New Hope Christian Fellowship Women’s Ministry

Women In The Word

A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generatedWho Am I and What Am I Doing Here?

Bible Study by Susie Lam

Introduction to

Who Am I and What Am I Doing Here?

You were made by God and for God, and He created you as you are for a reason. Knowing who you are, from God’s point of view, and understanding His purposes for creating you will reduce your stress, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, prepare you for eternity and help you make an impact upon the world that will long outlive you.

Ephesians 1:11 says “It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ . . .he had his eye on us, and had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. (Message paraphrase)

It is my prayer that this Bible study will help you discover the life God created you to live.

Blessings,

Susie Lam

Who Am I and What Am I Doing Here

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**The Culture of “Women in the Word”**

We come together for the purpose of studying the Word of God and growing in Christ together. We have been intentional about creating a culture in Women in the Word where women feel safe, valued, respected, loved and encouraged. Thank you for reading and observing these guidelines.

**Women are loved and respected.** Therefore, we avoid cliques, welcome any new ladies who come to our groups, and treat each other with honor, respect and courtesy.

**Relationships are very important**. Since we come from a broad range of backgrounds, and are at various stages of spiritual development, we make room for new opinions and points of view, and don’t criticize other people’s opinions or their churches. We do not give advice unless it is asked for.

**Each woman is encouraged to share, and her input is considered valuable.** Please monitor yourself, as to how much or how little you are sharing, and make sure you do not monopolize the conversation in your small group, but do contribute something to the discussion. The vitality of the group depends on each member participating and contributing her thoughts and insights.

**The study of God’s Word is taken seriously**. We do our homework and come prepared. In case you did not get your homework done, come anyway and enjoy learning from others, but please don’t “wing it”. Just answer questions for which you prepared in advance. Please try to stay on target in your discussion of the homework.

**Healthy boundaries are maintained**. Please come on time, keep confidences, and do not gossip or criticize others. Please help with responsibilities that may arise, such as putting away tables and chairs at the end of the evening or bringing food when it’s your turn. [Each small group decides on their own food plan.] Please make attending Women in the Word and your small group’s social gatherings a priority. Please call or text your small group shepherd to let her know if you will be late or absent.

Jesus is glorified when love, appreciation, praise and encouragement are generously expressed. Thank you for praying for the other ladies in your small group, and expressing your love and encouragement to them.

**Bible Study & Journaling Instructions**

This Bible study is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible before as well as those who have been studying God’s Word for years. The method of study is simple:

Begin by praying that God will speak to your heart as you get into His Word, and read the passage or verses. Be open to encouragement, direction or correction from the Lord as you read. Underline key phrases or make notations in the margins of your Bible as the Lord brings to mind people or situations you should pray for, promises to stand upon, or lessons you need to apply to your life.

After reading the scriptures, answer the questions.

The final question is always “Journal this verse or passage SOAP style. To do this, please select a verse or paragraph that particularly spoke to you or caught your attention. If nothing “jumps off the page”, select a sentence or two that you think might have some spiritual significance to your life.

Copy that verse or passage word for word. Writing out the verse or verses will help you remember what God is saying to you.

Then, in your own words, write what you observed in that verse or paragraph. (Consider: What is the context? What or who is it about? How would I have felt or reacted had I been there? What is really being said? What does it mean? Why is it important?)

Next, and most importantly, write out how this passage applies to your life. Is there something you need to change? A promise to stand on? An order to follow? Write out how you will be different because of what you have just read.

Finally, write a brief prayer to God, based on this passage. Thank Him for speaking to you. Tell Him what’s on your heart. Ask Him to help you change based on what you have just read.

If you have any questions about journaling, or problems getting started, don’t hesitate to call your small group shepherd for help.

A simple acrostic to help you remember these steps is **“SOAP”**

**S = Scripture**

**O = Observation**

**A = Application**

**P = Prayer**

Example:

**S:** Deuteronomy 31:8 “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

**O:** Moses’ ministry of leading the Israelites out of slavery into the promised land was ending, and Joshua’s ministry was just starting. These words were to Joshua and the people. Just as God had been with them when Moses was leading them, He would continue to be with them going forward. In fact, He would never leave or forsake them. Therefore they were told not to be afraid or discouraged.

**A:** These words are for me today as much as they were for the Israelites thousands of years ago. God and his character and provision for those He loves hasn’t changed. When I’m in an uncomfortable, scary or stressful situation, I need to remember that God is with me, He’ll never leave or forsake me, and because He’s with me, I must not be afraid or discouraged. He will help me.

**P:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this wonderful reminder today. You will never leave me or forsake me! Because you are always with me, I can face any challenge that you allow to come into my life. Fill me with faith instead of fear and help me live in a way that pleases you and brings a smile to your face. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

**Lesson 1 Who Am I As a Human Being?**

Before you were born, long before you heard about Jesus Christ, He loved you and had a purpose for your life. You are not here by accident.

Colossians 1:16 “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

Psalms 145:15-16. The eyes of all look to You, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Genesis 1:26-28. 26Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

27So God created human beings in his own image.  
    In the image of God he created them;  
    male and female he created them.

28Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.”

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.”

John 14:15. [Jesus said] If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Romans 14:12. So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5he[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+1%3A3-12&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29212a)]predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,10to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

11In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory. (NIV)

1. Read Colossians 1:16. According to this verse, whose idea is it that you are here on this earth? Who were you created for?

2. Read Psalm 145:15-16. List some of the things for which you are dependent upon God.

3. Read Genesis 1:26-28. In what way are human beings different than other creatures? What assignment did God give man when He created him?

4. What does it mean that you were made in God’s image?

5. Read Genesis 2:16-17, John 14:15 and Romans 14:12. What do these verses say about our relationship to our Creator? Do you think Adam and Eve knew and understood what these verses say?

6. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. List 7 things God does or has done for us.

7. What motivated God to do all these things for us? How does this make you feel? How could these verses help you the next time you are feeling bad about yourself?

8. When did you first come to understand and appreciate God’s love for you. (Jot down your testimony in short form.)

9. Jot down a few key “I Am” statements, about who you are as a human being, based on the verses in this lesson. For example: I am chosen by God

10. Journal one of these verses SOAP style.

**Lesson 2 Who Am I As a Christian?**

This life is not all there is. You were created to last for eternity. Where you spend eternity is up to you.

Isaiah 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

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

1 John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

Romans 7:18-19, 24 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19**For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. . . What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

John 3:16-17. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 10:9-10 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24**Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

Romans 8:31-39. **31**What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32**He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? **33**Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **34**Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **35**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36**As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **37**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Describe how you generally feel about yourself. (Do you feel good, bad, valuable, worthless, loveable, not loveable etc.) According to the verses we read last week, do you think your feelings accurately reflect the way God feels about you? Why or why not?

2. Read the first 4 verses above, which describe who we were, according to God’s Word, before we knew Jesus. Summarize what they say.

3. Read Romans 7:18-19 & 24 above. Think back to the time before you gave your heart to Jesus. Can you relate to how Paul felt, as described in these verses? Write out how you felt before getting saved. What led up to your salvation?

4. Read Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:8, John 3:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Jot down what each of these verses tells you about yourself, and what each verse tells you about God.

Romans 5:8:

Ephesians 2:8:

John 3:16-17:

2 Corinthians 5:21

5. According to Romans 10:9-10 and Romans 10:13, how is a person saved?

6. Romans 8:1 says there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” What does it mean to be “in Christ Jesus”? (Feel free to consult a Bible commentary.)

7. Read John 14:23-24. Fill in the blanks below, based on these verses.

I love Jesus so I will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Because I love and obey Jesus, God the Father \_\_\_\_\_ me and makes my heart his home. If I don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus’ teaching, that means I don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.

8. Do the above verses convict you in any way? Explain. James 5:16 says “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” If you trust the people in your group and feel comfortable doing so, share how you want to change, to obey Jesus’ teaching, and ask for their prayer support. Please remember that anything of a personal nature that is shared in our small groups is strictly confidential and is not to be shared outside of your group. No gossip please!)

9. Read Romans 8:31-39. Jot down 3 or more declarations, based on these verses, that you can recite to yourself when you are suffering or being tempted or tested. The first one is given as an example.

God is for me, and no enemy or circumstance is stronger than God and His love for me!

10. Journal one of these verses or passages SOAP style.

**Lesson 3 Why Did God Save Me?**

You were planned for God’s pleasure. With your life, you can give Him glory and put a smile on His face. God wants your friendship and your partnership in what He’s doing on planet Earth.

Romans 11:36 Everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by His power, and everything is for His glory.

Proverbs 16:4. The Lord has made everything for His own purposes.

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Isaiah 43:7 “. . everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Romans 12:1 Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. (Msg)

Psalm 147:11 The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Psalm 119:33 Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.

Mark 14:36 “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Romans 6:13b. “Surrender your whole being to Him to be used for righteous purposes.”

James 4:8 Draw close to God and He will draw close to you.

John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

1. According to Romans 11:36 and Proverbs 16:4, why did God save you?

2. When you read the phrase “His glory”, what do you think of? In your own words, define “His glory” and give some examples of how you see the glory of God in nature, and in His Son, Jesus Christ.

3. Read Revelation 4:11 and Isaiah 43:7 above. We cannot add anything to God’s glory, but we can reflect it. We are told in God’s Word to recognize and honor His glory, declare His glory, and live for His glory. As Christians, this should be our highest goal in life. Read in John 17:4 how Jesus brought glory to His Father, and then jot down some specific ways you can bring glory to God.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Romans 12:1 above. Give 3 or more specific examples of how you can do everyday things for the glory of God.

5. God wanted a relationship with you so much that He sacrificed His dearly beloved Son on the cross to pay for your sins, so you could be in Christ, clothed in His righteousness, and have a relationship with God. You are that important and valuable to God! He wants to be in a loving relationship with you for all eternity. Read Psalm 147:11, Hebrews 11:6 and Psalm 119:33 above. These verses mention four key aspects that are important to a healthy relationship with God. What are they?

6. Since God created us and knows us best, in what area(s) of your life do you need to trust Him more? Be specific. Would you like prayer for this?

7. Read Mark 14:36, Jesus’ prayer of complete trust and surrender to His Father’s will in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before his arrest and crucifixion. He was essentially saying, “Papa God - if it is in your best interest to remove this suffering, please do so, but if my suffering fulfills your purpose, then that’s what I want.” Also read Romans 6:13b above. Are you still arguing or struggling with God over his right to do with your life as he pleases? Are you holding back any areas of your life from God? Explain. (Please remember, anything of a personal nature that is shared in your small group is to remain strictly confidential. No gossip please!)

8. Read James 4:8 and John 15:15. God wants you to be close to Him. He is inviting you into a close friendship with Him. How does this make you feel? What are some ways you can strengthen your friendship with God?

9. Read John 15:8 above. Jesus is glorified when we bear much fruit, and this is how people know we are Christ’s followers. Do you think people know you’re a follower of Jesus, by looking at your life? What kind of fruit have you borne in the past? What kind of fruit would you like to bear in the future?

10. Jot down 3 or more declarations, based on these verses, that you can recite to yourself as a reminder of how God feels about you and who you are to Him.

11. Journal any of these verses SOAP style.

**Lesson 4 What Matters Most?**

The moment you were born again, spiritually, you received some great birthday gifts: a spiritual family, the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, intimate access to your Father in heaven and a brilliant inheritance. Now you get to learn how to love like God does.

2 John 1:6. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

1 Corinthians 13:3b No matter what I say, what I believe and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love. (Msg)

Galatians 5:14. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.

1 John 4:8, 16b But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. . . God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5**It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 John 3:1 See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called His children, and we really are!

Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will.

Hebrews 2:11 So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.

Galatians 5:22-25 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**23**gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! **24**Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. **25**Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

James 5:19-20 My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back,remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1. Read 2 John 1:6, 1 Corinthians 13:3b and Galatians 5:14. If we truly love God, how will our love be shown?

2. Read 1 John 4:8 and 16b, and finish this sentence: Since God is love, I am most like God when \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Which of these characteristics of real love are easiest for you to practice? Which are hardest?

4. What do 1 John 3:1, Ephesians 1:5 and Hebrews 2:11 tell you about who you are, once you’ve put your faith in Jesus to save you? How does this make you feel?

5. What barriers keep you from loving and caring for other believers?

6. Read Galatians 5:22-25. What wonderful resource have you been given to help you love others better? Would you say you are living by the spirit and following the Holy Spirit’s lead, or still living more by your own wits and passions? Explain.

7. What are some of the changes you have seen in your life since you’ve become a believer? What have others noticed?

8. A year from now, how would you like to be more Christlike? What can you begin doing today to move toward that goal?

9. As part of God’s family, we get to keep loving each other and helping each other grow in Christ. Read the verses mentioned below, and jot down in your own words, next to each scripture reference, what it says about your responsibilities toward your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hebrews 3:13:

James 5:19-20:

Acts 2:42:

10. Write down 3 or more declarations about who you are to God, and how He feels about you, based on this week’s scriptures.

11. Journal any of these verses SOAP style.

**Lesson 5 What Is My Assignment?**

You were put here on earth to make a contribution. You are unique and were especially designed to serve God and serve other people. Your life can make an eternal difference!

Ephesians 2:10. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Romans 12:1. Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Matthew 20:28. The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Philippians 2:5-8. **5**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: **6**Who, being in very nature[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Phil+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29398a)] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; **7**rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Phil+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29399b)] of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8**And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

John 17:4 [Jesus said] I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do. (Msg)

Acts 13:36 “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed.

Galatians 6:4 Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don’t be impressed with yourself. Don’t compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. (Msg)

2 Timothy 1:6-7 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. **7**For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

1. Read Ephesians 2:10. According to this verse, what is a key purpose for which you were created? What does the last phrase of this verse imply about the good works God created you to do?

2. Given your DNA, your personality, your talents, your surroundings, your background, and the people God has placed in your life, what do you think are some of the good works God has intended for you to do? Be specific.

3. Read Romans 12:1. It says “in view of God’s mercy”, we are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice. List some of God’s mercies that you have experienced.

4. In view of all these mercies that the Lord has extended to you, how can you offer your body as a living sacrifice to the Lord? Give some specific examples or ways you are using, or could use, your body and energy and time and talents to serve others. What does this verse add to your understanding of true worship?

5. Read Matthew 20:28 and Philippians 2:5-8. How low was Jesus willing to stoop to save and serve you? Is this convicting in any way? How low are you willing to stoop to serve others and lead them to salvation?

6. Read Jesus’ prayer in John 17:4, and what Acts 13:36 says about David. If the Lord were to call you home today, would you be able to say that you’ve completed your God given assignments and served God’s purposes in your generation? What assignments from the Lord have you yet to fulfill? Explain.

7. Read Galatians 6:4. Are you doing this? Summarize what this verse means to you.

8. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7. In thinking of Timothy’s faith and his spiritual heritage, what does Paul encourage young Timothy to do? What weakness did Timothy apparently have? If you had known Paul, what do you think he might have written to you, to encourage you in your ministry?

9. Jot down 3 or more declarations, based on these verses, that you can recite to yourself when you are tired or tested in ministry.

10. Journal one of these verses/passages SOAP style.

**Lesson 6 How Do I Share My Life’s Message?**

You were made for a mission – to bring other people to Jesus. Learning to share your testimony and clearly explain the Gospel is one of the most important parts of your life’s purpose.

Matthew 28:19-20. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Romans 1:17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+1%3A17%2C+2+Cor+5%3A19&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27948a)] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+1%3A17%2C+2+Cor+5%3A19&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27948b)]

2 Corinthians 5:19 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is . . not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Colossians 4:5 Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity.

1. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 2 Corinthians 5:20 above. What fears have kept you from telling others about Jesus, and fulfilling the mission God gave you to accomplish? What holds you back from telling others the Good News?

2. Read 1 John 5:11-12, and John 14:6. According to these verses what should be the crux of our message to non-believers be?

3. Read 1 Peter 2:9 above. How do you respond to Peter’s description of you and other Christians in this verse? Why did God give us these amazing privileges?

4. You have a storehouse of experiences to praise God for; experiences that God wants to use to bring others into His family. Your life message consists of your testimony, (how you came to Jesus), life lessons, (important things God has taught you), and the Good News (the message of salvation by grace through faith.) Briefly write out the main points of your testimony, that you could share with someone in 3 minutes or less. Include these 4 elements:

What your life was like before you came to Jesus.

How you realized you needed Jesus.

How you committed your life to Jesus.

The difference Jesus has made in your life.

5. Briefly write out 3 life lessons – truths that God has taught you through your experiences with Him. For example, what has God taught you through failure, through lack of money, through sorrow, pain, illness or depression, through waiting, through disappointment, etc.

6. Read Romans 1:17 and 2 Corinthians 5:19 above. Briefly write out how you would explain the Good News of the Gospel, in 3 minutes or less. (Feel free to refer back to the scripture verses in Lesson 2.)

7. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and Colossians 4:5 above. God wants everyone to be saved. He doesn’t want anyone to die without knowing Him and be separated from Him for eternity. Sharing the Gospel with an unsaved person is the best gift you could ever give them! What are you willing to do so that the people you know will go to heaven? Invite them to church? Pray for them every day until they give their hearts to Jesus? Show them Christ’s love? Witness to them? Explain.

8. Who is God putting on your heart, who needs to hear the Gospel? Jot down the names of the people the Lord brings to your mind, to whom you can witness in the coming days. Begin to pray that the Lord will soften their hearts and make them receptive to your message.

9. Think of someone you prayed for, for a long time, and/or witnessed to, over and over, who finally gave their heart to Jesus. How did they feel afterwards? How did you feel?

10. Jot down 3 or more declarations, based on these verses, with which you can remind yourself of the mission God has given you.

11. Journal one of these passages/verses SOAP style.

**Lesson 7 What Do I Do When God Seems Distant?**

God is real and He loves you, no matter how you feel. Growing in Christ requires learning to live according to God’s word, and trust Him, even when you don’t feel His presence.

Psalm 10:1 Why, Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.

Psalm 43:2 You are God my stronghold. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?

Psalm 44:23 Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.

Deuteronomy 31:8 The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

Isaiah 8:17 The Lord has hidden himself from his people, but I trust him and place my hope in Him.

Job 23:8-10. **8**But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him.  
**9**When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him. **10**But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

Psalm 51:1-2, 10-13 **1**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.  
**2**Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. . . **10**Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11**Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me. **12**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. **13**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
so that sinners will turn back to you.

Job 23:12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.

Isaiah 46:3-4 Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel,  
you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born.  
Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you.  
I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

1. Briefly describe a time, since becoming a Christian, when you felt spiritually dry and didn’t feel God’s presence. What was going through your mind? What did you do?

2. Read the first 4 verses from Psalms, above. How was David feeling? Had God really left him? Had God forgotten about him?

3. Read God’s promise in Deuteronomy 31:8, and write it out, and memorize it. How might you use this promise to help you when you can’t feel God’s presence?

4. Read Isaiah 8:17. What did Isaiah choose to do when he couldn’t feel God’s presence?

5. Read Job 23:8-10 above. What confident assurance did Job have even though he couldn’t feel God’s presence? What spiritual principle do you learn from these verses?

6. Fill in the blank: It is faith, not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that pleases God.

7. Sometimes when we don’t feel God’s presence it’s because we have sinned. Read what David did after he sinned in Psalm 51:1-2 & 10-13 above. What does David’s prayer inspire and instruct you to do after you have sinned.

8. When God seems distant, what are some eternal truths you can hang onto? Jot down what you know about God, despite how you may be feeling.

9. During times of spiritual dryness we must patiently rely on the promises of God, not our emotions. Read Job 23:12 above and write down what sustained Job when he couldn’t feel God’s presence. How has this same thing sustained you? Give examples.

10. Read Isaiah 46:3-4 above and write down at least 3 promises of God that you can hold onto when you don’t feel God’s presence.

11. Jot down 3 or more declarations, based on these verses, that you can recite to yourself as a reminder that God is with you, even when you don’t feel His presence.

12. Journal one of these verses/passages SOAP style.

Over 90 Statements from

Scripture Describing

**Who I Am In Christ**

I am blameless and free from accusation. (Colossians 1:22)

Christ Himself is in me. (Colossians 1:27)

I am firmly rooted in Christ and am now being built up in Him. (Col. 2:7)

I have been made complete in Christ. (Colossians 2:10)

I have been spiritually circumcised. My old unregenerate nature has been

removed. (Colossians 2:11)

I have been buried, raised, and made alive with Christ. (Colossians 2:12,13)

I died with Christ and I have been raised up with Christ. My life is now hidden

With Christ in God. Christ is now my life. (Colossians 1:1-4)

I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life. (Colossians 3:4)

I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved. (Col. 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)

I am a son of light and not of darkness. (1 Thessalonians 5:5)

I have been given a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

I have been saved and set apart according to God’s doing.

(2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5)

Because I am sanctified and am one with the Sanctifier, He is not ashamed

to call me brother. (Hebrews 2:11)

I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling. (Hebrews 3:1)

I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to find mercy and

grace in a time of need. (Hebrews4:16)

I have been born again. (1 Peter 1:23)

I am one of God’s living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house.

(1 Peter 2:5)

I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a

People for God’s own possession. (1 Peter 2:9,10)

I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live.

(1 Peter 2:11)

I am an enemy of the devil. (1 Peter 2:11)

I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God by

Which I am a partaker of God’s divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4)

I am forgiven on the account of Jesus’ name. (1 John 2:12)

I am anointed by God. (1 John 2:27)

I am a child of God and I will resemble Christ when He returns. (1 John 3:1,2)

I am loved. (1 John 4:10)

I am like Christ. (1 John 4:10)

I have life. (1 John 5:12)

I am born of God, and the evil one…the devil…cannot touch me.

(1 John 5:`8)

I have been redeemed. (Revelation 5:9)

**My Nature In Christ**

I have been healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

I am the salt of the earth. (Matthew 5:13)

I am the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)

I am commissioned to make disciples. (Matthew 28:19,20)

I am a child of God. (John 1:12)

I have eternal life. (John 10:27)

I have been given peace. (John 14:27)

I am part of the true vine, a channel of Christ’s life. (John 15:1,5)

I am clean. (John 15:3)

I am Christ’s friend. (John 15:15)

I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit. (John 15:16)

I have been given glory. (John 17:22)

I have been justified…completely forgiven and made righteous.

(Romans 5:1)

I died with Christ and died to the power of sin’s rule over my life.

(Romans 6:1-6)

I am a slave of righteousness. (Romans 6:18)

I am free from sin and enslaved to God. (Romans 6:22)

I am free forever from condemnation. (Romans 8:1)

I am a son of God; God is spiritually my Father. (Romans 8:14, 15

Galatians 3:26; 4:6)

I am a joint heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him

(Romans 8:17)

I am more than a conqueror through Christ, who loves me.

(Romans 8:37)

I have faith. (Romans 12:3)

I have been sanctified and called to holiness. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

I have been given grace in Christ Jesus. (1Corinthians 1:4)

I have been placed into Christ, by God’s doing. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

I have received the Spirit of God into my life that I might know the

things feely given to me by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)

I have been given the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16)

I am a temple…a dwelling place…of God. His Spirit and His life dwell

in me. (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)

I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with Him. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

I am bought with a price; I am not my own; I belong to God.

(1 Corinthians 6:19,20; 7:23)

I am called. (1 Corinthians 7:17)

I am a member of Christ’s Body. (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30)

I am victorious through Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God in Christ, and I have

been given to the Holy Spirit as a pledge guaranteeing my

inheritance to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21; Ephesians 1:13,14)

I am led by God in triumphal procession. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

I am to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved

and those who are perishing. (2 Corinthians 2:15)

I am being changed into the likeness of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18

Since I have died, I no longer live for myself, but for Christ.

(2 Corinthians 5:14,15)

I am a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation.

(2 Corinthians 5:18,19)

I have been made righteous. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

I am given strength in exchange for weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:10)

I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ

lives in me. The life I am now living is Christ’s life. (Galatians 2:20)

I am a son of God and one in Christ. (Galatians 3:26, 28)

I am Abraham’s seed…an heir of the promise. (Galatians 3:29)

I am an heir of God since I am a son of God. (Galatians 4:6,7)

I am a saint. (Ephesians 1:1; ! Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2)

I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing. (Ephesians 1:3)

I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and

am without blame before Him. (Ephesians 1:4)

I was predestined…determined by God…to be adopted as God’s son.

(Ephesians 1:5)

I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13)

I have been redeemed and forgiven, and I am a recipient of His lavish

grace.

I have been made alive together with Christ. (Ephesians 2:5)

I have been raised up and seated with Christ in heaven. (Ephesians 2:6)

I am God’s workmanship…His handiwork…born anew in Christ to do His

work. (Ephesians 2:10)

I have direct access to God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:18)

I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God’s family. (Ephesians 2:19)

I may approach God with boldness, freedom, and confidence. (Eph. 3:12)

I am righteous and holy. (Ephesians 2:24)

I am a citizen of heaven, seated in heaven right now. (Philippians 3:20

Ephesians 2:6)

I am capable. (Philippians 4:13)

I have been rescued from the domain of Satan’s rule and transferred

to the kingdom of Christ. (Colossians 1:13)

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. The debt against me has

been cancelled. (Colossians 1:14)