

# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: introduction

## Welcome to Foundations for Christian Living!

These six studies are designed to help you to grow strong as a Christian. Many young people turn to Jesus and then struggle in their faith. Eventually, a number of them stop following Him altogether. God doesn't want you to be a Christian for a while and then move on to something else.

So what can you do to keep growing as a follower of Jesus and help others do the same? This series of studies is designed to answer these very questions.

Over the next six weeks you will examine:

- » The importance of reading the Bible
- » How to pray effectively
- » The necessity of meeting with other Christians
- » How to tell our friends about Jesus

My hope and prayer is that you enjoy these studies. But, even more than that, I hope that they help you grow in your faith as you go through them.

Have fun!

Ken Moser

# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: the bible part 1

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH. PSALM 119:105



## let's get started

let's get started

**1** What do you think about the Bible? (Choose one of the following then talk about your answers)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Old and out of date       | <input type="radio"/> A collection of fairy tales    |
| <input type="radio"/> A list of do's and don'ts | <input type="radio"/> An awesome story               |
| <input type="radio"/> God's word to all of us   | <input type="radio"/> A book my grandma used to read |
| <input type="radio"/> A mysterious book         | <input type="radio"/> It's too hard to understand    |
| <input type="radio"/> Other? _____              |  |

**2** How often do you read the Bible? (Choose one of the following and then talk about your answers)

- Never tried
- Every now and then
- Only on a youth group camp
- Only when my youth leader makes me
- Each and every day
- A few times a week

**FYI**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:** You have probably noticed that your Bible is full of numbers! These can be confusing the first time you try to read it. Just in case there is someone in the group who is wondering about them, it may be a good time to make sure that everyone is clear. Do we know what the big numbers mean? What about the little numbers? How do you look up a Bible verse? (For example can you find John 3:16?)

going deeper



going deeper

**God's Word is like a lamp! Read Psalm 119:105.**

Why do you think the author of the Psalm says this? How is God's word like a lamp?

Has it ever helped you find your way? If so, how? If God's word is a light, how should we use it?

**God's Word is like a sword! Read Ephesians 6:17.**

Why do you think Paul (he's the author) says this? How is God's word like a sword?

How do you think the Bible can be like a weapon for the Christian person?

**Don't forget what you look like! Read James 1:22-25.**

Try to sum up what this says in one sentence.

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What would you say to someone who looked at in the mirror and then forgot what they looked like?

- You need to see a doctor!
- You need a new mirror!
- When was the last time you had your eyes checked?
- Something else? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the clear point James is making here?

What is the difference between a "hearer only" and a "doer"? Can you give practical examples?

How can we make sure that we put into practice what we read from the Bible?



# getting active

getting active

## In light of what we have just read from the Bible:

What things stop you from reading the Bible?

When is the best time for you to read the Bible each day?

- in the morning before school/work
- when I get home
- after dinner
- other? \_\_\_\_\_

What things can this group do to keep the light shining, the sword active and to be doers and not just hearers of the word?

## let's pray

- That each person in the group will read the Bible regularly and that it will be "a lamp and a sword".
- That we will do what it says.
- *Other things we can pray for*

## stay tuned

Next week we will look at the Bible Part II. We will see how God really wants us to live according to his word!



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:

**The week ahead**





# FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week ahead

## 1. Personal Bible Reading

This week try to read a section of the Bible. Choose a section you plan to read and then write it in the space below. A good place to start is always one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). Why don't you try to read the whole of the gospel of John over the next few weeks? Or you can read one of the shorter books in the New Testament called letters or epistles. (Some examples are Galatians, Ephesians, 1 Thessalonians etc.) You could even try to read the whole of Psalm 119.

### my Weekly Bible Reading plan!

This week I read \_\_\_\_\_

In the gospel of John I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 1  Chapter 2  Chapter 3  Chapter 4

### Hot tips on how to read the Bible (Part 1)

1. Make sure you have a version of the Bible that is easy to read. Some Bibles use language that is out of date or hard to understand. See your leader if you need one that is appropriate.
2. The Bible is made up of two halves with a number of books in each half (39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament). It is more a collection of books than one big book. Your Bible will have an index at the beginning with a list of all the books in order. If you are just starting out, read the New Testament first. Begin with one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John). The Old Testament is awesome, but it can be a bit hard to understand sometimes.
3. It is always helpful to try and figure out who wrote the book you

are reading and why they wrote it. This is often stated in the opening verses or the end of the book (for example, see Luke 1:1-4). Many Bibles will give you an introduction paragraph before each book. This can be really helpful in understanding the book.

4. It is helpful to read the Bible in the way it was meant to be read. It was never intended for someone to “pick it up, open to any old page and see what message God has for them today”. Almost all of the books of the Bible were read as a single document (except for books like Psalms and Proverbs). For example, many of them are letters- these were read out in church in one sitting. While it is fine to read bits of the Bible each day, try and read the same book from start to finish in a week or month. This will be much more helpful in trying to understand it correctly than just “opening it up and seeing what pops out”!

### 2. Memory Verse

It is a great thing to be able to quote the Bible. It is like having your “flashlight” (Psalm 119:105) or “sword” (Ephesians 6:17) ready at all times. Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study? (Psalm 119:105) Give it a try this week.

**YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT FOR MY PATH.**

**PSALM 119:105**

### 3. Prayer

Pray for your Bible reading. Pray that you will read the Bible a number of times this week. Pray also that God will help you to understand it. Pray the same thing for the other members of your Bible study group.

Things that I can thank God for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Things that I need to ask God to help me with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: the bible part 2

all scripture is god-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of god may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17



## let's get started

let's get started

**1** How did you do with reading your Bible this week? (Circle your answer)

- » didn't even try    » read it once  
» woke up in the morning with it on my chest  
» read it 3 or 4 times    » every day

If you read some of the Bible, what did you read?

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**2 QUICK QUIZ** In one minute write down as many Bible stories (or memory verses) that you can think of:

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**FYI**

The Bible has been translated into different versions. Most of them are all the same Bible but some use simpler and more modern language than others. Do you own your own Bible? Is it one that you can understand fairly easily? Does it have both an 'Old Testament' and a 'New Testament'?

## going deeper



going deeper

**Make sure you do what Jesus says! Read Matthew 7:24-29.**

Have you heard this story before?

Give practical examples of the two kinds of people described in this passage:

1. Someone who hears Jesus' words and puts them into practice (verses 24-25)

2. Someone who hears Jesus' words and doesn't put them into practice (verses 26-27)

What do we need to do to be "building on the rock" each day? How can this group help each other to do this? Give some practical examples.

**Reading the Bible will make us wise about how to live as a Christian.**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** What does v. 14 urge us to do? What is the Bible able to do? (v. 15)

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What does v. 16 tell us about the source of Scripture ('Scripture'=another word for the Bible)?

What are the four things Scripture is useful or profitable for?

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Do you know what each of these means?

Why is the Bible important for someone who wants to be a strong Christian?  
(v. 17)



# getting active

getting active

**In light of what we have just read from the Bible:**

In your opinion, what is a realistic goal for Bible reading?

- once a month
- once a week
- 3 to 4 times a week
- every day

What do we do if things keep getting in the way of reading the Bible?

What do I do if...

*I find the Bible hard to understand?*

*I find the Bible boring?*

*My friends give me a hard time because I read the Bible*

## think SPOT

The Bible is written to point us to Jesus. Spend some time this week reading these verses. What do they tell us about why the Bible was written? *Luke 24:25-27 Luke 24:44 John 1:45*

*John 5:39 John 20:30, 31*

## let's pray

- That each person in the group will read the Bible and put it into practice.
- We will be wise and 'build our house on the rock' and do what Jesus tells us to do.
- Pray also that we will learn the Bible so that we will be 'wise for salvation'.
- *Other things we can pray for* \_\_\_\_\_

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stay tuned

Next week we will look at prayer. We will see how God really wants us to pray and how we can help each other to pray more!

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:

**The week ahead**





# FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week ahead

## 1. Personal Bible Reading

Keep trying to read your Bible regularly. What are you going to read this week? If you are not reading any other book from the Bible read 2 Timothy, where our memory verse comes from. (If you are reading the Gospel of John you should be up to chapters 5-8 this week.)

### My Weekly Bible reading plan!

This week I read \_\_\_\_\_

In the gospel of John I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 5  Chapter 6  Chapter 7  Chapter 8

### Hot tips on how to read the Bible more effectively (Part 2)

1. Try to set a time each day to spend some time reading your Bible. Try to get into the habit of doing it at the same time each day (such as when you get home from school or work). If you miss a day, don't stress out. Try to make it up the next day.
2. Always ask God to help you understand what you are reading. It is his word and we all need his help.
3. If you are having trouble understanding something that the Bible says, read it a couple of times. Read the sentences or paragraph before the tricky bit and after it. If you are still having trouble, write down your question and send it to your leader or ask them when you see him/her next.



4. When you read something in the Bible that impacts you or something that you find challenging, pray that God will help you to do what his word says. In other words, as you read the Bible, pray for the strength and wisdom to do what it says!

## 2. Memory Verse

Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study? (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Give it a try this week.

**all scripture is god-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of god may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17**

## 3. Prayer

Keep praying for your Bible reading. Pray that you will keep reading the Bible and that God will help you to understand it. Pray the same thing for the other members of your Bible study group.

Things that I can thank God for: \_\_\_\_\_

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Things that I need to ask God to help me with: \_\_\_\_\_

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# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: PRAYER

ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you matthew 7:7



## let's get started

let's get started

When do you pray?

- When I'm in trouble
- When I have an exam that I haven't studied for
- When I fight with my family or friends
- When my computer breaks down
- When I feel guilty
- When I feel unhappy
- When I'm scared
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

The reason I sometimes don't pray is...

I forget

I get distracted

I fall asleep

I'm too busy

The TV is too loud

Computer games

Other \_\_\_\_\_

# going deeper

going deeper



**This is how we are not supposed to pray! Read Matthew 6:5-8.**

What is the wrong way to pray (what are we not to do)? (v. 5 and v. 7-8)

**FYI**

## HYPOCRITES:

The word hypocrite comes from an old Greek word that meant “actor”. It was used for someone who would put on a mask and act in a play. It has come to mean someone who “says one thing but does something else instead”. Another word for it is fraud or fake.

What is the right way to pray? (v. 6)

What is the main point Jesus is making?

Have you ever met or seen anyone who prays like “the pagans”?

**This is how we are supposed to pray! Read Matthew 6:9-13.**

Go through this famous prayer phrase by phrase.

What is the main point of each part of this prayer?

How can this prayer shape the way we pray?

## Keep on praying! Read Matthew 7:7-11.

What does this teach us about prayer?

How can we put this into practice?

What does it tell us about God?

How often should we pray throughout the day? Is there a limit on how much we should pray?

(If you need more on this subject, read 1 Thessalonians 5:17 & Colossians 4:2.)

What is the best time for you to pray?

Before school or work     In the afternoon

After dinner     Bedtime

Other \_\_\_\_\_



# getting active

getting active

**In light of what we have just read from the Bible:**

What can you do to improve your prayer life?

How can this group help each other to pray?

Is there anything you need to change in the way you pray?

## let's pray

Spend a few minutes *thanking* God and then *asking* for his help.

**Thanks:** What things can you thank God for? (What good things has he brought into your life lately?)

**Help:** Make a list of things to pray for each other. This can include things for yourself, for your family and friends, and for issues in our world. Then pray as a group.

» \_\_\_\_\_

» \_\_\_\_\_

» \_\_\_\_\_

- Pray also that you will spend time with God each day talking with him.
- Pray that you will thank him for all the good things he gives you.
- Pray that you will depend on him and ask him to help you. In other words, pray for your prayer life!
- *Other things we can pray for* \_\_\_\_\_

**stay tuned**

Next week we will look at going to church and how important it is for your relationship with God!

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:

**The week ahead**







# FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week ahead

## 1. Prayer

Pray for your prayer life! Ask God to help you to pray each day. You may find it helpful to do what you did in the group. That is, make two lists: "Thanks" and "Help" (or "please"). Examples of "thanks" prayers are: thanking God for your health, your friends, your church, good weather, etc. Examples of "help" prayers are: help with exams, getting along with difficult people, overcoming sin, etc. Spend some time this week praying like this.

Things that I can thank God for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Things that I need to ask God to help me with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Keep asking God to help you to pray to him each day. Pray for big things (things that are happening in this world), and pray for personal things. One simple way to pray is to make three categories:

The world; My country; Personal Needs (friends, family & myself)

Under each of these headings make a list of things to pray for and then pray for each.

### Hot tips for praying more effectively

1. Try to pray at a similar time each day. This could be in the morning before school/work or when you get home. Many people like to end the day with a time of prayer.

2. Make a list of things to pray for. This will help keep you focused and will keep your mind from wandering. You may want to keep a prayer diary handy. In other words, write down things to pray for and then draw a line through it when God has answered this prayer. You may want to pray for certain things on certain days. For example, on Mondays you could pray for your school friends, on Tuesdays pray for your youth group etc.
3. Pray with a friend or small group of friends. You can do this before Bible study/youth group or during your lunch break.
4. It is important for you to know that you don't need to use fancy or formal language when you pray. Speak to God as you would to a good friend. You need to remember that he is God and that you must treat him with the utmost respect. However, he wants you to speak to him as you would your loving heavenly father.
5. It doesn't matter where you are when you pray or how long your prayers are. Try to get in the habit of saying prayers throughout the day. If you find that you are doing something each day (like a daily chore or catching the bus) learn to pray every time you are doing this.
6. Learn to share with your Christian friends about how God has answered your prayers. This can be a real encouragement for everyone to keep relying on God.
7. Pray for your prayer life. Pray that God will help you to pray more and more.
8. Finally, God will answer your prayers. He'll answer them in one of three ways; "yes", "no" or "not yet"! Stay with it and don't give up even if it seems that God isn't answering your prayers straight away.

## 2. Personal Bible Reading

Choose a section of the Bible to read for the week ahead. If you want to read some more teaching from Jesus on prayer you could read Luke 11:1-13 & 18:1-15. You could also read any of the Psalms. These are prayers in the Old Testament.

(If you are reading the Gospel of John you should be up to chapters 9-12 this week.)

### My Weekly Bible Reading Plan!

This week I read \_\_\_\_\_

In the gospel of John I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 9  Chapter 10  Chapter 11  Chapter 12

## 3. Memory Verse

Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study? (Matthew 7:7) Give it a try this week.

**But wait, there's still more! If you need a couple more good verses on prayer- here are 2 good ones.** Philippians 4:6 Read Colossians 4:2

What does this tell us about prayer? How are we to pray according to these verses?

# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: meeting with other christians

Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25



## let's get started

let's get started

I go to church or youth group or Bible Study...

- To learn about God
- To praise and worship God
- To have fun
- To meet other people
- To hang out with the opposite sex
- Because I'm bored
- Because my parents make me
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Going to church is simply about meeting with other Christians regularly. Can you think of a couple of reasons why this would be an important thing to do?



## going deeper

going deeper

Read what the Bible says about what Christians are to do when they meet together. Read Acts 2:42-47.



(Make a list of everything that the early Christians did when they met together.)

Read Colossians 3:16-17. (What does this tell us about our time together?)

Why is it important to do these things?

Are we doing these things when we meet together?

**Don't give up! Read Hebrews 10:23-25.**

What are we told to do in...

v.23 \_\_\_\_\_

v.24 \_\_\_\_\_

v.25 \_\_\_\_\_

Why is what we are told to do in v.25 so important?

What is the link between what we are told to do in v.25 and the previous two verses?

**What keeps you from going to youth group, Bible study or church?**

(circle your answer)

sport homework school commitments job  
family stuff computer games music practice  
sleepovers friends ballet parties  
household jobs other stuff? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it is possible to do these things and still meet with other Christians regularly? If not, what should you cut out?

How do you make sure that you don't let other activities stop you from meeting with Christians regularly?

What advice would you give to someone who has parents that won't let them go to youth group regularly?

What about someone who has friends that give them a hard time for meeting with Christians, what would you say to them?

**Have you ever gone to youth group, church or Bible study and wondered, "Where is everybody?"** How did you feel when you found out that they were someplace else? How can the problem of irregular attendance be solved? What should you say to someone who only comes to youth group or Bible study every now and then? Can you think of ways to encourage them to come to Bible study regularly?



## getting active

getting active

**In light of what we have read from the Bible today:**

When we meet together are we "spurring each other on to love and good deeds"?

Is this happening in youth group?

Is it possible to meet together every week without fail?

How can we help each other to stay committed to meeting together?

# FYI

**Being a Christian is a little like being a French fry!** When you order some fries they should be nice and hot. If you take a French fry out of the pack and place it on its own it soon becomes cold. In fact, it gets colder faster than the rest of the fries in the packet. If you want to stay on fire for God, keep meeting each week with other Christians. The day you stop is the day you start to grow cold.

### let's pray

- That each person in this group will commit themselves to meeting with other Christians regularly.
- That nothing will get in the way of this and that we can make this a priority.
- For anyone who has regularly missed Bible study or youth group lately.
- Other things we can pray for \_\_\_\_\_

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## stay tuned

Next week we will look at how we can tell our friends about Jesus!

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:

**The week ahead**





# FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week ahead

## 1. Getting organized

Look at all the things you need to do during the week. Your job is to figure out how to be able to meet with other Christians each and every week. You may need to organize a schedule, have a chat with your parents or cut some things out of your week. If you have any questions, talk about this with your leader and figure out what you need to do.

## 2. Prayer

Pray you will be faithful in attending youth group and Bible study. Pray that you will not miss them due to other commitments that you have.

Things that I can thank God for: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Things that I need to ask God to help me with: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Personal Bible Reading

Continue reading your Bible. In the space below write down the section you plan to read this week. You could try and read the book of Hebrews. It can be a bit tricky but it has a lot to say to those who are dropping out of Christian

fellowship. You could also read 1 Corinthians 12. This chapter is all about being involved in church and what this means. (If you are reading the gospel of John, you should be up to chapters 13-16 this week.)

### MY WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN!

This week I read \_\_\_\_\_

In the gospel of John I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 13  Chapter 14  Chapter 15  Chapter 16

#### 4. Memory Verse

Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study? (Hebrews 10:25.) Give it a try this week!

#### Hot Tips to regularly attend church/youth group/ small group Bible study.

1. It is important that you don't commit yourself to anything that will take you away from your regular Christian gathering. Sporting teams, jobs and homework can be the main culprits.
2. Be honest with any future employer, sporting coach, etc. and tell them that you have a weekly commitment to your local church. Tell them when this meets and that you don't want to miss it.
3. Be strong. God loves it when his people choose him over things like sports or a school social.
4. If your parents want you to skip Christian things, see if you can sit down and chat with them about this issue. It may be a simple case of organizing yourself better. They may just be concerned that you "are doing too much". If this is the case, try to set up your schedule so that you can get your required work done and go to youth group.
5. You may need to cut out things in your schedule like: television, phone calls at night, internet chats, cartoons and sleeping too much! Some things may just have to wait.
6. If any of your friends begin to skip youth group, church or Bible study, give them a phone call and urge them to come back. Make sure you pray for them.
7. Learn to give your youth group (& weekly small group Bible study) priority. If there is a party on at the same time you have Bible study, go to Bible study and turn up to the party a little later.
8. Learn to sacrifice. The bottom line is, you just can't do everything you may want to. If you want to be committed to your church you may need to drop something(s) out of your schedule.



# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: evangelism

## Telling people about Jesus

(Evangelism = sharing your faith in Jesus with others)

**BUT IN YOUR HEARTS SET APART CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT ... 1 PETER 3:15**



# let's get started

let's get started

**1** How do you feel about telling your friends that you're a Christian?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terrified! I just can't do it  | <input type="checkbox"/> No problem—I do it all the time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm willing yet kind of scared | <input type="checkbox"/> Never thought about it          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends? What friends?         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                     |

**2** Is there anything that holds you back from talking about Jesus?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know what to say | <input type="checkbox"/> They might ask me hard questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm too shy              | <input type="checkbox"/> I might say the wrong thing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know enough      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                      |

Have you ever told someone about Jesus? What happened?

# going deeper

going deeper



**Before you speak to someone about Jesus it's helpful to be clear on the facts! Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.**

Briefly, summarize what this says a Christian believes.

Verse 3: Christ \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 4: Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 5-8: Christ \_\_\_\_\_

What happens if you believe these things to be true? (Verse 2)

Now, imagine you are telling a friend about Jesus. Can you simply state what a Christian believes? Give it a try.

**It is important to tell people about Jesus! Read Romans 10:9-15.**

What does this tell us about people who turn to Jesus? (v. 9-13)

What is necessary for them to hear about Jesus? (v. 14)

What does v. 15 say about those who go and tell this world about Jesus?

If it is such a good thing to tell people about Jesus, why is it still so scary?

**We must be prepared! Read 1 Peter 3:15-16.**

According to these verses, why will someone ask you about your faith?

How must we respond to any questions about our faith?

Have you ever had someone ask you why you are a Christian? Why did they ask you? How did you respond?

How should you respond if people are hostile to the Christian message?

- Speak louder and begin shouting     Cry
- Challenge them to a fight     Walk away depressed
- Bribe them into believing     Give up
- Leave it up to God     Other \_\_\_\_\_



## getting active

### getting active

**In light of what we have read from the Bible today:**

What areas do you need to work on with evangelism (for example, answering tough questions etc.)?

How can this group help each other to be more effective when telling others about Jesus?

## let's pray

- Is there anyone you know that you would like to become a Christian? Pray that God will give you an opportunity to talk with them about Jesus this week.
- Pray that you will be clear and fearless yet gentle.
- Pray that each person in the group will have an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus.
- *Other things we can pray for*

## stay tuned

Next week we will look at how you must show that you follow Jesus in your actions as well as your words!



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:  
**The week ahead**





# FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week ahead

## 1. Opportunities for Evangelism

Are there any friends or family members that you can talk to about Jesus this week? Pray for an opportunity and then have a try at telling them about Jesus.

## 2. Personal Bible Reading

If you are reading John, you should be up to chapters 17-20. If you have finished John and need a new book to read, go to 1 Thessalonians. It is a simple and excellent book.

### My Weekly Bible Reading Plan!

This week I read \_\_\_\_\_

In the gospel of John I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 17  Chapter 18  Chapter 19  Chapter 20

## 3. Prayer

Things that I can thank God for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Things that I need to ask God to help me with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Hot Tips to help you tell people you know about Jesus.

1. Be clear on the facts. It is important to be able to talk about Jesus clearly and simply. You want to try and avoid confusing people. (If you need to, read and reread 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.)
2. It is helpful to have the story of how you became a Christian ready; this is called a testimony (you can read the Apostle Paul's testimony in Acts 22:1-21 & chap. 26). Some people even write it down or put it on a multimedia CD to give away.
3. You may want to learn how to answer the questions people often ask. (For example, "Why does God allow suffering?" and "What about other religions?" are common questions.)
4. You could have a tract ready to give out. These are short explanations of what it means to be a Christian. They are available from any Christian bookstore.
5. Be prepared to open the Bible with your non-Christian friends and explain what a Christian believes. Some helpful passages are John 3:16-21; Romans 3:22-24 & 6:23; and of course, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
6. Try to be bold. When your church or youth group has an evangelistic event or service, pray that God will help you to invite a friend. After you pray, look for friends that you can invite!
7. Be patient. It is rare for someone to become a Christian the first time they talk about it. It takes time. And remember what 1 Peter 3:15 says: "be gentle and speak with respect".

### 4. Memory Verse

Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study? (1 Peter 3:15) Give it a try this week!

**BUT IN YOUR HEARTS SET APART CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO  
GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE  
HOPE THAT YOU HAVE. BUT DO THIS WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT ...**

**1 PETER 3:15**

# FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING: evangelism living for JESUS

in the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16



## let's get started

let's get started

Did anyone have an opportunity to tell someone about Jesus this past week? If so, what happened?

**1** If you live as a Christian (which means you may do things differently from your friends) how will your friends react?

- They will freak out
- They probably won't be my friend much longer
- They'll cope
- If they really are my friends, they will accept me for who I am
- Friends? I don't have any friends
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Have you ever been in a situation where you acted differently from the rest of the crowd because you are a Christian? What happened?

# going deeper

going deeper



**We must be different from the world around us.**

**Read Matthew 5:13-16.** How are we described in verses 13 and 14?

Verse 13: We are the \_\_\_\_\_

Verse 14: We are the \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think it means for us to be "salt and light"?

What does Jesus say must not happen to us? (v. 13) Why?

What might happen if a non-Christian sees our good deeds? (v. 16)

What does it mean to be salty and a light in the following situations?

a) When you are at home

b) When you are at school

c) When you are with your friends

**People will notice us if we live differently. Read 1 Peter 2:11-12.**

(The word 'pagan' means non-Christian)

Have you ever had the opportunity to be a good witness to Jesus by your actions? What was it?

What can you do to live a good life for Jesus in front of the people you know?

Is there anything in your life you need to change in order to do this?

**FYI**

In New Testament times, non-Christians accused Christians of doing the wrong thing. This was mostly because they misunderstood the Christian message. Here are some of their accusations:

1. They would accuse them of being cannibals because they celebrated the Lord's Supper. (In Mark 14:22-24 Jesus takes bread and says "this is my body" and calls a cup of wine "my blood".)
2. They accused them of being atheists because they wouldn't worship the pagan gods and worshipped God over the emperor (which was actually true!).
3. They accused them of incest because they would kiss their "brother" and "sister" (1 Thessalonians 5:26).

How would a non-Christian "accuse you of doing wrong"? Have you ever had this happen to you?

What should you do when you do something in front of your friends that you know isn't a good witness to Jesus?



getting active

getting active

**In light of what we have read from the Bible:**

How can we be salt and a light this coming week?

Are there any areas we need to work on?

How can we help each other?

**let's pray**

- Pray that you will be different in the way you live this week.
- Pray that each of us will be salt and light.
- Pray that this will lead to fruitful conversations about Jesus.
- Other things we can pray for \_\_\_\_\_

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**stay tuned**

There is another great Bible study next week!



FOR YOUR EYES ONLY:  
**The week ahead**





# FOR YOUR EYES ONLY: The Week ahead

## 1. Living for Jesus

Try your best to live differently from those around you who don't know Jesus. Make a note of things that you need to work on and try to change. Pray that God will help you to do this in the coming week (and each week after!).

## 2. Personal Bible Reading

If you are reading John, read chapter 21 and finish reading this great gospel. Once you have done that, you might like to read the book of Titus. This is a great book on living for Jesus in a world that can be hostile.

### my weekly Bible reading plan!

This week I read \_\_\_\_\_

In the gospel of John and the book of Titus I read (place a ✓ when you have read it!)

Chapter 21  Titus 1  Titus 2  Titus 3

## 3. Prayer

Keep praying for opportunities to tell others about Jesus.



Things that I can thank God for: \_\_\_\_\_

Things that I need to ask God to help me with: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Memory Verse

Can you learn the memory verse at the top of the study? (Matthew 5:16) You might like to review the previous memory verses you have been learning through these studies to make sure you don't forget them.

**in the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see  
your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16**

#### **Hot Tips for showing Jesus to your friends and family by the way you live.**

1. Learn to apologize. When you make a mistake or do something wrong say sorry for it. This goes a long way in trying to show someone that Jesus has made a difference in your life.
2. Learn your weaknesses. In other words, learn to avoid situations that will cause you to do things that you shouldn't. If this means skipping parties or staying away from certain 'friends', do it.
3. If a friend is going through a difficult time, offer to pray for them. This can be a great witness.
4. When someone asks you what you did on the weekend, tell them you went to church or youth group. This can lead to discussions about Jesus.
5. When someone treats you badly, don't retaliate.
6. Treat everyone the same, whether they are popular or not.
7. Can you think of some more?

# **thank you**

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## **Other recommended resources for your youth ministry:**

### **Small Group Bible Studies**

**Starting Out**

By Ken Moser

**Young Men**

By Ken Moser

**Young Women**

By Julie Moser

**Luke: Who Is Jesus?**

By Ken Moser

**Luke: Jesus' Parables**

By Ken Moser

**Luke: Carry Your Cross**

By Ken Moser

**Death And Resurrection Of Jesus**

By Julie Moser

**Work Rest Play**

By Ken Moser

**Big Issues For Today's Youth**

By Ken Moser

**Studies 2 Go**

By Julie Moser

**More Studies 2 Go**

By Julie Moser

### **Resources For Leaders**

**Programs 2 Go**

By Ken Moser

**Changing the World through  
Effective Youth Ministry**

By Ken Moser

**Creative Christian Ideas for Youth  
Groups**

By Ken Moser

**Youth Evangelism: Reaching Young  
People in a Way that Honours God**

By Ken Moser

