

YOUR STORY

Learning the art of living your new life as a committed Christian



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YOUR STORY DISCIPLESHIP COURSE 2

ABOUT THE METHOD

The Course

This course is called "YOUR Story" and is intended to be studied with either new Christians or those who were never grounded after baptism. **The goal is to get each student of Christ to: 1) Look closely at the Word of God, 2) Understand and Remember what is going on in the text, and 3) Do what the text teaches.** It is intended primarily as a new Christian's "primer" study that not only opens the Word of God to the new Christian, but also teaches him or her how to study the Bible and implement its timeless teachings. As one author says, "we want to become architects of passion and purpose." This course is to continue the journey which was begun in "God's Story" of helping your friend understand their purpose and become passionate about fulfilling it. My experience teaches that if the facilitator can lead the student to rely upon the Word of God and their reasoning ability, the student will not only continue to fall in love with God, but will be eager to obey His teachings with a willing heart!

This study is designed to be self-directed and requires little reliance upon the "teacher" or discussion leader. Rather than relying upon the teacher for expertise, the seeker is taught to rely upon the Word of God. The facilitator is there to help them find answers to any additional questions and to keep the conversation moving. The facilitator also functions as someone to help hold the new disciple of Christ accountable to the actions the student finds needing to be changed in his or her life from week-to-week as pointed out in the scriptures. While this is usually contrary to what we have been taught, part of being architects of passion and purpose involves letting go of control and learning how to release people. We must help each of our new brothers and sisters learn how to stand on their own and "work out their own salvation" while we offer them guidance and correction. This study is designed to use 1 John as a template for early Christian learning in order to help the student understand how one continually changes their life even after the act of immersion.

The Method

As previously stated, this is a primarily evangelistic study leading each student of Christ to: 1) Look closely at the Word of God, 2) Understand and Remember what is going on in the text, and 3) Do what the text teaches. In the very nature of the study, it becomes obvious that a facilitator is there to guide the discussion while the student dives into the Word in search for precious gems of applicable wisdom and understanding. It must be understood that this is not a lecture format and should not be treated as such.

Following I will give general guidance as to how one might carry out a session.

Items Needed:

1. The study and “homework” pages.
2. A charting sheet for each scripture (three column sheet).
3. Pen or pencil.
4. Two Bibles (although by now the new Christian should have received one at immersion).
5. An observer (it’s always good to take someone with you who can learn how to study with a friend).

Parts of the Study Guide:

1. The overview. At the top of each guide, you will see the series name and lesson title followed by the objectives stated, scriptures covered, and homework assigned.
 - The facilitator will discuss only those passages labeled under “Scriptures” while those labeled “homework” are to be done by the student on their own to encourage further growth outside of your meeting. This results in helping establish a personal Bible Study habit.
2. On Your Own. These sections usually contain many of the questions discussed with the group as well as additional questions to be considered at home. Often times, it is helpful for the facilitator to have these sheets in hand to help guide the discussion. These questions are to be answered on the sheet and brought back at the next meeting time.
3. Charting Sheet. The Charting Sheet is a piece of paper with three columns and each sheet is dedicated to a passage of Scripture. The first column is where each individual writes the text word for word at the appropriate time. The second column is where they author their paraphrase while the third column is where they will write the applications for their life found in the text, preferably beginning with the statement “I will...”
4. Next Meeting. At the end of each sheet there is a place to write when the group will meet next including the time, date, and place. It is very important to fill this out before anyone leaves.
5. Prayer and Share. At the end of each lesson, find out any need that you can pray for to help the new Christian learn how to pray. Also, pray that God will bring people into their life that they can share the good news with and that they will be given the words to do so.

Beginning the Study:¹

1. Group Interaction—Begin by “checking in” on your group members by asking questions like “What are you thankful for this week?”, “What needs do you or others have?”, or “How was your week?” This helps get everyone comfortable and leads to a time of Prayer and thanksgiving.
2. Prayer—Begin in prayer and specifically mention any thanksgivings, concerns, and struggles that came up in discussion. If others are comfortable, allow them to say their prayer as well.
3. Review Last Lesson (if applicable)—Find out what they learned last week and how they are doing at being accountable to God. Express the expectation of change by asking what changes in behavior or thought last week brought about in their life. Make sure to encourage them that they are not alone and we are all here to help each other get closer to God and love Him as He loves us!
4. Sharing Reports—Ask how it went throughout the week telling their friends about the study and what they are learning from the Word of God. Sharing these experiences provides support, accountability, expectation, new ideas, and encouragement.
5. Dive into the Word—It’s now time to explain the study of the week. Begin by having them turn to the selected passage and move through the facilitator guide/homework guide.
6. Homework—Hand out the homework sheets with corresponding charting sheets and encourage them to do it and bring it completed to the next meeting.
7. End with plans for sharing the study throughout the next week and set up the place, time, and date of your next meeting *before* anyone leaves.

I pray this study will bless you and your students as much as it has ours. Remember that we sow and God grows. It’s important to allow God’s Word to change and empower the individual and not only our lecturing. May God be with you as you seek people of peace to share the power of His Word with!

For further studies and information go to www.cliftonparkchurchofchrist.com or email Josh at joshfreeman01@gmail.com.

¹ Note that many of these suggestions are found in David L. Watson’s introduction to the “Discovery Bible Method.”

“YOUR STORY”: SERIES 2 COURSE OVERVIEW

LESSON 1: YOUR STORY OF RESURRECTION

- ❖ Objectives:
 - To understand that you now live a new life.
 - To learn how one lives this new life and practices truth.
- ❖ Scripture:
 - Romans 6:1-23
- ❖ Homework:
 - 1 John 1:1-10

LESSON 2: YOUR STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

- ❖ Objectives:
 - To realize that transformation is necessary to purge the old life (habits).
 - To learn that transformation is a response to forgiveness and grace.
 - To understand that transformation means becoming less worldly.
- ❖ Scriptures:
 - John 8:1-11
 - Romans 12:1-21
- ❖ Homework:
 - 1 John 2:1-27

LESSON 3: YOUR STORY OF GLORIFICATION

- ❖ Objectives:
 - To understand we must live a life that gives praise & glory to God.
 - To understand the life of a Disciple seeks to lift God up.
 - To understand love for others glorifies God.
- ❖ Scriptures:
 - 1 Corinthians 10:23-33
 - 1 Peter 2:1-12
- ❖ Homework:
 - 1 John 2:28-3:24

LESSON 4: YOUR STORY OF PROCLAMATION

- ❖ Objectives:
 - *To understand how Paul proclaimed his story and how we can too.*
 - *To learn to identify people of peace whom God has prepared us to meet.*
 - *To understand that in proclaiming God’s love, God abides in us.*
- ❖ Scriptures:
 - Acts 26:1-27
 - Luke 10:1-12
- ❖ Homework:
 - 1 John 4:1-21

LESSON 5: YOUR STORY OF RELATIONSHIP

- ❖ Objectives:
 - To understand the need of Christian community.
 - To understand your function as a member of the body of Christ.
 - To understand the importance of building & keeping relationships.
- ❖ Scriptures:
 - Acts 2:42-47
 - Acts 4:32-37
 - Hebrews 10:19-27
- ❖ Homework:
 - 1 John 5:1-21

YOUR STORY STUDY

Charting sheets for each exercise can be found in the appendix beginning on page 17.

**“YOUR STORY”:
LESSON 1: YOUR STORY OF RESURRECTION**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
 - *To understand that you now live a new life.*
 - *To learn how one lives this new life and practices truth.*
- ❖ *Scripture:*
 - *Romans 6:1-23*
- ❖ *Homework:*
 - *1 John 1:1-10*

ON YOUR OWN:

Read Romans 6:1-15

1. On your Romans 6:1-15 “charting sheet” rewrite Romans 6:1-15 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What do you think it means to say that you now “walk in newness of life?”
 - b. Why is it so important that we continue purging sin out of our lives after immersion?
 - c. According to verses 5-7, what happens if we continue to die to our old self?
 - d. What does this teach in regards to the seriousness of our commitment to Christ?
 - e. What sins do you still hold onto that you need to get rid of? How will you do it?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read Romans 6:16-23

1. On your Romans 6:16-23 “charting sheet” rewrite this scripture word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. In verse 17, what does Paul mean when he says that they “have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching they committed to?”
 - b. Why is it important to obey from the willingness of your heart rather than because you’re told to do it?

- c. What is Paul's point in verses 20-23?
 - d. What questions do you have?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read 1 John 1:1-10

1. On your 1 John 1:1-10 "charting sheet" rewrite this scripture word for word in the first column.
 2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
 3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the over-all point of 1 John chapter one?
 - b. What was the message of John and the other apostles?
 - c. What does it mean to walk in the light?
 - d. How does this relate to Romans 6?
 - e. According to verse 9, what must we do for continued forgiveness and cleansing?
 - f. Is John writing to Christians or non-Christians? What gives it away?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this* week in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet (along with your "charting sheets") back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: _____

“YOUR STORY”:

LESSON 2: YOUR STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

- ❖ *Objectives:*
 - *To realize that transformation is necessary to purge the old life (habits).*
 - *To learn that transformation is a response to forgiveness and grace.*
 - *To understand that transformation means becoming less worldly.*
- ❖ *Scripture:*
 - *John 8:1-11*
 - *Romans 12:1-21*
- ❖ *Homework:*
 - *1 John 2:1-27*

ON YOUR OWN:

Read John 8:1-11

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite John 8:1-11 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What sin did the woman commit?
 - b. What is the crucial part, or climax, of this section (include which verse)?
 - c. In response to Jesus not condemning her, what was the woman told to do?
 - d. What questions or observations do you have about the passage?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read Romans 12:1-21

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite Romans 12:1-21 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. How does what Paul writes relate to the previous story and us as new Christians?
 - b. How can you begin (or continue) to transform your life?
 - c. According to this chapter, how do we spiritually worship God?

- d. Which actions found in this chapter do you need to work on the most?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read 1 John 2:1-27

1. After reading, on your “charting sheet” rewrite 1 John 2:15-17 word for word in the first column.
 2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
 3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. According to John, why is he writing the letter to the churches of Asia Minor?
 - b. What characteristic must we have in order to truly be a disciple of (or *to know*) Christ (v.3)?
 - c. What is the gist of the “new commandment” John talks about in verses 7-14?
 - d. According to verse 17, why should we not love the world and follow God instead?
 - e. What do you think an “Antichrist” is? Why are they so dangerous?
 - f. From this chapter, what can we assume the churches of Asia Minor were struggling with?
 - g. How does this section fit with the other two scriptures?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this* week in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet (along with your “charting sheets”) back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: _____

**“YOUR STORY”:
LESSON 3: YOUR STORY OF GLORIFICATION**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
 - *To understand we must live a life that gives praise and glory to God.*
 - *To understand the life of a Disciple seeks to lift God up at all times.*
 - *To understand that our love for others glorifies God.*
- ❖ *Scripture:*
 - *1 Corinthians 10:23-33*
 - *1 Peter 2:1-12*
- ❖ *Homework:*
 - *1 John 2:28-3:24*

ON YOUR OWN:

Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite 1 Corinthians 10:23-33 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the over all concept of this passage?

 - b. What is the meaning of verse 23 and how do we apply it to our own life?

 - c. What does verse 31 mean?

 - d. Why should we watch what we do and how we treat others? How does this benefit them and glorify God?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read 1 Peter 2:1-12

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite 1 Peter 2:1-12 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the over all concept of this passage?

 - b. From this passage, what do you think Peter’s audience was struggling with?

 - c. What does Peter mean by “passions of the flesh” in verse 11? What might some examples be?

- d. What reason does Peter give that we should conduct ourselves honorably?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read 1 John 2:28-3:24

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite 1 John 3:11-24 word for word in column 1.
 2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
 3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. In 1 John 2:28, why should we abide in Christ?

 - b. How do we know who has been born of God according to John?

 - c. How does our righteousness glorify God (think through all we have studied so far)?

 - d. How does our sinning take away from our glorifying God?

 - e. What was the message, according to John, that we have heard from the beginning?

 - f. How does our love for others glorify God?

 - g. While a disciple is to lift God up and glorify Him, why is it important to love others and help lift them up as well?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this week* in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet (along with your “charting sheets”) back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: _____

**“YOUR STORY”:
LESSON 4: YOUR STORY OF PROCLAMATION**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
 - *To understand how Paul proclaimed his story and how we can too.*
 - *To learn to identify people of peace whom God has prepared us to meet.*
 - *To understand that in proclaiming God’s love, God abides in us.*
- ❖ *Scripture:*
 - *Acts 26:1-27*
 - *Luke 10:1-12*
- ❖ *Homework:*
 - *1 John 4:1-21*

ON YOUR OWN:

Read Acts 26:1-27

1. On your “charting sheet” paraphrase Acts 26:1-27 in column 2.
2. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think Paul was so excited to tell his story to the King?
 - b. Paul tells his story several times throughout the book of Acts, what good was it for the early Christians to tell the story of God and how they came to know God?
 - c. What was Paul like before becoming a Christian?
 - d. How did Paul meet Jesus and decide to become a Christian?
 - e. What was Paul’s life like after becoming a Christian?
 - f. What obstacles do you think they had to overcome in telling their stories?
3. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read Luke 10:1-12

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite Luke 10:1-12 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What does this teach you about telling your story?

- b. Why do you think Jesus told them not to carry money and such?
 - c. Why do you think he sent them out in pairs instead of individually?
 - d. What does a person of peace look like?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read 1 John 4:1-21

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite 1 John 4:7-21 word for word in column 1.
 2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
 3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why should we who are Christians not fear Satan or evildoers?
 - b. Why do you think it’s so important to understand that God’s Story is one of Love and to proclaim that love to people?
 - c. According to verse 17, what gives us confidence in the Day of Judgment?
 - d. Why do we proclaim a message of God’s love according to John?
 - e. What are ways you can tell others of the love of God?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this week* in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet (along with your “charting sheets”) back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: _____

**“YOUR STORY”:
LESSON 5: YOUR STORY OF RELATIONSHIP**

- ❖ *Objectives:*
 - *To understand the need of Christian community.*
 - *To understand your function as a member of the body of Christ.*
 - *To understand the importance of building and keeping relationships.*
- ❖ *Scripture:*
 - *Acts 2:42-47*
 - *Acts 4:32-37*
 - *Hebrews 10:19-27*
- ❖ *Homework:*
 - *1 John 5:1-21*

ON YOUR OWN:

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. On your “charting sheet” write Acts 2:42-47 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What does this teach us about the relationships of the early Christians?

 - b. Why do you think they spent so much time together and worshipping God?

 - c. Where does the passage say they would meet with each other over a common meal?

 - d. What does this teach us about our interaction with other Christians when it comes to our homes and possessions?
4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read Acts 4:32-37

1. On your “charting sheet” write Acts 4:32-37 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What do you think it means that all were “of one heart and soul”?

 - b. What does this passage tell us about the necessity of every believer meeting together with each other frequently?

 - c. While we don’t have to sell everything we own, why do you think so many did?

4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read Hebrews 10:19-27

1. On your “charting sheet” write Hebrews 10:19-27 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. What does it mean to “stir up one another to love and good works?”
 - b. Why is ones presence important at worship and other gatherings?
 - c. According to verse 26 and it’s context, what is the deliberate sins the writer is referring to? How does this relate with attendance at gatherings and worship?
 - d. What obstacles do you have to over come to make sure you meet regularly with other believers?

4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

Read 1 John 5:1-21

1. On your “charting sheet” rewrite 1 John 5:18-21 word for word in column 1.
2. Once you complete that, in your own words, write a paraphrase in column 2.
3. On this sheet, think about and answer the following questions:
 - a. We are to love other followers of Christ, according to John, how do we know if we truly love other disciples of Jesus?
 - b. When we have loving relationships with each other, what do we do when we see another disciple sinning or practicing something against the Bible?
 - c. What does John mean when he says “keep yourselves from idols?”
 - d. With the previous passages in mind, how does the book of 1 John teach us to live in relationship with other disciples and even non-believers?

4. Go back to your charting sheet. What does this passage teach you to do?

In reviewing your action items, what must you do *this* week in order to make those a reality and obey Scripture?

Please review this lesson between now and the next time we meet together. Bring this sheet (along with your “charting sheets”) back with you so that we can discuss any further questions or insight you might have!

Next Meeting Day, Time, and Place: _____

CHARTING SHEETS

At the top of each charting sheet, remember to write which lesson and scripture it is associated with so that you can reference them later. The charting sheets have been placed in the back so that extras could be included if they are needed.

WORD FOR WORD

MY WORDS

“I WILL” ACTIONS

WORD FOR WORD

MY WORDS

“I WILL” ACTIONS

WORD FOR WORD

MY WORDS

“I WILL” ACTIONS

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