Bible Study Review to make sure they have memorized their verse. You should also review the past weeks' verses so that the children can always keep them in their hearts and minds.

Spiritual Preparation

These suggestions and ideas are provided for you to pray and think about as you prepare for your Disciple Group. They will guide you in the direction of personal preparation and how to pray specifically for the children in your group.



Bible Study Passage

The Bible Study Passage gives the Biblical context of the memory verse the L.I.T.s learned during the week.



Biblical Explanation

The Biblical Explanation gives you a brief interpretation of Scripture, a summary of the L.I.T.s' daily study, and further insights for the Disciple Group time.



Bible Study Review

The Bible Study Review provides you with suggestions for reviewing the past weeks' Disciple Group Bible studies, reminders to review memory verses and materials they have studied on their own, and suggested follow-up questions.

Bible Exploration

The Bible Exploration section gives preteens an opportunity to search the Bible for several passages that relate to the week's lesson.

Object Lessons

Some people are visual learners. The Object Lessons are provided to further enhance learning and give preteens a better grasp of Biblical principles. For some studies there may be one or more and for others there might not be one at all. There may be some weeks when Object Lessons will not be necessary.

Learning Activities/ Empowering Activities

One of the major premises of Leaders In Training is giving students an opportunity to apply what they have learned. Learning Activities give preteens the chance to engage in a hands-on activity to enhance learning. Empowering Activities go even further and give the L.I.T.s the opportunity to put into practice what they are learning.

Review Questions

These questions are designed to evaluate learner comprehension, and they cover the previous weeks' studies and Disciple Group studies. After asking these questions, you may find that your group lacks understanding in a particular area. Review the materials that they did not understand.

P.R.A.Y.

The P.R.A.Y. acrostic is a reminder of how to pray daily and in Disciple Group time. We want to help children develop a daily prayer time beginning with praise and thanksgiving, followed by confession and repentance of sin. Teach them to make their requests known to God. The most important part of the Christian life is **SURRENDER**. This is key to their personal growth and gives them a daily reminder of who is in control. The best way to do the acrostic in your prayer time is to have one child in your group start, then allow each one to pray in a circle. Lead the group in praise and thanksgiving, then move into confession of sin. Next, have them tell God their needs. End prayer time with them yielding and surrendering their lives to God.

Another important part of prayer is praying on the **armor of God**. In order to teach your group the importance of the armor, each week have them all stand up before prayer time and visually put it on. For example: Belt of truth—Using their hands, have them pretend to put a belt around their waists. Breastplate of righteousness—They can act like they are sliding it over their heads and strapping it on. Sandals of peace—Have them sit down and put on their sandals. Complete the armor with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.



ORIENTATION

Begin by welcoming the children in your group to L.I.T.s. This session will be brief in nature and will allow you to get acquainted with the children in your group. Plus, it will give you an opportunity to explain how the Bible study works.

1. Follow these steps to help the L.I.T.s in your group get started on their personal Bible studies using Preparing for My Mission Trip.
2. Give each child a copy of Preparing for My Mission Trip Devotionals.
3. Have the L.I.T.s write their names in the fronts of their books.
4. Read “Armor Up! Prepare Yourself for Battle” on **page 2** of Preparing for My Mission Trip. Remind the preteens that spiritual warfare is real and that they need to pray on the armor of God every day for their protection and strength.
5. Next, have them turn to **page 3**. Explain that these are the weekly memory verses that they will be required to memorize during the next nine weeks. Memorizing Scripture can be easy if they will start on the first day of the week instead of waiting until the last day to do it. Encourage them to begin by memorizing only two or three words the first day, then adding a few words or a short sentence each day after that until they have it down. Give them permission to ask you to quote the weekly memory verse to them each week. Do not ask them to do something you are not doing yourself.
6. **Page 6** in Preparing for My Mission Trip Devotionals is very important because it will help establish more clearly the L.I.T.s’ personal testimonies. Encourage them to ask their parents to help them fill in this page. Your personal testimony should tell more than just the day you were saved; it should also go beyond just telling about your salvation experience to giving a description of what Christ is doing in your life right now.
7. On **page 30**, students will find the ABC Counseling Card. Each student will be required to memorize each step of the card so that they can easily share the Gospel with people and potentially lead them to Christ. Explain that a parent or leader will need to initial each section when the L.I.T. is able to say it from memory. Before the mission trip, the L.I.T.s must be able to share the entire card from memory.



MEMORY VERSES

WEEK ONE

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

WEEK TWO

"Then He said to them all, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.'" (Luke 9:23)

WEEK THREE

"Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit." (Mark 13:11b)

WEEK FOUR

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

WEEK FIVE

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

WEEK SIX

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

WEEK SEVEN

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

WEEK EIGHT

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

WEEK NINE

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name." (John 1:12)



Learning Objective

The L.I.T.s will understand the plan of salvation. They will realize that a deep change in their hearts occurs when Jesus comes into their lives.

Memory Verse

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to show those who do not know Him the way of salvation.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.
- Prepare to share your testimony during Disciple Group time.
- Thank God for your salvation.

WEEK 1

SALVATION



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Read John 3:1-20, and discuss the story of Nicodemus with your Disciple Group.



Biblical Explanation

When a person accepts Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, they are making the most important decision of their life. John 3 tells the account of Nicodemus, a Pharisee (religious leader). Verses 2-3 say, “This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’” What does it mean to be born again? In Jesus’ day, the phrase “born again” literally meant “born from above.”¹ Nicodemus had the need for a changed heart—a spiritual transformation. Through new birth, or being born again, God gives eternal life to anyone who believes (2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:29, 3:9, 4:7, 5:1-4, 5:18). In John 1:12 and 13, the Bible indicates that “born again” also means “to become children of God” by trusting in Jesus Christ as Lord.²

When we are truly born again, we are different, changed from the inside out. The world knows there is something different about us by how we live our lives and treat others.

¹ <http://www.gotquestions.org/born-again.html>, Question: “What does it mean to be a born again Christian?”
² Ibid.

Bible Study Review

1. Review this week's memory verse with each student. Have them quote it to you from memory.
2. Have the preteens open Preparing for My Mission Trip to this past week's Bible studies and then walk through the materials with them. Ask the children to share their answers. If they need help finding the answers, you may assist them at this time.
3. Take some time now to discuss each person's personal testimony on **page 6** in their books. Explain that "testimony" is something that a person has seen or experienced happening in their life. As Christians, we have seen Jesus work in our lives, and we need to tell others. Share your testimony first. Be sure to clearly explain the Gospel. Remind students that they have a limited time (five minutes maximum). Allow each student to share their salvation experience until everyone has had a chance. At the end of this time, encourage every student to make sure they have truly made the decision to trust Christ as their Savior and Lord.
4. Explain to the kids that a person's testimony is the story of what God has done in their lives. Your testimony may be the very thing that changes the heart of a person or softens a hardened heart when they hear what God has done for you. Be sure to share on every occasion God's wonderful plan for all who believe in Him.

Bible Exploration

Ask different students to look up the following verses and answer the questions below:

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

- What happens to the person who is born again? (They become a new creation.)
- What is the difference between a person who is born again and one who is not? (The first person is saved, and the other is lost.)

1 Peter 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

- Why do we have hope in Christ? (Because of His resurrection)
- Where does the new birth come from? (Christ's resurrection)

1 John 2:29: "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."

- What does a person do who has been born again? (They do what is right.)
- If a person willfully sins, does this show evidence that they have been born again? (No. A person who is born again turns from sin and to God.)

1 John 4:7: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

- Where does love come from? (God)
- Does love show evidence of a person being born again? (Yes.)

John 1:12: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

- What makes us a child of God? (We become children of God when we receive Christ into our lives.)
- What happens when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for our sins? (We are born again.)



Learning Activities

Preparation: You will need two clear bottles, half a cup of grape Kool-Aid, and half a cup of bleach mixed with half a cup of water. Pour the Kool-Aid into one clear bottle, and pour the bleach and water mixture into the other bottle. (**VERY IMPORTANT:** Make sure the final solution is disposed of when you are finished with this activity.)

- Ask the children if they want to see what happens to our hearts when Jesus becomes Savior and Lord of our lives. Show the bottle with the Kool-Aid in it to the kids. Have the L.I.T.s describe what the liquid in the bottle looks like (i.e., dark, stained, not clear). Talk about what sin is like in our hearts before Jesus comes to be our Lord and Savior. Ask them what it would be like if their hearts looked like what was in the bottle.
- Now, show the other bottle. Talk about how clear and clean it is. Ask your Disciple Group what it would be like if their hearts looked like what was in this bottle. Explain that this bottle represents Jesus' sinless life.
- Now, pour the bleach/water mixture into the bottle of Kool-Aid. As you are pouring the solution, talk about the change that happens when Jesus comes into our lives. Talk about the sin that has been cleaned from our lives. Have your preteens describe what this means to them.³



Object Lessons

Take a picture of a caterpillar, a chrysalis, and/or a butterfly to your Disciple Group meeting. Talk about the process of metamorphosis. Explain that it takes time for a caterpillar to transform into a butterfly. As the butterfly comes out of its chrysalis, its wings are wet and rolled up. It begins flapping its wings to get ready to fly. There is a struggle going on with the butterfly, however. This struggle helps the butterfly gain the strength and the power to fly. The struggle is an important part of the butterfly being able to fly the way God intended it to. Relate this to the Christian walk. Explain to your L.I.T.s that it takes time for them to become all that God intends for them to be. This life transformation does not happen instantaneously. It is a lifelong process.



Review Questions

1. What evidence is there that a person has truly accepted Jesus into their life? (They show a genuine love for others.)
2. What does being "born again" literally mean? (Being born from above)
3. What changes take place when a person has Jesus in their life? (You recognize that sin is disobedience to God. There is genuine brokenness, or remorse, over one's sin. You begin to live your life to honor and glorify Christ.)
4. How did Nicodemus know that Jesus was the Son of God? (He was performing miraculous signs that no one could have done if He were not God.)
5. How did God show His love to us? (He sent His Son, Jesus, to die in our place on the cross so that we could have forgiveness of sin and eternal life.)

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - Praise God for your salvation.
 - Repent and confess those times when you knew God was prompting you to share the life-changing plan of salvation with your friends but you did not do it.
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to share your testimony.
 - Yield and surrender to God as you share your testimony and the plan of salvation with a lost world.
2. Leader, close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.

³ Adapted from Child Evangelism Fellowship, *Daniel: Be Strong in the Lord*, (Warrenton, MO: CEF Press, 2003), 17-18.





WEEK 2

THE CALL OF THE CROSS

Learning Objective

The preteens will know what it means to be a disciple of Christ and fully surrender their lives to Him. They will be called to surrender to Him.

Memory Verse

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’” (Luke 9:23)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to convict their hearts of His call to surrender.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Read Acts 9:1-19, and discuss with your Disciple Group the story of Paul and his conversion.



Biblical Explanation

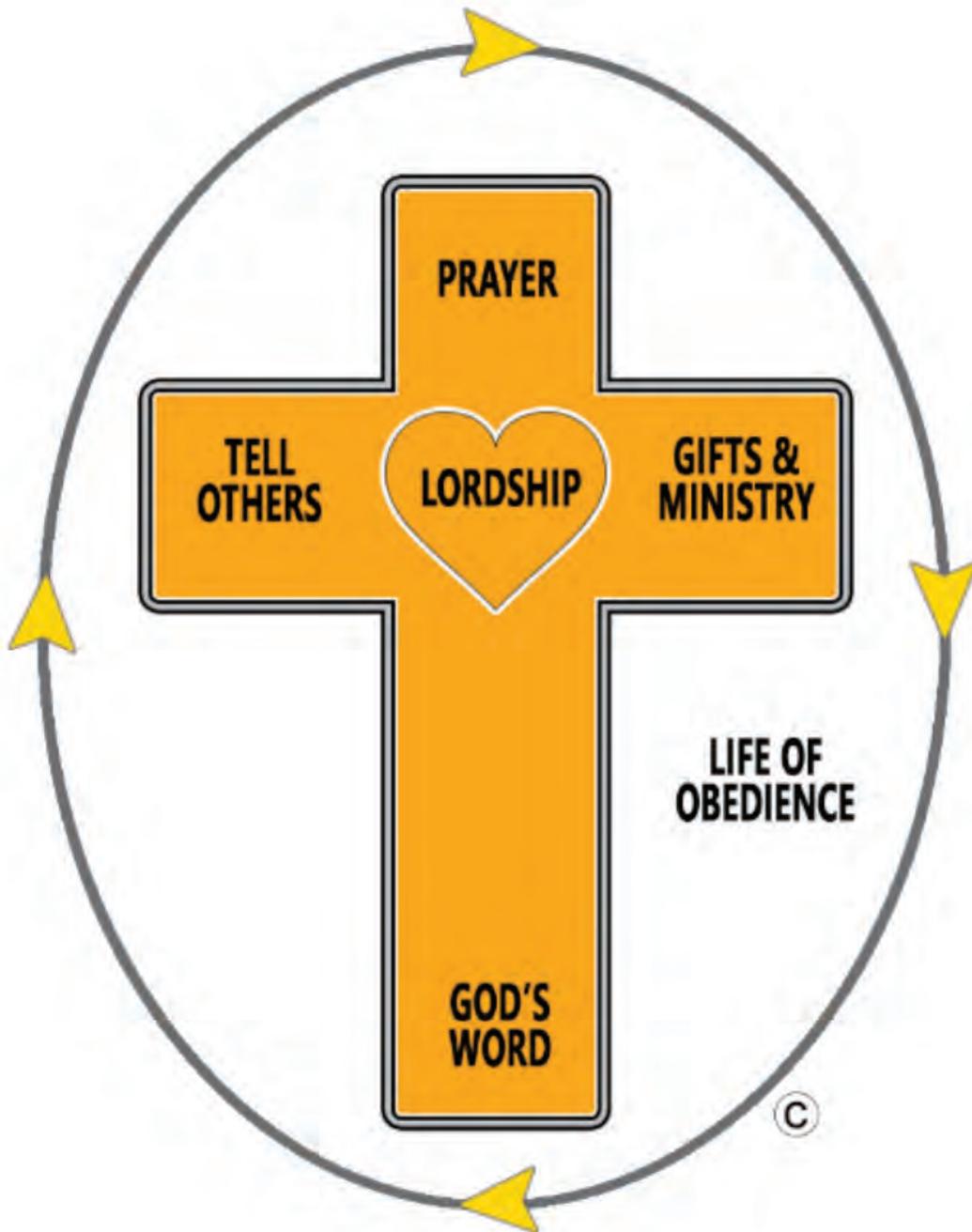
Being a disciple is a call to surrender one’s life fully to Christ. Wiersbe says, “In the Roman world, the cross was a symbol of shame, guilt, suffering, and rejection. There could be no more despicable way to die. Jesus laid down the stern requirements for discipleship. We must first say no to ourselves—not simply to pleasure or possessions, but to self—and then take up our cross and follow Christ daily. This means to be identified with Him in surrender, suffering, and sacrifice. You cannot crucify yourself; you can only yield your body (Romans 12:1-2) and let God do the rest.”⁴ The call of the cross is the call of death of self and one’s own desires in order to follow the will and desires of Christ. To lay down one’s life in obedience to Christ is total abandonment of self. We can never experience His power until we allow Him to take control and live through us (John 15:5). “Our motive should be to glorify Christ. Anyone who is ashamed of Christ will never take up a cross and follow Him. But if we are ashamed now, He will be ashamed of us when He comes again (Mark 8:38).”⁵ The way of the cross is the way of surrender. Surrender is an act of worship that is holy and pleasing to the Lord. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you

⁴ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary, An Exposition of the New Testament* (USA: Victor Books, 1992), 207.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 207.

present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). When we take up the cross, we deny ourselves, surrender, and follow the Lord wholeheartedly. At the center of the Cross illustration above is the word, "Lordship." The Christian life is not being lived unless we are willing to deny ourselves, make Jesus Lord, and follow Him. When we surrender, we allow the Holy Spirit to empower our prayer life, our gifts, and our witnessing as He speaks through us. Only through surrender are we able to take up our cross and follow Christ.

The Cross



In Matthew 14, Jesus sent His disciples to the other side of the sea after He fed the multitude. Late in the night, Jesus joined them by walking out across the water to their boat. When they saw Him, the disciples could not believe it was Jesus because of the miracle He was doing. Peter told Jesus to call him to walk on the water if Jesus was who He said He was. Jesus told Peter to come out of the boat and walk.

Peter easily and miraculously left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. While he was on the water, Peter's focus turned from Jesus to the wind, and his doubt caused him to begin to sink. Peter cried out to be saved, and Jesus saved him. Then they returned to the boat where safety again allowed Peter to worship.

We are often like the disciples in this story. Many are comfortable in the boat where it is safe, but they can miss the miraculous power of Christ working in their lives. Sometimes, we ask God to show us something miraculous to prove that He truly is God. Often, like Peter, Christians will often step out of the boat to go where Jesus is, but then they stop focusing on Jesus and begin to go under. Living a life fully surrendered means stepping out of the boat and walking to where Jesus is and keeping focused on Him regardless of what is going on all around. We must walk away from anything that would keep us from Him.

Hold up the illustration on the next page showing a person's decision to follow Christ. Before you accepted Christ as your Savior, you were dead in your sins and separated from God. If you have not yet accepted Jesus as your Savior, you are right here (see Figure 1 below). When you accept Christ, you cross over from death to life (see Figure 2 below). After your physical death, you will have eternal life (John 3:16).

A lot of Christians live out their lives not understanding an important key step and that is to surrender themselves to God.

Figure 1

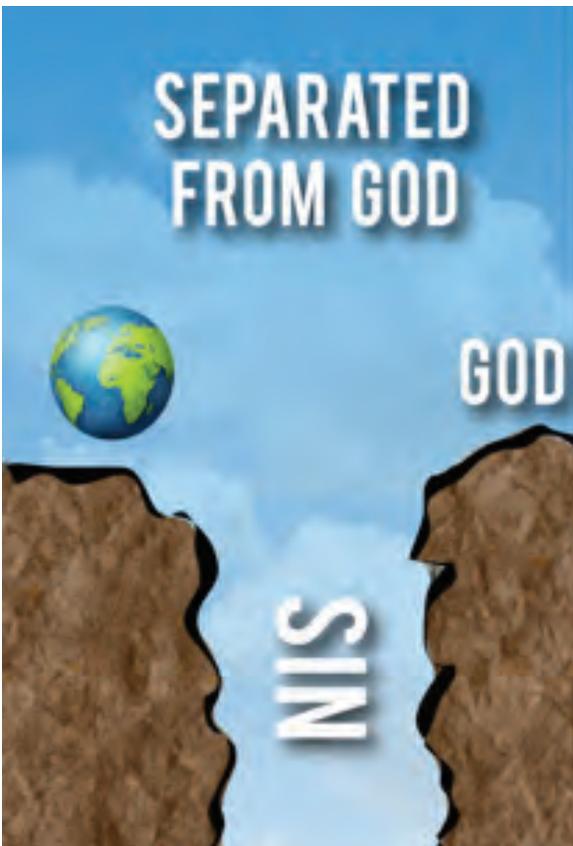
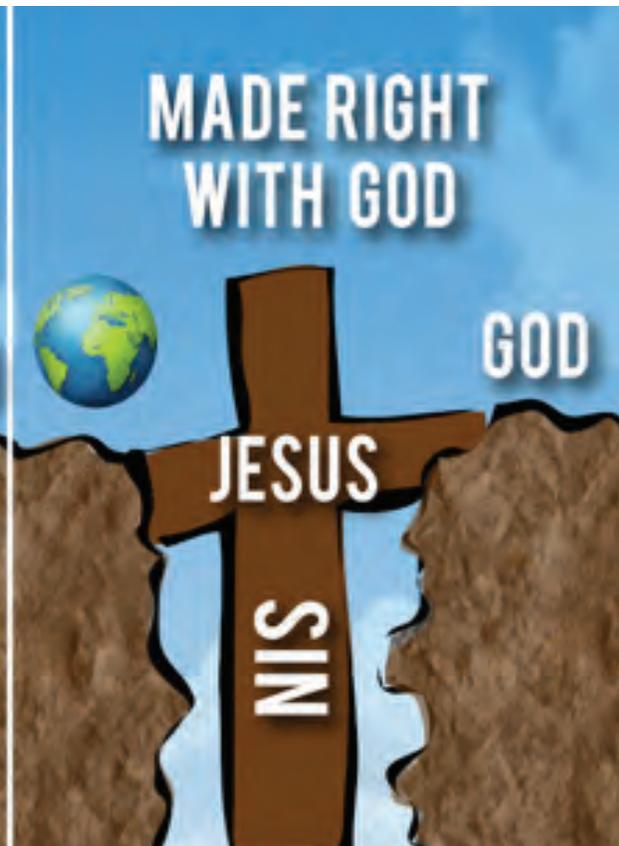


Figure 2



They accept Christ and then take a sitting-on-the-fence approach. They want one foot on one side of the fence (in the world, aka sin) and one foot on the other side (Christianity and God). The problem is that you cannot have both. You have to choose one or the other. Galatians 6:8 says, “For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” In order to have all that Jesus offers, we are called to surrender our lives to the will of God. Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” The call of Christ is the call to lay down our lives for Him as a living sacrifice. We must surrender to Him. Jesus tells us, “Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me’” (Luke 9:23).

Bible Study Review

1. Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this past week’s memory verse. Discuss the meaning of the verse with your group. Be sure to review the previous week’s verse as well.
2. Have the preteens open Preparing for My Mission Trip to this past week’s Bible studies, and walk through the materials with them. Ask the students to share their answers. If they need help finding the answers, you may assist them at this time.
3. Have your L.I.T.s talk about what surrender means. Ask them what it means to surrender everything you have to Christ. Hand out five slips of paper or five index cards to each of the preteens in your group. Tell them to think of five different things, people, or places that are special to them and write one on each slip of paper. Ask the L.I.T.s to hold on to their slips of paper until the end of Disciple Group time.

Bible Exploration

Have the students in your group look up the following verses and read them aloud to the whole group. Discuss the questions after each verse:

Luke 9:23: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

- What is Jesus’ call on a person’s life who believes in Him? (To deny self)
- Jesus tells us to deny self, take up our cross, and _____ Him. (follow)
- What does it mean to follow Christ? (To give up our plans for His)

Romans 12:1: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

- What can you do for God that is holy and pleasing? (Offer Him your body as a living sacrifice.)
- Why should we offer our bodies to God? (Because of His mercy towards us; it is pleasing to Him)

Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

- What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? (It means our old self died with Him on the cross.)
- How can Paul no longer live? (Paul died to himself. He gave his life over to Christ and allowed Christ to live through him.)

Romans 6:12-14: “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

- What does it mean to offer your bodies to sin? (Allowing sin to control you)
- We are to offer our bodies as instruments of what? (Righteousness)



Learning Activity

Have your L.I.T.s look at the important items they wrote on their slips of paper. Instruct them to put the five items in order, starting with the least important to the most important. Next, ask the preteens to give you the slips of paper with the least important of the five items. After you get a slip from each child, throw the papers in the trash can. Now ask them to give you the next item of importance. Rip these slips into small pieces. Keep on doing this until there is only one paper in their hands. At this point, they should be holding the slip with their most important item on it. Challenge your L.I.T.s that if Christ is not the most important one in their lives, then they have not truly surrendered everything to Him.



Object Lessons

Take a rope to your Disciple Group. Explain how rock climbing works: “In top-roping, an anchor is set up at the summit of a route [top of the mountain] prior to the start of a climb. Rope is run through the anchor; one end attaches to the climber [who is wearing a harness] and the other to the belayer [the person on the ground], who keeps the rope taut during the climb and prevents long falls.”⁶ The belayer not only keeps the climber safe, but they often give instruction to the climber to help them along the way. Sometimes a first-time climber will get part-way up and then panic. They convince themselves that they cannot go any higher, and they practically become paralyzed where they are. They grip the rock as hard as they can, refusing to move on. They think that holding on to the rock is better than letting go. Ask the L.I.T.s: What “rocks” are you holding on to that you need to let go of for Christ? Explain that we often refuse to listen to God’s voice guiding us to a much better place. Is there a friendship, a dream, a sin, or anything else that needs to be given up so that God can do a greater work in your life?⁷



Review Questions

1. Walk the L.I.T.s through the parts of The Cross, and talk about the importance of each part in their lives. To live out the cross is to live a life of obedience to Christ.
2. What does it mean to totally surrender to God? (To give Christ all that we have and be willing to follow Him any time and any place)
3. How does God view our sacrifice of self? (It is holy and pleasing to Him.)
4. How does a person stay continually empowered by the Holy Spirit? (By being totally surrendered to Him every moment of every day)



⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_climbing (Words in brackets added for better explanation.)

⁷ Written by Tricia Jernigan, Children’s Ministry Intern, Wedgwood Baptist Church.

Invitation to Respond

NOTE: Remember, do not take this lightly. You are calling preteens to make a holy sacrifice. Do not call the students to do anything that you are not already doing yourself.

Tell the L.I.T.s: This invitation is twofold: First, if you have not trusted Christ as your Savior, you are here. (Point to Figure 1 on the illustration on **page 16**.) You are separated from Him and are in need of a Savior. If you have not done this, you need to talk with me today about coming to know Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. Second, for those of you who already have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the next step is to surrender. This means giving up your dreams and desires and taking on the desires, or will, of God for your life. When you do this, it will be considered a holy act before God. Remember, apart from Christ, you can do nothing. You cannot live out the Christian life as God desires until you give Him everything. If you are ready to make this commitment, you can pray the following prayer with me.

Ask the students to bow their heads. Pray slowly, giving them time to repeat the words either silently or aloud. Say these words:

“Lord Jesus, I come to You right now laying down my life for You in total sacrifice. I give You my desires, my wishes, and my dreams. I surrender to You. Please come and take control of my life so that I might live for You every day. Amen.”

Remind your group that what they just did is a holy act before God (Romans 12:1). It is an act of faith, and we are called to surrender to the Lord every day of our lives so that we can bear fruit for Him.

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.

- Praise God for saving you and showing you all that He has planned for your life.
- Repent and confess the times when you took control of your life instead of allowing God to have full control.
- Ask God to help you every day to surrender your life to Him.
- Yield and surrender your life to the Lord, giving Him full control of your life.

2. Close your session with a prayer of commitment to Christ's Lordship.





WEEK 3

THE HOLY SPIRIT



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Read Joel 2:28-32, and discuss the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.



Biblical Explanation

When you talk about the Holy Spirit, all kinds of feelings come up in the church. What do we know about the Holy Spirit, and what was His purpose for coming? Joel 2:28-32 says:

And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

The Holy Spirit came as a promise from God that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit on all mankind. Jesus said, “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth” (John 14:16-17a). Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit is our promised seal for all eternity: “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise”

Learning Objective

The preteens will understand that true power and change come through the working of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives.

Memory Verse

“Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 13:11b)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to reveal to them the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group.
- Thank the Lord for His Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13). The Holy Spirit is not to be feared; He is with us to counsel us (John 16:7), convict us of sin (John 16:8), empower us to share the Gospel (Acts 1:8), and strengthen us to overcome sin (Galatians 5:16). The Holy Spirit is grieved by our sin (Ephesians 4:30). The Bible also tells us not to quench the work of the Holy Spirit. “In using the word quench, Paul pictured the Spirit of God as fire (see Isaiah 4:4; Acts 2:3; Revelation 4:5). Fire speaks of purity, power, light, warmth, and (if necessary) destruction.”⁸ The Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to all believers (1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14), and He is the One who chooses which gifts are to be given to each believer (1 Corinthians 12:7).

There are many things the Spirit of God does, but we want to focus our study on the Holy Spirit’s work in the believer’s life. We must understand that for the Spirit to have freedom, we must allow Him complete control of our lives (Romans 12:1; Galatians 2:20). Paul said that he died to his old self so that Christ (the Holy Spirit) might live through Him. Jesus promised that when the Holy Spirit would come, He would give us counsel and guidance (John 16:7). Learning to listen to the Holy Spirit as He guides us is of utmost importance. Paul spoke by the power of the Holy Spirit because of a surrendered life to Him. He said, “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Corinthians 2:4). Paul also wrote, “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake” (1 Thessalonians 1:5). The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray; He guides our prayer life when we pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18).

Most importantly as a leader, you must be submitted to the power of the Holy Spirit in your own life. Your teaching is powerless unless it is under the influence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Allow Him to speak as you teach, and He will guide you in all truth that Jesus Christ might be glorified in you.

Bible Study Review

1. Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this past week’s memory verse. Discuss the meaning of the verse with your group. Be sure to review the previous weeks’ verses as well.
2. Have the preteens open Preparing for My Mission Trip to this past week’s Bible studies, and walk through the materials with them. Ask the L.I.T.s to share their answers. If they need help finding the answers, you may assist them at this time.
3. Ask your L.I.T.s to discuss what they know about the Holy Spirit. Talk about how the Spirit works in the lives of believers.

Bible Exploration

Have the preteens look up the following verses, then discuss the questions with your group:

Joel 2:28-32: “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.”

- What did God promise in the last days? (He will pour out His Spirit on people.)
- For whom was the promise? (Believers in Jesus Christ)
- Are we a part of the promise if we believe in Christ? (Yes)

NOTE: *The Holy Spirit is manifest in our lives the day we believe in Christ. His power will be evident in us when we give Him total control.*

1 Corinthians 2:4: “And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.”

- Did Paul use persuasive words to convince the people of Corinth that Jesus was the Christ? (No)
- What power did Paul demonstrate in his life when he spoke? (The power of the Holy Spirit)
- How can we receive the power of the Holy Spirit when we speak for God? (When we fully surrender to Him and ask Him to take control)

1 Thessalonians 1:5: “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.”

- Paul said their speech came with what? (Power through the Holy Spirit)
- Why is it necessary for the Holy Spirit to convict of sin? (Because through conviction of sin, a person recognizes their lost condition without God)

Ephesians 6:18: “...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

- Paul says to pray in the Spirit always for whom? (All the saints, which means believers)
- Why is it important to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us when we pray? (So that we do not pray selfishly and so that we will pray for the needs of others)

Further Explanation

When a person is born again, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit for eternity. They have available the full power of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit. That power is tapped into when they submit to the will of God, surrender their lives fully to Him, and allow Him to be in complete control.

Object Lessons

1. Take a video game controller or an item that depends on an outside power source to your Disciple Group. Show the device to the preteens in your group. Ask and explain: “How does this work? What do I need to make it work properly? If it is not plugged in to the power source, it will not work or function. When I plug it in, it is empowered by the source. For believers, the only way we can plug into God’s power is to give Him full control of our lives. Then we will have the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to do anything God wants.”

2. Show the “Power Signals” illustration (to the right), and explain to your preteens the importance of learning to listen to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. There are three steps to take:

- Stop and pray.
- Wait for the Holy Spirit.
- Go and tell those the Spirit leads you to.





Prayer Activity

The goal of this activity is to teach the preteens how to listen to the Holy Spirit. Call your group to a time of prayer, and explain how to listen to God. Say: “When we pray, we want to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our prayers.” (Read Ephesians 6:18.) “Let’s start praying and ask the Holy Spirit to show us who to pray for. Do not pray until the name of a person or a particular burden is revealed in your heart by the Spirit.” The goal is for them to get a glimpse of the Spirit of God speaking to them.

After the prayer time, explain: “When you are living for Christ, you will want to know how to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and discern when He is speaking. You can hear Him in many ways:

- He speaks through your thoughts.
- You can hear His voice when you are reading God’s Word.
- He might speak to you through others.
- Your dreams may be a message from God.
- You may get an overwhelming feeling that He is telling you, ‘I love you.’
- You might have an impression on your heart that is very clear.

When the Holy Spirit speaks, it is a good thing to write down what He is saying to you. Even more important, you need to obey whenever He leads you.”



Review Questions

1. What does the memory verse mean?
(There is no need to be nervous when you share with others because the Spirit will speak through you.)
2. Who is the Holy Spirit? (The Spirit of God)
3. From where does He come? (From God)
4. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit for the Christian?
(He helps us pray, guides us, counsels, comforts, empowers, etc.)
5. How can we be empowered by the Holy Spirit? (By giving Him control of our lives)
6. How can we pray with the Spirit’s help? (By praying according to God’s will)
7. How can we be empowered when we teach or share about Christ? (Surrender)

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - **P**raise God for giving you the Holy Spirit to dwell within you.
 - **R**epent and confess those times when you ignored the voice of the Spirit leading you.
 - **A**sk God to give you opportunities to share your faith in Christ with others.
 - **Y**ield and surrender your life to God to be used by Him for His glory.
2. You, as the leader, should close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.

NOTE: Encourage everyone in your group to bring their Bible to Disciple Group next week.



WEEK 4

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.

Learning Objective

The L.I.T.s will understand the Gospel message and be able to confidently share it with their friends and family members.

Memory Verse

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Ask the Spirit to open the eyes of your L.I.T.s to understand the simplicity of the Gospel message and how to share it.
- Pray that the Lord would put a burden on each child’s heart for someone they know who is lost.
- Pray for God’s blessing on this week’s lesson as you teach your students how to share the Gospel with others.

Counseling Preparation and Training

This week, you will be reviewing with your group the ABC Counseling Card. Some have already been through the training; however, the goal of the training is to become proficient in counseling so that the L.I.T.s understand from the heart. As they practice, they will become more and more comfortable with counseling lost friends and children to whom they will be ministering. We are not only preparing them for the mission trip, but for life. It is the responsibility of every believer to share the Good News of Christ with lost people (Matthew 28:19-20).

All counseling should be with an open Bible in hand, and those who are counseling should take the time to look up the passages of Scripture and explain them as they go. Having a highlighted Bible makes the process go more smoothly.

Have the children look up the verses of Scripture from the ABC Counseling Card and then highlight the verses in their Bibles. When they look up the first verse, highlight it with a yellow highlighter, then, at the bottom of that page, write the page number where the next verse is found in their Bible. Guide your children through the following steps:

- Have preteens turn to John 3:16 and highlight the verse.
- Next, turn to Romans 3:23 to see what page it is on. Then turn back to John 3:16 and write the page number for Romans 3:23 at the bottom of this page.
- Turn to Romans 3:23 and highlight the verse.

- Next, turn to Romans 6:23 to see what page it is on. Turn back to Romans 3:23 and write the page number for this verse at the bottom of this page.
- Highlight Romans 6:23, and then write the page number for 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 at the bottom of the page.
- Highlight 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, and then write the page number for Romans 10:13 at the bottom of the page.
- Highlight Romans 10:13, and then write the page number for John 1:12 at the bottom of the page.
- Highlight John 1:12, and then write the page number for 1 John 5:13 at the bottom of the page.
- Highlight 1 John 5:13, and then write the page number for Hebrews 13:5 at the bottom of the page.
- Highlight Hebrews 13:5, and then write the page number for John 10:28-29 at the bottom of the page.
- Highlight John 10:28-29.



Role Playing/Practicing Before Sending Them Out

Give the children time to practice counseling with each other in your group using their marked Bibles and ABC Counseling Cards.

- Pay close attention to each child as they share, and give positive feedback.
- Make suggestions for how to say things better or how to respond to the other person's comments or questions if they need help.
- Remind the L.I.T.s to pray for God's guidance before sharing with a lost person in real life.
- Remind them to listen to the Holy Spirit for discernment.

If at any point you do not feel the child is understanding the Gospel, stop counseling. Explain the Gospel to them and how they can make a choice in the future whenever they are ready because God will listen to them. Lead the child back to the main group.



Empowering Activity

Divide your group into pairs. Then, with Bibles and ABC Counseling Cards in hand, have your L.I.T.s practice counseling with their partners. Have one preteen in each group do the counseling first. After ten minutes, have them switch roles so that the other person becomes the counselor. Give them ten minutes to practice as well.



Bible Study Review

1. Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this past week's memory verse. Discuss the meaning of the verse with your group. Be sure to review the previous weeks' verses as well.
2. Have the preteens open Preparing for My Mission Trip to this past week's Bible studies, and walk through the materials with them. Ask the L.I.T.s to share their answers. If they need help finding the answers, you may assist them at this time.
3. Ask your L.I.T.s to discuss how they feel about using the ABC Counseling Card in witnessing. Is it a helpful tool? What do they like best about it? What is difficult for them? How can these difficulties be overcome?

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - Praise God for the message of salvation and the privilege of sharing it with all who would listen.
 - Repent and confess those times when you had the opportunity to share the life-changing plan of salvation with someone, but you did not do it.
 - Ask God to give you more chances to share the Gospel with others.
 - Yield and surrender to God in sharing the plan of salvation to a lost world.
2. You, as the leader, should close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.

ABC Counseling Card

1. I am so glad you came forward today. (smile)
2. Can you tell me why you came forward?
3. Have you ever done this before?
4. (If "no," continue...) I would like to talk with you about how you can make this decision whenever you are ready.

God loves You

God made a way for you to be together with Him forever and have eternal life. (Read John 3:16.) In order to receive eternal life, you must ABC:

A

—ADMIT (Tell on yourself to God that you have sinned.)

1. Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23.
2. Have you ever sinned?
3. Can you name some sins you have done?
4. How can your sins be forgiven?

B

—BELIEVE (Believe that God's Son, Jesus, died for your sins and then rose from the dead.)

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.
2. Who is God's Son?
3. What did Jesus do for our sins?
4. What happened to Jesus after He died?

C

—CHOOSE (Choose to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord.)

1. Read Romans 10:13.
2. How can you be together with God forever?
3. What does it mean to choose Jesus as Boss?
4. After hearing this, what would you like to do today?

(Lead the child in a prayer using the ABCs ONLY if they are understanding the Gospel.)

"Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for my sins and rose on the third day. Please forgive me of my sins and come into my life right now to be my Savior and Lord forever. Amen."

How do you know that you are forgiven?

1. Where is Jesus right now? (He is in your heart.)
2. Read John 1:12. (You are a child of God now.)
3. Read 1 John 5:13. (A person can know that they have eternal life because of the promise of God's Word.)
4. Read Hebrews 13:5. (Use 5 fingers to show God's promise to His children: "I-will-never-leave-you.")
5. Read John 10:28-29. (Use your fist to show how Jesus and God keep their people forever.)

Continue to grow in your faith now that you are forgiven.

1. Go to church.
2. Read the Bible.
3. Tell others about Jesus.
4. Pray.
5. Let Jesus be the Leader of your life every day.

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Learning / Ministry Objective

The objective of this week is to engage children in the teaching of the miracle of creation, the fall of man, and the consequence of sin. The goal of this Disciple Group time is to release your L.I.T.s to practice telling the story in their own creative way.

Memory Verse

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
(Romans 3:23)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to help the preteens grasp the lesson of creation and the fall of man and to be able to teach it clearly to others.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.

WEEK 5

CREATION AND THE FALL OF MAN



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Read or retell the creation story in Genesis 1-2, and discuss with your group the awesome power of God and His purpose displayed in this event. Then, read about the fall of man in Genesis 3, and discuss what that meant for Adam and Eve and what it means for all of mankind.



Empowering Activity

Go through Day One of *The Gift* Bible study with your group, teaching the first two or three pages to them. Model excitement, and engage your group in the story! Now, hand out *The Gift* books to all of the L.I.T.s and N.K.s in your group. Let the kids know that they will need to bring this with them each week. Assign specific pages to each person in the group to present. Give them about 10 minutes to look over the materials and prepare, and then allow each person to teach their part to the group.

Special instructions: They can read the story or tell it in their own words. (If certain L.I.T.s in your group struggle with reading aloud, let them tell the story in their own words.) They can have others in the group act out the story as they tell it. Encourage them to bring excitement to the story to win the audience’s attention! Have them read key passages from their Bible that appear in the story. This helps those whom they are teaching to understand that this story is true and coming from God’s Word. The students can use any means to make the story come alive. The idea of the empowering exercise is to release them to teach and to get them excited about going out and sharing the Good News of Christ boldly. Have the L.I.T.s walk through “Sin Separates You and Me from God” on **page 15**, showing the images on the previous page. Be sure to practice “Decision” and “Invitation to Make a Choice” as well.

Debrief

After each person has had a chance to present in front of the group, take some time to debrief. Ask the following questions of the L.I.T.s in the group:

1. What are some really good things they did while they were teaching? (Example: They spoke clearly and loudly. They looked at the group while they were teaching. They made eye contact with individuals. They held the book up so we could see the pictures. They were exciting and engaging. Etc.)
2. How can they improve their presentation? (Example: They need to speak louder. They need to become more excited about what they are teaching so that they are believable. They need to make better eye contact. While they were telling or reading the story, we could not see the picture. Etc.)
3. Offer your own encouragement and suggestions as well.



Bible Study Review

Use *The Gift* to review the Day One story and the Gospel presentation that the L.I.T.s just presented.

- Memory Verse (**page 7**)—Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this week’s memory verse. Then, have them practice teaching the verse to the group using the book.
- Creation (**pages 8-9**)
- The Fall of Man and The Sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden (**pages 10-11**)
- The Sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden—The Consequences (**pages 12-13**)
- Sin Separates You and Me from God (**pages 14-15**)
- Decision and Invitation to Make a Choice (**page 15**)



Review Questions

1. Who created all things?
2. What was the most significant thing God created?
3. From what tree was Adam and Eve forbidden to eat?
4. What was the consequence of their disobedience?
5. What did Jesus do to pay for the consequence of sin of all mankind?

Review the ABC Counseling Card

Take some time to allow the preteens to review the ABC Counseling Card. Let them practice going through the card one-on-one with a partner.

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - Praise God for the awesomeness of His creation.
 - Repent and confess those times when you chose to disobey God, like Adam and Eve, by doing things your own way.
 - Ask God to help you to tell others about how God created the world and about His most special creation—mankind.
 - Yield and surrender to God in sharing the story of creation and the fall of man with others.
2. Close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.



WEEK 6

JESUS' BIRTH



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.

Learning / Ministry Objective

The objective of this week is to engage children in the teaching of the miracle of Jesus' birth and His humble entrance into God's creation. The objective of the Disciple Group time is to release your group to practice telling the account in their own creative way.

Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to help the preteens grasp the lesson of Jesus' miraculous birth and to be able to teach it clearly to others.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.



Bible Study Passage

Read or retell the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 1-2. Discuss with your group the different miracles related to His birth. Discuss the significance of Jesus being born as a baby rather than just coming to Earth as a full-grown man. What does it mean for us today?



Empowering Activity

Go through Day Two of *The Gift* Bible study with your group, teaching the first two or three pages to them. Model excitement, and engage your group in the story! The students should have brought their copy of *The Gift* to Disciple Group with them. Have the L.I.T.s open their books to this week's lesson on page 46: Jesus' Birth. Assign specific pages to each person in the group to present. Give them about 10 minutes to look over the materials and prepare, and then allow each person to teach their part to the group.

Special instructions: They can read the story or tell it in their own words. (If certain L.I.T.s in your group struggle with reading aloud, let them tell the story in their own words.) They can have others in the group act out the story as they tell it. Encourage them to bring excitement to the story to grab the audience's attention! Have the L.I.T.s read key passages from their Bible that appear in the story. This helps those whom they are teaching to understand that this story is true and coming from God's Word. The students can use any means to make the story come alive. The idea of the empowering exercise is to release them to teach and to get them excited about going out and sharing the Good News of Christ boldly.

Have the L.I.T.'s practice sharing "Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?" and "Sin Separates You and Me from God" on **page 27** in *The Gift*. Be sure to hold up the picture on **page 26** for the group to see. Present the sections "Decision" and "Invitation to Make a Choice" on that page as well.

Debrief

After each person has had a chance to present in front of the group, take some time to debrief. Ask the following questions of the L.I.T.s in the group:

1. What are some really good things they did while they were teaching? (Example: They spoke clearly and loudly. They looked at the group while they were teaching. They made eye contact with individuals. They held the book up so we could see the pictures. They were exciting and engaging. Etc.)
2. How can they improve their presentation? (Example: They need to speak louder. They need to become more excited about what they are teaching so that they are believable. They need to make better eye contact. While they were telling or reading the story, we could not see the picture. Etc.)
3. Offer your encouragement and suggestions as well.



Bible Study Review

Use *The Gift* to review the Day Two story and the Gospel presentation that the L.I.T.s just presented.

- Memory Verse (**page 19**)—Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this week's memory verse. Then, have them practice teaching the verse to the group using the book.
- The Angel Speaks to Mary (**page 21**)
- The Birth of Jesus (**page 23**)
- Jesus Birth Announced (**page 25**)
- Why Did Jesus Come to Earth? (**page 27**)
- Sin Separates You and Me from God (**page 27**)
- Decision and Invitation to Make a Choice (**page 27**)



Review Questions

1. Who appeared to Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds? (Angels)
2. Who did the angel say would be born? (Jesus, the Son of God)
3. Where was the baby Jesus born? (In a stable in Bethlehem)
4. Why did Jesus become a baby and come to Earth? (To live a sinless life and to save us from our sins.)
5. What must we do to be saved from our sins? (Believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for our sins.)

Review the ABC Counseling Card

Take some time to allow the preteens to review the ABC Counseling Card. Let them practice going through the card one-on-one with a partner.

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - Praise God for the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ.
 - Repent and confess any times when you let your gifts at Christmas be more important to you than the birth of Jesus.
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to share with others the wonderful story of Jesus' birth.
 - Yield and surrender to God as you prepare to share Christ with others at school and on the mission trip.
2. Close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.



Learning / Ministry Objective

The objective of this week is to engage children in the teaching of the miracles of Jesus' and how they taught us that He is God. The objective of the disciple group time is to release your group to practice telling the account in their own creative way.

Memory Verse

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to help the preteens to understand the purpose of Jesus' miracles and the significant events in His life.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.

WEEK 7

JESUS' LIFE AND MIRACLES



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Discuss the various stories of Jesus' miracles in Matthew 5, Mark 8, Mark 6, and Mark 4. What were the purposes of Jesus performing miracles? (Discuss that His miracles brought glory to God [John 2:11], they caused people to believe in Him as the Son of God, they were a demonstration of His character—love and compassion, etc.) Read John 5:19-24 for further discussion.



Empowering Activity

Go through Day Three of *The Gift* Bible study with your group. Teach the first two or three pages to them. Model excitement and engage your group in the story! The students should have brought their copy of *The Gift* to Disciple Group with them. Have the L.I.T.s open their books to this week's lesson on **page 31**: Jesus' Life and Miracles. Assign specific pages to each person in the group to present. Give them about 10 minutes to look over the materials and prepare, and then allow each person to teach their part to the group.

Special instructions: They can read the story or tell it in their own words. (If certain L.I.T.s in your group struggle with reading aloud, let them tell the story in their own words.) They can have others in the group act out the story as they tell it. Encourage them to bring excitement to the story to win the audience's attention! Have them read key passages from their Bible that appear in the story. This helps those whom they are teaching to understand that this story is true and coming from God's Word. The students can use any means to make the story come alive. The idea of the empowering exercise is to release them to teach and to get them excited about going out and sharing the Good News of Christ boldly. Have the L.I.T.'s practice sharing “Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?” and “Sin Separates You and Me from God” on **page 41**. Be sure to hold up the picture on **page 40** for the group to see. Present the sections “Decision” and “Invitation to Make a Choice” on that page as well.

Debrief

After each person has had a chance to present in front of the group, take some time to debrief. Ask the following questions of the L.I.T.s in the group:

1. What are some really good things they did while they were teaching? (Example: They spoke clearly and loudly. They looked at the group while they were teaching. They made eye contact with individuals. They held the book up so we could see the pictures. They were exciting and engaging. Etc.)
2. How can they improve their presentation? (Example: They need to speak louder. They need to become more excited about what they are teaching so that they are believable. They need to make better eye contact. While they were telling or reading the story, we could not see the picture. Etc.)
3. Offer your own encouragement and suggestions as well.



Bible Study Review

Use *The Gift* to review the Day Three story and the Gospel presentation that the L.I.T.s just presented.

- Jesus Raises a Dead Girl (**page 33**)
- Jesus Heals a Blind Man (**page 35**)
- Jesus Feeds 5,000 (**page 37**)
- Jesus Calms a Storm (**page 39**)
- Why Did Jesus Come to Earth? (**page 41**)
- Sin Separates You and Me from God (**page 41**)
- Decision and Invitation to Make a Choice (**page 41**)

? Review Questions

1. What did Jesus say to Jairus when the people told him his daughter was dead? (Do not be afraid; only believe.)
2. How did Jesus heal the blind man? (He spat on his eyes and touched them.)
3. What did the disciples gather to feed the 5,000 people? (Five loaves of bread and two fish)
4. What did the disciples ask Jesus during the storm when they awakened Him? (Do you not care that we are perishing?)
5. What is the wage of sin? (Death) What is the gift that God gives? (Eternal life)

Review the ABC Counseling Card

Take some time to allow the preteens to review the ABC Counseling Card. Let them practice going through the card one-on-one with a partner.

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - Praise God for Jesus' power and love that results in miracles.
 - Repent and confess those times when you have doubted that Jesus could and still does perform miracles.
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to share the miracles of Jesus with others so that they might believe in Him as Lord.
 - Yield and surrender to God in sharing the awesome true stories of Jesus' life and the miraculous things He did.
2. Close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.



WEEK 8

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Learning / Ministry Objective

The objective of this week is to engage children in the teaching of Jesus' death and resurrection and the hope that we have in Him for forgiveness of sins and eternal life. The objective of the Disciple Group time is to release your group to practice telling the account in their own creative way.

Memory Verse

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to make this week's lesson understandable and memorable to the preteens in your group so that they can convey the message to others.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-28, and discuss the importance of Christ being raised from the dead. Ask the L.I.T.s if they can explain why that is such an important part of our faith.

Paul is writing to the church in Corinth, which included people from a mix of backgrounds. According to Jewish tradition, the Sadducees did not believe that the dead resurrected. Instead, they believed that people either ceased to exist or were cast into Sheol, which meant to be separated from God, when they died. Paul spoke against this fatalistic view, saying that if Christ is not alive, our sin demands that we are banished to Sheol, and 'non-existence' is not an option. Verses 17-18 tell us, "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."

"But now," Paul proclaims in verse 20, "Christ is risen from the dead." Paul had firsthand knowledge of this fact because he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, as we read in Acts 9. And, Christ being raised from the dead gives eternal life to all who believe. "For as in Adam all die [because of sin entering the world through him], even so in Christ all shall be made alive" (v. 22). And the life that Jesus gives will never end because, "The last enemy that will be destroyed is death" (v. 26).



Empowering Activity

Go through Day Four of *The Gift* Bible study with your group, teaching the first two or three pages to them. Model excitement, and engage your group in the story! The students should have brought their copy of *The Gift* to Disciple Group with them. Have the L.I.T.s open their books to this week's lesson on **page 62**: Jesus' Death and Resurrection. Assign specific pages to each person in the group to present. Give them about 10 minutes to look over the materials and prepare, and then allow each person to teach their part to the group.

Special instructions: They can read the story or tell it in their own words. (If certain L.I.T.s in your group struggle with reading aloud, let them tell the story in their own words.) They can have others in the group act out the story as they tell it. Encourage them to bring excitement to the story to grab the audience's attention! Have the L.I.T.s read key passages from their Bible that appear in the story. This helps those whom they are teaching to understand that this story is true and coming from God's Word. The students can use any means to make the story come alive. The idea of the empowering exercise is to release them to teach and to get them excited about going out and sharing the Good News of Christ boldly.

Have the L.I.T.'s practice sharing "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?" and "Sin Separates You and Me from God" on **page 55**. Be sure to hold up the picture on **page 54** for the group to see. Present the sections "Decision" and "Invitation to Make a Choice" on that page as well.

Debrief

After each person has had a chance to present in front of the group, take some time to debrief. Ask the following questions of the L.I.T.s in the group:

1. What are some really good things they did while they were teaching? (Example: They spoke clearly and loudly. They looked at the group while they were teaching. They made eye contact with individuals. They held the book up so we could see the pictures. They were exciting and engaging. Etc.)
2. How can they improve their presentation? (Example: They need to speak louder. They need to become more excited about what they are teaching so that they are believable. They need to make better eye contact. While they were telling or reading the story, we could not see the picture. Etc.)
3. Offer your encouragement and suggestions as well.



Bible Study Review

Use *The Gift* to review the Day Four story and the Gospel presentation that the L.I.T.s just presented.

- Memory Verse (**page 44**)—Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this week's memory verse. Then, have them practice teaching the verse to the group using the book.
- Jesus Accused Before Pilate (**page 47**)
- Jesus' Crucifixion (**page 49**)
- Jesus on the Cross—It Is Finished! (**page 51**)
- Jesus' Resurrection (**page 53**)
- Why Did Jesus Have to Die? (**page 55**)
- Sin Separates You and Me from God (**page 55**)
- Decision and Invitation to Make a Choice (**page 55**)



Review Questions

1. Who arrested Jesus and took Him to Pilate, accusing Him of blasphemy? (Jewish religious leaders)
2. What did the crowd say that Pilate should do with Jesus? ("Crucify Him!")
3. What did Jesus say when Pilate asked Him if He was the king of the Jews? ("It is as you say.")
4. What did the soldiers put on Jesus as they mocked Him? (A purple robe and a crown of thorns)
5. What is the name of the place that Jesus was crucified? (Golgotha—Place of a Skull)

6. Why were the two men on the crosses next to Jesus being crucified? (They were robbers.)
7. What happened around noon on the day of crucifixion? (The sky grew dark.)
8. What did the Roman guard learn about Jesus while He was on the cross? (Jesus was the Son of God.)
9. What did Mary tell the disciples had happened on the third day? (His body had been taken.)
10. How did the disciples know that Jesus' body was not stolen but that He had truly risen from the dead? (The burial cloths were lying there, and the handkerchief from Jesus' head was folded neatly.)

Review the ABC Counseling Card

Take some time to allow the preteens to review the ABC Counseling Card. Let them practice going through the card one-on-one with a partner.

P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.
 - Praise God for the death and resurrection of Jesus because it means that we can have eternal life by believing in Him.
 - Repent and confess any times when you doubted the truth of the story of Jesus coming back to life after being crucified on the cross.
 - Ask God to give you opportunities to tell others the life-saving story of Jesus' death and resurrection.
 - Yield and surrender to God as you go out and share with friends and others what Jesus has done for them and how they can be saved.
2. Close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.







Learning / Ministry Objective

The objective of this week is to engage L.I.T.s in coming to know Christ, in leading others to faith in Christ, and in discipling other believers. The objective of the Disciple Group time is to release your group to practice sharing the message in their own creative way.

Memory Verse

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12)

Spiritual Preparation

- Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.
- Pray for God to help the preteens to understand what Paul taught about living the Christian life and to be able to share this with others.
- Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.

WEEK 9

PAUL: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Bible Study Passage

Read John 1:1, 10-14 with your L.I.T.s, and discuss what it means to be a child of God. Discuss who the children of God are, how God provides for His children, the relationship He has with His children, and what our part is in the family of God.

Jesus—the embodiment of God’s perfect nature, Law, and power—has existed eternally. In Genesis 1, Jesus was there with God speaking creation into being (v. 26). He also watched as man betrayed God with the first sin (Genesis 3:6). That sin broke the fellowship that man had with God and separated us from Him, but God was not finished with us yet. He made a way for us to overcome sin and return to fellowship with Him (1 John 1).

In Jesus, God provided a way to restore the relationship between God and man, which had been broken by our sin. But the long awaited Messiah was not accepted by His people. However, John 1:12 tells us that “as many as received Him” now had the right to be children of God, not just those who had been called God’s people for centuries. Jesus became a man and “dwelt among us,” showing His desire to be in relationship with us and to be known by us.



Empowering Activity

Go through Day Four of *The Gift* Bible study with your group. Teach the first two or three pages to them. Model excitement and engage your group in the story! The students should have brought their copy of *The Gift* to Disciple Group with them. Have the L.I.T.s open their books to this week’s lesson on **page 71**: Paul: The Christian Life. Assign specific pages to each person in the group to present. Give them about 10 minutes to look over the materials and prepare, and then allow each person to teach their part to the group.

Special instructions: They can read the story or tell it in their own words. (If certain L.I.T.s in your group struggle with reading aloud, let them tell the story in their own words.) They can have others in the group act out the story as they tell it. Encourage them to bring excitement to the story to win the audience’s attention! Have them read key passages from their Bible that appear in the story. This helps those whom they are teaching to understand that this story is true and coming from God’s Word. The students can use any means to make the story come alive. The idea of the empowering exercise is to release them to teach and to get them excited about going out and sharing the Good News of Christ boldly.

Have the L.I.T.’s practice sharing “Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?” and “Sin Separates You and Me from God” on **page 71**. Be sure to hold up the picture on **page 70** for the group to see. Present the sections “Decision” and “Invitation to Make a Choice” on that page as well.

Debrief

After each person has had a chance to present in front of the group, take some time to debrief. Ask the following questions of the L.I.T.s in the group:

1. What are some really good things they did while they were teaching? (Example: They spoke clearly and loudly. They looked at the group while they were teaching. They made eye contact with individuals. They held the book up so we could see the pictures. They were exciting and engaging. Etc.)
2. How can they improve their presentation? (Example: They need to speak louder. They need to become more excited about what they are teaching so that they are believable. They need to make better eye contact. While they were telling or reading the story, we could not see the picture. Etc.)
3. Offer your own encouragement and suggestions as well.



Bible Study Review

Use *The Gift* to review the Day Five story and the Gospel presentation that the L.I.T.s just presented.

- Paul’s Conversion (**page 61**)
- Paul’s Preaching (**page 63**)
- Paul’s Letters to the Church (**page 65**)
- How Do I Find Things in the Bible? (**page 67**)
- What Are the Next Steps After You Have Accepted Christ? (**page 69**)
- Why Did Jesus Come to Earth? (**page 71**)
- Sin Separates You and Me from God (**page 71**)
- Decision and Invitation to Make a Choice (**page 71**)



Review Questions

1. Where was Saul going when Jesus appeared to him on the road? (Damascus)
2. Why was Ananias afraid to go and find Saul? (He had heard of what Saul was doing to Christians and was afraid that Saul would harm him, too.)
3. What did Paul do immediately after he was healed and baptized? (He began to go and share the Gospel and lead people to Christ.)
4. Name the four kinds of sections in the Bible that we use to look up a passage, starting from biggest to smallest. (Testament, Book, Chapter, Verse)
5. In Luke 9:23, what does Jesus tell us that we must do to be His disciples? (Deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him.)

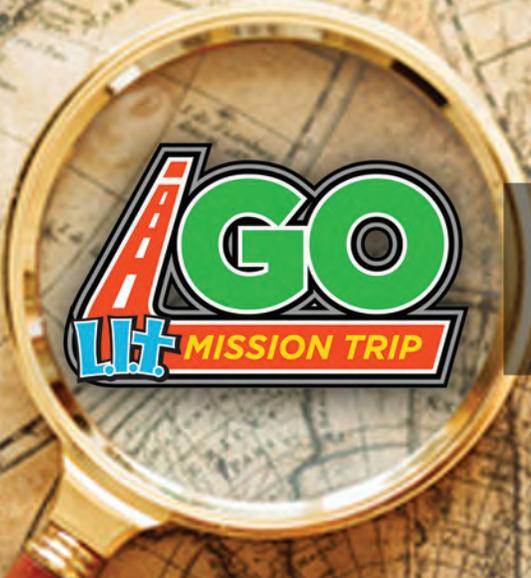
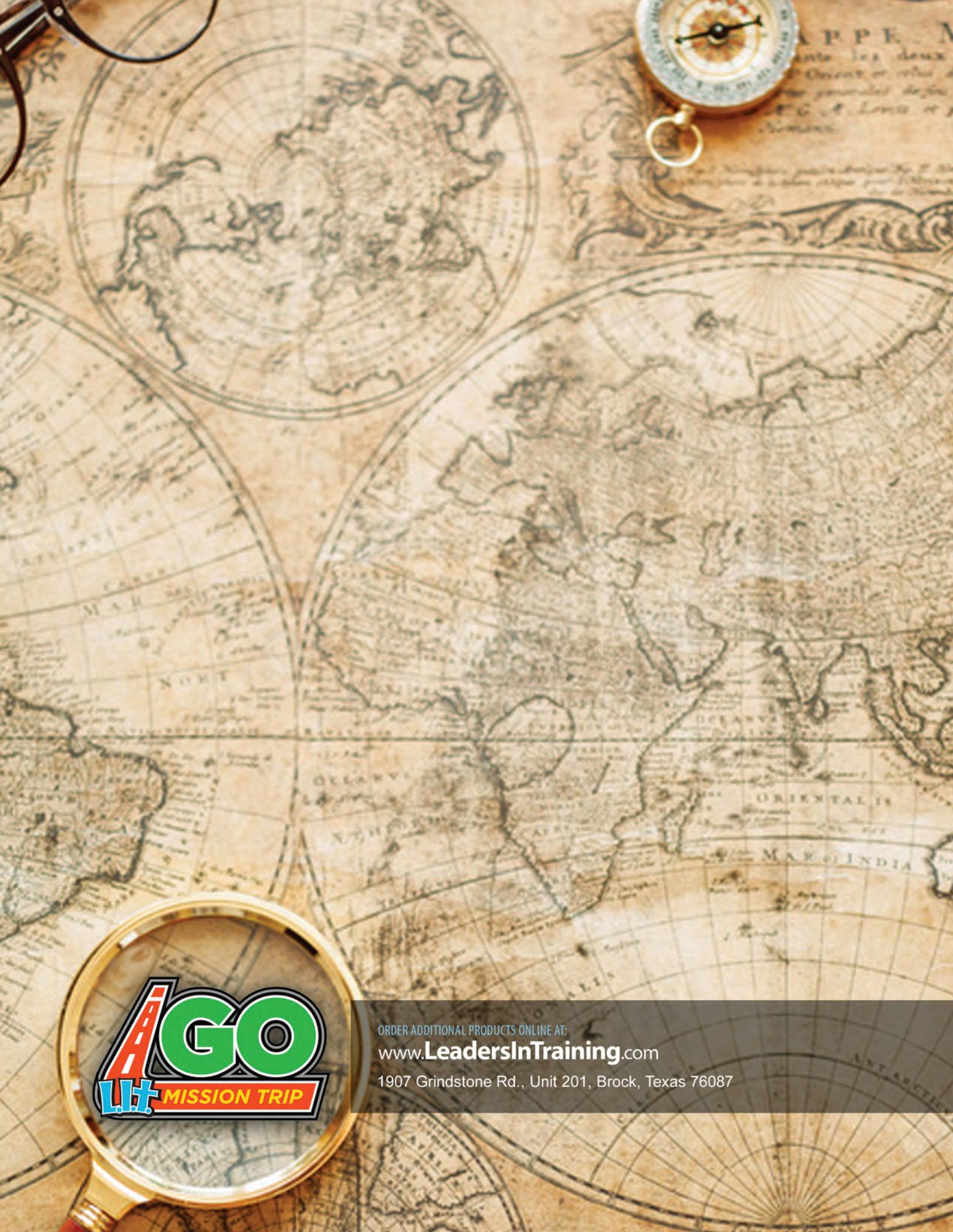
P.R.A.Y. (Have the children pray through the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.)

1. Pray together using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic.

- Praise God for His willingness to forgive sinners, including you, and to give eternal life to those who believe in Jesus.
- Repent and confess any times when you did not want to go to church and learn about Him.
- Ask God to give you opportunities to tell others about Jesus and what God's Word teaches us about Him.
- Yield and surrender to God your life each day, that you would live in obedience to Him.

2. Close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.





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