

»»»101



GROW



GROW

Updated September 1, 2026

THIS STEP OF THE GROWTH PROCESS HAS 3 GOALS:



KNOW

Get answers to some basic questions about Christianity and following Jesus.



BE

a growing follower of Jesus.



DO

Grow your faith with the tools and information gained through this study.

Have you ever wondered...

How do I know for sure if I'm going to heaven?

What is baptism?

Why is the world so broken?

What is my purpose?

How exactly am I supposed to pray?

How do I use the Bible?

How can I overcome temptation?

Why should I attend church?

How can I improve my relationships?

How does God expect me to use my time, talents, and resources?

We'll answer these questions and more as we explore 6 topics that will help you grow your faith!



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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Welcome to GROW, part of the Growth Process at Berean.

Our hope is that this study will give you a better understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. Before you get started, we'd like to offer a few tips for getting the most out of your experience.

WORKING THROUGH THE STUDY

The Growth Process has been written to be used in one-on-one mentoring scenarios or in group environments, such as Connect Groups. If you're participating in this study as part of a group or as someone who has been following Jesus for a long time, we recommend that you go through this study at the pace of about one session per week. Each week, review your answers and spend time doing the group discussions together.

If you're doing this study with a mentor one-on-one, or if you're a relatively new follower of Jesus, you may find it helpful to slow that pace down. In fact, it may be helpful to look up verses with your mentor and work through each answer together. This may mean that it takes more than six weeks to complete. That's fine. Work at the pace that is best for your learning and personal application.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- The best way to prepare for each group discussion or mentoring conversation during this study is to read the session material and complete any independent work assigned by your group leader or mentor beforehand.
- Generally speaking, the more we interact with something, the better we learn it - so the more you're willing to engage in the group discussion, Bible reading, and next steps activities, the more you'll benefit from those experiences.
- Finally, don't be afraid to ask questions. Answering your questions is what this step in the Growth Process is all about!

ICON KEY

You'll see a number of different icons throughout this study. Here's what they mean.



WATCH THE TEACHING VIDEO

Our teaching videos for this study can be found at bbcTRANSFORM.org/grow



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Using a paper Bible or an app like YouVersion to look up and read the Bible passages. Then answer the questions about that passage. Unless otherwise noted, the verses you'll find in this study have been taken from the ESV (the English Standard Version).



TALK IT OVER

When you meet with your mentor or group. Discuss the prompt question together. These questions are great in-depth conversation starters. Take your time to explore!



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

You'll get the most out of this study when you put what you're learning into practice. Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience.



SESSION 1:

RECEIVING GOD'S GOOD NEWS



WATCH THE SESSION 1 VIDEO

Our teaching videos for this study can be found at bbcTRANSFORM.org/grow

HOW DO YOU KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT YOU'RE RIGHT WITH GOD?

It begins with good news. The Bible uses a word that may seem foreign to us: GOSPEL. Simply put, the Gospel is the GOOD NEWS that God saves sinners. It is all about who Jesus is and what he's accomplished.



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find and complete the verses below. (The ESV translation is used below.)

The GOSPEL (good news) actually starts out with some BAD NEWS...

*God created mankind to have a relationship with us
but sin separates us from a perfect, holy God.*

Romans 3:23 _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as _____ came into the world
through one man (Adam), and _____
through _____, so _____ spread to all men
because all _____.

But the GOOD NEWS is that Jesus provided a solution for our sin.

His life, death, burial and resurrection can restore our relationship with God.

Romans 5:19

For as by the one man's _____
the many were made sinners, so by the one man's
_____ the many will be made righteous.

John 3:16 is a summary of this GOOD NEWS. Write out that verse in your own words below:

Finally, this GOOD NEWS requires a response.

What does Romans 10:9 say that your response to the GOOD NEWS should be? What does the word 'Lord' mean?

The GOOD NEWS is not complicated:

1. God is holy and desires a relationship with us.
2. Man is sinful and separated from God.
3. Jesus Christ is our substitute for the penalty of our sin.
4. We must believe Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)



TALK IT OVER

What is your response to this GOOD NEWS? Have you put your faith and trust in Jesus to be your Lord and to save you from your sins?

If NOT, what doubts or questions do you have about the GOOD NEWS?

If YES, let's talk about some next steps...

Sharing the GOOD NEWS with others.

*Good news is meant to be shared -- and this is the greatest news of all time!
Who in your life needs to hear it?*



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Read John 9:1-38

The blind man Jesus healed had no theological training, but he could give a simple and effective testimony. In verse 25, what facts did he relate?

Just like the blind man healed by Jesus, sharing the story of your changed life is the simplest way to share your faith. There are three parts to our story:

My background: My life before Jesus

My encounter: How I met Jesus

My experience: How my life changed because of Jesus

Write your three-part story of Life Change here:

Describe your life before Jesus.

Describe how you met Jesus.

Describe how your life has changed because of Jesus.

Being Baptized

One of the first and most important steps of obedience is identifying as a follower of Jesus through baptism.

What is baptism?

Baptism is a one-time act which declares that we have become a follower of Jesus. In baptism, we are placed under water and then brought back up to symbolize how we have been united with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Why should I be baptized?

Baptism mattered to Jesus!

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus set an _____ for me
by being _____.

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus _____ his followers to
disciple and _____ others.

How should I be baptized?

The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or submerge."

What does baptism symbolize in Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12?

How does baptism by immersion create a picture of this symbolism?

When should I be baptized?

When does baptism occur in the following Biblical examples?

Acts 9:18-19 _____

Acts 10:43-48 _____

Acts 16:33 _____

You don't have to have everything in your life right in order to be baptized.
You just need to repent and believe.



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

You'll get the most out of this study when you put what you're learning into practice. Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience:

Step	Learner Initials	Leader Initials	Date
Session 1 Completed	_____	_____	_____
Understands Gospel	_____	_____	_____
Accepted Jesus	_____	_____	_____
Baptized	_____	_____	_____
Shared three-part story of Life Change	_____	_____	_____

Check out some Berean baptism videos at www.bbctransform.org/baptism

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



SESSION 2:

COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

**“ TO BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT PRAYER IS NO MORE
POSSIBLE THAN TO BE ALIVE WITHOUT BREATHING. ”**

Martin Luther King, Jr.



WATCH THE SESSION 2 VIDEO

Our teaching videos for this study can be found at
bbcTRANSFORM.org/grow

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT GOD HEARS YOU?

Prayer is simply us communicating with God the Father, through the Spirit, in the name of the Son. Humble prayer changes us more than we expect. When we approach God our heart and motivation matters a lot to Him.



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find biblical answers to the questions below.

PRAYER

HOW should we pray?

Go to God in Jesus' name. He is the _____ way to the Father.
(John 14:6, 1 Timothy 2:5)

Go with a clean _____. (Hebrews 10:22)

When praying, _____ others. (Mark 11:25)

_____ God will answer. (Matthew 21:22)

WHY should we pray?

To _____ God. (John 14:13)

Because _____ prayed and he is our _____.
(Mark 1:35; 1 John 2:6)

Because God _____ it. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

To communicate with God in order to have a _____
with him. (Psalm 17:6; 145:18)

WHEN should we pray?

Pray at _____ times. (Ephesians 6:18)

Pray to God every _____. (Matthew 6:11)

What can HINDER our prayers?

_____ sin. (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:13; Isa. 59:1-2)

_____ the needs of others. (Proverbs 21:13)

_____. (James 1:6-7)

Not _____. (James 4:2)

Wrong _____. (James 4:3, Matthew 6:5-6)

_____ prayers. (Matthew 6:7-8)

_____. (Matthew 6:12-15)

_____ in marriage. (1 Peter 3:7)

What can we INCLUDE in our prayers?

___doration	Telling God that he is great!
___onfession	Asking God to forgive our sins.
___hanksgiving	Thanking God, even for difficulties.
___upplication	Making requests to God.

FASTING

WHAT is Biblical fasting?

Biblical fasting is **intentionally abstaining from food** for a period of time to focus all our attention on God.

Fasting is never commanded in the Bible but is a **voluntary discipline** that is left to the discretion of each believer.

Fasting is typically done in conjunction with _____.
(Joel 1:14; Daniel 9:3; Luke 2:37).

WHEN and WHY should I fast?

Fasting is often done during a time of _____.
(Ezra 10:6; Nehemiah 1:4; Matthew 9:14-15).

In times of severe _____, it is wise to humble yourself before God in a time of prayer and fasting.
(Esther 4:16; Psalm 35:13; Ezra 8:21)

When _____ a new work for the Lord, fasting can help you discern God's will. (Mark 1:12-15; Acts 13:2-3, Acts 14:23)

HOW should I fast?

While Jesus gave specific instructions on how to pray, the only guidelines he gives are to make sure we don't fast to draw attention to _____. (Matthew 6:1,16-18)

Instead we fast in order to focus our attention on God.



TALK IT OVER

Have you fasted before? Why, or Why not? What was it that drove you to fast from food?

In addition to the Biblical model of fasting from food, what are other things in your daily routine that take a lot of your time? What other things could you “fast” from to devote more time to seeking God?

God ALWAYS answers prayers, but remember:

- He doesn't give us everything we want, He gives us what is best.
- Sometimes he says “Yes.”
- Sometimes he says “Not yet.” He knows the best timing.
- Sometimes he says “No.” He has something better.



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

You'll get the most out of this study when you put what you're learning into practice. Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience:

1. **Use a journal to record your specific prayers and answers.**
E.g.: 8/11/19 Prayer for Uncle Joe's salvation. Answer: YES! 6/17/20
2. **Share your prayer requests with other Jesus followers.**
3. **Ask other people how you can be praying for them.**

Note: the *Prayer List* tab on the YouVersion Bible app lets you journal your prayer requests, ask for others to pray for you, and gives you their prayer requests also.



SESSION 3:

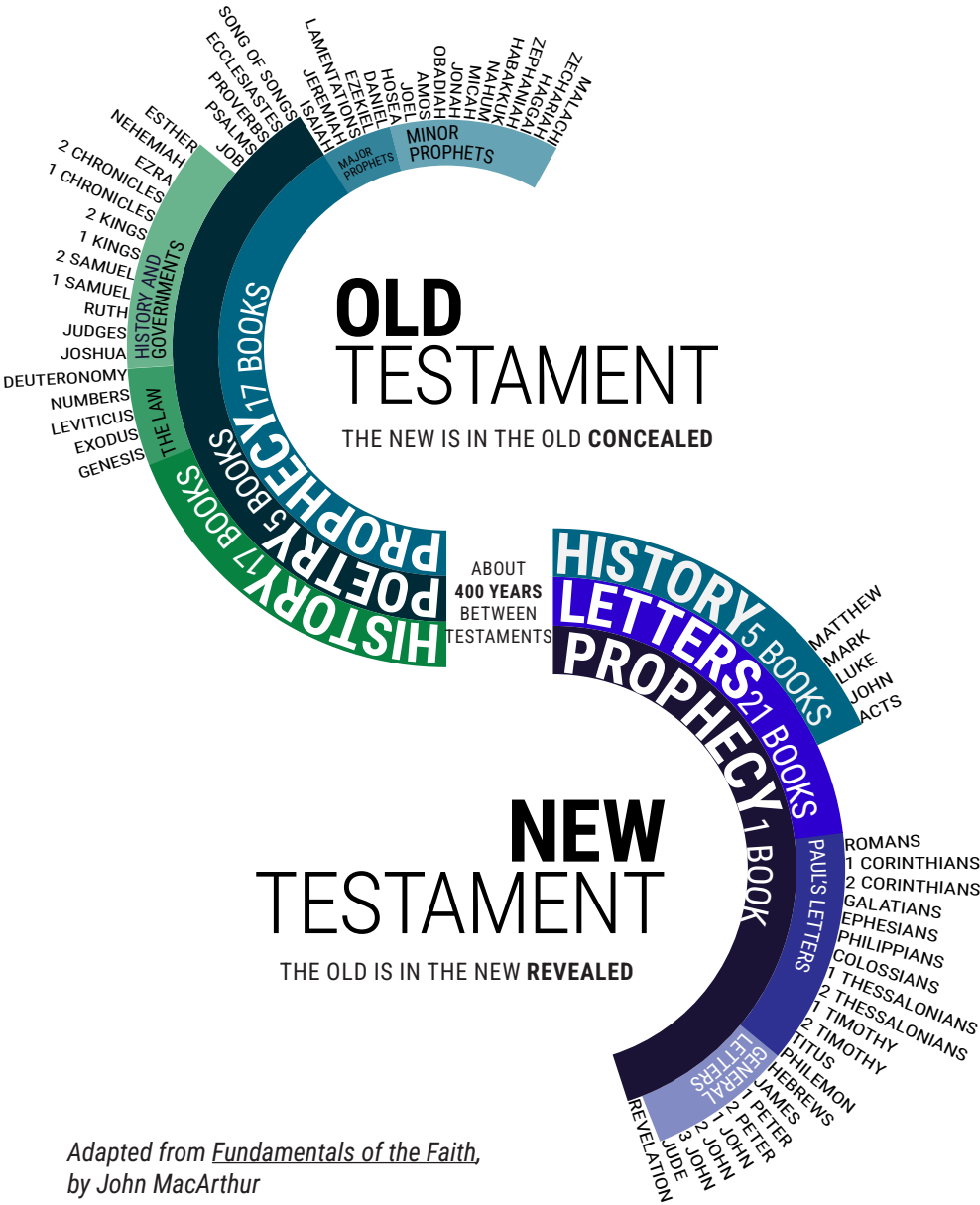
GOD

COMMUNICATING

WITH US

THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE

The Bible is really a library containing 66 books, written by more than 40 different authors, over a period of about 1,500 years (c. 1400 BC to 90 AD). Here's a big-picture look at how they fit together.



Adapted from *Fundamentals of the Faith*,
by John MacArthur



WATCH THE SESSION 3 VIDEO

Our teaching videos for this study can be found at bbcTRANSFORM.org/grow

The primary way that God communicates with us is through his Word, the Bible. He has revealed to us who he is, that he wants a relationship with us, and how he has made that relationship possible.

Use the chart on the previous page to complete the following statements:

When God chose a person through whom to communicate his Word, he used that person's perspective, vocabulary, and experience as his channel. This is how _____ books written by more than _____ authors spanning _____ years can be so different from each other in style and yet be completely non-contradictory and consistent in message.

There are _____ books in the Old Testament. **These books fall within 4 types of literature: Law, History, Poetry, and Prophecy.** It is helpful to know what kind of literature you are reading before you start.

There are _____ books in the New Testament, **consisting of 3 types of literature: History, Letters, and Prophecy.**



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find biblical answers to the questions below.

What did Jesus believe about the Bible?

John 17:17 "Your word is _____."

Who is the real author of the Bible?

2 Timothy 3:16a "All scripture is _____."

Why was the Bible written?

2 Timothy 3:16b-17 "...and profitable for teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for training in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
_____ for every good work."

Why is it important to understand the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament?

The Bible is like a mystery novel: it is a book of progressive revelation. Themes are being developed in Scripture that are more fully and clearly revealed toward the end than at the beginning. We must understand Old Testament prophecy and characters in light of the New Testament commentary on them. And we can better understand the New Testament concepts and characters with the Old Testament background for them.



TALK IT OVER

What is the meaning of the statements on the chart,
"The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed"?



FOUR WAYS TO INTERACT WITH THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find biblical answers to the questions below.

1. HEAR & DO - Read James 1:19-25

In what ways is the Bible like a mirror? Verses 22-25.

What attitude should we have when reading the Bible? Verses 19-22

2. **STUDY** - *Read Acts 17:11*

How should we study the Word? (Read Proverbs 2:1-5)

What should be our goal in studying the Bible? (Read 2 Timothy 2:15)

3. **MEMORIZE** - *Read Psalm 119:9,11*

What does God want us to do with his Word? (Read Deuteronomy 11:18)

In Colossians 3:16 Paul says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."
What do you think that means?

Memorize Psalm 19:14 and make it your prayer as you study God's Word.

4. **MEDITATE** - *Read Psalm 1:1-3*

**Meditation is prayerful reflection
on the Bible as I ask myself:**

*What is God saying and
what should I do about it?*

What promises are made to the person who continually meditates on the Word of God? (Read Ps. 1:2-3 and Josh. 1:8)

Do you think meditating on God's Word can affect your speech and actions? How? (Read Luke 6:45)



**UNFORTUNATELY, TOO MUCH BIBLE STUDY BEGINS
WITH INTERPRETATION, AND FURTHERMORE,
IT USUALLY ENDS THERE.**



Howard G. Hendricks - *Living By the Book*

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD

Studying the Bible involves 3 main steps:

OBSERVATION, INTERPRETATION and APPLICATION.

Observation is simply answering the question

"What does the passage say?"

In other words, we must understand what the passage says before we have any hope of understanding what it means.

Interpretation is simply answering the question

"What does the passage mean?"

Interpretation cannot begin without first spending time in observation. Furthermore, Bible study isn't complete once we understand what the text means. We must also continue to the step of application.

Application is simply answering the question

"What does the passage mean for me?" or "What then should I do?"

We must start with **observation**, move to **interpretation**, and continue to **application** when we study the Word of God.

OBSERVATION asks *"What does the passage say?"*

Some key questions to ask are:

1. What is the main subject (doctrine, theme) and point?
2. What does the author emphasize, repeat, or stress?
3. What is the immediate context (surrounding verses or chapters)?
4. What do other Scriptures have to say on the theme or doctrine?

INTERPRETATION asks *"What does the passage mean?"*

Four Principles to Interpreting the Bible:

1. The Literal Principle

Scripture should be understood in its literal, normal, and natural sense. While the Bible does contain figures of speech and symbols, they were intended to convey literal truth.

2. The Historical Principle

Interpret Scripture in its historical context. We must ask what the text meant to the people to whom it was first written.

3. The Grammatical Principle

This requires that we understand the basic grammatical structure of each sentence. To whom do the pronouns refer? What is the tense of the main verb?

4. The Synthesis Principle

The Bible doesn't contradict itself. If we arrive at an interpretation of a passage that contradicts a truth taught elsewhere in the Bible, our interpretation cannot be correct. The Bible must be compared with itself to discover its full meaning. When doing this, be careful to interpret the vague in light of the clear.

**"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense,
seek no other sense, lest you create nonsense."**

APPLICATION asks *"What does this passage mean for me?"*

Application Questions:

1. Is there an example to follow?
2. Is there an error to avoid?
3. Is there a command to obey?
4. Is there a promise to believe?
5. How should this change my life? (Make the principle personal)



TRY IT OUT!

Test your ability to understand the Bible accurately!
Practice by studying a passage of Scripture using
Observation, Interpretation, and Application:

1. Read Philippians 4:13. Some athletes tattoo this verse on their bodies or write it on their shoes. How do many people use this verse?

2. Read Philippians 4:10-12. Using careful observation, what is the main point of these verses? What does the author repeat?

3. How does verse 13 relate to the main topic and point?

4. Expecting God to do something He hasn't promised to do can be dangerous. What danger is there in misunderstanding or misapplying verse 13?

5. How should I apply verse 13 in my life? Be specific!



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

You'll get the most out of this study when you put what you're learning into practice. Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience:

1. **Read Psalm 119 and notice the Psalmist's love for God's Word.**
2. **Make a commitment to read the Bible by trying each one of these Bible reading methods.**
 - ☐ Read one "chunk" continuously for _____ days
 - ☐ Read one smaller book of the Bible for one month
 - ☐ Read one Proverb per day (*ex: On August 22 read Prov. 22*)
 - ☐ Read OT passage in morning and NT passage in evening
 - ☐ Read through the Bible in one year (*about 3 chapters daily*)

HINT: There are hundreds of Bible reading plans and devotionals on the YouVersion Bible app!

Step	Learner Initials	Leader Initials	Date
Session 3 Completed	_____	_____	_____
Has a Bible Reading Plan	_____	_____	_____
Values Both Old and New Testaments	_____	_____	_____
Understands Significance of Context	_____	_____	_____

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SESSION 4:

KNOWING GOD



WATCH THE SESSION 4 VIDEO

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The task of growing as a Jesus follower and carrying out his mission requires God's help. Knowing God as Father, as Son, and as Holy Spirit is crucial to understanding ourselves and even life itself. *John 17:3*



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find biblical answers to the questions below.

Who is God?

There is one God revealed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is distinct from the others yet share the same essence, the same glory, the same power, and the same attributes. Three in one.

- (Matt. 28:19) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as distinct from each other share the same _____ with each other.
- (2 Corinthians 13:14) What three attributes of God are demonstrated within the trinity and extended to us?

The _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the _____ of God,
and the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Father?

The Father was revealed as God throughout the Old Testament. It is He who wills things to be, who initiates all the works of God, and ordains what shall come to pass. He is like the director of a play, unseen but in charge.

- (Isaiah 46:10) There is only _____ God and he declares what will happen. And _____ can stop his purpose.
- (1 Peter 5:7) I can be free from _____ because God is in control and he cares for me.

Who is the Son?

The Son of God was revealed as God throughout the New Testament. It is He who submits to the Father's will, executes all the works of God, and reveals the Father to all. He is like the main actor of a play, center stage.

- (Philippians 2:5-8) The Son was _____ but he humbled himself by being _____ to the Father to die for us.
- (Romans 8:37-39) In Christ I am a _____ who is securely _____ by God.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit was progressively revealed as God throughout the Bible. It is He who supports the Father's will being done, applies the work of God to our lives, and convicts us when we go wrong. He is like the tech director controlling the lights and sound for a play, essential to be able to experience it personally.

- (Acts 5:3-4) Who did Peter believe the Holy Spirit was? _____
- (John 14:16-17) I am not alone, the Spirit is my _____.

The director of a play determines what will happen, why it will happen, and has a powerful message to communicate. The main actor follows the plan that the director has set and through his actions and emotions helps the message to be understood. But the audience can only see the actor and hear his voice if the tech director reveals him, through music and lighting he helps us to personally experience the play.



TALK IT OVER

Discuss how the Trinity relates to the roles in a play. What are other ways you've tried to understand the Trinity. What is helpful? What isn't? How does each person of the Trinity help you personally? (Second bullet from each section above.)

SELF ASSESSMENT

Paul contrasts life by the flesh (our natural selves) and life by the Spirit in Galatians 5. Read verses 16-26 and check the areas you find in your life.

SIN

- ☐ Sexual immorality
- ☐ Impurity
- ☐ Lewdness
- ☐ Idolatry
- ☐ Witchcraft, magic, occult
(horoscopes, palm reading,
astrology, etc)
- ☐ Hatred
- ☐ Argumentative
- ☐ Jealousy
- ☐ Rage
- ☐ Selfishness
- ☐ Strife
- ☐ Heresies
- ☐ Envy
- ☐ Drunkenness
- ☐ Orgies

SPIRIT

- ☐ Love
- ☐ Joy
- ☐ Peace
- ☐ Patience
- ☐ Kindness
- ☐ Goodness
- ☐ Faithfulness
- ☐ Gentleness
- ☐ Self-control

SCORING

If you have 1 or more from the left column, welcome to the human race - you are sinful like the rest of us! Ask God to help you replace the sinful attributes with Spirit-filled attributes from the right column.

The Holy Spirit helps us flee temptation. (Galatians 5:16)

Christians are not exempt from temptation. **The Bible identifies 3 main sources of temptation:**

(Jeremiah 17:9) _____

(1 John 2:15-16) _____

(James 4:7) _____

Can I flee temptation alone?

(Romans 7:18) _____ ! Temptation is stronger than my will or desire.

There is _____ inside of my natural self that can defeat temptation.

Personal Application

1. What temptations are difficult for me to flee?

2. How do I successfully avoid giving into these temptations?

3. What attitudes/behaviors must I give up to become more Spirit-filled?
Complete this list:

"Feelings, attitudes, and actions that I struggle with..."

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

**Be aware of these personal areas of temptation.
When you face them, immediately ask for God's Spirit to help you!**



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

You'll get the most out of this study when you put what you're learning into practice. Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience:

1. **Find another Jesus follower who will be willing to hold you accountable.** Ask them to challenge you when they see sin in your life and also encourage you when they see the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc) in your life.
2. **As you pray and study the Bible, ask God to make you aware of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit within you.**

Step	Learner Initials	Leader Initials	Date
Session 4 Completed	_____	_____	_____
Can Describe The Trinity	_____	_____	_____
Open about Temptation	_____	_____	_____
Has Accountability	_____	_____	_____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



SESSION 5:

PURSUING GOD



WATCH THE SESSION 5 VIDEO

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Many people think of the “church” as a building with a steeple.
Others think of the “church” as a religious organization.
Some think of “church” as a weekly event.
The “church” is none of these things.

The “church” is the gathering of God’s people together.



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find biblical answers to the questions below.

Why is gathering together with the church regularly important?

- (Hebrews 10:24-25) God _____ it.
- (1 Corinthians 12:21,26) Other Christians _____ me as much as I _____ them!

*Being a Christian who never goes to church
is like being a father who never comes home.*

Read Acts 17:11

- Should I believe everything preached at face value? _____!
- How should I receive preaching of the word?
Attitude: _____
Action: _____

Next time you're at a worship gathering, try this:

- 1. Take personal _____ of the teaching/message.**
- 2. Go home and _____ the teaching with Scripture.**
- 3. Decide if the teaching is _____.**

If _____, then ask God to help you obey.

If _____, talk with the teacher and ask for an explanation!

COMMUNION (THE LORD'S SUPPER)

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and then answer the following questions.

What concerned Paul about the Lord's Supper in Corinth? (17-19)

Was communion originally part of a meal? (20-22) _____

What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper? (23-26)

How important is the Lord's Supper to God? (27-32)

Who should take communion together? (33-34)



TALK IT OVER

How does sharing a meal at Connect Group more closely resemble the Lord's Supper of the early church as compared to a monthly Lord's Supper at a worship gathering?

COMMUNICATION

Why is it wrong to talk about people behind their back (gossip)?

(Read Proverbs 11:13, 26:20; Ephesians 4:29; James 3:6)

How do I lovingly confront someone who sins against me?

(Read Matthew 18:15-20 & Galatians 6:1-2)

1. Go one-on-one to the person and explain the offense.

- If the person listens, your relationship can be restored!
- If the person rejects, proceed to step 2...

2. Bring one or two others to the person and explain the offense.

- If the person listens, your relationship can be restored!
- If the person rejects, proceed to step 3

3. Take the matter to church leadership (elders/pastors)

- If the person listens, your relationship can be restored!
- If the person rejects, view them as an unbeliever and treat them that way.

Biblical confrontation is always about _____ .

How quickly should we seek reconciliation? (Matthew 5:23-24)

How do I live in healthy relationships? Match the phrase to its verse.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. ____ Choose to love even the unlovable | a. John 17:23 |
| 2. ____ Put the interests of others before myself | b. Romans 12:10 |
| 3. ____ Compliment others on their success | c. Romans 12:16 |
| 4. ____ Encourage those who are discouraged | d. Romans 15:7 |
| 5. ____ Seek unity with fellow Christians | e. Galatians 6:2 |
| 6. ____ Worship unselfishly
(not demanding my preferences) | f. Ephesians 4:15 |
| 7. ____ Speak the truth in love, even if it hurts | g. Philippians 2:3 |
| 8. ____ Help others carry their burdens | h. Philippians 2:4 |
| 9. ____ Forgive freely and often, as Christ
forgives me | i. Colossians 3:13 |
| 10. ____ Welcome others | j. Hebrews 3:13 |



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience:

1. **Look over the healthy relationships checklist and choose one area where you need to grow or one person with whom you need to resolve an issue.** Write specifically what you will do:

2. **Life is better connected!** God designed us for relationships with others and him. The best environment for cultivating these relationships at Berean is in a Connect Group.

For more information and to find a group near you, go to:

bbctransform.org/groups



SESSION 6:

LIVING GOD'S GOOD NEWS



WATCH THE SESSION 6 VIDEO

Our teaching videos for this study can be found at bbcTRANSFORM.org/grow

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

The blessings of following Jesus aren't meant only for us. We have a significant purpose to fulfill on this earth. We have good news, good gifts, and a good God to share with the world!



EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Use a Bible or Bible app to find biblical answers to the questions below.

CREATION • FALL • REDEMPTION • RESTORATION

CREATION - GOD'S PERFECT PLAN: How are things meant to be?

God describes his original creation as _____.
(Genesis 1:4,10,12,18,21,25,31)

God's ultimate **purpose** in creation was _____.
(Colossians 1:16)

Because mankind is God's image (Genesis 1:27) and we belong to Him (Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 43:1), what is mankind's purpose on this earth?

As the creator, **everything** belongs to God (Psalm 24:1-2). List a few examples of things that this would include.

FALL - BREAKING GOD'S DESIGN: What went wrong?

How did Adam and Eve disobey God's command? (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:6)

Because of their rebellion in the garden:

- (Romans 5:12) _____ and _____ entered the world.
- (Romans 8:20-22) All _____ is groaning under the curse.
- (Genesis 3:16-19) Suffering became a part of childbearing, relationships, and _____ .
- (Isaiah 59:2) Man is now _____ from God.

REDEMPTION - GOD'S RESCUE MISSION: What about sin and suffering?

Jesus' death on the cross provides victory over:

- (Genesis 3:16) _____ .
- (1 Corinthians 15:55-57) _____ and _____ .
- (Galatians 3:13) The consequences of the _____ for us and for all _____ (Romans 8:21).
- (Romans 5:9-11) Our broken _____ with God.

RESTORATION - ALL THINGS MADE NEW: What is still to come?

One day everything will be restored to the way it was in the beginning (Acts 3:21).

The victory Jesus provided will be complete. What will happen to:

- Satan (Revelation 20:10): _____
- Separation from God (Revelation 21:3): _____
- Sin and Death (Revelation 21:4): _____
- The Curse (Revelation 22:3): _____



TALK IT OVER

Discuss how Creation and Fall helps to makes sense of the suffering we experience in the world today.

How does God's Redemption and Restoration encourage us to live differently each and every day?

STEWARDSHIP

Since everything belongs to God, he has rescued us from destruction, and he is making all things new again, how should we respond? (Romans 12:1)

Would giving our bodies include giving our time? _____ .

Would giving our bodies include giving our talent? _____ .

Would giving our bodies include giving our treasure? _____ .

How does living for the coming world instead of for today set us free from uncertainty and allow us to experience true life? (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

What treasure can't we take into the new creation? _____ .

What treasure will we take into the new creation? _____ .

What do you have that wasn't a gift? (John 3:27 and Deuteronomy 10:14)

Giving of our TIME

Does God require me to be time conscious? Why?
(Psalm 90:12 and Ephesians 5:15-17)

Why should I not assume that I will live till tomorrow? (James 4:13-15)

Giving of our TALENT

Why did God give me certain skills & abilities? (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

How am I serving God now in a way that uses a special skill or ability (at home, church, organization, or community)?

Continue to go through the Growth Process, because in 301 we will explore how God has specifically gifted you and discover how you can use those gifts for His glory!

Giving of our TREASURE

Does God want me to work hard and provide for my family? (Proverbs 6:6-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 1 Timothy 5:8)

Why is it wrong to love money? (Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1 Timothy 6:10; Hebrews 13:5)

Does God desire that we give back to Him? What does he promise? (Proverbs 3:9-10 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

Does God desire a percentage of my income? (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

GOD'S KINGDOM COME ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

If God is **CREATOR** what does that say about my possessions?

If I am **FALLEN** what does that say about my desires?

If I have been **REDEEMED** what can I do to express my gratitude?

If all is being **RESTORED** how can I help bring the kingdom to today?

The blessings of following Jesus aren't meant for us only.
We have a significant purpose to fulfill on this earth.
We have good news, good gifts, and a good God
And the world desperately needs to hear the news!
God has made you, equipped you, and blessed you.
Be a part of God's work being done here on the earth.



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEPS

Use these tips to start taking steps of obedience:

The Giving Journey.

Take a moment to assess where you are on the giving journey (for your time, talent, and treasure). Then pray to God about whether He would like you to move to the next step.

1. **Emerging Giver.** Someone who has never given to God before but is willing to take that next step.
2. **Occasional Giver.** Someone who gives to the Kingdom of God, but doesn't have an intentional plan for regular giving.
3. **Consistent Giver.** Someone who has chosen to make giving to the Kingdom of God a consistent part of their life.
4. **Sacrificial Giver.** Someone who chooses to give to God their first and best and arranges the rest of their life around what remains.
5. **Legacy Giver.** Someone who orients their entire life around discovering how much they can give to the Kingdom of God.

Step	Learner Initials	Leader Initials	Date
Session 6 Completed	_____	_____	_____
Understands God's Story	_____	_____	_____
Time, Talents, Treasure	_____	_____	_____
Knows Where they are in the Giving Journey	_____	_____	_____

[illegible]



Congratulations on completing 101—GROW!

Dear Learner:

Whether you've been following Jesus for years or are just getting to know him, it is our hope that you found this study helpful. We would love to hear about your experience with this step of the Growth Process and any feedback you have. You can send your thoughts and experience to growthprocess@bbctransform.org.

May God bless you as you continue your journey as a follower of Jesus!

1. **Research about other spiritual disciplines such as solitude, meditation, service, etc.** Some good online resources include biblegateway.com and blueletterbible.org.
2. **Take advantage of your free access to RightNow Media.** Login to this Netflix-style library of Bible study resources for all ages at bbctransform.org/rightnow.
3. **Consider being obedient to the biblical command to be baptized.** We love to celebrate baptisms! For more information about baptism at Berean or to request an opportunity to be baptized, visit bbctransform.org/baptism.
4. **Let us know that you have completed 101—GROW.** Then take your next step in the growth process with 201 - SHARE or 301 - SERVE.

Dear Leader:

Thank you for investing your time into helping make more and better Jesus followers! We'd like to ask you to wrap up your study with 2 final steps:

1. **Take a picture with your 101 graduate(s) and their book.**
2. **We'd love to hear your feedback about this study.**

Please send an email with the picture of your 101 graduate(s) to info@bbctransform.org.



APPENDIX 1:

ANSWER KEY

SESSION 1 RECEIVING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

PAGE 2

Romans 3:23 **All** have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as **sin** came into the world through one man (Adam), and **death** through **sin**, so **death** spread to all men because all **sinned**.

Romans 5:19 For as by the one man's **disobedience** the many were made sinners, so by the one man's **obedience** the many will be made righteous.

PAGE 6

Matthew 3:13-17 Jesus set an **example** for me by being **baptized**.

Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus **commanded** his followers to **baptize** others.

Romans 6:3-4 Our death and resurrection with Christ.
Colossians 2:12

PAGE 7

Acts 9:18-19 **Instantly, before eating**

Acts 10:43-48 **When they received the Holy Spirit**

Acts 16:33 **Immediately, in the middle of the night**

SESSION 2 COMMUNICATING WITH GOD

PAGE 10

Go to God in Jesus' name. He is the **only** way to the **Father**.

Go with a clean **heart**.

PAGE 10 (CONTINUED)

When praying, **forgive** others.

Believe God will answer.

PAGE 11

To **glorify** God.

Because **Jesus** prayed and he is our **example**.

Because God **commands** it.

To communicate with God in order to have a **relationship** with him.

Pray at **all** times.

Pray to God every **day**.

Unconfessed sin. (Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:13; Isa. 59:1-2)

Ignoring the needs of others. (Proverbs 21:13)

Doubt. (James 1:6-7)

Not **asking**. (James 4:2)

Wrong **motives**. (James 4:3, Matthew 6:5-6)

Redundant prayers. (Matthew 6:7-8)

Unforgiveness. (Matthew 6:12-15)

Disrespect in marriage. (1 Peter 3:7)

PAGE 12

Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication

Fasting is typically done in conjunction with **prayer**.

Fasting is often done during a time of **mourning**.

In times of severe **stress**, it is wise to humble

yourself before God in a time of prayer and fasting.

When **beginning** a new work for the Lord, fasting can help you discern God's will.

don't fast to draw attention to **ourselves**.

SESSION 3 GOD COMMUNICATING WITH US

PAGE 17

This is how **66** books written by more than **40** authors spanning **1500** years can be so different from each other in style and yet be completely non-contradictory and consistent in message.

There are **39** books in the Old Testament.

There are **27** books in the New Testament.

John 17:17 “Your word is **truth**.”

2 Timothy 3:16a “All scripture is **God-breathed**...

PAGE 18

2 Timothy 3:16-17b “...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, **equipped** for every good work.”

SESSION 4 KNOWING GOD

PAGE 26

(Matt. 28:19) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as distinct from each other share the same **name** with each other.

(2 Corinthians 13:14) The **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ, the **love** of God, and the **fellowship** of the Holy Spirit.

PAGE 27

(Isaiah 46:10) There is only **one** God and he declares what will happen. And **nothing** can stop his purpose.

(1 Peter 5:7) I can be free from **anxiety** because God is in control and he cares for me.

PAGE 27 (CONT'D)

(Philippians 2:5-8) The Son was **God** but he humbled himself by being **obedient** to the Father to die for us.

(Romans 8:37-39) In Christ I am a **victor** who is securely **loved** by God.

PAGE 28

(Acts 5:3-4) Who did Peter believe the Holy Spirit was? **God**.

(John 14:16-17) I am not alone, the Spirit is my **Helper**.

PAGE 29

(Jeremiah 17:9) **Myself**

(1 John 2:15-16) **The World**

(James 4:7) **Satan**

PAGE 30

(Romans 7:18) **No!** Temptation is stronger than my will or desire. There is **nothing** inside of my natural self that can defeat temptation.

SESSION 5 PURSUING GOD

PAGE 34

(Hebrews 10:24-25) God **commands** it.

(1 Corinthians 12:21,26) Other Christians **need** me as much as I **need** them!

(Acts 17:11) **No!**

Attitude: **Eagerly**

Action: **Study**

PAGE 35

1. Take personal **notes** of the teaching/message
2. Go home and **compare** the teaching with Scripture.
3. Decide if the teaching is **true**.

 If **true**, then ask God to help you obey.

 If **false**, talk with the teacher and ask for an explanation!

PAGE 36

Biblical confrontation is always about **reconciliation**.

How quickly should we seek reconciliation? (Matt. 5:23-24) **Immediately**.

PAGE 37

1c. 2h. 3b. 4j. 5a. 6g. 7f. 8e. 9i. 10d.

SESSION 6 LIVING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

PAGE 40

God describes his original creation as **(very) good**. (Genesis 1:4-31)

God's ultimate purpose in creation was **for his glory**. (Colossians 1:16)

PAGE 41

Because of their rebellion in the garden:

- (Romans 5:12) **sin** and **death** entered the world.
- (Romans 8:20-22) All **creation** is groaning under the curse.
- (Genesis 3:16-19) Suffering became a part of childbearing, relationships, and **work**.
- (Isaiah 59:2) Man is now **separated** from God.

Jesus' death on the cross provides victory over:

- (Genesis 3:16) **Satan**.
- (1 Corinthians 15:55-57) **sin** and **death**.
- (Galatians 3:13) The consequences of the **curse** for us and for all **creation** (Romans 8:21).
- (Romans 5:9-11) Our broken **relationship** with God.

PAGE 42

The victory Jesus provided will be complete. What will happen to:

- Satan (Revelation 20:10): **Cast into the lake of fire forever!**
- Separation from God (Revelation 21:3): **We will live with God forever!**
- Sin and Death (Revelation 21:4): **There will be no more sin or death!**
- The Curse (Revelation 22:3): **No longer be a curse on anything!**

Would giving our bodies include giving our time? **Yes**

Would giving our bodies include giving our talent? **Yes**

Would giving our bodies include giving our treasure? **Yes**

PAGE 43

What treasure can't we take into the new creation? **Possessions**

What treasure will we take into the new creation? **People**

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