

Devoted Disciple

Series 2: Discipleship
Good New Life

10 Daily Scripture Passages
Mark 1- John 10
Personal Time,
Paired Discussion,
Participating in Fellowship

Series 2. Discipleship:

Booklet 1. Good New Life

Mark 1- John 10

Overview:

In the Gospel of Jesus Christ (that is, Mashiach), God promises to give Good, New Life to all who would come to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Redeemer. So, to be a Disciple is to live faithfully with this long-promised Chosen One, Mashiach, enjoying a New Life from God which is spiritual, Kingdom-safe, and nurtured in the very family of God. For, Mashiach delivers His disciples into a new Spiritual Reality, an eternal life which secures them in righteous relationship with God as their Father, into an inheritance with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Firstborn of a family of Sons and Heirs. Disciples still live in this troubling world, but their Forever Life secures them in an eternal family and good future as the disciples of Jesus Mashiach.

Devoted to the Lord:

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ Mark 12:30.

As Jesus instructed us, we are to *love the Lord our God* with all that we have, with all our lives. In the Bible, such love is a *giving* love, to present to him all of who you are... heart, soul, mind, and strength. Importantly, we give, that is, *devote* ourselves to him every day. Why? Because it is too easy to lose focus and give ourselves to unworthy things. We give ourselves up to the *flesh*, to live merely in satisfying our own desires. To the world and its agendas and anxieties, following its own purposes. And, even to things such as career, ambition, or greed.

To keep your faith focused on God and your love given faithfully to Him, have regular *devotional times* with the Lord. Every day, in the morning or some other good time, commit to meeting with the Lord in *devotion*. This booklet helps you go through keep Bible passages to hear from God and share with your friends, family, and fellowship groups. Start here!

Devote yourself to the Lord God: At the start of every devotional, use the Checklist below to Devote All of who you are to the Lord! Position yourself to hear the Word from Him in *faith*. *Do you have a...*



- Do I want to humble myself under the Lord God by faith?
- Will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?

Prayer of Devotion: Lord God, I devote myself to you today: In soul—humbling myself under your Lordship; In mind—to know you and your Word by *faith*; In heart—to love Jesus and the Father to do your will; and in soul—to give my life to you as a living sacrifice! Please teach me now by your Holy Spirit, that I might be live out your holy Word! In Jesus name, Amen

☐1. Alive in Jesus Christ: God's Good New Life

Read Mark 1:1-15

How can I have the Gospel's Good New Life in Jesus Christ?

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" **Mark 1:1-3**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Why is God's promised Good New Life (Gospel) found only in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

QA. How must we prepare ourselves to live with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. What does God promise me in the Gospel? (Mark 1:1-3)

1.New Life in Jesus Christ, the Son of God: God announces to you a *good new life* which is spiritual and not tied to your old human experiences in this world! And, this *good new life* is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (1:1). If you *have* Jesus Christ, you have this new life (1 Jn. 5:11-12). Without Jesus, there is no new life from God.

Q2. How can I have this New Life in Jesus Christ? (1:2-8)

2. Rejecting Sin's Death-debt to Receive Rebirth: Good, New Life is yours if you are willing to let go of your *old life* to experience a *new life* in Jesus Christ. In this New Life, you no longer live as an isolated, vulnerable individual. Rather, prepare to live under the protection and blessing of Jesus as your *Lord* (1:2). No longer hiding the *Sin* that enslaves you to *death* (Eph. 2:1), be honest and *repent, confess and reject this sin* (1:4-5). And, get ready for a *new spiritual rebirth* by the Holy Spirit (1:8)!

Q3. How can I live my *new life* in a new spiritual reality? (1:9-15)

3. Believe in Jesus Christ to join His Kingdom! As God himself testifies, Jesus is His own "Son," the Spirit- chosen "Christ," that is, *Messiah*, to bring you into the *Kingdom of God* (1:10-11). So, by *believing*—trusting and *entrusting* yourself to Jesus Christ, He gives you His Spirit-born *life* to live in a new spiritual reality, the *Kingdom of God* (1:15). In this Kingdom, you are *covered* and *protected* by the Lord of the Kingdom, Jesus. Living by *faith* in Jesus Christ means to *humble yourself* under His Lordship, giving up on your old life with your *Self* as your false *god and lord*.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How can I have the Gospel's Good New Life in Jesus Christ?

2.1. Good New Life in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mk. 1:1-15):

God's promise to you of *good new life* is found only in Jesus, for only Jesus is God's Spirit-chosen "Christ" (1:10-11; Is. 61:1-4) sent to *redeem* you, to replace your sin-debt to death with a re-born spiritual life in God's family and Kingdom. God chose Jesus as His *Christ* because only Jesus has the power of His person to redeem you from death to life.

Jesus alone is *the Son of God* (1:1), the firstborn *Son* of the Father who has the right to bring many *reborn* children into the family of God and His name (John 1:12-13). As the *Son of God* (Mk. 1:11; Mt. 1:18), only Jesus has the *infinite life* to ransom your life on His *cross* of redemption (Mk. 10:45; Rom. 3:23-25).

And, only Jesus, *the Son of Man* (2:10), the firstborn Heir of all humanity, has the *human life* to *suffer, be killed* on the cross, then to *rise again* to redeem you to new life (8:31).

Notes: Repentance and Belief¹: Many mistakenly think that God only offers them an *improved old life* of earth. But, they do not realize that *sin* has ruined with spiritual death our earthly, old life of the flesh (Rom. 6:23; 8:6-8). So, to cling to this *fleshly life* and be unwilling to repent, to reject its sinful ways, makes it impossible for you to have a new, *eternal life*.

For, the *flesh* will always be *hostile* to God and His *Lordship*. The flesh insists on being the *ruler* of life and its only self-important *god*. So, you can only have *faith*—trusting and entrusting yourself to Jesus Christ as your *saving Lord*—if you abandon the *flesh* as your Lord by rejecting as *sin* its unrighteous ways. If you are honest with yourself and confess your sins, Jesus Christ will forgive you (1 John 1:9). But, you must *repent*—*reject the flesh and its Self-Rule*.

¹ **Gospel: Spiritual Life:** The Gospel is the "good message" (Greek: *euangelion*)—the "good" or life-giving message God promises you. In the *Gospel*, God introduces you to the only person to give you this *good new life*, His Son Jesus Christ. No knowledge, ritual, rule can give you *God's good new life*, for *spiritual life* in God's heavenly family comes only from the Son of God, who is of God's spiritual nature (Heb. 1:1-3) and the Firstborn Son of God's family.

□2. Following the Lord: Humbled Obedience

Read Mark 1:16-45.

How do I follow Jesus Christ as my Lord?

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. **Mark 1:16-18**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. Why is Jesus Mashiach rightfully called "Lord"?

QA: How can we *follow* Jesus Christ as our Lord? How do we respond to His authority and Word of Command?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How do the disciples respond to Jesus's call to *follow*? (Mk. 1:16-20)

1.Life Direction: following the Call of Jesus for your Life: When Jesus calls you to follow him, as he did these fishermen, he calls you to a new life in Him. These men *were* defined by the world as *fishermen*, but Jesus promises to *make* them *become* something more, to be *fishers of men* (17). In this way, Jesus has the rightful authority to call you into an entirely new *life*. Defined not by worldly work but by your *Lord's* call to have a *kingdom impact* to bring others into the Lord's *new life!*

Q2. How will Lord change my life by His commanding power? (1:23-34).

2. Commanding Voice: Healing and Cleansing. God gives you a *new life in Jesus that is good*, that is spiritually full and alive (Jn. 10:10). So, the Lord Jesus will use His commanding authority and Word to *cleanse* you of your old life's *spiritual uncleanness* and *brokenness*. Submit your life to the *commanding* Word and Will of Jesus to uncover *unclean* areas of life to be changed. Like the man with the *unclean spirit* (1:23), be cleansed of *spiritual uncleanness* (26). The Lord touches you to serve Him! (31).

Q3. How does Jesus live under authority? Should we do the same? (1:35-45)

3. Submitting to Commanding Will: Father to Son. Like children submitting to our Father, we submit to the Lord's *commanding will* for our lives. Even Jesus, as the Son of God, *prayed* and submitted to His Father's Will and direction (1:35, 38; Jn. 5:19-20). So, we offer our whole lives to the Lord to accomplish His will (Rom. 12:1-2). Like the *leper*, we entrust our lives and our future well-being to the Lord's good *will* (1:40).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How do I follow Jesus Christ as my Lord?

2.2. Preparing for Powerful Person (1:3, 17): God knows that in our old life of fleshly living, we are a people unprepared to follow Jesus Christ as *Lord*. So, God calls to us, “Prepare the way of the Lord” (1:3). We need to prepare our lives to that Jesus can have His way in us as our *Lord*. Of course, you have the choice to resist the commands of the Lord, but you will find your life falling to chaos and ruin (Mt. 7:27). In the end, what *right* will you have before Jesus Christ to claim him as your *Lord* if you refused to obey him? (Lk. 6:46; Mt. 7:22-23).

When the *first disciples* heard the *commanding call* of Jesus, “Follow me” (1:17), they responded to His authority with their whole lives. They gave their hearts to Jesus so followed *immediately* (18); their livelihood to Jesus, leaving *their nets*; and, their family relationships to leave *their father* to follow (20). Will you follow?

Notes: Commanding Voice² (1:27) Do not treat Jesus as a normal, human teacher. Jesus Christ has the *authority* from God to command not just the visible things of earth but the unseen things of the *spiritual* reality.

Often, the spiritual reality affects our lives on earth in ways which we cannot know except by faith. So, this *synagogue attender* mingled among the worshipping crowds, but he actually had a demon, an *unclean spirit* (26).

Only Jesus, by the *Word* of His Command, *rebuked* this unclean spirit. So, open your life to Jesus to be cleansed of not just worldly habits of the flesh but also the *spiritual uncleanness* that remains hidden!

² **Lord of Heaven and Earth:** The *authority* of Jesus Christ rests in His God-appointed **position** at the highest place of rulership. Jesus has the *right* to rule over the Heavens and the Earth as their Heir, for He is the Son of God (over heaven) and the Son of Man (over earth) (Col. 1:15-20). And, He has the *realistic claim* to rule, having put down every spiritual opposition by the victory of His cross (Col. 2:15; Mt. 28:18-20). So, Jesus not only has the *position* to rule but the unlimited **power** to carry out His Father’s Will and make His will a reality. Those who submit to His Lordship now prove to be His disciples.

□3. Redeemed by Son: the Son of David, the Son of God.

Read Matthew 1:1-25.

How will God redeem my life through Jesus Christ, my Redeemer?

21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). **Matthew 1.21-23**

Discover: What is God’s Word saying to you?

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2.Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How did God raise up Jesus as Christ (Mashiach) to be our Family Redeemer? What does he do for us as our Family Redeemer?

QA: How does Jesus Mashiach make us eternally safe with God?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. Why did God promise us a Messiah? (Mt. 1:1-17, Jer. 23:6).

1. Family Redeemer: meets family's needs: From the very beginning (Gen. 3:15), God has promised a chosen Son to *redeem* us, that is, to bring us back home to God as our Father. This *Chosen Son*, that is, Messiah or Christ, would come from the family of Abraham. This Messiah would *multiply* Abraham's family like the stars (Gen. 15:5). Messiah would be *punished* for sins (2 Sam. 7:14) to gather us into God's *household* (7:13) under the *forever rule* of Messiah's Kingdom (7:16). And, this Messiah would be *our righteousness* to stand blameless before God (Jer. 23:6).

Q2. Why was the Christ the Son of David? (1:18-21; 2 Sam. 7:12-16)

2. Saves from Sin: the Son of David redeems from sin. Sin keeps you and all of us out of God's eternal family. So, God promised David that Messiah, his chosen Son, would be *punished for sin* (2 Sam 7:14) so that he could redeem a forgiven family to endure forever (16). As part of God's forever family, Jesus "saves you" from your "sins"! (1:21).

Q3. Why was Christ the Son of God? (1:22-25; 2 Sam. 7:14; Ps. 49:7-9)

3.Ransoms and Rules: the Son of God ransoms sins to rule a Kingdom. As the Son of David, the Messiah suffers for your sins that you might be forgiven in God's eternal family. But, Messiah is also the Son of God, for only God has the *infinite life* needed to pay the *ransom* for your sins (Ps. 49:7-9; Is. 53:10). So, Messiah redeems you back to God's family because He alone is the Son of David and the Son of God!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will God redeem my life through Jesus Christ, my Redeemer?

2.3. Redeeming to Rule a House (1:23; Phil. 2:6-11): When our human family became *orphaned* from God due to our sin, the Lord promised us a chosen Son, Messiah, to bring us back home. God raises up one of our *family members*, from the line of Abraham, the family of David, to *redeem* us home (Mt. 1:1)!

You have lived your life orphaned from God, but now Jesus, God's chosen Messiah, has redeemed you home. Give up your old life as a stranger, shut out of God's family household. You belong home, and God's Son, Jesus, has won your redemption!

As Jesus, the Son of David, Messiah *saves you* of your *sins* by bearing and dying for your sins on His cross, only to rise again (Phil. 2:8). As Immanuel, the Son of God, Messiah draws near to you to pay your ransom to free you for God's family (Heb. 1:3).

Redeeming us, Jesus Messiah will soon *rule an eternal kingdom with us!* (Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 5:9-10).

Notes: Redemption³ (Mt. 1:21-23; Zech. 2:5). Redemption is the story of your homecoming. When we were children held hostage in Satan's dark kingdom, our *beloved Redeemer* rescued us home to the safety of our Father's Kingdom (Col. 1:13-14).

Never think that your redemption is anything less than a complete *rescue*. That you are *forgiven* to live a lawless life. Or, that you can now sin freely. Or, escaping hell, that you can continue to live *isolated and orphaned* in the world. Redemption that keeps you in sin, enslavement to darkness, or under Satan's power is not true redemption.

Rather, redemption is a *reversal*. Messiah brings your Father's embrace near as Immanuel (Mt. 1:23), so come home to His family. Freed of sin. Forgiven of its debt. Faithfully serving God.

³ **Messiah: Kinsman-Redeemer:** (2 Samuel 7:12-14). According to Jewish Laws of *duty*, God promised to *raise up* Messiah as both the Son of David (7:12) and the Son of God (7:14). For, only the Son of David could *bear the punishment of sin* and only the Son of God could *pay the ransom for sins* (7:14). So, the Holy Spirit used material from David's body (7:12, Ps. 56:8) to raise up Jesus to be both the Son of David and the Son of God, the only person as the Messiah, our Kinsman-Redeemer.

□4. Resting in Shepherd: Rejoicing or Resisting

Read Matthew 2

How will you respond to the Rule of Jesus Christ as your Shepherd?

5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" **Matthew 2:5-6**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. How will Jesus Mashiach help us as our God-appointed Shepherd?

QA: How can we rejoice and rest in the Rule of Jesus Mashiach as our Shepherd? What happens if we resist His Rule?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How will Jesus rule over His people? (Mt. 2:1-6)

1. Ruling Shepherd: In this threatening world, God promises Jesus as His Messiah to rule His people protectively as their King (2). But, Jesus rules protectively as your *shepherd* (6) for your good. To feed you on His Word of *knowledge and understanding* (Jer. 3:15); to *restore your soul* in the paths of *righteousness* (Ps. 23:3); to *lead you* and *calm you* with His *rest* (23:1).

Q2. How do hypocrites *resist* His *restful rule*? (2:7-10).

2. Resisting His Rule: The *wise men* searched for the newly born Messiah to *worship* him (2:2) because they worshipped with *integrity*—their hearts, words, and actions humbly honored the promised King. However, Herod's *heart was troubled* (2:3) because His proud Self-Rule would bow before the Messiah, though his *words* deceitfully promised a desire to worship. In this way, you can only honor Jesus as your Lord if your *heart* is humbled before Him, having abandoned your own Self-Rule. Hypocritical worshippers will eventually reveal their unbowed hearts as wicked (2:16).

Q3. Why did the wise men respond joyfully to Messiah? (2:9-12).

3. Rejoicing in Shepherd's Rule: The hearts of the *wise men* were filled with *great joy* rather than *trouble* at the thought of the Ruling Messiah (2:10). Rather than *competing* with Messiah for Lordship, these men humbled themselves under the Shepherd's care to *worship Him* (11), so they *bowed before him* and *honored him with sacrificial gifts*. So, humbling your heart to offer yourself to Jesus brings you joyfully under His Shepherd's care and peace.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will you respond to the Rule of Jesus Christ as your Shepherd?

Resting in Shepherd's Rule: Herod *the king* was troubled when he heard that God's appointed King, the Messiah, was born (2:2). This same *trouble* will unsettle all who hold on to their own *Self-Rule* while still seeking Jesus for salvation.

What a miserable predicament for Herod. Publicly, he claimed that he too wanted to *worship* this God-chosen King. But, unwilling to yield his heart to this Ruling Shepherd (2:6), Herod's fear would turn to fury (2:16), for there can only be one King, and Jesus Messiah tolerates no rival.

If you are seeking *salvation* in Jesus yet, like Herod, have not bowed your heart to its *rightful King and Shepherd*, your troubled heart will also rage *furiously* (16) as you resist the inevitable *rule* of God's King, Jesus Christ. Instead, be *wise* like the worshippers from the *east*. Bow down, *heart first*, before your rightful Lord and Shepherd. Offer your life and gifts for his Kingdom service (11). Then, you will know the Shepherd's *exceeding joy* (11) and *rest* (Ps. 23:1-3).

Notes: Shepherding Lord⁴. God appoints Jesus Christ as *Lord*, the ruler who has the unlimited and highest authority of God himself (Phil. 2:9-11). Jesus Christ does not use this *authority* like a Herodian tyrant. Rather, He is the Lord who comes to *shepherd* the people of God (Mt. 2:6). As a *Shepherd Lord*, Jesus sees His *rights* over the sheep as a *responsibility* to do good to His sheep, giving them "life...abundantly" (Jn. 10:10). Even *laying down His life* to protect His sheep, giving them life (10:15). Ruling your own life as *Self-Lord* enslaves you hopelessly under Satan's rule (2 Tim. 2:26). Bowing your *heart* before your *Shepherd and Lord* brings you into the Shepherd's *rest and His exceeding joy* (Mt. 2:10-11).

⁴ **Good Lordship:** As the heavens rule over *earthly time* (Gen. 1:18), the heavenly, spiritual reality rules over earth. So, our human family was never meant to be *lawless* but humbly covered under the *Lord God* and His *commands* (Gen. 2:17). But, when our first parents sinned and were enslaved to Satan and His dark Lordship. So, the *salvation* of Jesus Christ transfers you from a dark *rule* to a *loving rule* (Col. 1:13). Isolated, lawless *Self-Rule* keeps you in Satan's dark rule. Only the Good Shepherd frees you (Jn. 8:31-32).

☐5. Fruitful Life by Spirit: Preparing to Repent

Read Luke 3:1-21

How does Fruitful Repentance prepare me for the Lord and His Way?

3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. **Luke 3:3-4, 8a**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q. What is the fleshly way of life which I need to repent of to have new life in Jesus Christ?

QA: How can we change our hearts to submit to the Lord in obedience? How will such submission and obedience release the Spirit's power in our lives?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How can I repent of my fleshly sin to prepare for the Lord? (Lk. 3:2-6)

1. Preparing Flesh for Saving Sanctification: We are all *unsaved* in the flesh without Jesus (Lk. 3:6) because our *earthly life* is Godless (Rom. 1:18) and *dead in sin* (Eph. 2:1-2). If you want Jesus to *save your flesh*, to stop it from killing you spiritually (Rom. 8:6), then *repent*. Reject this fleshly death so that the Lord save you and start cleansing you of sin. Let the Lord change your flesh: replacing flesh's empty sinfulness by *filling* it with Spirit's life (Lk. 3:5); humbling the flesh's pride to *honor* the Lord alone (); straightening the flesh's faithless to walk with the Lord in faithfulness; and, clearing the flesh's rocky rebellion to make way for the Lord's will and purposes ().

Q2. How must my heart change to prepare for the Lord? (3:7-14)

2. Changing Hearts for Obedient Submission: The Lord wants you to *bear fruit* in repentance, and that fruitfulness begins in your heart (3:8). Give up your *Selfish Heart* to *love and share with others* (3:11); repent of your *Lawless Heart* (12-13), doing whatever it likes, to *submit to the Lord* and His Word; and, give up your *Self-Ruling* heart that threatens and controls this life to *rest in the Lord, content in His provision for you* (14).

Q3. How will my life change to prepare for the Lord? (3:15-17)

3. Renewed Life for Spiritual Power: Your flesh is *unsafe* (3:6) because it is both *poisoned* by sin and guilt and it is *dead*, lacking any spiritual goodness or life in itself (Rom. 7:18). So, Jesus Christ renews your entire *life* in a spiritual baptism. If you are ready to *repent* of your old life of *fleshly addiction* to sin, He forgives and frees you. And, Jesus gives you a fiery rebirth by the Holy Spirit, filling you with His life-giving power! (16).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passaage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does Fruitful Repentance prepare me for the Lord and His Way?

Fruitful New Life: Preparing for Lord and His Way. God knows that we are *unprepared* in the *flesh* to walk with Jesus Christ as our *Lord* (Lk. 3:4). We need an entirely *new life*, a *baptism*, to give us a fresh start. But, this new life requires that we *repent* of the flesh and its futile way of life (3:3).

Have you experienced the *dead valley* of sinful flesh's empty passions and cravings? (4) Spiritual fruit will fill it! (Gal. 5:22-23)

Is your flesh a *proud mountain* that must be humbled under the Lord's power (5)? Do your *crooked* and lawless ways need straitening, your *rocky* and rebellious ways need clearing?

Be ready to repent, to let go of your former Self-centered and sinful life of the flesh, which led only to emptiness and futility (1 Pet. 1:18). As the Lord Jesus *saves your flesh* (3:6), sanctifies and frees you of its grip, then he will fill its emptiness with abundant, life-giving fruit of the Spirit! (John 10:10).

Notes⁵: Baptism of Water & Spirit (Lk. 3:16). God's *good new life*, promised in the Gospel in Jesus Christ, is shown in the act of *baptism*. When you are submerged fully under the waters of baptism, you represent *dying* in your old life of sin and spiritual death. Joining Jesus Christ on His cross, the entirety of your sins are carried by him to the grave and its horror of *eternal spiritual death* (Gal. 2:20). Then, rising from the watery death, you show that you are *alive in Christ and His resurrection!* Now, *forgiven and freed of your sins by His sacrifice, and raised by a new spiritual birth* into a new life as a child of God! (Jn.1:12-13).

⁵ **Dead Flesh and Living Spirit:** Jesus Christ *redeems* your life by His cross, freeing you from the flesh's enslavement to sin and death () and give you the Holy Spirit to walk in His good new life. The Spirit helps you *put to death* the sinful deeds of the flesh (Rom. 8:13). This cleansing process is a life-long struggle, for we leave the *flesh* only at our bodily resurrection with Christ. So, resist the flesh to walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16) and bear spiritual fruit in your life (Gal. 5:19-24). And, if you do give in to the flesh and sin, confess and ask the Lord for forgiveness (1 John 1:9-10).

□6. Following Lord: Sacrificial Celebration.

Read Luke 5

How do the disciples respond to the Lord and His Kingdom power?

8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. **Luke 5:8, 10b-11**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Learning from Simon Peter, how does a disciple relate to Jesus as his Lord?

QA: Why is Jesus Mashiach the central focus of our lives as disciples? As both the Kingdom's physician and bridegroom?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How did the first disciples respond to Jesus as Lord? (Lk. 5:4-13)

1. Full Response to Lord: Faithful Obedience. When Simon realized that Jesus was Lord, he responded in *faithful obedience*. Like Simon, let's *humble ourselves* before the Lord as unworthy *sinners* (8) so that He can *encourage us*, saying: "do not be afraid" (10). Freed of fear, you can now follow your Lord as your highest priority, for they *left everything to follow* (11). Now, live by *relying on His Will* for your *new life* (12).

Q2. What was the *faith* like of those whom Jesus helped? (Lk. 5:18-26)

2. Faith in the Son of Man: Hoping in the Unseen. As His disciple, know by *faith* that your Lord acts powerfully in ways which are beyond your understanding or sight. So, expect His *unseen authority* to work powerfully to advance His Kingdom. Before the eyes of the paralytic and his friends stood an *earthly teacher*, but *faith* told them that *the Son of Man* had the authority as Lord to heal both *physical and spiritual affliction* (24). Will you walk by faith in this powerful Lord?

Q3. How do the disciples relate to the Lord differently? (Lk. 5:29-39)

3. Celebrating the Healing Bridegroom: The Pharisees and critics of Jesus judged him from the eyes of the world, but His disciples saw the Lord and his unseen Kingdom reality by faith. The Pharisees could only see social outcasts in the sinners, but Levi hosted a great feast, knowing that these spiritually *sick* would hear the *physician's* call to *repentance* and healing (32). The Pharisees saw Jesus and his disciples as indulgent, but the disciples knew that they celebrated the *heavenly bridegroom* in His Kingdom (35). Like them, sacrifice the old to gain new Kingdom life!

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How do the disciples respond to the Lord and His Kingdom power?

Walking with the Lord: In Kingdom. As a disciple, you will see the world very differently than those around you. Those *reborn by the Spirit* see the Kingdom's spiritual reality (Jn. 3:3). You not only see but also experience the *unseen rule* of the Lord Jesus change you and your world. When you see by faith the Kingdom reality, your life will shift.

By faith, Simon saw Jesus not just as an *earthly master* but the *Lord* who had power over even the ocean, so he shifted from *hesitant doubt* (Lk. 5:5) to *humbled obedience* (5:8,11). By faith in the *Son of Man*, the paralytic shifted into a walking worshipper (5:25). And, Levi shifted a *taker* to a *giver* of life through the great *Physician* (5:31).

You, also, see the glorious reality of Jesus as Lord. Shift out of your *hesitant doubt* to follow Jesus in His Kingdom works!

Notes⁶: Faith in the Lord. Your faith in the Lord depends on having a proper view of Jesus. At first, Simon knew Jesus from an *earthly* view. Viewed as simply a *teacher*, Simon did not expect much of Jesus and was unwilling to be inconvenienced by him. But, when Simon realized by faith that Jesus is Lord of all things (Lk. 5:8), his faith became real. Real faith humbly recognizes our own sinfulness but Jesus's Lordship (8), entrusting our well-being to the Lord's *will* (12); gaining *power* to *obey Jesus's command* without being paralyzed by the past (25); and, *celebrating* Jesus with *eager sacrifice* to *taste* the new Kingdom he brings (37-8).

⁶ **Kingdom of God:** As God's Messiah, Jesus inherits the Kingdom rule over the heaven and the earth from God the Father (Col. 1:15-20). So, the Kingdom is like a *wedding celebration* a Father hosts to honor His Son. For, in the Kingdom and its King, God restores His original blessing, grace, and peace to His *people*.

Redeeming the *people* of Messiah out of this world's *darkness* and *death* (Col. 1:13), He calls them to *live freely* with Him as *sons of God* (Rom. 8:16-18. 21), experiencing by faith a foretaste of what the *future Kingdom reality* will be. For now, disciples live in the Kingdom *in Christ* by experiencing as members of His body the fellowship of Christ (Col.2:17): "these are a shadow of the things to come, but the *substance* (Gk. Soma, body) belongs to Christ."

□7. Walking with Lord: Blessed in Kingdom

Read Luke 6

How are the Lord's disciples called to live in His Kingdom and the World?

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. **Luke 6:20, 22-23**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How does Jesus as our family's Heir, the Son of Man, help us live in freedom as his disciples??

QA: As His disciples, why should we share in hardship and suffering for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Son of Man?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

: Q1. How do the disciples live with Jesus Christ as their Lord? (Lk. 6:1-11)

1. Freedom in the Son of Man's Restoration: When disciples walk with the Lord, humanity's Heir as *the Son of Man* (6:5), they experience God's restorative blessing. So, Jesus freely *ate* on their Sabbath journey (1). The Pharisees were quick to note how this *broke Sabbath law*. But, the Lord points out a *deeper, prior Law* established by God, His Law of *restorative blessing* found in His Messiah. When God is *present* as your Lord, *He frees you* from earthly sin as well as man-made religious rules (5).

Q2. Why do disciples suffer if they are blessed? (6:12-23, 35-42)

2. Blessings in the Son of Man's Hardships: Brought under the Lord's protective rule and peace in the Kingdom of God, disciples are *blessed* (20). This means that God is at work in their lives as their Lord to do *good* in their lives (Rom. 8:28). But, this *blessed reality* of spiritual safety and life starts in the spiritual reality, even if their earthly experience is very different. So, disciples can be *blessed* spiritually but still *earthly poor* (6:20); satisfied spiritually while still *hungering* on earth (21). As a disciple, you must be *faithful* to your Lord and His Kingdom, realizing the *spiritual reality* in which you serve. So, be *hated, excluded, and derided* on earth, knowing you are *blessed in Jesus Christ* (22-23).

Q3. How do I live abundantly with the Lord Jesus? (6:43-49).

3. Certain Abundance in obeying the Lord's Word: The Lord Jesus wields His power to bless and protect His disciples who are *subject* to His authority. However, many call to him as their Lord, but you need to obey His Word to affirm and enjoy His Lordship in your life! (Lk. 6:46).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How will the Lord Judge between Whole-hearted Worshipers & Wicked?

Kingdom Disciples: When you walk with the Lord Jesus Christ as a disciple in His Kingdom, you will experience *spiritual reality over-ruling* this earthly life's hardships.

You will find the *spiritual* Law of Life *at work in you* (Rom. 8:2). This original law of God makes our *souls* come alive in our Father's blessing. But, this law differs from other man-made laws, which seek to undo *the law of sin and death* by which our flesh yearns to live lawlessly (Rom. 8:7). So, the Pharisee's *Sabbath rules* were weak compared to the *spiritual law* of fellowshiping with the *very Lord of the Sabbath* (Lk. 6:5).

Also, the Kingdom's *blessed reality* over-rules the bleakness of earthly scarcity and threat. As *disciples* live in the Kingdom's eternal and heavenly vastness, the *setbacks* of earth diminish in heaven's abundance. (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

So, earthly poverty is outweighed by the *Kingdom's luxury* (6:20); its deprivations *satisfied* in the inner Spirit and soul (Mt. 5:6); its sorrows *lifted* by an eternal joy (21); and, its rejection and hatred *valued* as proven loyalty to the Son of Man (22).

Notes⁷: Blessed in the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is the realm filled with the *light* of God's presence and covered under the Lord's *grace* and *peace*. The Lord Jesus came as a *heavenly light* to bring God's Kingdom to earth's darkness and death (Is. 9:2). As a disciple, you are covered by *spiritual* blessing of the Lord's rule. The *blessed life* of the Kingdom transforms even this dark world (Mt. 5:9). You will face scarcity, hardship, and opposition on this earth, but the Lord and His Kingdom rules it.

⁷ **Son of Man: Blessing Restored:** God's *chosen Messiah* is the Heir of *heavens* and *earth* (Gen. 2:4, 3:15). So, of all the *sons of man* and their generations, he is their foremost Head as *the Son of Man*. As humanity's Heir, the Son of Man is responsible for the family's *redemption*—to restore men and women as Heirs of God (Ps. 8). The Lord of the Earth as a right to *restore healing, blessing, and a spiritual fruitfulness* moving from *spiritual* to *earthly reality* (Gen. 1:26-30).

☐8. Reborn by Son of God: Receiving Grace and Truth

Read John 1

How does Jesus, the Son of God, bring you God's "grace and truth"?

16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side,[g] he has made him known.

John 1:16-18

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: Who is Jesus Christ that he can bring me a new life from God?

QA: How does Jesus Christ bring us close to God as our Father?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Son of God bring you life from God? (Jn. 1:1-8)

1. Lights up Life: In the dark silence of this world's Godlessness, Jesus comes to you as the *Word of God* and the *Light of God*. As the Word of God, Jesus communicates to you the *life* which God has always planned for you, a life to *light up* your very human soul (Jn. 1:4). So, as the *light* from God, Jesus uncovers and overcomes this world's darkness to free you for a new life filled with God's presence and light! (1:5).

Q2. How does Son of God give you life by God's *grace* and *truth*? (1:9-18).

2. Rightful Children of God: It is no benefit for you to simply hear *about* God's life. The *light of life* (1:4) which Jesus brings must be received, taken, and experienced as a complete break from this world's Godless *darkness*. So, Jesus comes as *the true light* (1:9) to illuminate God's bright new world, seen only through the *spiritual eyes* of a *newborn!* (Jn. 1:12-13). But, you are not merely a stranger in God's new world, you belong here because Jesus gives you the *right* as a child of God to *own* this new world as well as the *birth* to experience it fully! (12-13).

Q3. How does Lamb of God restore you to God's grace and truth? (1:26ff)

3. Purifying Lamb of God: God's *grace* and *truth* operate in the *spiritual realm of light*. But, you cannot *see* this light if your spiritual life is *darkened* by the depths of your sins. So, Jesus Christ comes to you as *the Lamb of God* to redemptively take away your and the world's sin (1:29). Freed of your sin, you can be *reborn by the Spirit* to *come and see the Kingdom's spiritual light* (1:39).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does Jesus, the Son of God, bring you God's "grace and truth"?

Life in God's Light: Imagine a dark world in the shadow of death (Is. 9:2). When Jesus comes into such a world, his Lordship is light *daylight* changing everything (Jn. 1:4). Grown accustomed to the darkness, our weak sense realize that the Lord's light is *the light of men* (1:4), the *light* in which we were always meant to live, to be fully alive.

The *light* Jesus brings as the *Word of God* and the *Life from God* (1:1, 4) brings you back into God's light as an orphan returning home. God's *light*, the fullness of life he wants for you filled with His *grace* and *truth* (1:17) is embodied in the *Lordship* of Jesus Christ, who *gives you* the *right* and the *birth* to see God and his light with the spiritual eyes of His *newborn child* (1:12-13).

You cannot remain in the isolation of darkness like Nicodemus, trying to understand the *light of God's Kingdom* without being transformed by it. You must be born into the light of His Kingdom!

Notes⁸: Receiving Jesus as Lord. (Jn. 1:12-13; Col. 2:16-17). Receiving the *new life* Jesus brings by receiving and believing in Him is to step into His *light*. By choosing to step out of darkness into the *light* is to *receive* all the fullness of what the *daylight* has to offer you—warmth, sight, growth. So, when you *receive* Jesus by *believing* in the fullness of His glory as God's Son, His Christ, and the appointed Lord of heaven and earth, you step into a *new life of light* with both the birth and the rights as a child of God (1:12-13).

⁸ **Son of God:** To know the *fullness* of Jesus Christ as the *Son of God* is to know the fullness of God's *grace and truth* in Him. The Son of God embodies God's glory fully, so to know the *Son of God* as the Word is to know the *truth of God* fully; as the *Light* is to know the glorious fullness of God's *presence*; and, as the *Life* is to know the fullness of God's Fatherhood as a child shares a family life with their parent.

☐9. Reborn into Kingdom: Led by Spirit

Read John 3

How does the Heaven-sent Son bring many into God's Kingdom?

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.... 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **John 3:5-6, 8**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How does Jesus our Messiah give us access to God's spiritual life and Kingdom?

QA: If it is impossible for earthly people to gain access to the Kingdom's spiritual reality, what does Jesus Christ do to save us for God's new Kingdom Life?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. How does the Son give you rightful access to God's Kingdom (Jn. 3:1-8)

1. Spirit's Rebirth into Kingdom: The Son of Man does not invite spectators or the uncommitted into the Kingdom, for *faith* requires a total embracing of the Kingdom's spiritual new life (Jn. 3:3). See, Jesus grants access to you who will *embrace Kingdom and King* as your rightful possession, as a son or daughter clings to a parent as their very own (Jn. 1:12-13). To these willing to take the Kingdom by faith, the *Spirit* grants a rebirth to "*see the Kingdom of God*" (3:3).

Q2. How does the Son of Man rescue you for God's Kingdom (Jn. 3:9-21)?

2. Son of Man's Rescue Mission: God in His heavenly realm of *spirit* possesses an eternal life unseen on earth. This is not a life that can be known by human *speculation* (3:4) or seized by human *works* (3:6). Rather, only the Son of God who humbled himself to walk among us as the *Son of Man* can achieve our redemptive rescue. The Son of Man *descends from heaven* to testify of the heavenly reality (3:13). And, even though as *the Son of God* the Christ has the infinite life bear the *sins of the world* (1:29), only Jesus as *the Son of Man* has the mortality to *offer His life to ransom sins*, lifted up on the *cross* as was the *healing serpent* (3:14) but also lifted from this earth in the power of *resurrection* (Jn. 12:32).

Q3. What does the Heavenly Christ do for His people (Jn. 3:27-36)?

3. Heavenly Christ's People. Jesus is the *heavenly Christ* who is *above all*, according to John. He saves His people not out of desperate need but simply because they are his *own*, like a *bridegroom* takes His *bride* for himself (3:29). Nor does the Father send His Christ because the *bride* is of more value than *him*. Rather, the Father *loves* the Christ so *gives Him all things* (35), including the *honor* of being the one to rescue His beloved.

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does the Heaven-sent Son bring many into God's Kingdom?

Revived for Kingdom Life: Consider your place in the Father's rescue mission to bring an earth-bound people into the heavenly glory of His Son. At the heart of this mission is the eternal love of God as Father for God His Son (3:35). To honor the Son by revealing that He alone deserves to be *chosen as God's heaven-sent Christ* to win His people and inherit all things!

As one of His precious, redeemed people, this *heavenly Christ ensures* that you share the full measure of His heavenly life. So, His purifying redemption on the cross is the *water* that washes you of your former sin, His *tempest Spirit* the breath of new heavenly life moving you (3:5).

Coming to you in the power of God yet *clothed in mortality* as the Son of Man, this Christ pays the infinite *blood price* to *lift up your sins* with him on the cross only to be *lifted once again* into an eternal life to share with you forever (3:14).

So, give yourself like a *matrimonial vow* to this One who has chosen you to share in His heavenly life and Kingdom!

Notes⁹: Birthright- Inheriting Spiritual Life. When the Son of God rescues you for His Kingdom, redeeming you to be released from sin to be raised with him into life, He rescues you into a *full life* as a Child of God. Spiritual life is not just a *commodity* you have, it is your *birthright* as a member of God's *ruling family, the family of His Son!* Eternal life, then, comes with family responsibility. If you are Child of God, you have a *future growth path to resemble your Heavenly Father, a family purpose* to please Jesus as the Head of our Household and your Family's *Lord*, and a *family bond* to share in one Holy Spirit together!

⁹ **Born Again by the Spirit:** We are well-acquainted with the *natural bonds* of human family kinship. However, the Spirit gives us a *new birth* "from above" (Gk. *Genethe anothen*). Our hearts rest in our birthplace, so our first heart loyalty as God's children should be our heavenly birthplace *above*, for we are rightful citizens and heirs of our heavenly homeland but mere wanderers and strangers here on earth.

□10. Hearing Good Shepherd: Called to Life

Read John 10

How does the Good Shepherd lead His people to New Life?

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **John 10:10-11.**

1. Personal Discovery: Devoted in Heart

Read the Passage and prayerfully write down your insights to share.

Seeing: What is this Bible passage about? (Key words or ideas?)

Learning: What does it Mean? (What is writer/ God telling me?)

Doing: What lesson can I use in my life? (How to apply it?)

2. Family Discussion: Devoted at Home/Group

Read Passage and prayerfully discuss these questions at home/group.

Q: How do we know that Jesus Christ is the right shepherd for us?

QA: How does Jesus our Good Shepherd care for us as the sheep of His flock?

3.Partnered Sharing: Devoted as Disciples

Read key passages and prayerfully answer to share with partner.

Q1. Why is Jesus different from all the others before him? (Jn. 10:1-6)

1. Rightful Shepherd: Recognizing and Listening to only Jesus. Jesus is the one for whom we've awaited for a lifetime. You may have had impactful teachers or mentors in your past, but Jesus is your only *rightful* Shepherd. He has the *right* to Shepherd you, for God has chosen him as the only one worthy to *enter* by the *door* of His *anointing* (10:1-2). Also, He is your *rightful* shepherd because He *knows* you by *name* (3), and you know him, so you will *recognize* His voice. Guard your heart, and be sure to *listen* to your *shepherd's*. *Flee* from the *stranger's* voice, whether it is enticing with sin, alluring as the world, or convincing with charisma.

Q2. How will your life change when you come to Jesus? (Jn. 10:7-18)

2. Life in Shepherd: Following Jesus. Without a shepherd, we are all like *sheep without a shepherd*. Wandering dangerously astray through this terrifying world (Is. 53:6), we are weak and *helpless* facing dread powers and *harassed* by predatory enemies (Mt. 9:36). So, when you finally come to your *good shepherd*, the Lord committed to give you *abundant life* and who proved his faithful love to you by his very life (Jn. 10:10-11), your whole life finds abundance. For, your life is now *in* the Shepherd and His surpassing power and provision. Live in Jesus and follow him for life!

Q3. How can you find belonging with Jesus (Jn. 10:25-37)?

3. Family of Shepherd: Knowing Jesus and Father. Jesus compares us to sheep to highlight His surpassing power and our eternal dependence on him. Yet, we are brought near to Jesus not as *possessions* gathered into the barn but *children* brought into the Family. We know Jesus and the Father (26) as now precious children returned to the Family (10:28-30).

4. Next Steps: Devoted Fruitful Growth

Review Passage and prayerfully hear and respond to instruction.

How does the Good Shepherd lead His people to New Life?

Following our True Shepherd: Earth appears safe, but the spiritual reality holds death, darkness, and danger (Is. 9:2).

Perhaps strong on earth, in the spiritual realm we are but *sheep*, and our *wandering astray* makes us tasty prey (Is. 53:6). Harassed by *dread powers* and *helpless* to care for ourselves, we are pitifully *sheep without a shepherd* (Mt. 9:36).

In our wandering, *malicious strangers* (Jn. 10:5) have lured us. But, we belong with God in the safety of His home, so Jesus, the Good Shepherd, leads us back to safety (10:3). So, guard yourself. Jesus alone is your *Rightful Shepherd*, the only one who *knows* you because you are his (10:14). He alone can shepherd and care for your very *soul* (1 Peter 2:25). He alone is your Safe presence, protecting you from *thieves* and safeguarding you in His *flock* (10:10). And, He alone gives you a future in His family flock, where you and thrive and grow under His tender care as *kids of the Kingdom*.

Notes¹⁰: Worldly Destruction or Abundant Life. (John 10:10). Our flesh lives in a world that is spiritually dead and dark (Is. 9:2), vulnerable to the *enemy* whose purpose is to *steal, kill, and destroy* (Jn. 10:10). In this world, the flesh lives *lawlessly* (Rom. 8:6-8) as *dead* to God. But, to live by the Spirit (Rom. 8:13) gives you the Shepherd's *abundant life* (Jn. 10:10), a life full of the life in His Family and Kingdom.

¹⁰ **One (echad) God (Elohim), the Son of God/ Sons of God:** Possessively Paired; (Deut. 6:4; Gen. 6:2; Ps. 2:7; Ps. 82:6). From the very beginning, God's name reveals God as a *family unity*—a *plurality of persons* (*elohim* is a plural noun, not *elohe- singular*) creating as one (*bara* is a singular verb not *barim, pl.*). This *oneness* (Deut. 6:4) is a family oneness as seen in the union of man and wife (Gen. 2:24—*basar echad*) and not solitary isolation (*yachid*). Because God is *one* as a family oneness, He shares His family name with *our chosen lineage of Adam and Eve, "the sons of God"* (Gen. 6:2). He even shares His family name with His people, the clan of the Messiah (Ps. 82:6). And, He shares His name with Messiah, the Firstborn *Son of God* (Ps. 2:7) who embodies the fullness of God (Is. 9:6).

Prayer Requests:

Request/ Date:	Answer Prayer/ Thankfulness

Journaling: What is the Lord teaching me/ Doing in my life?

Weekly Sermon Notes:	Lord's Lessons and Works in my life:

Devotion: Self-Assessment

❑1. Devoted Soul: Humbled under Lord not Self (Serpent)- Serving

16 And the **Lord God commanded** the man, saying, “**You may surely eat** of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** you **shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**” Genesis 2:16-17, also Gen. 3:1-6

❑Humbled Under Lord God (2:17)

- Led by *Lord God* (2:17)
- Under *Commanding Authority*
- *Freely obeys for good life;*
- Rejects sin and *evil* leading to *death*.

❑Self (Serpent)-Serving (3:1-6)

- Listening to *Worldly Serpent* who questions God (3:1)
- *Self is like God* as own Lord (3:5)
- *Self-righteous Self decides fleshly good* (6)
- *Self-interested Self decides fleshly evil to avoid.*

❑2. Devoted Mind: Faith in Lord not Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

Trust in the Lord with all your **heart**, and do not **lean** on your **own understanding**. 6 In all your ways **acknowledge him**, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be **not wise** in your **own eyes**; **fear the Lord**, and **turn away from evil**. Prov. 3:5-7; also Gen. 3:6-7

❑Faith in Lord (2:17)

- Fear Lord as the only true God (Prov. 3:7)
- Trust in God as Lord of power, truth, and will (3:5);
- Be willing to follow His *ways* and honor him in your life (6) and turn from evil (7).

❑Unbelief in Fleshly Understanding

- Flatter Self as *wiser* than God (3:7).
- Trust in own understanding to know truth, purpose, power (5).
- Find earthly reasons to sin and follow your own way not the Lord’s commands (Gen. 3:6-7).

❑3. Devoted Heart: Loving God as Father not Worldly Flesh

15 Do not **love the world** or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the **desires** of the **flesh** and the **desires** of the **eyes** and **pride of life**—is

not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the **world** is **passing** away along with its desires, but whoever does **the will of God** abides **forever**. 1 John 2:15-17

☐ Loving God as Father (2:15)

- Loves the Father (15)
- Desires to do the Will of God (17)
- Seeks what *abides forever* (17).

☐ Worldly Flesh (16)

- Loves the World (2:15)
- Follows the desires of flesh, what it sees as *good*, and its *prideful life in the world* (16)
- Clings to a world that is *passing away* (17).

☐4. Devoted Strength: Giving Body as a Living Sacrifice not Conformed to World

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, **by the mercies of God**, to **present** your **bodies as a living sacrifice, holy** and **acceptable to God**, which is your **spiritual worship**. 2 Do **not be conformed** to this **world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the **will of God**, what is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**. Rm. 12:1-2

☐ Giving Self as a Living Sacrifice (12:1)

- Gives Body as a Living Sacrifice to God (Rom. 12:1).
- Lives sacrificially to be holy, acceptable, and pleasing to God;
- *Transformed by renewing of mind by God's Word (2)*
- Discerns and proves God's Will as *good, acceptable, and perfect (2)*

☐ Conformed to World (2)

- Gives Flesh to be conformed to this world (2);
- Lives by fleshly works not needing God's mercy (1);
- Conforms to the World and its Godlessness;
- Unchanging, fixed, stubborn, fleshly mind.