



FAITH TRAINER

Spiritual Basics

A Guide for New Believers

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Preface

“To all who received Jesus, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are an adopted child of God. Welcome to God's family!

Just as God has designed children to grow, He has designed you to grow spiritually. *Spiritual Basics: A Guide for New Believers* is a guide that can help. This guide is designed for self-study, but you will get the most benefit if you work through it with the help of another Christian or a small group of believers.

This guide will always be completely free. Download and print out copies as you need from www.faithtrainer.com.

Gratitude and Permissions

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It is my desire that God uses *Spiritual Basics* for the greatest benefit to His Kingdom. If you are using this guide to help others grow in their faith:

- You may distribute this guide to others on the condition that you give it to them for free. “Freely you have received, freely give.”
- You may translate this guide into other languages.
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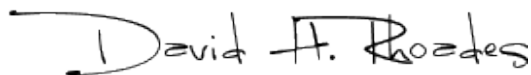
Getting Started

God has made a promise to people who believe in Christ: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

If you are a new believer, make sure you meet regularly with some other maturing believers. They are part of your spiritual family. They will pray with you and help you as you deal with life's issues.

My prayer for you is that you will begin to discover the apostle Paul's appeal to the Christians at Rome in the first century A.D.: *“Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 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”* (Romans 12:1-2).

In Christ,



Dr. David H. Rhoades

Additional resources may be available at www.faithtrainer.com. For any assistance or questions, contact me at david@davidrhoades.org.

Lesson 1 – God’s Plan of Salvation

God created us because He wanted a special relationship with us. Every day He provides for us so many things that we take for granted, like the air we breathe, our daily food and drink, our loved ones, and much more. We take these things for granted because we don’t really know God. God is calling you right now to stop living in ignorance of Him, to come close to Him and know Him. Jesus has changed my life. Now you also can have a new relationship with God and receive all of the blessings He has for you. (Acts 17:28-29)¹

I. Here is how we can receive God’s gift of Life through Jesus.

- A. What does sin do in our life? (Write out the verses or your thoughts in the spaces provided).

Isaiah 59:2 – _____

- B. People try many different ways to find God, yet they fail. Why?

Ephesians 2:8-9 – _____

- C. How does God bring us into relationship with Himself?

1 Peter 3:18 – _____

II. The way of salvation is simple

- A. Jesus’ saving work for us + trusting Him + turning from our ways to Him = salvation

Has God done His part (Jesus’ death and resurrection)?

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you done what you need to do (believe and repent)?

_____ Yes _____ No

If you have “believed,” then you are saved (Romans 10:9-10)!

¹ The references in the parentheses are passages in the Bible. You will need access to a Bible to get the most benefit from this guide. The Bible verses that are written out and the “fill-in-the-blank” answers utilize the English Standard Version (ESV), which is available in most Christian bookstores. It is also available online at www.youversion.com, as well as the YouVersion Bible App for mobile devices.

B. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

John 10:28 – _____

C. Eternal life means more than just living forever with God. It also means that God's Spirit now lives within us, teaching us about Him and enabling us to live a life of holiness, love, peace and joy. Read Revelation 3:20 and Galatians 5:22-23.

D. A Prayer of Faith – Read the prayer below. There's nothing magical in the words to this prayer, but if you believe it in your heart, God will hear your prayer and welcome you into His family. If you have not yet asked God to save you, would you do it right now?

"Dear God, I know that I have sinned, and that my sin has separated me from You. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my way of life toward You. Please forgive me, and save me. I believe that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died for my sins, was raised from the dead, is alive today, and hears my prayer. Jesus, I invite you to become the Lord of my life from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

III. Your response.

Do you know you have been saved? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you know you have received eternal life? _____ Yes _____ No

Conclusion: ____ I have been saved ____ I have not been saved ____ I still don't know

IV. If anyone is in Christ, he is a _____, the old _____; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Here are some of the changes you can expect to experience in your new life.

____ inner peace	____ awareness of sin
____ awareness of God's love	____ ability to overcome sin
____ desire to read the Bible	____ concern for others
____ feeling that my life is moving in the right direction	

Lesson 2 – Understanding Prayer

Praying is “talking” with God. When you pray you should be truthful and earnest, as Jesus was when He “talked” with God and as He taught His disciples.

I. Why do we need to pray?

A. This is God’s command:

“You should _____ pray.” (Luke 18:1)

“Pray _____ in the Spirit.” (Ephesians 6:18)

B. This is your need:

1. You can:

I Peter 5:7 – _____

2. Seek God’s leading:

Jeremiah 33:3 – _____

3. Receive mercy and find grace in your time of need:

Hebrews 4:16 – _____

C. What things do you need to pray for?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in _____ by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your _____ to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

II. The content of prayer

Please draw a line between the verse and the correct description of prayer.

Content:

Verse:

Praise: praise God for who He is

1 John 1:9

Thanksgiving: thank God for his grace

Philippians 4:6-7

Request: ask God to meet your own needs

Psalms 135:3

Intercession: ask God to meet the needs of others

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Confession: ask God to forgive your sins

1 Timothy 2:1

III. Three answers to prayer

- A. Yes (green light), God grants your request.
- B. No (red light), God does not grant your request. Trust that God knows what is best for you and says "no" because He loves you.
- C. Wait (yellow light), God may not immediately respond. You must be patient.

IV. Attitudes that are important in prayer

Attitude:

Verse:

1. Faith

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting. (James 1:6)

2. Repentance for sins

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Psalms 66:18)

3. Correct motives

"....You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly...." (James 4:2-3)

4. Desire for God's will, not our will, to be done.

This is the confidence we have that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1 John 5:14; also see Luke 22:42)

5. Persistence

...they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1-7; also see Luke 11:5-10)

V. Hints for Effective Prayer:

- A. To pray “in Jesus’ name” (John 14:13) means to pray according to God's will. We pray “in Jesus name” because only through Jesus can a person come before God (John 14:6). We must learn to pray for the things that God desires.
- B. We pray in great reverence, aware of the awesome God in whose presence we stand. Our words are addressed to Him, not to those around us.
- C. We often end our prayers with “amen”, which expresses strong agreement or affirmation.
- D. Prayer has many parts: praise, thanksgiving, requests, intercession, confession.
- E. We pray in normal, understandable language.
- F. We can pray at any time of the day and at any place.

Lesson 3 – Daily Time with God

To really know a person you need to spend time with them. In the same way, if you want to have a close relationship with God, you need a “daily time with God.”

III. Why do we spend time with God?

- To worship God
- To open our lives to God
- To let God speak to us

IV. What do we do in our time with God?

- We talk to God through prayer
- We listen to God speak to us through reading the Bible

V. How does God speak to us through the Bible?

A. “All _____ is breathed out by God and is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____ and for _____ in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every _____ work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

B. You can apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17, each time you read a passage from the Bible. Ask God’s Spirit to:

1. **Teach** you – Ask God to show you the main lesson or truths that He wants you to understand and believe.
2. **Reprove** you – Ask God to correct any false or sinful beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values in your life.
3. **Correct** you – Ask God to show you what you need to add to your life or remove from your life to be right with Him (*beliefs, deeds, attitudes, and values*).
4. **Train** you in righteousness – Ask God to show you what Bible verse or spiritual truth He wants you to apply to your life this week so that you develop a Godly character and habits.

IV. What attitude should we have in our time with God?

Psalms 42:1-2 – _____

Psalms 119:147-148 – _____

V. What attitude should we have in our time with God?

How did these characters from the Bible spend time with God?

Verse:	Character:	Time:	Place	Activity:
Genesis 19:27	Abraham	morning		met God
Psalms 5:3				
Daniel 6:10				
Mark 1:35				

From the examples above, what applications to your life can you make regarding spending time with God?

VI. Tools for your daily time with God

Bible: Choose a Bible translation that you can understand. You'll want to start your reading in the New Testament. Begin with Luke's Gospel, followed by his Book of Acts.

Notebook: During your time with God, write down what you sense God is saying to you from the Bible.

Place: Choose a place where you can meet with God daily without being disturbed.

Time: Choose a daily time when you can consistently meet with God.

Plan: Take your Bible, notebook and pen with you each day. Talk to God openly and honestly through prayer. Listen to God as He teaches you, rebukes you, corrects you, and trains you in righteousness (in correct living).

VII. Beginning Your Time with God

- A. Begin with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for God's goodness. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4).
- B. Confess any sins that may be hindering your relationship with God. "If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and _____ us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- C. Ask God to open your eyes to see what He has to teach you from the Bible. "Open my _____ that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalms 119:18).
- D. Now use the pattern you learned in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 as you read a passage from the Bible, asking God to:
 1. **Teach** you – show you the most important lesson He has for you.
 2. **Rebuke** you – show you any immoralities or false teachings.
 3. **Correct** you – show you what He wants to add to or remove from your life.
 4. **Train you in righteousness** – show you what Bible verse or spiritual truth He wants you to apply to your life this week.
- E. The Bible promises that if you do this, you will be "complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

VIII. Persevere in your daily time with God.

Are you willing to commit to a daily time with God? ____ Yes ____ No

Time of day you can meet with God:

Place:

Signature

Lesson 4 – The God Who Saved Us

I. The Trinity

The Bible teaches that there is only one true God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The Bible also teaches that although God is a single Being, He is comprised of three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are equal in every way, yet distinct in their tasks and relations to humanity.

What do you learn about God the Father and the Son of God, Jesus Christ, in these passages?

John 1:1-14 - _____

John 6:38-40 - _____

Colossians 1:12-20 - _____

What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17 and 26? What do you learn about what He does and about His relationship to the Father and the Son?

The Bible teaches that God loves, protects, provides for, and disciplines us.

II. God's Love

"The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have _____ you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you" (Jeremiah 31:3).

A. Based on what reason did God save you?

_____ because you are so bad? _____ because you first loved him?

_____ because you have bad luck? _____ because _____

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the _____ with which he loved us, _____, made us alive with Christ" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

B. How does God reveal his love to you? Please write an example below.

1. Your personal example:

2. I John 3:1 – _____

C. In Luke 15:11-14, Jesus talks about how the father loves the son. How would you describe the similarity between a father and God?

III. God's Protection

"But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and _____ you against the evil one."
(2 Thessalonians 3:3)

A. In Psalms 34:7, what does God promise? _____

The three friends (Daniel 3) _____

B. How does God protect you when you face temptation?

I Corinthians 10:13 – _____

IV. God's Provision

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

A. Why are God's children not to worry?

Matthew 6:31-32 – _____

B. What gift has God given his children to demonstrate he will meet our needs?

Romans 8:32 – _____

V. God's Discipline

"For the Lord _____ the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." (Hebrews 12:6-7)

A. What does God expect for his children? (Ephesians 4:13)

B. How does God discipline his children?

C. Friend: (Proverbs 27:17)

D. Bible: (II Timothy 3:16)

E. Trials: (James 1:2-4)

F. Which aspect of God's fatherhood is most meaningful to you?

____love and kindness

____provision for your needs

____discipline

____protection

Lesson 5 – The Church, the Community of God

When you become a Christian, you are a member of God's family. God is your heavenly Father, and all Christians are like brothers and sisters of the same family. "...the household of God, which is the church of the living God..." (1 Timothy 3:15). The household is not a building, and the "church" is not a place of worship, but is a body of believers.

I. Let's answer some basic questions about church:

A. Who is in the church?

1. Read Acts 2:41 – *“So those who received his word were _____, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”*
2. Church consists of those who accept the message of the Gospel and are baptized.
3. Have you accepted the message of Christ's salvation? Have you been baptized?

B. What is our role in the church?

Romans 12:5 – _____

Ephesians 1:23 – _____

C. What is Christ's relationship to the church?

Ephesians 5:23 – _____

D. What does the church do?

As “the body of Christ,” the church exists to continue and spread the work of Jesus Christ on earth. Acts 1:1 says: “In the first book (the Gospel of Luke), I have dealt with all that Jesus *began* to do and teach....” If the Gospel of Luke, which tells the story of Jesus' earthly ministry is about all that Jesus began to do and teach, then the Book of Acts, the story of the early church, is the continuation of Jesus' actions and teachings through His body, the Church.

II. The call to each of Jesus' disciples is the same call given to us: Jesus said, "Follow me." (Mark 2:14)

Following Jesus is called discipleship. Jesus gave two powerful instructions that accomplish five basic tasks.

- A. The GREAT Commandment. Read Matthew 22:34-40.
 - 1. Loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind is worship.
 - 2. Loving your neighbor as yourself is ministry.
- B. The GREAT Commission. Read Matthew 28:18-20.
 - 1. Going to others to share Jesus' love is evangelism.
 - 2. Baptizing people is fellowship.
 - 3. Teaching people is spiritual growth.

Read these verses to see how the church can fulfill its purpose on earth.

- 1. Worship: " the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!" (Psalm 149:1)
- 2. Ministry: "Religion that is and before God, the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (James 1:7)
- 3. Evangelism: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
- 4. Fellowship: "And let us consider how to stir up to love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24)
- 5. Spiritual Growth: " them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:20)

III. Where does the church meet?

- A. Churches can meet anywhere: schools, theaters, cathedrals, apartments, or houses.
- B. Where did churches typically meet in New Testament times? Read Acts 2:46; 5:42; 16:40; 17:5-7; 19:2; 20:20; Romans 16:1-5
- C. Do you have a home? Would you be willing for Christians to meet there?

IV. Rights and Obligations We Have in Church

A. A righteousness to fulfill – **Baptism**

1. Jesus called baptism “righteousness” (Matthew 3:15)
2. Baptism is a public sign that we have a new life in Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:3)
3. Baptism shows that we are dead, buried and resurrected together with Jesus Christ. “We were _____ therefore with him by baptism into _____ in order that, just as Christ was _____ from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too may walk in _____ of life.” (Romans 6:4)
4. Baptism is a witness and it has no power to forgive sins. Salvation comes totally from confessing with the mouth and believing in the heart.

B. A remembrance to practice – **the Lord’s Supper**

1. Jesus Himself established it, to be in remembrance of Him, of His death and shedding of blood for our sins. (Matthew 26:17-19, 26-30)
2. Whenever we take the Lord’s Supper it helps us to think about and to thank God for his grace again. “Upon him was the _____ that brought us _____, and with his _____ we are _____.” (Isaiah 53:5)
3. The Lord’s Supper also calls us to examine our action and faith. (1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

C. A sacrifice to make – **offerings**

An offering is a gift that we make to God, and it is also worship to God. There are many kinds of offerings: living sacrifice of the whole person, life offering, time offering, gift offering, and money offering.

Some Christians hesitate to give money offerings, but Jesus said that when we do, our heart becomes more deeply invested in the work of God’s kingdom. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21).

Principles of Christian giving based on 2 Corinthians 8-9:

1. Even in difficult circumstances, be generous in giving. “In a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of _____ on their part” (8:2).
2. Dedicate your heart first and *then* give financially. “But they gave themselves _____ to the Lord” (8:5).
3. Learn to grow in your generosity. “See that you excel in this act of _____ also” (8:7).
4. Generous giving is evidence of your love. “I say this not as a command, but to _____ by

the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine” (8:8).

5. Your willingness to give is more important than the amount given. *“For if the readiness is there, it is _____ according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have” (8:12).*
6. God owns everything, therefore His money should be spent wisely and to honor Him. *“For we aim at what is _____ not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man” (8:21).*
7. Give a generous amount. *“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has _____ in his heart” (9:6-7).*
8. Giving should be a joy, not a burden. *“...not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a _____ giver” (9:7).*
9. God will provide for you so you can keep doing His will. *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every _____ ” (9:8).*

Lesson 6 – God’s Will for You

I. God wants you to grow

Now that you are a follower of Jesus, a child of God, you will want to continue to grow in your relationship with Him. We do this by spending time with God each day, learning from the Bible and obeying His Holy Spirit’s leading. We also grow by regularly meeting with other believers who can speak into our lives as we apply God’s word to our lives together. Together, we fulfill Christ’s central teachings of the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) as we worship, fellowship together, obey His teachings, minister to those in need, and spread the message of Christ’s salvation.

II. God wants you to be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- A. Each day as you spend time alone with God you can grow deeper in your understanding and relationship with Him.
- B. Each week as you meet with other believers as a church you can fulfill God’s purpose of following Jesus—resulting in worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, ministry, and evangelism.
- C. Each time you study God’s word, whether alone or with a community of believers, you can use the pattern you learned in 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - 1. **Teach** you – What truths does God want you to understand and believe?
 - 2. **Rebuke** you – What false or sinful beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values does God want you to avoid or relinquish?
 - 3. **Correct** you –What new beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values does God want you to have?
 - 4. **Train you in righteousness** – What does God want you to apply to your life each day and week so that you develop a godly character and habits?

As you practice these disciplines, God’s word promises that you will become “thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

- D. As a personal exercise, take the resource “Gospel of Luke Reading Guide” on the next page and study the first passage listed: Luke 1:1-4. Use the four 2 Tim. 3:16 questions. Keep in mind that all four questions may not be relevant to every passage you read. By studying a new passage every day, you will learn good Bible study habits, and you will begin a life of significant spiritual growth.

Resource: Gospel of Luke Reading Guide

As you study each Bible passage remember to apply 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and ask God to:

1. **Teach** you – What truths does God want you to understand and believe?
2. **Rebuke** you – What false or sinful beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values does God want you to avoid or relinquish?
3. **Correct** you – What new beliefs, deeds, attitudes and values does God want you to have?
4. **Train** you in righteousness – What does God want you to apply to your life each day and week so that you develop a Godly character and habits?

Note: You will not find answers to every question in every passage. Also, the Bible does not always teach us with direct instruction. Sometimes it tells stories about people whose example we are to imitate or avoid.

DESCRIPTION OF PASSAGE	VERSES
PREFACE	1:1–4
BIRTHS OF JOHN AND JESUS	
Announcement of John's Birth – forerunner to Jesus	1:5–25
Announcement of Jesus' Birth	1:26–38
Mary Visits Elizabeth	1:39–56
John's birth	1:57–66
Zechariah's Prophecy	1:67–80
Jesus' Birth	2:1–21
Jesus is presented in the temple	2:22–40
Jesus as a boy in the temple	2:41–52
PREPARATION FOR JESUS' MINISTRY	
John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus	3:1–20
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Jesus is tempted in the Wilderness	4:1–13
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Preaching in Galilee and Nazareth	4:14–30
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Simon, James and John follow Jesus	5:1–11
Healing a Leper and paralyzed man	5:12–26
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Questions about the Sabbath and the call of the Twelve Apostles	6:1–16
Blessings and woes	6:17–26
Love your enemies	6:27–38
Self-examination and obeying Jesus	6:39–49
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Jesus and John the Baptist	7:18–35

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Parable of the sower	8:1–15
A lamp, Jesus' mother and brothers, and stilling of a storm	8:16–25
Healing of a Demoniac	8:26–39
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Sending out the 12 and feeding 5000	9:1–17
Peter's Confession of Christ and Jesus' warnings	9:18–27
Jesus is transformed	9:28–36
Jesus heals a possessed boy, prediction of betrayal, and arguments about position	9:37–50
THE JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM	
Rejection in a Samaritan village and teaching on discipleship	9:51–62
Jesus sends out the Seventy	10:1–16
The Seventy return and Jesus rejoices	10:17–24
Teaching about love of God and neighbor	10:25–42
Teaching about prayer	11:1–13
Casting out Demons as a sign of the Kingdom	11:14–26
Teaching on hearing and obeying rather than seeking signs	11:27–36
Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and Lawyers	11:37–54
Being a bold witness	12:1–12
Seek God's Kingdom rather than the things of this world	12:13–34
Be diligent to do God's will and the coming conflict	12:35–53
Teaching on understanding the times and repentance	12:54 – 13:9
Healing on the Sabbath and comparing the Kingdom to a mustard seed and leaven	13:10–21
The way to salvation is narrow and the fate of Jesus and Jerusalem	13:22–35
Healing the man with dropsy and teaching on humility and generosity	14:1–14
Teaching on "who shall Eat Bread in the Kingdom of God"	14:15–24
Realize the cost of following Christ	14:25–35
Parables about the joy of finding the lost sheep and coin	15:1–10
Parable of the father and his two sons	15:11–32
Be faithful in your use of wealth	16:1–15
The Law and the Rich Man and Lazarus	16:16–31
Dealing with each other's sin, faith and humility and healing the 10 lepers	17:1–19
The coming of the Kingdom	17:20–37
Be diligent in prayer and be humble before God	18:1–14
Receiving the Kingdom like a child and the difficulty of the wealthy	18:15–30
Jesus foretells His death and resurrection and heals a blind man	18:31–43
Zaccheus the tax collector is saved	19:1–10
Parable of a nobleman giving money to 10 slaves	19:11–27
Jesus makes a royal approach to Jerusalem and laments the city's fate	19:28–44
TEACHING DAILY IN THE TEMPLE	
Confrontation in the Temple with sellers and religious leaders	19:45 – 20:8
Parable of the wicked tenant farmers and the attempt to trap Jesus	20:9–26
The reality of the resurrection	20:27–38
Christ's identity, religious hypocrisy, and true giving	20:39 – 21:4
The coming destruction of the Temple	21:5–6
The coming devastation of Jerusalem and return of Christ	21:20–36
THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS	
The plot against Jesus and preparations for the Passover Meal	21:37 – 22:13
The Last Supper, warning of betrayal and dispute about greatness	22:14–30

Foretelling Peter's denial, preparing the disciples, and praying on the Mount of Olives	22:31–46
The arrest of Jesus and Peter's denials	22:47–62
Jesus before the Sanhedrin, Pilate and Herod	22:63 – 23:12
Pilate sentences Jesus to death	23:13–25
Jesus is crucified	23:26–46
The response to Jesus' death, His burial, and the empty tomb	23:47 – 24:12
Jesus appears on the Road to Emmaus	24:13–35
Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem and ascends to Heaven	24:36–53

Lesson 7 – What Next?

I. God has a special plan for your life.

- A. There is a special reason that God saved you and chose you to be His child. To understand this purpose, let's see what the Bible says about God's special purpose for us.
1. When the world was destroyed by flood, God saved Noah and _____. (Genesis 6:9-7:1)
 2. When God destroyed the city of Jericho, He saved Rahab and _____. (Joshua 6:17-25)
 3. When Cornelius repented and turned to God, both he and _____ were baptized. (Acts 10:27-48)
 4. When the Philippian jailer turned to Jesus, he was baptized, along with _____. (Acts 16:23-34)
- B. Why do you think God saved you? What is His special purpose for you?

Now that you've completed this guide, there are some practical things you may want to do next:

- **Keep reading your Bible.** It is God's message to you. Put it in your mind and heart every day. *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple"* (Psalm 19:7).
- **Keep praying.** God is always available to you, and His Spirit will guide you in life. *"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need"* (Hebrew 4:16).
- **Keep meeting with maturing believers.** They are your brothers and sisters in Christ, and they will support and encourage you. *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another"* (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- **Help others follow Jesus.** Someone helped you follow Jesus, and now God wants you to do the same. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

One resource that may help you is *Faith Trainer Guide: Helping People Follow Jesus*, which is a free, downloadable self-study guide at www.faithtrainer.com.