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Train & Multiply™

Project WorldReach (T&M™ ministry operation)

Dr. George Patterson (Originating Author)

SEAN International



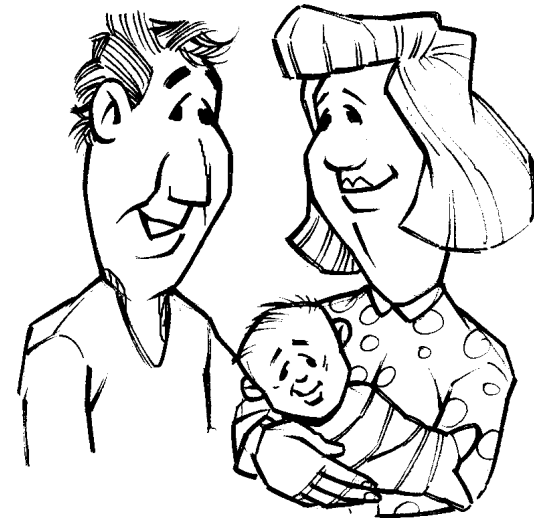
Contact: **Project WorldReach PWR™**

474 - 800 - 15355 - 24th Ave
Surrey BC, Canada
V4A 2H9

E-mail: pwr@trainandmultiply.com

Website: <http://www.trainandmultiply.com>

Obedience to Christ



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

22

Train & Multiply™



T&M™

Ask God to use this study to help you and your church to obey the commands of His Son Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus commands us:

“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 will be with you always, to the very ends of the age.”


Christ orders us to teach new believers to obey His commands. For example: on a Sunday afternoon a pastor visits the new believers Robert and Mary...



NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

NOTES




You are saved by faith, through God's great love. It is by grace; we don't deserve it. But your salvation must bear fruit. Jesus said in John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commands." This way you will be obedient disciples of Christ, and not believers who only hear, but do not do, the will of God. Faith without works is dead. (James 2:26)

Why do Christians do good works?

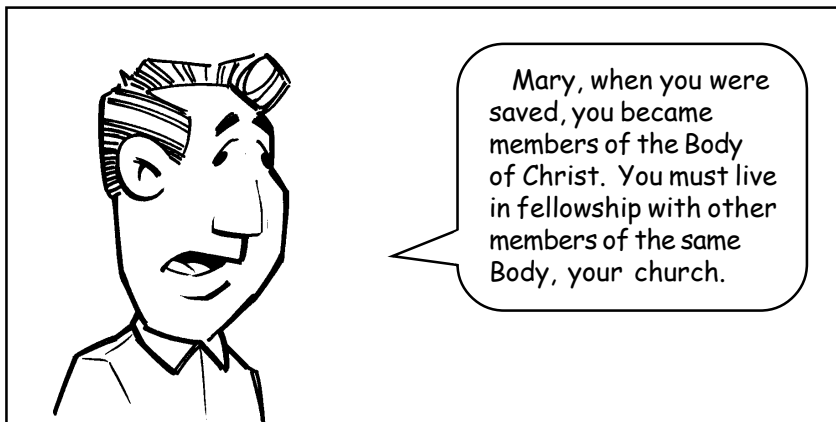
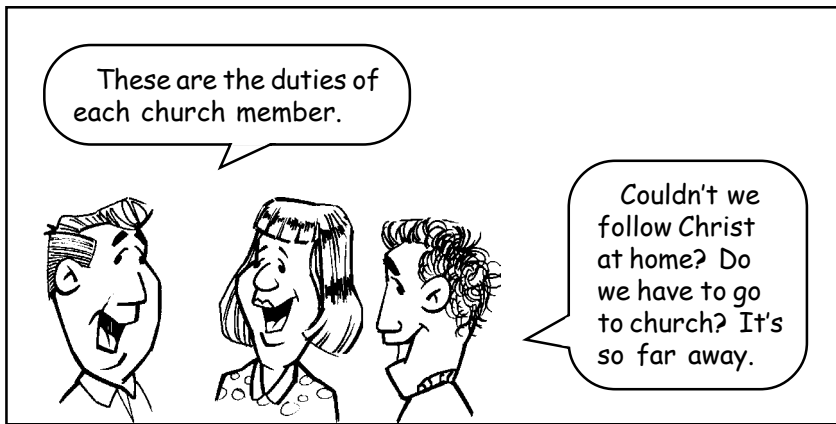
- ☐ To be saved.
- ☐ To obey Christ in love.
- ☐ As a penance.

We do good works so as to be obedient disciples of Christ. His servants fulfill His commands with love.



I've written down some of Jesus Christ's commands, here.

1. Repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit(salvation).
2. Be baptized (and live the new life it initiates).
3. Love God and your neighbor.
4. Pray.
5. Meet for the Lord's Supper.
6. Give.
7. Make disciples, learn and teach God's Word.



Which is the best way to serve God?

☐ As individuals, alone.

☐ As a body, united.

☐ As an obligation to the pastor.

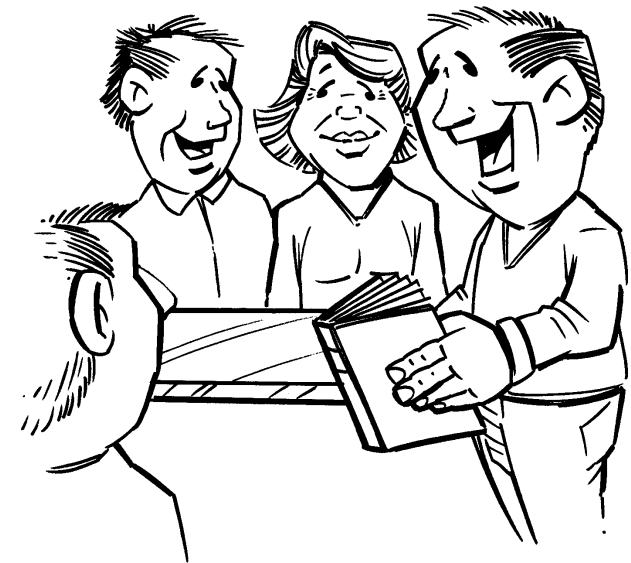
We serve God united as one body. God commands believers to meet for worship, in love. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

6. With God's help, have you turned from any sin that you know of?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ I will do so.

PRACTICAL WORK

- Teach the members of your church or group (especially the new believers) to obey these commands of the Lord, which are the first steps in the Christian life.



SUMMARY TEST

1. Can you recall the seven duties of church members?

- ☐ Yes.
☐ No, but I will review them now.

2. Do you intend to pray and meditate on the Word of God daily?

- ☐ Yes.
☐ I'm going to begin.

3. Do you pray for opportunities to witness for Christ?

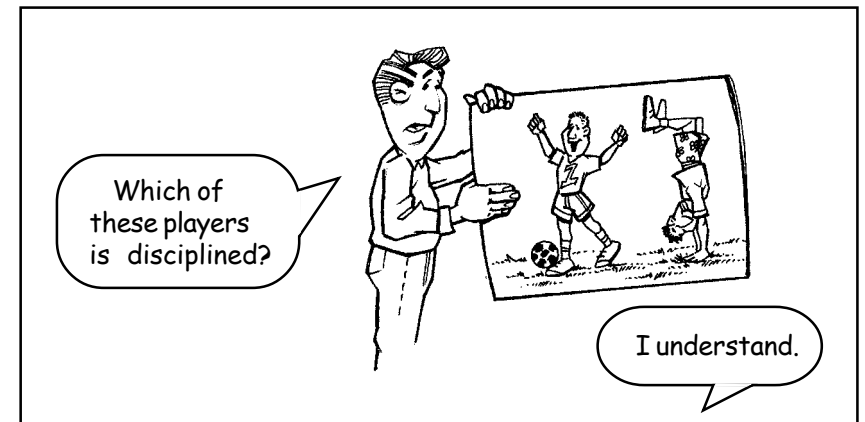
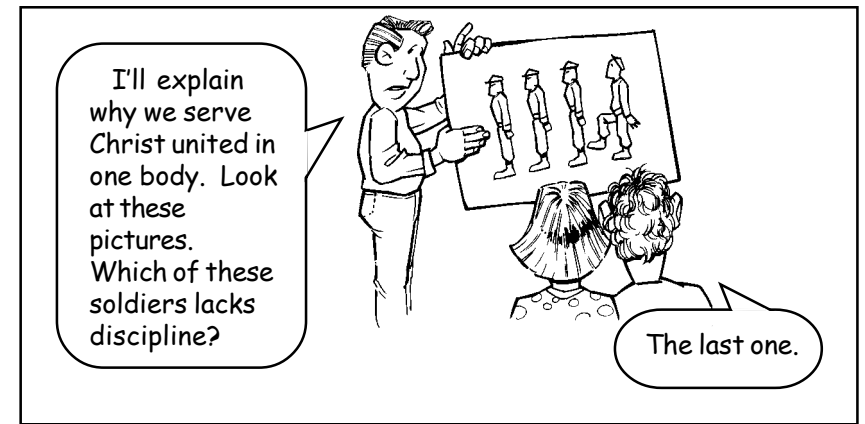
- ☐ Yes.
☐ I'm going to begin.

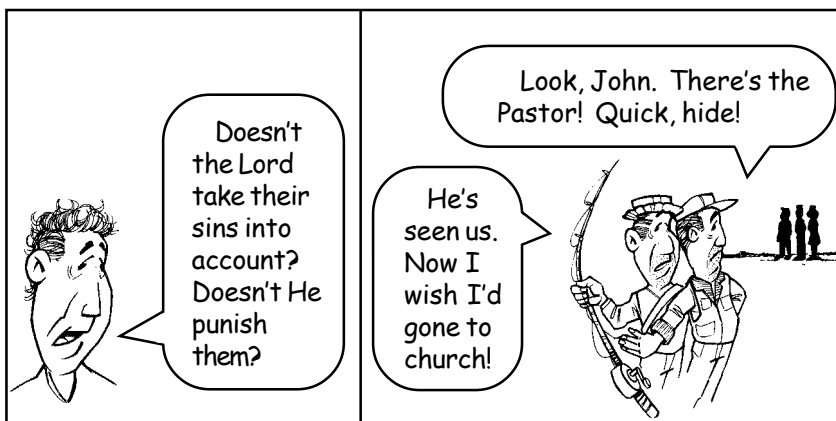
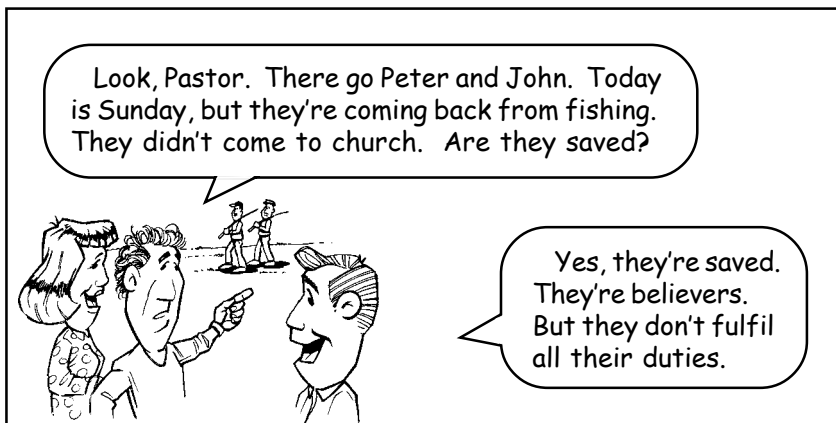
4. Do you give cheerfully and generously?

- ☐ Yes.
☐ I'm going to start.

5. Do you share in the Lord's Supper with your church?

- ☐ Yes.
☐ I'm going to start.





Notes:

We discipline Christians who sin. First, we speak to them with meekness. (Galatians 6:1) If they pay no heed, several of us counsel them. If the brother does not repent, then the congregation is informed. If he does not heed them, he is expelled, by Christ's command. (Matthew 18:15-20)



They are still saved, but Christ will judge their works. They lack love for Jesus Christ.



He said in John 15:14, "You are my friends if you do what I command." We are to obey Him not because we fear punishment by the law, but out of gratitude, because we love Him."

When another Christian commits a sin, what should you do first?

- ☐ tell other Christians about his sin.
- ☐ pray for him and speak to him.

When someone offends us, we should pray for him, and speak to him. It is very wrong to talk with others about his sin. (Matthew 7:1-5, James 3)

We are saved from the condemnation the law brings and from God's final judgment. But there is another judgment just for Christians; the Lord Jesus Christ will reward us according to our works. They are "tried by fire," as 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 explain. Our works done in faith and obedience, like gems and precious metal, will not burn up. Our worthless works, however, will fail the test; we will receive no reward for them.



When true believers commit works of the flesh that do not please God, what do we lose?

- ☐ some of our reward in heaven.
- ☐ eternal life.
- ☐ nothing.

There is a prize for every good work, but when these good works are not done, Christ will not give us the corresponding prizes.

We obey and pray for our shepherds. A church lacks discipline if we fail to respect its leaders. When possible, we support financially those who dedicate themselves fully to the ministry. (Hebrews 13:16-18)



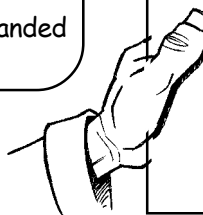
Well, I don't want to lose my reward. How can we fulfill our duties?



It's getting late; I must go.

Don't go just yet, Pastor, we have a small gift for you. Please bring it, Mary. It's fruit for your family. We love them. We know they need it.

Look again at the things Christ commanded us.



1. Repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit(salvation).
2. Be baptized (and live the new life it initiates).
3. Love God and your neighbor.
4. Pray.
5. Meet for the Lord's Supper.
6. Give.
7. Make disciples, learn and teach God's Word.



Thank you, Mary. That really shows Christian love!

One more question, Pastor. What does the church do when a believer commits a serious sin?

The most important mission the church has is to win the world for Christ - so that the lost are converted to Christ and receive eternal life.

And we should support and help our church leaders, too, shouldn't we, Pastor?



Yes, of course. The Bible says so.

To maintain the fellowship of the church, the better way is to:

- ☐ let everyone know when a leader commits an error.
- ☐ help people to sing together with better harmony.
- ☐ support our faithful pastors.

Which of these commands do you need most to work on?

- ☐ Repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit (salvation).
- ☐ Be baptized (and live the new life it initiates).
- ☐ Love God and your neighbor.
- ☐ Pray.
- ☐ Meet for the Lord's Supper.
- ☐ Give.
- ☐ Make disciples, learn and teach God's Word.

But, I don't know how to read, Pastor. How can I study God's Word?



You can anyway, Mary. Go to the meetings. Hear the Word. Then meditate on it. Fill your mind with thoughts of God: His justice, His great love, wisdom and power. Also learn to read. Now we'll go over the seven duties again.

Can you repeat the seven basic commands, without reading them?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If not, please learn them by heart now.

The first is repent and believe. You've done that. And you've been baptized, and received the Holy Spirit.



But isn't it better for the pastors to do the evangelizing? You understand things better.



No, Mary. Witnessing or evangelizing is the mission of all the church, and of each member. (Acts 8:4) Of course, we don't all have the same gifts, but you can speak to your children and your friends.

I can't go to distant villages to evangelize.



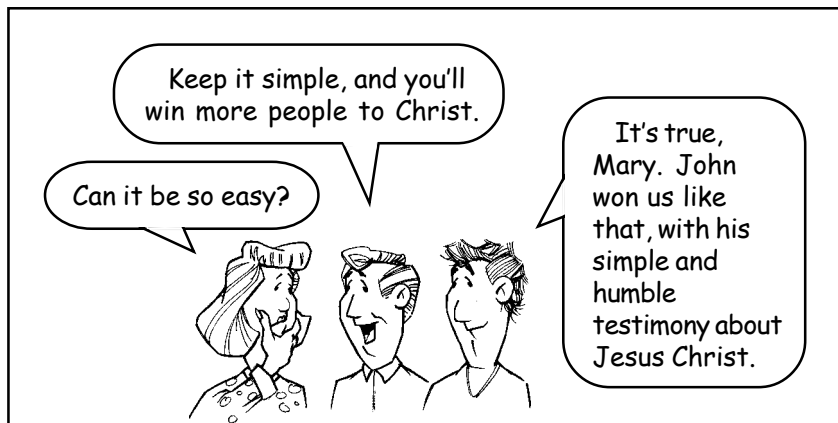
But you can give your tithes. That way the church can support evangelists who work further away. We work as a body. (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

The most important duty of church members is to love. It is God's greatest commandment.
We must worship God continually. Without love for God, we stop loving other Christians.



Which is more important?

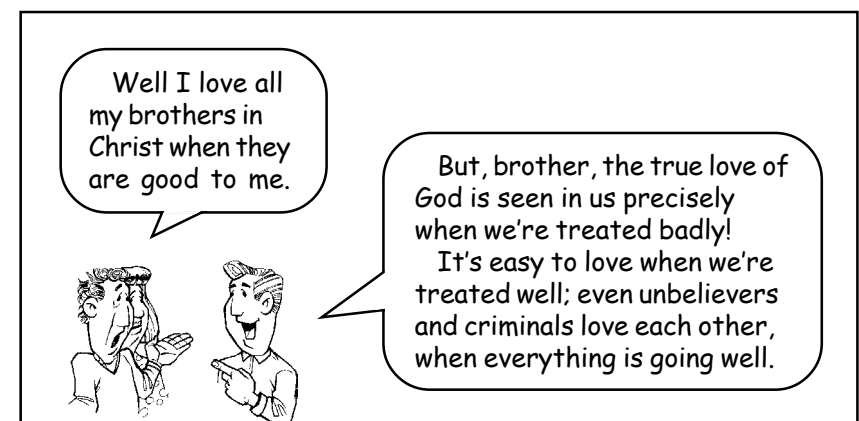
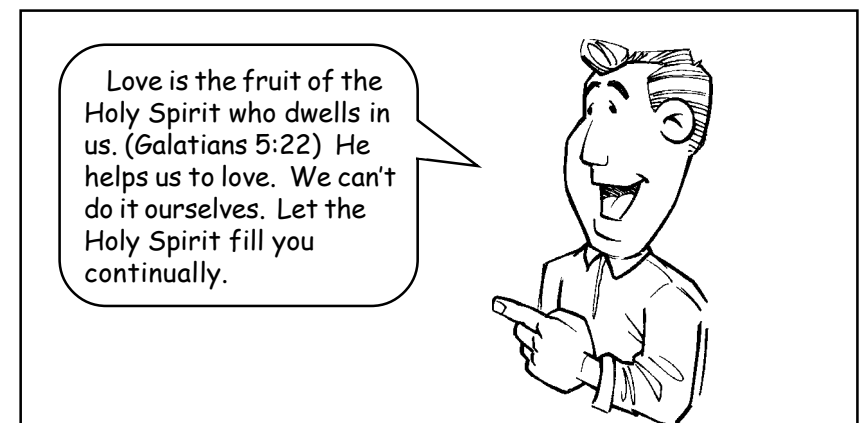
- ☐ Teaching to read.
☐ Teaching about tithing.
☐ Winning a sinner for Christ.

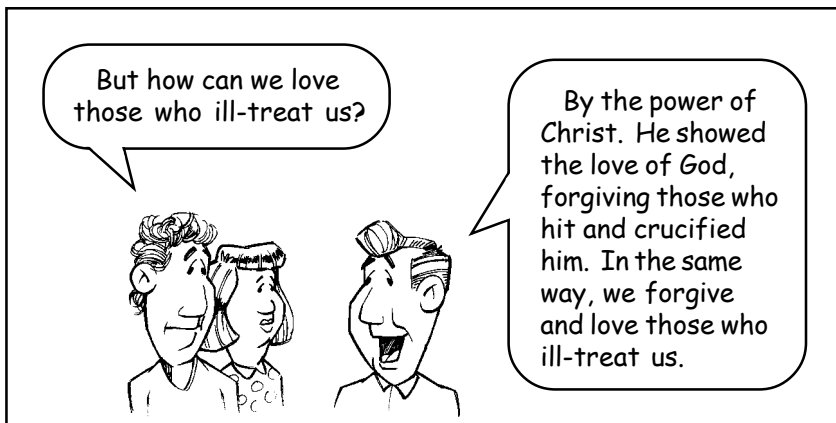


The most effective testimony tells:

- ☐ about Christ (who He is, what He did, how He saves us).
- ☐ the deep things of religion.
- ☐ about our wicked former lives.

The testimony that convinces people, tells of Jesus Christ; who He is, what He did, and how He saves us. (Luke 24:45-48)

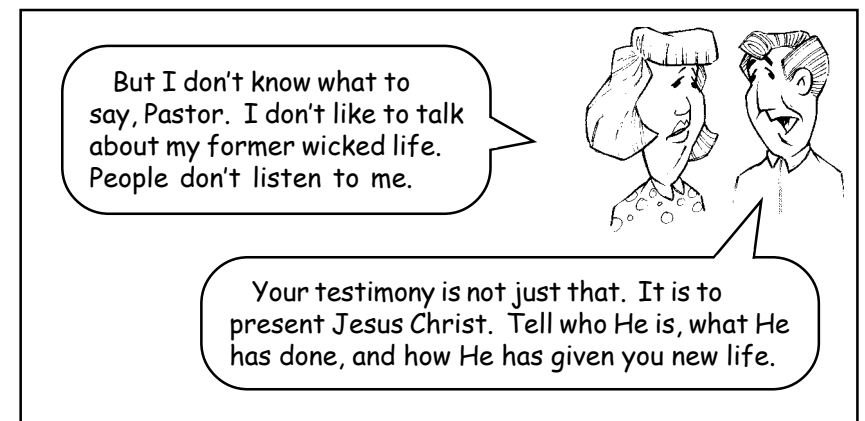
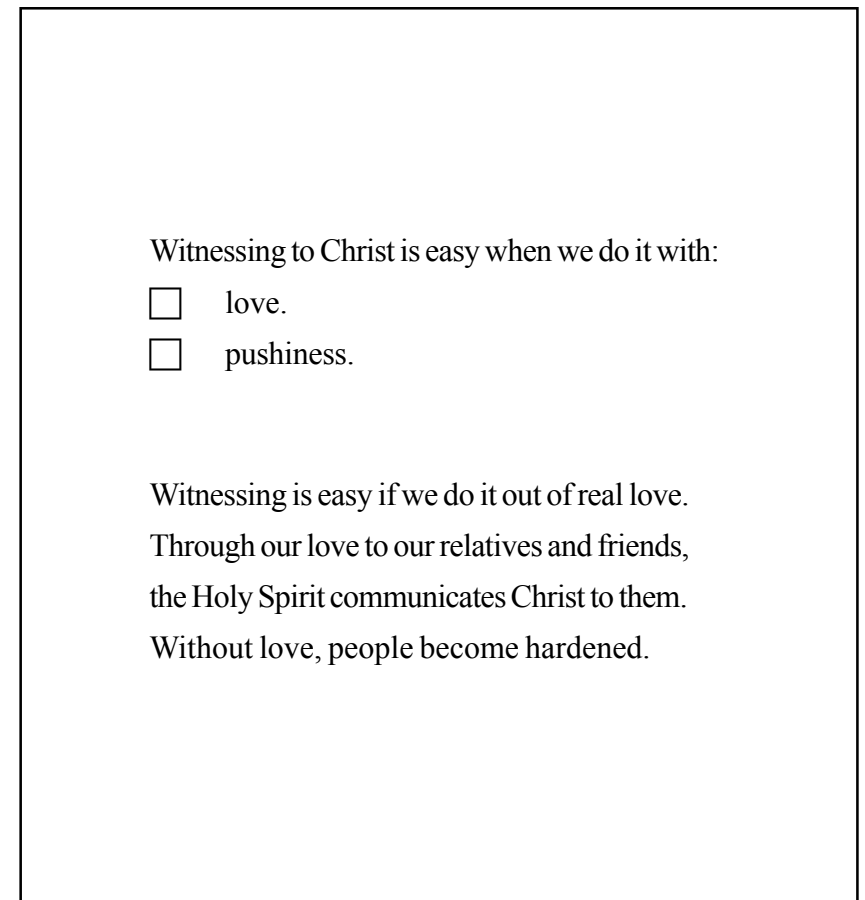




We show the love of Christ:

- ☐ only when we are with sincere Christians who treat us well.
- ☐ by forgiving and doing good to those who ill-treat us.

We must forgive and love even our enemies: Ephesians 4:32, Romans 5:8, Romans 12:14-21.



Giving to God is part of
worship as a congregation.

Yes the Lord's Supper expresses our faith in Christ, in fellowship with His church, His body. We examine ourselves before sharing it, to take part "worthily." 1 Corinthians 11:27-32 reveals that if we fail to recognize—discern and respect—the Body of Christ we bring God's punishment upon us; He disciplines us, it says, so that we will not be condemned along with the world. When we take part, we remember the Lord's death and participate in His body and blood, as Paul said.

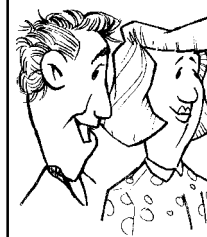


Another duty we have is to witness for Christ.

Isn't witnessing
very difficult?



Go to all the
meetings. This is the
duty and privilege of
every member.
(Hebrews 10:24-25)



But sometimes people make such a noise in church.
It distracts me when I try to meditate on the Lord.

No, it's not
difficult. It's easy
if we do it with the
love and power that
the Holy Spirit
gives us; especially
among our friends
and relatives.



What should we do before sharing in the Lord's Supper?

- ☐ Read a psalm.
- ☐ Confess our sins to God.

Before the Supper we examine ourselves before God.

(1 Corinthians 11:27-29) Scripture does not require confession to a priest.

Let's help some of the noisy ones to be more considerate of others during worship. We should enter God's house with reverence. (Habakkuk 2:20) We should sit near the front to leave back seats for latecomers. Walking to the front during services distracts.



In the Old Testament, Malachi 3:8 says that we rob God when we don't give our tithes. Now, according to the New Testament, we are not under the Law. We are not obliged to tithe. We tithe from love. Although the tithe is not obligatory, it is a practical way of giving.

Can I take my cat?



No son. A service is not for cats or dogs.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



But... when can we greet the members who arrive late?



Before or after the formal part of the service, all members should greet each other. It's very important to greet new believers and visitors, and speak to them.

Giving is part of worship. We should:

- ☐ give only to those who ask for money on the radio.
- ☐ give as part of our congregational worship.



How should we give to God?

- ☐ Reluctantly.
- ☐ Only what we have left over.
- ☐ Cheerfully.

We give to God cheerfully. All we have is from God. God made everything. God provides everything. He owns all things, even us. He redeemed us through the blood of Christ. We, and all we have, are God's property.

Every member of the church has the duty and privilege of sharing in the Lord's Supper. Which of the following is the purpose?

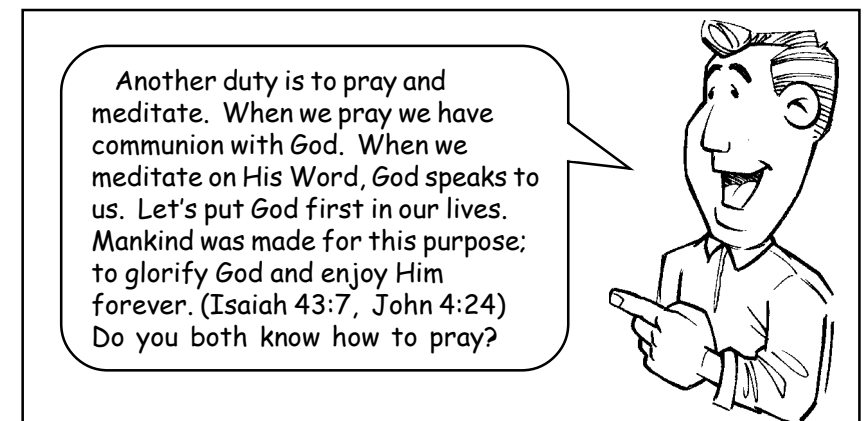
- ☐ To show folks how religious we are.
- ☐ To satisfy our hunger.
- ☐ To have deep communion with Christ and each other.

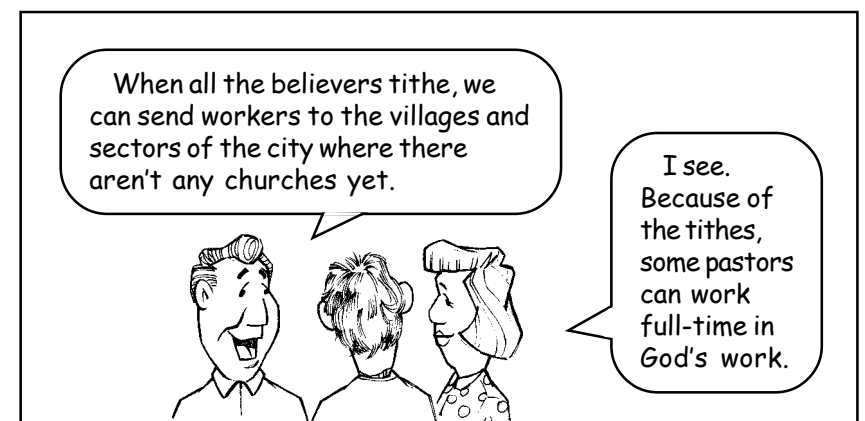
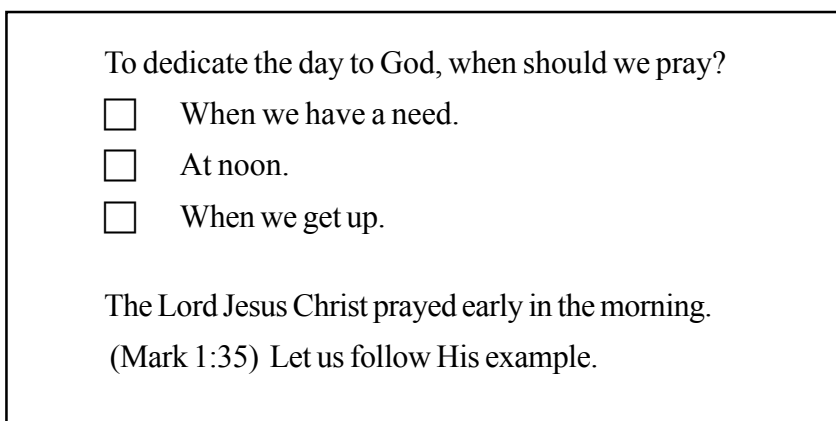
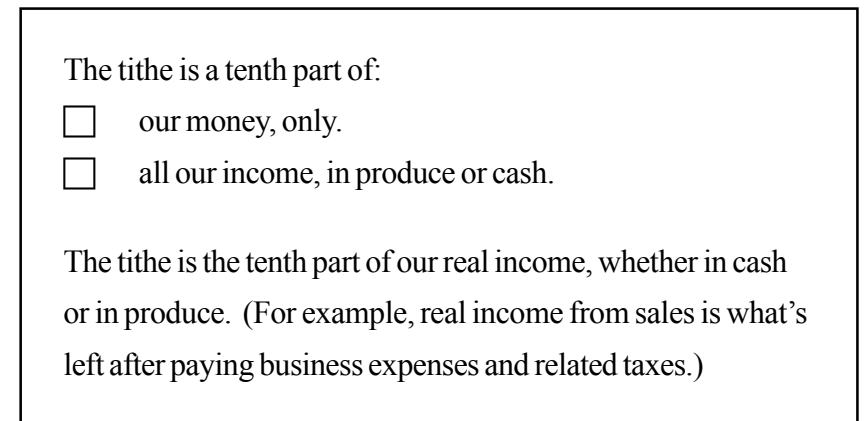
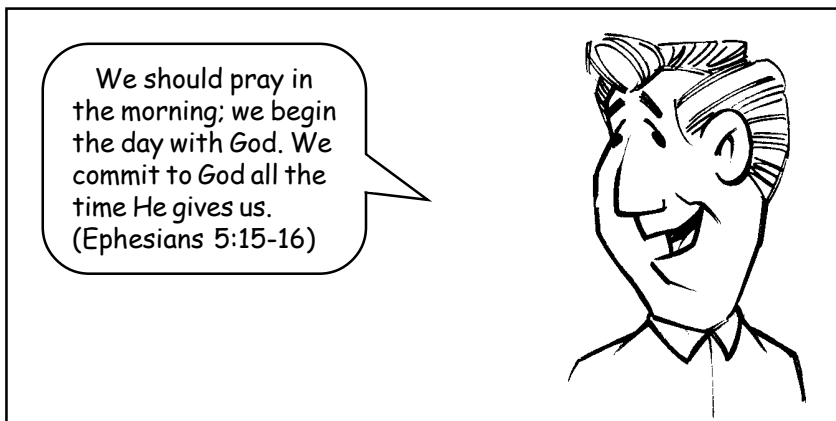
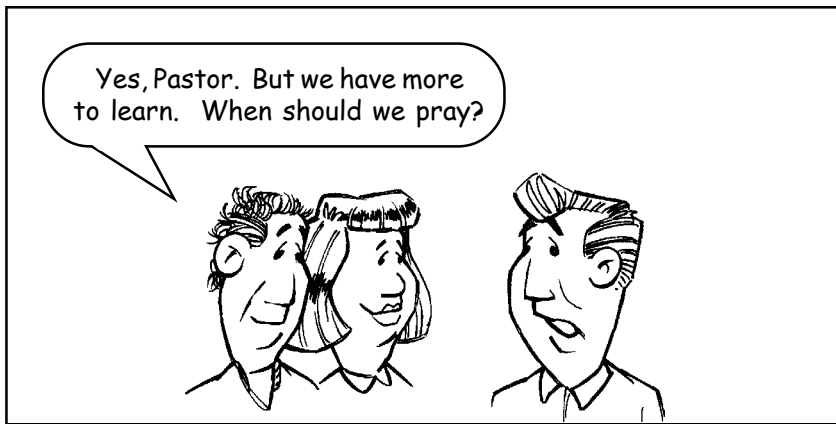
Christians should always maintain communion with God. Anything that prevents our communion with Him is sin.

To maintain our communion with Christ, and be filled with the Spirit, we must:

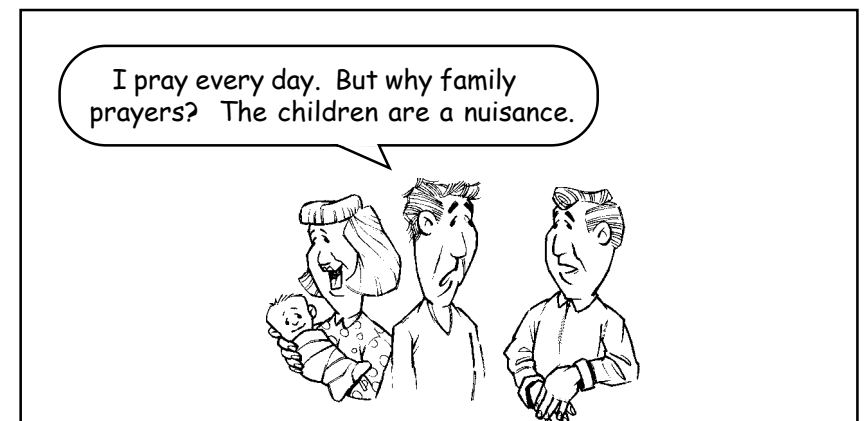
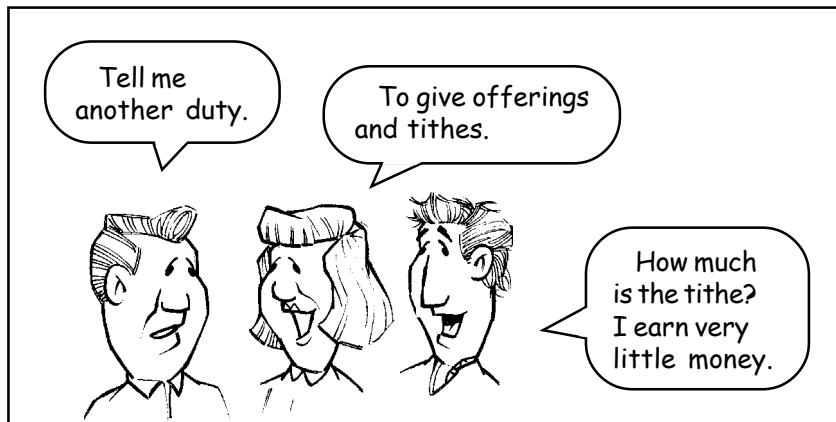
- ☐ confess our sin and follow Christ in faith and love.
- ☐ fast for 40 days.
- ☐ have a great emotional experience every time we meet.

The Christian repents of his faults immediately. (1 John 1:9)





The Bible is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote it. He guided them to write without error. They wrote in their own way, but were guided by the Spirit of God.



By your example, your children will come to Christ. We pray daily with them. We all need daily spiritual food. It comes through prayer and God's Word. We read it, meditate on it and obey it. Prayer is as important as breathing; we praise God daily and ask for what others and we need.



But my children don't understand the Bible, Pastor. Neither do I!



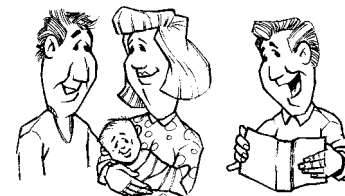
Then you should read short passages from the New Testament. Begin with the Gospels, all about Jesus. Later, you could study parts of the Old Testament. If you can, get an illustrated Bible.

As well as our own private prayer, we must pray and meditate on God's Word daily with:

- ☐ all the family.
- ☐ strangers.
- ☐ the neighbors.
- ☐ the pastor.

God's purpose from the beginning is that we are to teach our families to obey the Lord. (Joshua 24:15, Deuteronomy 6:6-7) A Christian family is a powerful force for good in the community.

Why is it so important to study the Bible? Aren't there any easier books?



The Bible is the only book that is inspired by God. Other books might help you to understand it better. But no book takes the Bible's place.

Why should we meditate on the Bible?

- ☐ It is the Word of God.
- ☐ It is the word of the wisest men.