

Covenant
Church
Presents

AMBASSADORS TRAINING COURSE

©2015 Covenant Church

Class II – Study Guide

Covenant
Challenge

LIFE APPLICATION

Study Guide

The following *Life Application* study guide is designed to help you effectively process the material in this class. Not only should we be exposed to biblical knowledge, but we should also *ponder* it so as to know how to *practice* it in our lives. This study guide is divided up in two parts. The first part is under the heading of *Seeking Truth*. This is an exercise of meditation where you ponder real life questions and answer them with biblical truth. The answers to these questions can be found in the section of the manual related to the section of the study guide you are reviewing at that time. The second part is under the heading of *Experiencing Life*. This is an exercise of obedience where you literally practice your faith.

It is important to note that you should not rush through these exercises. To get the most out of them, patiently apply your heart to understanding and expect the Holy Spirit to lead you into truth. It is when we *know* the truth that we experience freedom. These exercises can be an effective tool for you to discover truth and freedom in the power of the Holy Spirit. May the fullness and richness of Christ be yours.

A NEW CREATION

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Why do we see so much violence, perversion, arrogance and tragedy in the world today?
2. Why can't we simply do the right thing all the time?
3. Why do we always have to deal with problems?
4. Are there some universal truths common to all mankind?
5. Can we come to a place where we find fulfillment and peace in life?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Write down and describe what you feel when you sense the *Presence of God* in your life.
2. Write down and describe what you feel when you don't sense the *Presence of God* in your life.
3. Pray and ask God to enlighten the eyes of your heart so that you can increasingly recognize *His Presence* in your life.
4. Find at least one person within the next week and share how *Jesus* has saved you and what that means to you.
5. Take the appropriate time and write a letter to *Jesus* expressing your heart to Him concerning your salvation.

THE BIBLE

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. What makes the bible uniquely different from all the other thousands of books written?
2. How can 40 authors from different times and varied backgrounds all have historical, theological, geographical, topical, and biographical unity?
3. Why can't typical self-help books empower me the way the bible can?
4. Why do many professing Christians fail to develop a relationship with God through His word?
5. Does investing time in the bible really have significant value to me?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Read through the New Testament (John through Jude) over the next two or three months.
2. Ask the Lord to show you an area where you need to grow in, then get a concordance out and study the bible on that subject. Afterward, with the help of the Lord do what the bible tells you to do.
3. Begin looking for opportunities to meditate on what you have been reading in the bible. (i.e., driving alone, taking a shower, cutting the grass, going for a walk, etc.)
4. Ask God to develop a biblical worldview in your heart (how you understand the meaning of life in light of Jesus Christ).
5. Train yourself to turn to the bible for encouragement, inspiration and guidance.

P R A Y E R

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Is prayer a religious duty we are obligated to perform as disciples of Christ?
2. Are there specific forms or rituals to follow in order to pray properly?
3. Are we suppose to pray only when we are facing tragedy?
4. Can we really expect God to hear our prayers and even answer them?
5. Can the Spirit of God be released through prayer?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Cultivate a daily quiet time for prayerful meditation. During these times learn to listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
2. Practice going to the Lord in prayer with all your burdens and cares and give them to Him by faith.
3. Cultivate a daily habit of offering up prayers on behalf of others.
4. Using a study bible, look up prayers recorded in Scripture (especially in the New Testament). Meditate on the nature and motive of these prayers.
5. Practice praying about everything (marriage, family, church, job, finances, health, relationships, the lost, etc.). Invite God into all of your world.

WORSHIP

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Who possesses the highest value, deepest compassion and purest heart?
2. Where does our self-worth, human dignity and personal value come from? Explain.
3. Can we find our true identity in our career, our money, our education or our family, or do all of these things still leave us wondering who we truly are? Explain.
4. Can the pleasures of this world such as drugs, alcohol, sexual sin, indulgence and fame really satisfy our souls, or does experiencing the pleasure of God seem more capable of satisfying us? Explain.
5. Do you think the different atmospheres we experience really have an effect on us, like the atmosphere of a concert, a sporting event, a festival or how about the atmosphere of heaven? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Take some alone time and write down the people, places and things you value *most* in your life.
2. Review your list, then write an explanation of *why* you value each person, place or thing you wrote down.
3. Now, write down a list of words that best describe how you *feel* about yourself.
4. Then, write down another list that best describes how you *feel* about God.
5. At this point you should have a fairly clear understanding of what is most important to you and how you really feel about God, people and yourself. Make a commitment to start giving yourself to God by doing everything you do *as unto the Lord*. As you practice this lifestyle of worship you will begin to notice that you feel much better about the value of God, the value of people and the value of yourself.

RENEWING YOUR MIND

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Once we give our lives to Christ isn't everything suppose to be perfect?
2. After becoming a Christian can we live for ourselves and still be happy?
3. Is it Gods responsibility to renew our mind or ours?
4. Can a Christian still be deceived by the world? Explain
5. Is it true that the biggest mountain we conquer is our self? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Write down on a sheet of paper a description of the most frequent negative attitudes you deal with in your mind.
2. Write down on a sheet of paper a description of the most frequent positive attitudes you deal with in your mind.
3. Get out your bible and study Romans 8:1-14 and Galatians 5:13-25.
4. Take the time to pray and confess to God the areas in your heart and mind that need to be renewed, then ask for the power and wisdom to be transformed.
5. Begin confronting the strongholds in your mind by deliberately breaking their grip. You do this by practicing the truth from your heart in what you do. This activity of faith will released the Spirit of God in you to set your mind free.

YOUR TESTIMONY

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Why is a changed life such a powerful testimony?
2. Is it more effective to tell someone what God has done in *your life* than it is to tell them how they should live *their lives*? Explain.
3. Do you think it is healthy to share your testimony frequently with others? Why or Why not?
4. What are some potential negative consequences from not sharing with others what God has and is doing in your life?
5. Do you think Jesus was serious when He said, "*Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever shall deny Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven*" (*Matthew 10:32-33*)?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Write out your testimony.
2. Make it a regular habit of sharing with people the good things God is doing in your life.
3. Practice expressing to God in prayer your *thankfulness* to Him for what He has done for you and for who He is.
4. Practice encouraging other disciples to share with you what God is doing in their life.
5. Create a lifestyle of bragging on God.

FELLOWSHIP

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Why are so many people in the world today struggling with depression, loneliness and even suicide?
2. Does substance abuse, promiscuity or addictions satisfy the needs we all have for love, acceptance and self-worth?
3. Do you think a person can experience fulfillment in life while being *emotionally disconnected* from others?
4. Is it possible for a disciple to realize their full potential in isolation?
5. Is it easier to fall into sin when you are *not* in fellowship with other disciples?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Seek out other disciples of the same gender to meet with on a regular basis for fellowship.
2. As you practice fellowship open your heart up and connect with people.
3. As you practice fellowship look for opportunities to give and receive emotionally.
4. Face any negative emotions like fear, insecurity, pride, indifference, selfishness, etc. Trust God through fellowship that He will conquer these negative emotions in you.
5. Allow fellowship to become a valuable habit that you practice frequently.

SERVING PEOPLE

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. What do you think the motivation of most people who serve (work for) others in corporate America is?
2. Is success defined by your job title, your bank account, your possessions or your popularity? Why or why not?
3. Do you think people in positions of authority ever abuse, inappropriately control, manipulate or treat poorly those under them.
4. Could pride be one of the reasons why people fail to see the value and joy of serving others?
5. Is serving people as much (or more) for you as it is for the ones you are serving? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Take some quiet time alone and evaluate your *attitude* and *behavior* concerning serving others. Ask the Lord to help you determine how *selfish* or *serving* you truly are.
2. Develop the daily habit of serving others *more* than you serve yourself.
3. Take some quiet time alone and evaluate how you are doing concerning serving your family.
4. Take some quiet time alone and evaluate how you are doing concerning serving the body of Christ.
5. Make a commitment to be a blessing to your family and the body of Christ by *finding* effective ways to serve them.

YOUR MONEY

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Do people actually worship money? Why or why not?
2. Does money possess the power to blind us from God? Explain.
3. Can we establish a covenant with God concerning our money? Explain.
4. Does God want His people to prosper financially? Why or why not?
5. Should we view our finances as resources we *own* or resources we *manage*? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Set aside the appropriate time, sit down with pen and paper and write an accurate account of your financial situation. (Include all income, debts & living expenses)
2. Develop a working budget and live by it. (Include monies allocated for debt reduction, living expenses, savings and investment)
3. Make a prayerful commitment to enter into a financial covenant with God by tithing (10%) of your gross income to the work of ministry (the local church).
4. Begin prayerfully looking for opportunities to sow financially into worthy causes.
5. As you establish yourself in these biblical principles begin expecting God to grant you supernatural favor with your income earning potential.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Can a disciple of Christ figure out Gods purpose on their own, without the help of the local church? Explain.
2. Isn't the local church supposed to be filled with perfect people? Why or why not?
3. Isn't the pastor supposed to do all of the ministry? Explain.
4. Is there any other way Jesus expresses His purposes more than through the local church?
5. Does God desire to use every individual in the church to accomplish His will? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Make a commitment to *pray* regularly for your local church.
2. Look for opportunities to *serve* the vision of your local church.
3. Look for candidates to *invite* to one of the services of your local church.
4. Make a habit of coming to services *prayed up*, *ready* to worship God and to encourage others.
5. Make a habit of *practicing* what you learn in church in all areas of your life.

FORGIVENESS

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Why do you think there are so many inmates in prison, violent gangs on the streets, domestic violence in our homes and hatred in the world?
2. Are there any real benefits from harboring resentment, bitterness, anger and wrath?
3. Why is it so difficult many times to exercise true forgiveness?
4. Do you think it is better to live a life of hardness of heart and revenge or a life of a caring heart and compassion? Explain.
5. Is practicing the art of forgiveness more for the person you are forgiving or more for you? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Set aside some time with pen and paper and prayerfully write down any unresolved hurt feelings you may have in your heart.
2. Identify the person(s) who you hold responsible for the hurt you experienced, including yourself and even God.
3. Then, in prayer begin to release the person(s), the hurt and everything associated with the situation to God.
4. At this point begin to verbally ask God to bless those who have hurt you. This process is an *exercise* of forgiveness, so continue sincerely practicing until you are free from the hurt. (Note: Sometimes we are able to release hurt and offense immediately and at other times it may take us a season. Be patient and consistent)
5. Begin taking opportunities to serve other people with the motivation of I want to, not I have to. When we practice loving people through serving because we want to, then we are able to fully recover the joy of the Lord we may have lost.

REPENTANCE

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Does attending church services, giving money or time to the work of ministry make me a child of God? Explain.
2. If I pray and read my bible does that make me a child of God? Why or why not?
3. If I don't drink, don't do drugs, don't cuss or commit sexual sins doesn't that make me a child of God?
4. Does justifying my wrong attitudes and behavior help me live free and feel close to God? Why or why not?
5. Does exaggerating my own perceived self-righteousness make me right with God and with others?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Take some time to reflect on the first time you repented of your sins and received the *forgiveness of sins* through Jesus Christ.
2. Write down on paper some of the common *arguments* we have in our head, prior to coming to repentance, which tempts us not to repent?
3. Write down on paper some of the *consequences* for failing to sincerely repent of wrong attitudes and behaviors, for a child of God who is in need of repentance
4. Take some time to reflect on the condition of your own heart attitudes and behavior. If you are in need of repentance, then prayerfully begin to appropriate the goodness of God and turn to the Lord for His forgiveness and healing.
5. Make a habit of being quick to repent as soon as you notice something about your attitude and behavior. Keep your heart and mind free.

YOUR DESTINY

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Do you determine your destiny or do you discover it? Explain.
2. Is there more to Christianity than the forgiveness of sins? If yes, then what is it?
3. How do I come into possession of all that God has prepared for me?
4. Why has God hidden my destiny from me?
5. What would you like to hear Jesus say to you when you stand before Him on that day?

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Take some time for meditation and prayer, then write down at least a one page summary of what you think your destiny may look like at the end of your life. (Include topics like your faith, marriage and family, relationships, ministry, career, finances, etc.)
2. Take some time to review the people in your life that influence you the most. Then, evaluate if those people are godly influences. If they are not, then respectfully discontinue the relationship(s) and pursue godly ones.
3. Take some time to review the way you spend your time, energy and money. Determine if your management of these three resources are helping you or hurting you in fulfilling your destiny. Make adjustments accordingly.
4. Make a habit of confessing over your life the awesome plan God has for you, your family and your church.
5. Practice learning from your mistakes, keep your focus on your potential and pursue your purpose in God.

NEW LIFE

Seeking Truth...

Carefully consider the following questions, then answer with biblical truth;

1. Is it the will of God for us to reform ourselves through behavior modification? Explain.
2. Since I am a new creation in Christ isn't the new life in Christ automatic? Why or why not?
3. Why does the religion of man miserably fail at reconciliation with God?
4. Why is it necessary to practice what we believe?
5. Does this new life in Christ possess the potential to swallow up any and every area of darkness that may be in our heart or mind? Explain.

Experiencing Life...

Take the initiative and do the following action steps;

1. Carefully read through this manual several times and meditate on its applications in your life.
2. Continue practicing these habits and make them part of your lifestyle.
3. If you realize some time in the future that you are not progressing spiritually, then review this manual with the study guide. Practice the habit(s) that need your attention until you get your breakthrough.
4. Allow the life of Christ to permeate every area of your life.
5. Keep yourself stirred up and on fire for God.