

## THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST

In His Great Commission, Jesus told His disciples,

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of 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 (Matthew 28:18-20).*

The Great Commission was the last and most important instruction Jesus gave to His followers. In it, He tells us to make disciples and teach them to obey all of His commands. What were His commands? This is an important question if we are to obey Him and fulfill the Great Commission.

This Bible study seeks to answer this question. The word “command” is treated broadly since Jesus taught by giving direct commands, as well as through parables and personal examples. This study treats all three. The Epistles (New Testament letters to churches) give further explanation of the teachings of Christ, and sometimes these are also included here. But the study focuses on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

### Instructions

This Bible study can be used independently, but we highly encourage you to do it with a few other people because we learn so much from others. Each week has seven daily lessons on a common theme. The reading for Day 1 of each week (in ***bold italics***) should be discussed in the study group. The remaining lessons are for personal study.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Week

During your small group meeting the first week:

1. Read aloud the introduction and Week 1 comments, “Two Greatest Commandments,” on page 3. Discuss these comments before reading the Bible verses for Day 1.
2. Read aloud the verses for Day 1 (in ***bold italics***) on page 7, make observations, and discuss the meaning of the verses.
3. Finally, discuss how to apply these verses to your lives. An illustration of this method is given below. (See Example for Day 1.)

During the remainder of the week, study the daily verses on your own by using the method of observing, interpreting, and applying. Record what you are learning each day. This will make it easier to share with others at the next meeting and will also help you remember what you are learning. To maintain a close walk with God, spend time daily with Him in His Word.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> and Following Weeks

During the small group meeting the second week:

1. Spend the first half of the time sharing how you each applied the lessons of the past week to your life.
2. During the second half of your time together, discuss the comments for the coming week’s lesson, and read aloud the verses for Day 1 of that week ( in ***bold italics***), then discuss them together.

Again, during the remainder of the week, study the daily verses on your own.

### Example for Day 1

As you read the Scripture for each day, use this pattern for your study:

- **Observe**      *What does the Bible say?*  
For example, in the first lesson, Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all of four things: your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength.
- **Interpret**      *What does the Bible mean?*  
What does it mean to love God completely with these four things? My heart and my mind might be obvious, but what about my soul and my strength? This may raise a question about how I use my time and energy.
- **Apply**      *What truths can I put into practice, and what changes should I make?*  
I need to give God my best time for Bible study, rather than what is left over after everything else is done.

Some days may have only a few verses to read, while other days may have a chapter. Whatever the reading may be, take time to think about the passage and how it applies to your life. As you study, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into a greater understanding of God. This can be facilitated by sharing what you are learning with others.

### The Challenge

Paul instructed Timothy:

*The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).*

Anything that does not reproduce dies out. Therefore, it is not enough for you to gain a deeper relationship with God. For Christ's church to grow, believers need to faithfully plant the seeds of faith in others as well. The Good News must not stop with you. God wants you to reproduce spiritually by introducing others to faith in Christ and helping them grow in their faith.

At the very beginning of the study, we strongly urge each person to commit to helping others go through the study. These others might be your own family, your friends, or co-workers. You can start such a group anytime you feel comfortable with the material you have already learned. You don't have to wait until the end of the study.

Enjoy the Bible study! May the Lord bless you greatly, and may He use you to help others grow in their relationship with Him.

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## BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST

### Introduction

Studying Christ's commands is an interesting way to view the Gospels. These are commands that we should be practicing as well as teaching others to obey. So as you do this study, pretend that you are one of the disciples following Jesus. This may give you a fresh understanding of things you have read in the past and a sense of greater accountability.

### WEEK 1 Two Greatest Commandments

Jesus was well along in His ministry when the lawyer asked Him which commandment was the greatest. His reply was, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these*" (Mark 12:30-31). It seems fitting to begin this study with these two commandments. We will start by examining what it means to love God with our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength.

### WEEK 2 Come Follow Me

Jesus made it clear that He was asking for total commitment from His followers. Please read the daily passages thoughtfully. Have you ever told Christ He could do anything He wanted with your life? Have you allowed Him to be Lord over your entire life? If not, surrender your life to His Lordship during this lesson. When you do, you will begin a great adventure as He transforms you to live a supernatural life in His power.

### WEEK 3 A New Commandment: Love One Another

Jesus was adding a new commandment: love one another. Loving your neighbor as yourself would seem to cover the subject, but Jesus was making a special point that His followers need to love each other. This love shows the world that we are His disciples. The book of 1 John points out that a believer cannot say he loves God yet hates his brother at the same time. (See 2:9-11; 3:14-17; 4:20-21.) As you go through this week, consider the believers you know. If you have a bad attitude toward anyone, confess it and correct it immediately.

### WEEK 4 Practicing Love in Our Relationships with Others

Jesus gave a new commandment to "*love one another*" (John 13:35). In the verses of this lesson, He gives further explanation of how to practice this. These are not casual instructions, but should be considered carefully to obey this new command.

### WEEKS 5 & 6 Sermon on the Mount

In this sermon to His disciples, Jesus lays out some supernatural requirements for living. The only way to fulfill these commands is to live a life controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. That is why the total commitment of your life to Jesus that you studied in week 2 is so important. Without that commitment, you have no hope of obeying the Lord's commands in this sermon. Read the Scripture passages for these 14 days with an open heart, asking Christ to show you where you need to change. If you obey His teaching in this sermon, you will make great progress in walking with Christ.

### **WEEK 7 Regarding the Kingdom**

The commands of Christ in this lesson are drawn from His answers to questions concerning the kingdom of God. We are now His representatives, so we need to be able to explain His kingdom to others. We can do this by studying how Jesus explained God's kingdom and by learning from His example.

### **WEEK 8 Power of the Kingdom**

This lesson demonstrates the power we have as believers. We need faith to use this power. This faith must come from God so that we act consistent with His will. Faith isn't something we develop through self-effort. Instead, we put into practice the faith God gives to us. As you read these verses, see if you find areas where God wants to strengthen and use your faith.

### **WEEK 9 Prayer**

Prayer is one way to exercise the spiritual power available to us. In fact, in the story about the boy with the evil spirit (Mark 9:14-29), Jesus said, *"This kind can come out only by prayer."* Week 4 in the Bible study "Faith, Love, Thankfulness, and Prayer" covers the subject of prayer in more detail.

### **WEEK 10 Parables**

Jesus often taught people using parables. When His disciples asked why, He replied, *"The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them"* (Matthew 13:11). So the parables are meant to teach His followers important truths. Read the parables carefully, and see what secrets you can uncover for your own life and for your walk with the Lord. Try to summarize specific commands that apply to you. For example, the parable of the sower implies that we should seek to be "good soil" for the Word of God.

### **WEEK 11 Personal Advice – Walking with and Abiding in Christ**

This lesson deals with our walk with the Lord. These verses are a good reminder that Jesus is all we need. The crowd asked Him, *"What must we do to do the works God requires?"* Jesus replied, *"The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent"* (John 6:28-29). We need to truly believe in Jesus: who He is, what He has done for us, and what He will do through us if we give Him our lives. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to what He said, while her sister Martha was worried and upset over all the meal preparations. Jesus said Mary had chosen what is better. We need to sit still and abide in His Word so that we won't be distracted from what is most important.

### **WEEK 12 Personal Advice – Living Out Our Faith**

Jesus tells us that we will do greater things than He has done – if we have faith. And it doesn't have to be great faith, just the size of a mustard seed. The key is to make sure our faith comes from God and is according to His will. True faith will be demonstrated in our deeds. Jesus' advice to the seventy-two disciples is a reminder not to rejoice (be proud) over what we see happen as the result of our faith, but rather to rejoice that our names are written in heaven (Luke 10:17-20).

### **WEEK 13 Personal Advice – Guard Your Life and Serve God**

Our human abilities to see, hear, speak, and think can get us into a lot of trouble, so we need to place a close guard on how we use them. We must be faithful to use these abilities and other God-given talents for His glory. Jesus urges us to do the work of the kingdom while we are able, for the night is coming when no one can work.

### **WEEK 14 Woes and Warnings**

We should take to heart the warnings Jesus gave to the Scribes and Pharisees because we can easily fall into the same traps they did. This is true of other warnings as well. We must constantly be watchful. It is easy to get into problems when we become careless and lax in our walk with the Lord.

### **WEEK 15 Instructions Jesus Gave to Disciples He Sent Out**

Jesus gave His disciples instructions as He sent them out to do His work. These verses are good advice, and they help us focus on what we should be doing. Christ is also sending us out as ambassadors to take the gospel to the world.

### **WEEK 16 Commands concerning the End Times**

Jesus criticized the people of His day for not understanding the times (Luke 12:54-56). We must be careful so that we are not guilty of the same. The Lord wants us to be prepared for His promised return to earth (Matthew 24:42-44). We have much work to be done before then, and He doesn't want us to be lazy. We are to be faithful servants, careful in our walk with the Lord (as Week 11 pointed out). Prophecies seem to be coming true in our day, and this should make us even more watchful and excited about seeing Him.

### **WEEK 17 Commands in the Upper Room**

As Christ's time on earth drew to a close, He gave important instructions to His disciples as they ate their last supper together. He warned them of His impending death, and He promised that they would receive the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth after He was gone. Jesus also reminded them that to be fruitful, they must abide in Him. He then concluded the time with prayer for Himself, His disciples, and all who would believe in Him. Notice that a key part of this prayer is for believers to live in such unity that the world would see Jesus in them and know that He is God.

### **WEEK 18 Christ's Final Commands**

Just before Christ returned to heaven, He gave His disciples final instructions. He told them to preach the Gospel to the whole world and to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything He commanded. Jesus promised that He will be with them always, to the end of the age, and that they will receive power from His Holy Spirit. What a great privilege! We have the Holy Spirit to guide, instruct, and give us the power to live the supernatural life God desires.

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You have now completed this study on "The Commands of Christ." Have you grown in your obedience to His commands? Now it is your turn to go and teach others to obey all His commands. May the Lord be with you.

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## THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST

### Week 1 Two Greatest Commandments

#### Day 1 The Two Greatest Commandments of All

Day 2 Love God with All Your Heart

Day 3 Love God with All Your Soul

Day 4 Love God with All Your Mind

Day 5 Love God with All Your Strength

Day 6 Jesus Illustrates Loving Your Neighbor

Day 7 Further Explanation of Neighbors from the Epistles (letters to believers)

**Mark 12:28-31; Matthew 22:34-40**

Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Kings 8:56-61;

Psalm 51:17; 119:2, 34, 112;

Proverbs 3:1-6; 4:20-23

Psalm 62:1-2; 63:1-5; 103:1-5; 130:5-6

Isaiah 26:3; Proverbs 22:17-19;

Romans 8:5-8; Ephesians 4:22-24;

Colossians 3:1-2

Psalm 18:30-36; 27:14; Isaiah 30:15;

40:28-31; Ephesians 6:10-18;

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Luke 10:25-37

Romans 13:8-10; 15:1-2; Galatians 5:13-15;

James 2:1-9

### Week 2 Come Follow Me

1. ***“I Will Make You Fishers of Men”***

2. Jesus Calls “Sinners” to Follow Him

3. Consider the Cost of Following Jesus

4. Deny Yourself, and Take Up Your Cross

5. If You Are Not with Jesus, You Are against Him

6. Jesus Chose You and Appointed You to Go and Bear Fruit

7. Following Jesus Is Not Always Easy

**Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11**

Matthew 9:9-13

Luke 9:57-62; 14:25-35

Matthew 16:24-27; Mark 8:34-38

Luke 11:14-23; Mark 9:38-41

John 15:16; 6:43-45

John 15:18-21; 1 Peter 4:12-19

### Week 3 A New Commandment: Love One Another

1. ***Love One Another***

2. He Who Loves His Brother Lives in Light

3. Whoever Does Not Love, Does Not Know God

4. Love Must Be Sincere

5. We Are Urged to Love More and More

6. Love One Another Deeply from the Heart

7. Definition of Love

**John 13:34-35; 15:9-17**

1 John 2:7-11; 3:11-18

1 John 4:7-21

Romans 12:9-13

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10; Hebrews 13:1

1 Peter 1:22-23

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### Week 4 Practicing Love in Our Relationships with Others

1. ***To Be First, Be Servant of All***

2. Demonstrate Humility

3. Don’t Cause Others to Stumble

4. Speak to a Brother Who Sins against You

5. Forgive Others

6. Be a Blessing to Those Who Cannot Repay You

7. Love Your Enemies

**Mark 9:33-37; 10:35-45; Luke 22:24-27**

Luke 14:7-11; 18:15-17; John 13:1-17

Mark 9:42-50

Matthew 18:15-20; Luke 17:3; Galatians 6:1

Matthew 18:21-35; 5:23-24; 6:12-15

Luke 14:12-14

Luke 6:27-36

## **Weeks 5 & 6 Sermon on the Mount**

### **Week 5**

1. *The Beatitudes*
2. We Are to Be Salt and Light
3. Fulfillment of the Law; Murder and Reconciliation
4. Adultery; Divorce; Remaining Single
5. Oaths; Retaliation; Enemies
6. Pride and Giving
7. Prayer and Fasting

***Matthew 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-26***  
Matthew 5:13-16; Philippians 2:14-16  
Matthew 5:17-26  
  
Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-12; Mark 10:1-12;  
Luke 16:18  
Matthew 5:33-48  
Matthew 6:1-4  
Matthew 6:5-18

### **Week 6**

1. *Treasures in Heaven*
2. Do Not Worry
3. Do Not Judge Others
4. Be Bold to Ask, Seek, and Knock in Prayer
5. The Narrow and Wide Gates
6. Fruit Reveals the Heart
7. Importance of Obedience

***Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 12:32-34***  
Matthew 6:25-34  
Matthew 7:1-6; Luke 6:37-38  
Matthew 7:7-12  
Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:22-28  
Matthew 7:15-23; Luke 6:43-45  
Matthew 7:24-29

## **Week 7 Regarding the Kingdom**

1. *You Must be Born Again*
2. You Must Worship in Spirit and Truth
3. Old Efforts to Obey the Law Are Not Enough – You Must Have Faith in Christ
4. If You Do Not Honor the Son, You Do Not Honor the Father
5. Listen to Jesus and Follow Him
6. There Will Be No Marriage in Heaven
7. It Is Lawful to Do Good on the Sabbath

***John 3:1-21***  
John 4:1-42  
Luke 5:33-39  
  
John 5:16-30  
  
John 10:1-18  
Luke 20:27-40  
Matthew 12:1-14; Luke 13:10-17

## **Week 8 Power of the Kingdom**

1. *Power over Demons*
2. Power over Sickness
3. Power to Forgive
4. Power of Faith
5. Power over Death
6. Power over Nature
7. Power to Meet Needs

***Mark 1:21-28; 9:14-29; Luke 8:26-39***  
Mark 5:25-34; 7:31-37; 8:22-26  
Luke 5:17-26  
Matthew 8:5-13; 21:18-22  
Luke 7:11-17; John 11:1-44  
Luke 8:22-25; Matthew 14:22-33  
Matthew 14:15-21; 15:32-39

## **Week 9 Prayer**

1. *When and Where to Pray*
2. How to Pray
3. Pray about Everything
4. Be Persistent and Humble
5. Do Not Doubt in Your Heart, but Believe
6. Watch and Pray; Don't Fall into Temptation
7. Pray for the Harvest, and Prayerfully Select Your Disciples

***Matthew 6:5-6; 14:23; Mark 1:35-39***  
Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:7-8  
Philippians 4:6-7; Ephesians 6:18-20;  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18  
Luke 18:1-14  
Mark 11:12-14, 20-26  
Mark 14:27-42, 66-72  
Matthew 9:35-38; Colossians 4:2-4;  
Luke 6:12-16



## Week 10 Parables

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>The Sower</i>                        | <b>Matthew 13:1-23</b>                  |
| 2. Kingdom of Heaven                       | Matthew 13:24-52; 20:1-16; Mark 4:26-29 |
| 3. Good Samaritan and Rich Fool            | Luke 10:25-37; 12:13-21                 |
| 4. Great Banquet; Lost Things; Stewardship | Luke 14:15-24; 15:1-32; 16:1-15         |
| 5. Rich Man and Lazarus                    | Luke 16:19-31                           |
| 6. Two Sons; Tenants; Wedding Banquet      | Matthew 21:28-46; 22:1-14               |
| 7. Ten Virgins and Talents                 | Matthew 25:1-30                         |

## Week 11 Personal Advice – Walking with and Abiding in Christ

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|---|------------------------|
| 1. <i>Focus on That Which Endures Forever</i> | <b>John 6:22-59</b>    |
| 2. Abide in Christ and His Word               | John 8:31-36; 15:1-10  |
| 3. Choose That Which Is Better                | Luke 10:38-42; 8:14-15 |
| 4. Blessed Are Those Who Hear and Obey        | Luke 11:27-28; 8:21    |
| 5. Those Forgiven Much, Love Much             | Luke 7:36-50           |
| 6. “This Is My Son, Listen to Him”            | Luke 9:28-35           |
| 7. Know You Are Simply Doing Your Duty        | Luke 17:7-10           |

## Week 12 Personal Advice – Living Out Our Faith

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|---|---|
| 1. <i>The Power of Faith</i>                        | <b>John 14:12-14; Mark 11:22-26;<br/>1 John 5:14-15</b> |
| 2. The Need for Faith                               | Matthew 17:14-21  |
| 3. How Our Faith Can Help Others                    | Matthew 9:1-8; James 5:13-18                            |
| 4. We Must Choose to Do God’s Will<br>to Know Truth | John 7:14-18  |
| 5. Rejoice that Your Names Are Recorded             | Luke 10:17-20   |
| 6. Blessed Are Those Who Believe                    | John 20:19-31   |
| 7. Demonstrate Your Faith by Your Deeds             | James 2:14-26   |

## Week 13 Personal Advice – Guard Your Life and Serve God

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>What Defiles a Man</i>     | <b>Mark 7:1-23</b>                                      |
| 2. Guard Your Eyes               | Luke 11:33-36; Psalm 101:3                              |
| 3. Guard Your Ears               | Mark 4:24-25  |
| 4. Guard Your Lips               | Luke 6:43-45; Psalm 141:3; Ephesians 4:29               |
| 5. Guard Your Mind and Your Life | Luke 21:34-36; 2 Corinthians 10:5;<br>1 Timothy 6:20-21 |
| 6. Use What God Has Given You    | Luke 19:11-27   |
| 7. Work for the Night Is Coming  | John 9:1-7  |

## Week 14 Woes and Warnings

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|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Seven Woes for Proud, Blind Leaders</i> | <b>Matthew 23:1-39</b>        |
| 2. Warning against Hypocrisy                  | Luke 12:1-12                  |
| 3. Warning about Greed and Trust in Wealth    | Luke 12:13-34                 |
| 4. Warning about Being Unprepared             | Luke 12:35-48                 |
| 5. Expect Division                            | Luke 12:49-53                 |
| 6. Warning about Lack of Discernment          | Luke 12:54-59                 |
| 7. Warning about the Need to Repent           | Luke 13:1-9; Matthew 11:20-24 |

**Week 15 Instructions Jesus Gave to Disciples He Sent Out**

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|---|--|
| 1. <i>Authority Given to Disciples over Spirits and Disease</i> | <i>Matthew 10:1-4</i>                            |
| 2. The Message the Disciples Were to Proclaim                   | Matthew 10:5-8                                   |
| 3. Instructions to the Twelve and the Seventy-two               | Matthew 10:9-16; Luke 10:1-12, 16; Luke 22:35-38 |
| 4. Be on Guard against Men                                      | Matthew 10:17-25                                 |
| 5. Be Bold and Not Afraid                                       | Matthew 10:26-33                                 |
| 6. Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus                          | Matthew 10:34-39                                 |
| 7. Rewards for Faithful Service                                 | Matthew 10:40-42                                 |

**Week 16 Commands concerning the End Times**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Do Not Be Deceived or Frightened</i>    | <i>Matthew 24:1-8</i>                               |
| 2. Endure to the End                          | Matthew 24:9-14; Mark 13:9-11; Luke 21:12-19        |
| 3. A Warning to Flee                          | Matthew 24:15-22; Luke 21:20-24                     |
| 4. Beware of False Christs and False Prophets | Matthew 24:23-28                                    |
| 5. Know What to Expect in Christ's Return     | Matthew 24:29-41; Luke 17:20-37                     |
| 6. Be Prepared and Keep Alert!                | Matthew 24:42 – 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:25-36 |
| 7. Which Are You: Sheep or Goat?              | Matthew 25:31-46                                    |

**Week 17 Commands in the Upper Room**

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. <i>Believe in Jesus</i>                           | <i>John 14:1-14</i> |
| 2. Keep His Commands by the Power of the Holy Spirit | John 14:15-31       |
| 3. Abide in Christ; Bear Fruit; Love One Another     | John 15:1-17        |
| 4. Be Aware That the World May Hate You              | John 15:18 – 16:4   |
| 5. Allow the Holy Spirit to Guide You to Truth       | John 16:5-15        |
| 6. Find Peace and Courage in Christ                  | John 16:16-33       |
| 7. Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples                   | John 17:1-26        |

**Week 18 Christ's Final Commands**

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|--|--|
| 1. <i>The Great Commission: Make Disciples</i> | <i>Matthew 28:16-20</i>                  |
| 2. Preach the Good News to All Creation        | Mark 16:15-20; 13:10; Matthew 24:14      |
| 3. Follow Jesus and Care for His Sheep         | John 21:1-23                             |
| 4. Ask Christ to Explain Scripture to You      | Luke 24:13-45; Psalm 119:18              |
| 5. Depend on His Power                         | Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:1-11               |
| 6. The Apostle Paul's Advice to Timothy        | 2 Timothy 4:1-2                          |
| 7. Remember All That Christ Has Done           | Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 |