SEEKING GOD

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone SEEK instead of LOOK for God.

MEMORY SCRIPTURE

- **Matthew 7.7-14**. The great promise: seek and find.
- **Matthew 7.24-29.** Truly seeking means building on a solid foundation.
- **Luke 13.22-30.** Seeking equals making every effort.
- **Jeremiah 29.13.** You find God when you seek with your whole heart.
- **Acts 8.26-40**. Seeking of the Eunuch

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **1 Kings 10.1-13.** Queen of Sheba seeks God
- **Acts 17.10-11.** Seeking requires eagerly examining the scriptures everyday.

WHAT YOU BRING

- Friendship
- Connection to the fellowship

ATTITUDES THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- Priority of their relationship with God
- What someone wants to get out of studying the Bible

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS:

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approximate Time Span between original & copy	Copies

Pliny	61-113 A.D.	850 A.D.	750 yrs	7
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7
Demosthenes	4th Cent. B.C.	1100 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Herodotus	480-425 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs	8
Euripides	480-406 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1300 yrs	9
Aristophanes	450-385 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200	10
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000	10
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400	49
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. 130 A.D. f.)	less than 100 years	5600

There are thousands more New Testament (NT) Greek manuscripts than any other ancient writing. The internal consistency of the NT documents is about 99.5% textually pure. In addition, there are over 19,000 copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting NT manuscript base is over 24,000.

Almost all biblical scholars agree that the NT documents were all written before the close of the First Century. If Jesus was crucified around 30 A.D., that means the entire NT was completed within 70 years. This is important because it means there were plenty of people around when the NT documents were penned who could have contested the writings. In other words, those who wrote the documents knew that if they were inaccurate, plenty of people would have pointed it out. But, we have absolutely no ancient documents contemporary with the First Century that contest the NT texts.

Furthermore, we have a fragment of the gospel of John that dates back to around 29 years from the original writing (John Rylands Papyri 125 A.D.). This is extremely close to the original writing date. This is unheard of in any other ancient writing and it demonstrates that the Gospel of John is a First Century document.

If critics of the Bible dismiss the NT as reliable information, then they must also dismiss the reliability of the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, Homer, and the other authors mentioned in the chart. On the other hand, if the critics acknowledge the historicity and writings of those other individuals, then they must also retain the historicity and writings of the NT authors; after all, the evidence for the NT reliability is far greater than the others. The Christian has substantially superior criteria for affirming the NT documents than he does for any other ancient writing. It is good evidence on which to base the trust in the reliability of the NT.

AIM OF THE STUDY

To teach someone how to USE the Bible

MEMORY SCRIPTURES

- **2 Timothy 3.16-17.** To be effective, we need to know how to use the word**.**
- **1 Timothy 4.16.** The word helps us match our life and doctrine
- **Hebrews 4.12-13.** God's word is precise and relevant to our lives.
- **John 12.47-48.** In the end, the word will serve as our judge.
- **Acts 17.10-11**. Eagerly, examine, everyday

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **John 8.31-32.** Believing in the bible isn't enough; obeying the bible is a must.
- **John 14.15.** Loving God equates to obeying his word.
- **1 John 2.6.** We must walk as Jesus walked.
- **John 7.17.** When you obey the word, that's when you find out it's from God.
- **2 Timothy 2.15.** It takes effort to learn how to use the bible.

WHAT YOU BRING

- Friendship
- Connection to the fellowship

ATTITUDES THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- Priority of their relationship with God
- If the bible is the main authority in their life

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

DISCIPLESHIP

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone discern if they're living as a true disciple of Jesus. To help someone begin living as a true disciple of Jesus.

MEMORY SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 11.25-26.** Disciple and Christian are synonymous.
- **Mark 1.16-20**. Following Jesus equals "fishing for men".
- **Mark 34-38**. Carrying the cross and self denial a must
- **Matthew 28.18-20.** A disciple is actively involved in the mission of making disciples.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **John 13.34-35**. The litmus test of discipleship: our love for one another.
- **John 1 35-50**. Instantly practicing making disciples
- **Luke 9.23-26**. Parallel to Mark 8

WHAT YOU BRING

- A living example of discipleship
- Clarity to the question: Who is and who isn't a Christian?

ATTITUDES THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- Their willingness to let Jesus (not past, peers, pastors, or parents) call the shots.

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

SIN

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone view sin as God views it and respond to sin as God responds.
- Discerning “dominant” sin instead of every individual sin.

MEMORY SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 3.23**. No one is immune to sin. Our standard is God’s holiness.
- **Romans 6.23**. Sin is a major problem, not a minor inconvenience.
- **Mark 7.20-23.** Outward appearances are deceptive; Jesus wants us to take responsibility for the specific sin in our heart.
- **Galatians 5.19-21/Ephesians 5.3-12/.2 Timothy 3.1-9** A specific list of sins. A lifestyle like this doesn’t enter the kingdom of heaven.
- **Isaiah 59.1-2**. The result of sin: separation from God.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **Luke 7.36-50.** The contrast of Simon the Pharisee and the sinful woman.
- **Isaiah 6.1-8**. Isaiah’s commission.

WHAT YOU BRING

- Vulnerability of your own life and sin
- Indignation of sin
- Willingness to confront the sin in their life

ATTITUDES THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- How someone views their sin
- How someone responds to their sin

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

CROSS

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone see their responsibility in Jesus' death **AND** look forward to grace

MEMORY SCRIPTURES

- **Romans 5.6-10.** Our condition is hopeless but God saves us at our worst.
- **Mark 15.1-15.** The account of the cross: Jesus in the garden; Jesus and Barabbas; Jesus breathing his last.
- **Matthew 26. 36-46.** Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
- **Matthew 27.32-54**
- **2 Corinthians 5.14-21.** The response to the cross: helping others to be reconciled to God.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **1 Peter 2.24** Another response to the cross: dying to sin **AND** living for righteousness.
- **Acts 2.36/3.13-15/4.10/5.27-32.** Peter helping different crowds see their responsibility
- **John 1.29.** Jesus, the lamb of God, will take on the sin of the world.

WHAT YOU BRING

- A model of a life changed by the cross
- Encouragement to change

ATTITUDES THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- Their personal responsibility for Jesus' death
- Their willingness to live for Jesus

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

REPENTANCE

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone respond to the cross by changing their mindset

SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 26.15-20.** Jesus' commission to Paul: preach repentance. Also, a helpful working definition of repentance.
- **Luke 3.7-14.** John the Baptist's standard: repent prior to baptism.
- **2 Corinthians 7.8-11.** Difference between godly and worldly sorrow and what godly sorrow produces.
- **Acts 3.19.** Repentance brings refreshment.
- **Acts 2.36-41.** Repentance is part of God's solution to our problem.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **2 Timothy 2.24-25**. God grants repentance.
- **Luke 19.1-10**. An example of repentance.
- **Luke 13.1-9.** Jesus' standard on repentance: repent or perish.

WHAT YOU BRING

- A model of a life changed by the cross
- Encouragement and direction to help someone change

WHAT THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- Has repentance taken place in their life?

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

BAPTISM

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone see the grace offered by God through baptism

MEMORY SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 2.36-41.** God's solution to our problem: repentance and baptism. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins and the reception of the Holy Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 12.12-13.** Baptism also connects us to the body of Christ.
- **Romans 6.1-7.** Baptism connects us to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- **Colossians 2.11-15.** We are raised by **faith** in Christ. On the cross, Jesus cancels all outstanding debts on our behalf.
- **1 Peter 3.18-21.** The OT flood symbolises baptism.

WHAT YOU BRING

- The excitement and urgency of grace
- Love and encouragement to help someone desire to receive God's grace

WHAT THE SPIRIT EXPOSES

- Their level of urgency

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

CHURCH

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone develop a community mindset

SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 2.42-47.** The overwhelming sense of community. “We” over “I”.
- **Romans 12.3-8.** God has given the church gifts for the common good; we all play a part.
- **1 Corinthians 12.12-31.** Everyone plays a role. God designed the roles.
- **Ephesians 4.1-6.** The call is for unity in the body.
- **Hebrews 3.12-13/10.24-25.** Our interactions in the body.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

- **Philippians 2.1-4.** Looking to meet the needs of others in the body.
- **Colossians 1.18.** Christ is the head of the church; the body.
- **1 John 1.5-7.** Walking the light creates true fellowship with one another.

WHAT YOU BRING

- How community has shaped and influenced your spiritual life.

PERSONAL NOTES & EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

COUNT THE COST

AIM OF THE STUDY

- To help someone think through what it will mean practically for them to make Jesus Lord of their life

SCRIPTURES

- **Luke 14.25-33.** Making Jesus Lord is a thought out, well considered decision. It means following him completely and wholeheartedly on his terms.

POINTS TO EMPHASISE

- Devotion to church meetings (Sunday & Wednesday) and
- Devotion to bible talk
- Giving: financially and serving
- Discipling: commitment to grow and learn to help others grow
- Emphasis on the MISSION

OVERALL, THINGS TO LOOK FOR THROUGHOUT THE STUDIES

- **1 Thessalonians 1.5-11**Consistent, convicting bible study. An eagerness to imitate. Others commenting on how their life is changing.
- **Luke 19.8** Repentance without any prompting.
- **2 Corinthians 5.14-21.** Their active participation in trying to reconcile others.
- **Acts 2.37**. Conviction from God's word.
- **John 3.5**. An urgency to be "born again" not simply make some adjustments.

In the end, the process of someone going from darkness to light, lost to saved, is the work of the Holy Spirit. God places people at the right time and place for them to seek him. However, as co-workers with God, it is our role to communicate the gospel message as clear and as effective as we can. Let us all strive to be used by God to win as many as possible.