

# SAMPLE

The Way of the

# DISCIPLE



Leader  
Guide

Level 1: Fall

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LEADERS IN TRAINING: The Way of the Disciple  
Level 1: Fall Leader Guide

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**“And you will  
SEEK ME and  
find Me, when  
you search for  
Me with all  
your heart.”**

**[Jeremiah 29:13]**

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# Welcome to Leaders In Training!

Leaders In Training (L.I.T.) Disciple Group is a great time to get to know the children in your group and to build accountability. This resource is to help you have success as you plan your small group Bible study each week. The materials are very simple and should give you plenty to discuss and do during your Disciple Group time. The number one rule of teaching and being a discipler is *surrender*. Surrender to God for His filling. He will then empower you to model and exemplify Christ. He will also guide you as you lead your group in prayer and worship.

## **Introduction: Why Am I Here?**

For the next eighteen weeks, you will be helping the L.I.T.s discover that they were born for a purpose. God said to the prophet Jeremiah years ago, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5). Children in your group will begin to realize how special they really are, that they are not an accident or the result of some cosmic explosion or incident, that they are God’s creation. Rick Warren says in his book, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, “It’s not about you.” We want the L.I.T.s to realize that they are not here for themselves, but they are a part of a divine plan of God. “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16). We are all here for God and for God’s pleasure. He created us for a personal relationship and to live a life fully devoted to Him

## **Developing a Christian Worldview**

There are many beliefs in our world. These beliefs can be considered a person’s worldview. A worldview is how a person determines what they believe about who they are as a person, their purpose for being here on Earth, what they believe to be truth, what they believe about family, and how they view the needs of the world around them.

As Christians, we look at things differently because we have a tool that guides us—God’s Word. On sunny days, some people wear sunglasses to filter out the sun’s rays. They find it easier to see with sunglasses on bright days. As we live in the world, we need to have a filter to help us determine what is right and wrong. It is like putting on sunglasses to block out the sun. So the believer takes up the Bible to block out those views that do not line up with God’s Word. Parents need to have a Christian worldview and instill in their child a biblical perspective of the world.

“Parent Talk: Developing a Christian Worldview” is the Day 7 devotional for each week in the student devotional book. It is based on the admonition in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” This section is designed to assist parents in helping their children apply what they are learning.

# The Cross

## Parts of The Cross

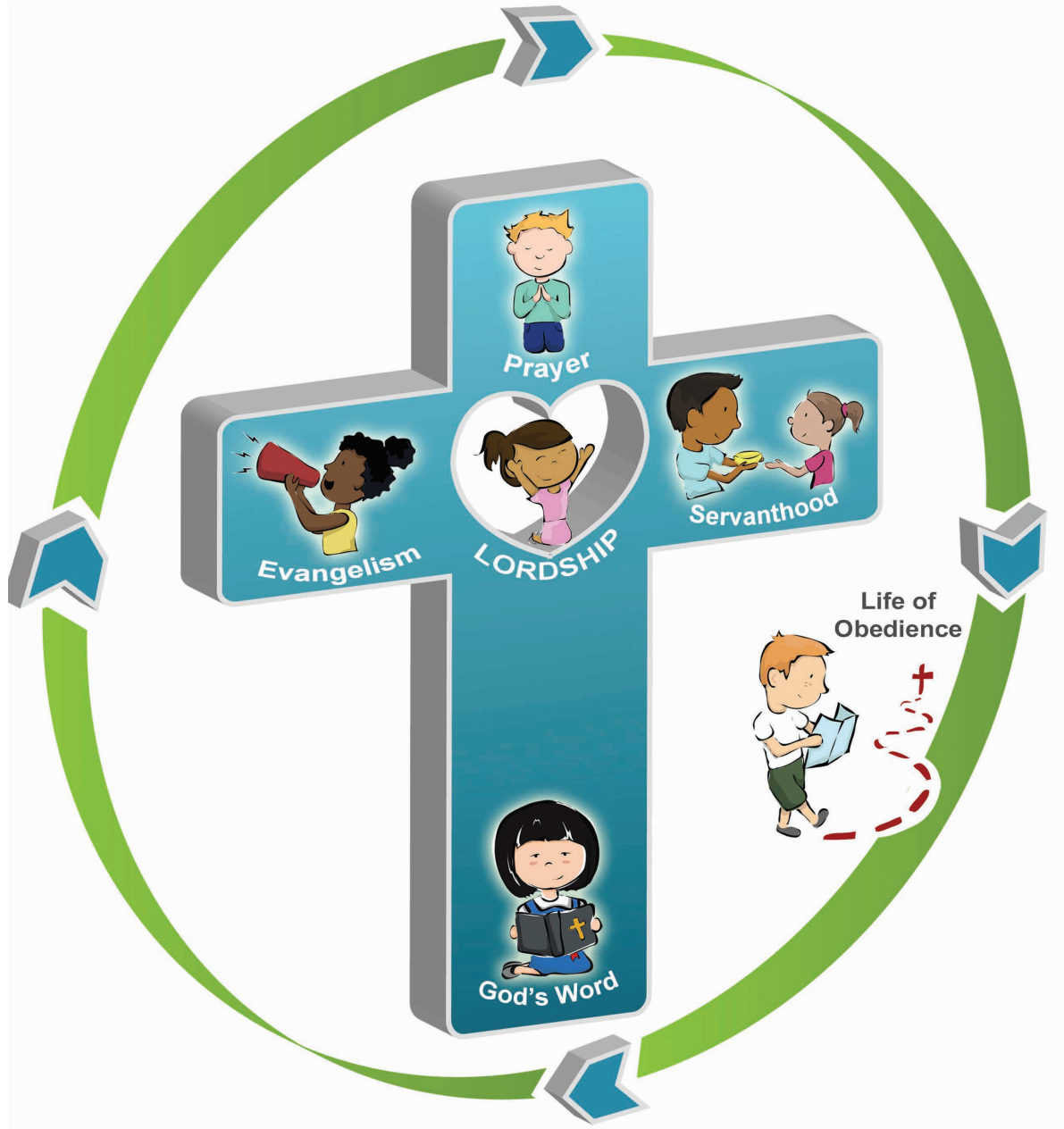
- **The Heart of The Cross—Jesus Is Lord:** Jesus Christ must be Lord of every area of the L.I.T.s' lives. They will learn to allow Him to live His life through them. (Galatians 2:20)
- **The Base of The Cross—Read the Bible:** In order to find God's will, they must read His Word daily. (Psalm 119:105)
- **The Top of The Cross—Talk With God:** Prayer is the open invitation to spend time talking with God each day. The children can talk with Him anytime and anywhere. (Jeremiah 33:3)
- **The Left Side of The Cross—Tell Others:** Jesus commands His followers to tell the world about His great love for them. The L.I.T.s will be challenged to share their faith daily. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **The Right Side of The Cross—Gifts and Ministry:** The Holy Spirit has given gifts to every child of God, and the children are to use these gifts to serve God in the church and in the world. (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Circle around The Cross—Life of Obedience:** The Lord Jesus calls believers to obey His leadership. In following the parts of The Cross, the L.I.T.s can accomplish His desires for their lives.

The Cross will be your tool to help your Disciple Group stay on track with their walk with God. It is a formula for spiritual growth as you and your students learn to put it into practice. God has a plan for every person's life. He desires a relationship with us. He has made this relationship possible through Jesus Christ. Some of your students will have already made the discovery while others may not have. Your responsibility as their Disciple Group leader is to continue pointing students to Christ: First, for salvation, and second, for them to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10).

Salvation is key, and from that point the journey begins. Then we have to constantly remember we must live a life that is totally and completely dependent and surrendered to Him. From there, we find direction for our lives through His Word. God's Word always points to God and His purpose for our lives. His Word is the road map for our lives. His Word is the instruction manual by which we put our lives together. It is our light through a dark world bent on destroying our lives, and it is our handbook for discipling children. We teach them to look at life through biblical eyes. They must learn to face life with the instruction manual in front of them. As we submit our lives to Him, we can find His will for our lives through His Word.

We have the wonderful invitation in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." First John 5:14-15 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." Therefore, we can come boldly before the Lord in submission to Him and He will answer our request. This is our personal relationship with Him.

The vertical part of The Cross is our relationship with God. Jesus said: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38). The second part of our relationship with God becomes horizontal. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:39-40). Looking at The Cross, we are called to "Tell Others" the wonderful Gospel message, and God has given us gifts for ministry. When we do these things, we are living out a life of obedience to Christ.



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# WARNING!

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN THIS STUDY!

Jesus calls us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a). Jesus lived a life of abandonment to the Father. We are calling you to do the same (Luke 9:23). Jesus modeled for His disciples a life of faith, integrity, and grace. Through His example, He also equipped His disciples to change the world. You are called to do the same. Number one, you are called to be a role model. That means, like your students, you are in the Word of God daily. When you go to your small group, you should have done the same Bible study as they have and have your memory verse memorized. So, make sure you get a copy of the student devotional book from the beginning. Do not ask them to do anything you are not doing. Your life must be one of integrity. Do not say one thing and live another. Children can pick up on this rather quickly. You can easily become a stumbling block to them. Just like Jesus, you are to equip and release the children in your group to minister using their spiritual gifts.

Here are some quick pointers:

**1. Hold them accountable.** The more you encourage your students to do their devotionals each day, the more you will see transformation in their lives. Call them every week. By your constant encouragement, you will see life changes. The greatest thing is that they will have already studied what you will be talking about in your small group, and you will be able to help them apply it.

**2. Find out where they are spiritually.** Do they know Christ? If not, you will find in the Leadership Training Handbook tools for learning how to share Christ and how to counsel with a child and lead them to the Lord.

**3. Release them to minister in your D-Group.** This means once you know where they are spiritually, administer the Spiritual Gift Test that is in the back of your Training Handbook. Determine what their gifts are and then begin getting them involved in teaching, praying, keeping records, helping in the class, and ministering to one another.

**4. Do it!** If you will take these steps, you will become a disciplemaker, and you will see their lives changed before your eyes. You see, children connect with their faith through action. Faith is not something that is taught; it is caught by living it out in front of them. The spiritual gifts of children give them identity and purpose in the body of Christ. Like you, they are called to minister right now.

**5. They do not have a “baby” Holy Spirit.** When a child receives Christ as their Savior and Lord, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit—THE Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). This means they are called to minister now. One of your greatest joys will be to watch them grow using their gifts. This is a fulfillment of your calling as a teacher (Ephesians 4:11-13).



Now go and make disciples. Throughout the coming weeks, you will see milestones that can move you into becoming a life-changing leader in your church. This guide is your tool for helping children have a deeper walk with Christ. Remember, the more you can have them take on roles in your group, the more you will develop them into the ministers they are called to be.

**NOTE:** This Leader Guide for Disciple Group is loaded with materials. You do not have to do everything in the guide. This gives you the freedom to allow the Holy Spirit to lead your group. Prayer should be the first thing you do. Also, as you move your group and begin to engage them in using their gifts, you can then give them parts of the Leader Guide to teach using their gifts.

**Milestone One: I Do, You Watch (Be a model for them.):** As the leader, do your daily quiet times. You do all the preparations and teaching, and you model for them a person who is faithful in their walk with Christ.

**Milestone Two: I Do, You Help (Invite them to help.):** Find out where your kids are spiritually. Do they know Christ? If not, share the Gospel with them and invite them to join in. Have them take the Spiritual Gift Test. Begin to allow them to teach small parts of the lesson, lead the prayer time, help in the class, etc.

**Milestone Three: You Do, I Help (Give them more responsibility.):** By now, you will begin to see an excitement among the children in your group as they begin to discover their spiritual gifts and use them in your group. Remember, they are doing the Bible study at home, so this allows you more and more freedom to let them be active and lead within your group.

**Milestone Four: You Do, I Watch (Allow them to take ownership.):** This may seem a little crazy, but what you are doing will have a life-changing impact on their lives. You will have become obedient to your calling to equip these younger saints for ministry. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 for a clearer understanding of what this means.

**Milestone Five: You Do!** As your group is being led through this process, you will see and hear amazing things. We have heard many stories of children who have been equipped and have started teaching Bible studies at their schools and leading their friends to Christ. The unique thing is that the Holy Spirit will guide them to do amazing things, all because you equipped and released them to minister.

This may sound out of the ordinary, but it really is not. Jesus has a plan for every believer in Christ. You can have an amazing part of it by allowing them to discover God's purpose for their lives and by fanning the flame of their gifts and empowering them to use them. It is our deepest prayer that you will find the joy of discipling, equipping, and empowering the next generation in your church.



# Disciple Group Information

Each Disciple Group will be made up of three to five children. Before going to your small group, go through the materials and become familiar with your studies. The group study will complement what your L.I.T.s studied at home in their daily quiet times during the previous week. This Leader Guide is designed to provide you with Bible study aids and activities to help the students learn the biblical concepts you are teaching. You will most likely not have enough time to do everything presented here, so plan on using the materials that you believe will be most effective with your students. The following is a basic outline of each week's lesson:

## Learning Objective

The Learning Objective should be the desired outcome of each week's Disciple Group Bible study time. This is the objective for your group to achieve each week.

## Memory Verse

The L.I.T.s are given a memory verse for each week. One of the most important parts of your group time is reviewing the memory verse. During Bible Study Review time, make sure the students have memorized their verse. It is also a good idea to review the past weeks' verses so that the children can always keep them in their hearts and minds.

## Spiritual Preparation

These are suggestions and ideas for you to pray and think about as you prepare for your Disciple Group. They will guide you in the direction of personal preparation and help you pray specifically for the children in your group.



## Opening Prayer

Begin your Disciple Group time with prayer. Pray on the armor of God first because you have an enemy who wants to frustrate and hinder your Bible study time together. God has provided the armor for your protection.

**The Armor of God** can be found in Ephesians 6:10-17. In order to teach your group the

importance of the armor, each week have them all stand up before prayer time and go through the motions of "putting on the armor." For example: Belt of truth—Using their hands, have them pretend to put a belt around their waists. Breastplate of righteousness—They can act like they are sliding it over their heads and strapping it on. Sandals of peace—Have them sit down and "put on" their sandals. Complete the armor with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Starting with prayer will help you and your students get focused and prepared for Disciple Group time.



## Biblical Explanation

The Biblical Explanation will give you a brief interpretation of Scripture and further insights for your small group time.



## Bible Study Review

This section provides the students with the opportunity to quote their memory verse for the week, recite previous weeks' verses, and review the past week's devotionals that they did at home. The review questions are designed to evaluate learner comprehension. After asking these questions, you may find that your group lacks understanding in a particular area. If so, discuss the materials they did not understand.



## Bible Exploration

The Bible Exploration section gives preteens an opportunity to search the Bible for additional passages that relate to the week's lesson and discuss their meaning.

## The Cross

The Cross reminds the children each week of how we relate to God and to others in living a life of obedience to the Lord. This section will explain how each week's lesson applies to The Cross.



## Object Lessons and



## Learning Activity

Some people are visual learners. The Object Lessons are provided to further enhance learning and give preteens a better grasp of biblical principles. Week 18 also provides an engaging Learning Activity for the L.I.T.s.



## L.I.T. Challenge

These challenges give the L.I.T.s a practical way to apply the lesson to their lives and encourage them to "live it out" when they leave Disciple Group. If the children do not understand how to apply the lesson to their daily lives, they will not have learned effectively.

## P.R.A.Y.

The P.R.A.Y. acrostic is a reminder of how to pray daily and in small group time. You want to help children develop a daily prayer time beginning with praise and thanksgiving (P), followed by confession and repentance of sin (R). Teach your L.I.T.s to ask, or make their requests known to God (A). The most important part of the Christian life is SURRENDER, or yield (Y). This is key to their personal growth and gives them a daily reminder of who is in control. The best way to follow the acrostic in your prayer time is to read the prayer suggestion provided in this guide, then have one child begin the prayer, allowing everyone a chance to pray one after another. Lead the group in praise and thanksgiving, then move into confession of sin. Next, have them tell God their needs. End prayer time with them yielding and surrendering their lives to God. It is important for you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide each child as they pray.



## Leader Notes & L.I.T. Prayer Requests

This section is provided as a place for you to write down any thoughts or ideas you may have as you study and prepare for Disciple Group time each week. You can also write down any prayer requests your L.I.T.s share with you when you make your weekly phone calls.

# Orientation Information

Begin by welcoming the children in your group to Leaders In Training. (You can invite their parents to your first Disciple Group meeting so that they can learn about the L.I.T. devotional books and what is expected of their children during their devotional times.) This small group session will allow you to get acquainted with the children in your group. In addition, it will give you an opportunity to explain how the daily devotional works.

Give each child a copy of the L.I.T. Level 1: Fall devotional book. Have them write their name in the front of their book then turn to the following pages to learn how to use their devotional book.

## **Welcome to L.I.T. (page 5).**

Read the first two paragraphs on this page to help the L.I.T.s understand what they will be learning in this session's devotionals.

## **How to Have a Quiet Time with God (page 11).**

Take your time explaining to the group how to spend time with the Lord. (When you get to numbers 8 and 9 in the list, be aware that we will soon be looking at a prayer for putting on the armor of God on page 7. Also, when you get to number 10 in the list, keep in mind that we will be discussing the Prayer Journal in more depth at the end of this orientation section.)

## **Armor of God Prayer (page 7).**

This prayer is written to help the L.I.T.s understand the symbolic meaning of each piece of armor and to pray for God to cover each area of their lives with His presence, His Word, His power, and His truth. It is very important that we put on God's spiritual protection daily because it gives us the ability to stand against the enemy's attacks. Encourage your students to put on the armor of God every day.

## **Learning to Hear From God (page 6).**

Children often find it difficult to understand the different ways that God speaks to us. This section will help you explain the various ways that God reveals His message to us. Encourage them to "listen" carefully so that they will hear the voice of God in their lives.

## **Prayer and Worship: God Encounters (page 8).**

This section takes a look at Isaiah's experience when he went before the throne of God. It takes the parts of Isaiah's prayer and teaches us how to pray. Using the P.R.A.Y. acrostic, the L.I.T.s will learn how to start their prayer times with Praise and thanksgiving, move into a time of Repentance and confession of sin, Ask God to provide for their needs or the needs of others, and finally to Yield, or surrender, their lives to the Lord and His will for them.

## **Take Up Your Cross Daily (page 9).**

The Cross is a visual representation of living the Christian life in obedience to Jesus Christ. We will be looking at The Cross repeatedly throughout this Bible study session. The students will become extremely familiar with its various parts, and you will want to encourage them to live out every part of The Cross.

## **Weekly Memory Verses (pages 12-13).**

These are the weekly memory verses your preteens will be learning during the next eighteen weeks. The memory verse for each week is referenced at the beginning of each day's devotional to remind the L.I.T.s to learn it (see Week 1, Day 1 on page 14 where it says MEMORIZE). Explain to your group that memorizing Scripture can be easy if they will start on the first day of the week instead of waiting until the last day to do it. Encourage them to begin by memorizing only three to five words the first day, then adding a few words each day after that until they have it down.

## Week 1, Day 1 (page 14).

Explain that there is a devotional for each day of the week and that they will begin with Week 1, Day 1 tomorrow. Have them look at the bold printed word MEMORIZE beside Day 1. This is a daily reminder to work on memorizing their memory verse for that week. Under that, it says READ. This is the Bible verse(s) that the devotional for that day refers to. (It is recommended that students use the **New King James Version** of the Bible.) They will read through the devotional and answer any questions that it asks. PRAY gives them guidance for what and how to pray that day. Every day, the L.I.T.s will be reminded to pray on the armor of God and to use their Prayer Journal on **page 108**. Emphasize to your students that the daily devotionals are to be done daily! The goal is to get into the habit of spending time in God's Word and praying every single day. Encourage the students not to get behind because it will be very difficult to catch up.

## Parent Talk: Developing a Christian Worldview (page 18).

Explain how the Parent Talk section works. On Day 7 of each week, a parent needs to sit down with the child and discuss the devotionals for that week. The L.I.T. will be required to quote the memory verse to their parent, answer review questions, and pray with their parents. After completing the Parent Talk section each week, parents are encouraged to put their initials by the Day 7 devotional to indicate that this section was completed with a parent. The L.I.T.s will earn a token each week if their Parent Talk section is signed by the parent. (Parents should be shown page 10 in the devotional books where they can read about the Parent Talk sections.)

## Prayer Journal (page 108).

Turn to the Prayer Journal and show the students how they can easily find the Prayer Journal by looking for the dark edges on the journal pages. Part of our vision for L.I.T. is to develop prayer warriors out of children. A child in their innocence can do tremendous battle for their family, friends, and the world. They just need to be taught how by your example, modeling for them how to do it. The Prayer Warrior Journal gives specific things to pray for each day. Prayer is spiritual warfare and the privilege of every believer in Christ. Spiritual warfare is REAL! Through prayer, we put on the armor of God for our spiritual protection. It is very important to encourage your group to put on the armor of God daily so that they can stand against the enemy's assaults (Ephesians 6:10-18).

- **Sunday**—Encourage your L.I.T.s to search their hearts before the Lord on a daily basis. Encourage them to ask God to show them any

sin in their lives and to confess their sins to be made right with Him (1 John 1:9).

- **Monday**—Families are in a major battle today. If the enemy can destroy a marriage, it will do major damage and pain to the children living in that family. Encourage your group to pray for their parents on a regular basis for God's protection over them.
- **Tuesday**—The Top Five. Your L.I.T.s will know lost friends and family members. Have them write down the names of their top five on Tuesday in their Prayer Journal, and encourage them to pray daily for the salvation of these people.
- **Wednesday**—The responsibility of every believer is to "Go" (Matthew 28:19-20). We are also called to pray for the nations. There are billions of people around the world who have not heard the Gospel message one time. On Wednesday, encourage your group to pick two nations to pray for, and pray that the Lord would send out Christians to share the Good News in that country.
- **Thursday**—Find out who your church supports on the mission field and add their names in your Prayer Journal. They need our prayers as they proclaim the Good News of Christ around the world.
- **Friday**—With the Friday prayer guide, children are reminded to pray for various people in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-3).
- **Saturday**—Every nation needs revival and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Encourage your group to humble themselves and pray for our nation so that God might bring healing in our land.

## Incentive Page (pages 2-3).

The Incentive Page is designed to reward the students for completing all of their devotionals each week, learning their weekly memory verses, doing the Parent Talk section with a parent each week, and exhibiting good behavior during Disciple Group meetings. The L.I.T.s will receive a sticker for each of the four categories already mentioned if completed each week. Their goal is to get as many stickers as possible by the end of eighteen weeks. At the end of the session, they will be rewarded the number of tokens as the number of stickers they received during the session. If your church provides prizes, the L.I.T.s will be able to use the tokens to "purchase" fun items that will be made available to them at that time.

# Weekly Memory Verses

The following are the weekly memory verses that the L.I.T.s will be learning. It is important that you also learn the memory verses. As a leader, you will want to be an example for your students, so you should be faithful in Scripture memory as well.

**Week One**—“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” (John 1:12)

**Week Two**—“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20a)

**Week Three**—“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

**Week Four**—“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

**Week Five**—“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly... But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1a, 2)

**Week Six**—“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

**Week Seven**—“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.” (1 Peter 5:8-9a)

**Week Eight**—“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.” (1 Peter 5:8-9a)

**Week Nine**—“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

**Week Ten**—“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3)

**Week Eleven**—“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

**Week Twelve**—“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (James 1:17)

**Week Thirteen**—“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

**Week Fourteen**—“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” (John 14:12)

**Week Fifteen**—“...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work.” (Colossians 1:10a)

**Week Sixteen**—And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave.” (Matthew 20:27)

**Week Seventeen**—“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

**Week Eighteen**—“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen.” (Romans 1:20a)



# WEEK 1

## Salvation

### Learning Objective

The L.I.T.s will understand that their decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior is the most important decision of their lives. They will learn the ABCs and write out their personal testimonies.

### Memory Verse

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

(John 1:12)

### Spiritual Preparation

Call the L.I.T.s in your group, and ask them if they have any specific prayer needs. Pray for each of them by name.

Pray for each of the children in your group that they will understand the importance of knowing Christ as Lord and Savior.

Pray for God to draw each of them to a saving relationship with Him or to confirm in their hearts the assurance of their salvation.

Totally surrender yourself to Jesus Christ and His will. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill and empower you for your Disciple Group time.



### Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your L.I.T.s pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time. If the students want to use the prayer in their devotional books, have them turn to **page 7**.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises. Remember to pray for friends and family members who may be lost. Pray for the L.I.T.s to have the courage to share their faith each day this week.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the L.I.T.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



### Bible Study Passage

Summarize the story found in Acts 16:16-24 of how Paul and Silas were put into prison, then read Acts 16:25-34. Discuss with your Disciple Group what happened to the jailer.



### Biblical Explanation

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12). The most important decision anyone will ever make in their life is to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God loves every person in this world, and He “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Paul and Silas spent much of their life spreading the message of Jesus Christ so that people would believe and be saved. While in prison, their worship and prayers were testimony to the jailer of their Lord and Savior. After a violent earthquake, he asked them, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” (v. 30). Paul and Silas replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (v. 31). After hearing the message, the jailer and his family were saved because they believed. When you look at this week’s memory verse, John 1:12, you see the simple message of the Gospel: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” When you accept Jesus Christ into your life, He becomes your Savior and Lord, and you receive eternal life.





## Bible Exploration

Ask several L.I.T.s in your group to look up the following verses and answer the questions:

**John 1:12**—“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

- What do we have to do to be saved? (Receive Jesus and believe in His name)
- Whose child do we become when we accept Jesus into our hearts? (God’s)

**John 3:36**—“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

- What does it take to have eternal life? (Believing in the Son, Jesus)
- What happens if a person rejects the Son of God? (He will not have eternal life.)

**Romans 10:9-10**—“...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

- What does this verse say we must confess and believe in order to be saved? (Confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.)



## Bible Study Review

1. Have the L.I.T.s in your group recite this past week’s memory verse. Ask them to explain what today’s verse means to them.
2. Let each of the L.I.T.s in your group share their personal testimony. Give them about two minutes each. If someone in your group has not made a profession of faith, invite them to respond by making the decision during Disciple Group time.
3. Have the students open their devotional books to **page 14**. Review the Week 1 materials with them day-by-day and discuss their answers. Ask the L.I.T.s how they can apply what they have learned to their lives.
4. Ask the following review questions:
  - What did God do for us so that we could have eternal life?
  - What must we do to be saved?
  - Do you think it is difficult or easy to get saved?
  - Once we are saved, what does God want us to do as we live the Christian life?
  - The Gospel message is simple to explain. Will someone volunteer to explain the Gospel message for the group as we have discussed it today?



## The Cross

Take some time to explain the importance of The Cross:

- The heart of The Cross is “Lordship.” It is a simple decision to accept Jesus as Lord of your life. All it takes is to confess that you are a sinner and believe in Him as Savior and Lord for salvation.
- The base of The Cross is “God’s Word.” Once you have accepted Jesus as Lord, you will want to read the Bible each day to learn about Him.
- The top of The Cross is “Prayer.” God wants you to talk to Him every day. He wants you to know Him as your friend.
- The left side of The Cross is “Evangelism.” Since you have asked Jesus into your life and received abundant life and eternal life, you will want to tell others about Him.
- The right side of The Cross is “Servanthood.” God wants you to use the gifts He gives you to make a difference in the world for Him.
- The circle that goes around The Cross represents a “Life of Obedience.” When you do all the parts of The Cross, you are living a life of obedience to God that is pleasing to Him.



## Learning Activity

Take an umbrella and some pieces of fruit for everyone in your group. Ask, “What does it mean to believe?”

- I can say that I believe it is going to rain today. But, if I do not take an umbrella outside with me, I do not truly believe. (Have an L.I.T. open up an umbrella.)
- I can say that I believe my child when she tells me she is really hungry. But, if I do not get her something to eat, I do not truly believe. (Have an L.I.T. give everyone a piece of fruit.)
- I can say that I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He is the Lord of my life. But, if I do not humbly worship Him or readily obey His Word, I do not truly believe. (Have an L.I.T. get down on their knees and bow. Have another L.I.T. open the Bible, then quote this week’s memory verse aloud: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”)

True belief involves acting on that belief. James 2:14-17 says, “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,’ but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”



## Object Lesson

Take a scrapbook, a photo album, or a journal to Disciple Group with you. Show the book to the L.I.T.s in your group. Explain what is kept in this book and why. For example, if you take a baby scrapbook, explain that it has pictures of the baby at different stages of growth, notes about things the baby did or said, and memorabilia from that time in the baby’s life. The purpose of the scrapbook is to be able to remember certain things that happened in that baby’s life and to show other people some pieces of that baby’s life. Writing out our testimony is a way that we can remember the details of when we were saved—what our life was like before, who shared the message with us, what we thought and felt when we were being drawn to the Lord, the date and place when we asked Jesus into our hearts, and what God has done in our lives since we became Christians. Psalm 77:11a says, “I will remember the works of the LORD.”



## L.I.T. Challenge

Encourage your L.I.T.s to share their testimony of when they accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives with others this week. Give each student a piece of notebook paper, and have them write down the names of three people with whom they intend to share. One person might be a family member, but encourage them to think of people outside their home who might be lost and plan on sharing their testimony with them. This will be good practice and a good experience of letting Jesus speak through them as they share. Tell your students that you will be asking them to share in Disciple Group next week their experience of talking to others about Jesus.



# SAMPLE



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