

Christian Workers



Christian Workers

by
Marian Brandt

*Developed in Cooperation With
the Global University Staff*

*Instructional Development Specialist:
Marcia Munger*

Editor: Marjorie Metz

Illustrator: Judy Anderson



Global University
1211 South Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65804
USA

Address of the local ICI office in your area:

Most Scripture quotations are from the *Good News Bible (Today's English Version)*.

© American Bible Society, 1976. Used by permission.

The *King James Version (KJV)* and *New International Version (NIV)* are also quoted.

First Edition 1980

Third Edition 1999

© 1999 ICI University,
a division of Global University
All Rights Reserved

L5250E-90-3ed

ISBN 1-56390-014-9

Table of Contents

	Page
First, Let's Have a Talk	4
UNIT ONE	
Lesson	
1 God's Family of Workers	7
2 Workers in the First Church	13
3 God's Design for Workers	18
4 I Can Be a Worker	25
5 Being a Worker	31
UNIT TWO	
6 Workers Need Each Other	39
7 Working in Love	45
8 Working With Leaders	51
9 Finishing With Joy	58
Student Report	64
Answer Sheets	69

First, Let's Have a Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Author

When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you became a part of His church—the people He has called out of the world to be His own. Have you wanted to know what God's design is for the church? How you can fit into that design? How God will equip you to serve Him in the church?

I want to help you find the answers to these questions. I want to study with you what the Bible teaches about God's plan for the church. I want to help you find out what kinds of ministry gifts there are. I want to help you discover how you can become a worker for the Lord.

This course tells how God has organized the church according to His plan and purpose. It explains why there are different types of workers in the church. It describes the kind of person a Christian worker should be. And it gives practical suggestions you can follow in finding and developing your own gifts. It will help you understand how you can work with the leaders in your church and minister to those around you.

This course uses a modern method of self-teaching that helps you learn the principles easily and begin practicing them.

Your Study Guide

Christian Workers is a pocket-sized workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have five or ten minutes free. Try to do at least a lesson a week.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lessons. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

1 A week has a total of

- a) 10 days.
- b) 7 days.
- c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name (right) in front of each phrase that describes something he did (left).

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| . 1 . | a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| . 2 . | b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| . 2 . | c | Marched around Jericho | |
| . 1 . | d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Author

Marian Brandt is a graduate of North Central Bible College, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For several years, Mrs. Brandt wrote Sunday school literature for the General Council of the Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri. She has also conducted Sunday school seminars. Mrs. Brandt is the wife of Reverend Robert L. Brandt, author of the course *Spiritual Gifts*.

Now you are ready to begin Lesson 1. God bless you as you study!

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.

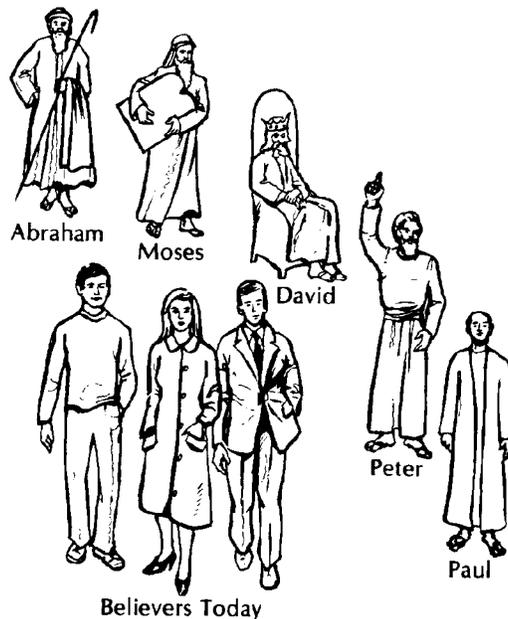
Lesson
1

God's Family of Workers

Kim, a man who has been a Christian for only a few months, is delighted with the beautiful truths he is finding in his eager study of God's Word. He reads of the ways God spoke to the world in the past and discovers an interesting pattern woven throughout the Bible.

As he reads his Bible, he sees that God has always had a family, and that this family has carried out His work in the world. He reads about the prophets who lived in Old Testament times and the disciples and apostles of the early church who lived in New Testament times. He notices how these men and women have told God's message to others.

As Kim studies these things, he finds himself praying this prayer: "Lord, how can *I* be a part of Your work?" This prayer has become the cry of his heart as he sees the needs of the world around him. Is this prayer the cry of your heart too? As you study this first lesson you will begin to discover what God's plan for you is and how you can be a part of His work in the world today.



In this lesson you will study . . .

God Has a Family
God's Plan for His Family

This lesson will help you . . .

- Know who belongs to God's family.
- Describe God's plan for His family.
- Explain how you are a part of God's plan to carry the gospel to the world.

GOD HAS A FAMILY

Objective 1. *Recognize statements describing the development of God's family.*

We read in Genesis that God created man and woman, making them like Himself (Genesis 1:27). He was pleased with what He had created (Genesis 1:31).

God's Family in the Old Testament

Though God created all creatures, only man was able to fellowship with his Creator. God wanted to fellowship with man; He wanted to share Himself with His creation. He wanted a family.

Although fellowship with the Creator was soon broken because of Adam and Eve's sin (Genesis 3:1-24), God continued to have a family. He continued to fellowship with those who obeyed Him.

In Genesis 4:26 we read that "people began using the Lord's holy name in worship." The story of Noah indicates clearly that God had a family at that time. "Noah did everything that God commanded" (Genesis 6:22). Already God had men to do His work.

Beginning with a man called Abraham, we have a complete record of a family, which became the Jewish nation—God's special people. They were a people with a mission. They had a special work to do for God.

This Jewish nation was called Israel. Among its leaders were Moses, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt; David, a mighty king; the prophets, who spoke God's message to the people; and many others. We can follow the history of God's special people throughout the Old Testament. There were many of them who obeyed God and did His work.



For You To Do

In each of these *For You To Do* sections, the questions or exercises will help you review or apply what you have just studied. Follow the directions given for completing each one. When you are directed to, write your answers in your notebook. If you need to review the section entitled **How to Answer Study Questions** in the front of this study guide.

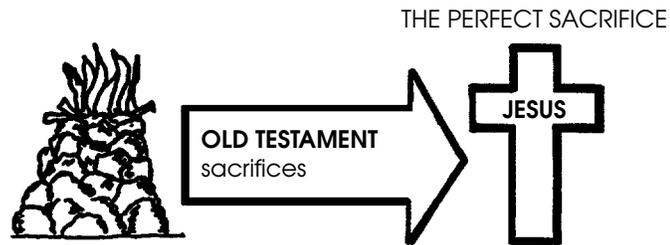
1 Write the number of the person (right side) in front of each phrase that tells something about him (left side).

- | | | |
|--------|--|------------|
| a | He was a mighty king of Israel. | 1) Abraham |
| b | He led Israel out of Egypt. | 2) Moses |
| c | The record of the Jewish nation begins with him. | 3) David |

Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.

God's Family in the New Testament

When Jesus, God's Son, came to earth, He went everywhere doing good. He brought comfort and help, healing and forgiveness. But He also had a greater work to do that only He could do. He gave His blood as the perfect sacrifice for sin. The animal sacrifices that God commanded in the Old Testament had all pointed to Christ. After Jesus gave Himself they were no longer needed.



Jesus' death was in the will of God. He had come to do the will of His Father. "My food," He said, "is to obey the will of the one who sent me and to finish the work he gave me to do" (John 4: 34). And God was pleased with Jesus' work. God raised Jesus from the dead, and after Jesus spent forty days with His disciples He returned to heaven (Acts 1:3-9).

What were Jesus' followers to do when their leader was gone? They knew. He had told them before He went away. They were to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Acts 1:8).

In the book of Acts in the Bible we read about men and women who worked for Jesus after He returned to heaven. Some of these people had been His followers while He was on earth. Two of them, Peter and John were on their way to pray in the temple when they met a beggar. They had no money to give him. But, in the name of Jesus, Peter told him to walk. He took him by the hand and helped him up. The man went away walking and leaping and praising God (Acts 3:1-10). Jesus' work was continuing through Peter and John. Many people became Christians and the church grew.

Another special worker we read about in the book of Acts was the apostle Paul. Before he understood the message of Christ he tried to destroy the Christians. But later he became one of the church's most faithful workers. He went into many countries starting churches. Paul continued Jesus' work.



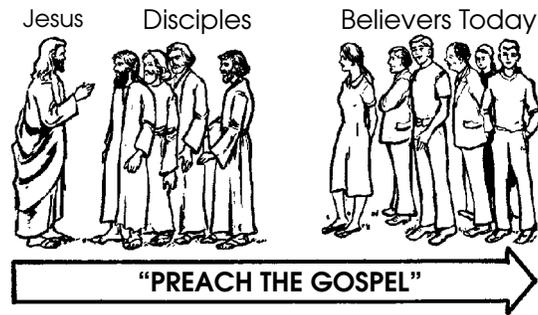
For You To Do

Choose the best ending for the sentence and circle the letter in front of it.

- 2 A worker for Jesus who persecuted Christians therefore he believed in Jesus was
- a) John.
 - b) Paul.
 - c) Peter.

God's Family Today

The work of Jesus continues today. It has been about 2000 years since Jesus returned to heaven. Before He left, the command He gave to His disciples was, "Go throughout the whole world and preach the gospel to all mankind" (Mark 16:15). Jesus' command is to Christians of every generation. The words of Jesus are for us now.



As the message of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ is received and believed, the family of God continues to grow. Godly men and women from Old Testament times, believers from the first church, and believers today, are all God’s children. All are a part of His continuing family.

God speaks to the world through His family. Jesus is in heaven, but His work on earth will continue. It will continue through us. The message of life, the message of salvation through faith in God’s Son will always be told, for that is the work of Christians.



For You To Do

- 3 The Bible verse that tells us what Jesus’ command is for us today is
 - a) Genesis 6:22.
 - b) Mark 16:15.
 - c) Acts 3:1.
- 4 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a God’s family began in the New Testament.
 - b God’s family includes people who lived before Jesus came to earth.
 - c Believers in Jesus today are part of God’s family.
 - d It was not possible for people who lived when Moses did to be members of God’s family.

Check your answers.

GOD’S PLAN FOR HIS FAMILY

Objective 2. *State three things God plans for His family.*

We know God has a family and has had one since the creation of Adam. Now let us think about His hopes and plans for His family.

To Be Like His Son

Would it surprise you to know that God is looking for His image in His children? Romans 8:29 says, “Those whom God had already chosen he also set apart to become like his Son.”

Nothing pleases a father more than to look at his infant son and see that the baby’s face is just like his own. He sees his image in his son. God wants our lives and our desires to be like His. We should seek to be righteous and holy even as He is righteous and holy. Then we will be like His Son.

Why should God want us to be like His Son? God knows that unless we are like His Son we will not be able to continue His Son’s work on the earth.

There was once a missionary who went into a new country to preach the gospel. He thought no one had ever been there before to tell the story of Jesus. He began to tell how kind Jesus was and what He did. The people said, "Oh, Jesus has been here. We have seen Him." The missionary knew it could not be true. As the people talked he understood. Another missionary had been there years before. He was so much like Jesus that the people thought they had seen Jesus!

We must be like God's Son if we are to continue His work. How can we be like Him? We must walk with Him. Talk with Him. Read His Word. Obey His Word. Seek to know His will and to do it. We will become like Him.

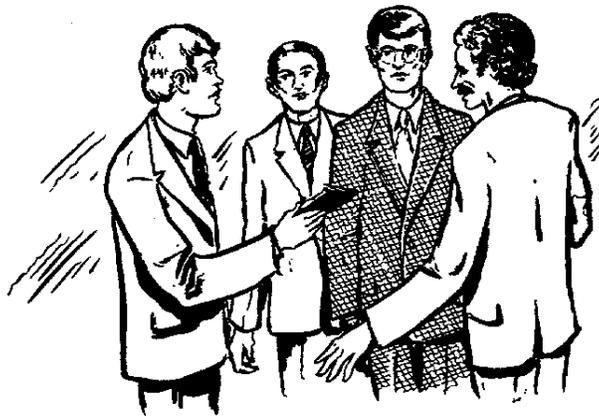


For You To Do

- 5 When we say that God wants to find His image in us we mean that we are to be like Him in
- physical appearance.
 - character.
 - outward features.

To Carry the Gospel

We have Jesus' command to take the gospel into the whole world. What does this mean? First of all, there must be workers willing to go. Then there must be workers to pray for them as they go. And there must be workers who support them with money so they can go and preach. Bibles and teaching materials are needed in gospel work.



When churches are started, many people are needed to teach, to pray, to minister to the sick and to comfort those who sorrow. Some will be needed to build the church building, and some to clean it. There is a place for every person who will work. All Christians should be willing to work and to do their work for God's glory.

To Spend Eternity With Him

Let me tell you about something God the Father is planning for His family. A father likes nothing better than for his children to come home. At the end of the day parents welcome the children home. Even when the children are older and live away from home, still parents want to see them and be together with them.

God is no different. In John 14:2 Jesus said, "There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you." God is looking forward to the time when the family will

come home. He knows that the time is coming, so He is getting everything ready. The whole family of God will be together for eternity.

At that time something wonderful will happen. The Father will have some rewards to give out. Jesus says that there will be a special reward for those who have suffered for His name: "Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).



For You To Do

6 Suppose you wanted to tell a friend of yours about God's plans for His family. On the lines below, write down the three things you would share and a Bible reference for each one.

- a
- b
- c



Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order, so that you will not see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to read the other answers.

- 4 a False.
- b True.
- c True.
- d False.

- 1 a 3) David
- b 2) Moses
- c 1) Abraham

5 b) character.

2 b) Paul.

6 Your answer should include the following, in any order:

- a To be like His Son, Romans 8:29.
- b To carry the gospel, Mark 16:15.
- c To spend eternity with Him, John 14:2.

3 b) Mark 16:15.

Lesson
2

Workers in the First Church

As Kim learned what it meant for him to be a member of God’s family he began to understand what God’s plan for him included. As he thought over these things, his desire to be a part of God’s work continued to grow. But he realized that there were many other believers too.

Kim started to study the church in the book of Acts more carefully. What was it that brought those first believers together? he wondered. What kind of people were they? What happened when they met with each other?

As he found the answers to these questions his understanding grew of what it meant to be a part of the church. He discovered why it was important for him to meet and work with other believers. He began to see God’s purpose for the church.

As you study this second lesson, I hope that you will make the same discoveries!



THE FIRST CHURCH



THE CHURCH TODAY

In this lesson you will study . . .

The First Church
The Church Today

This lesson will help you . . .

- List the reasons why believers in the first church met together.
- Explain how the church continues the work of Jesus in the world.
- Describe what should happen when believers meet together.

THE FIRST CHURCH

Objective 1. *Identify reasons why the first believers met together.*

The first church was made up of ordinary people—ordinary people who had needs. They had problems, fears, and burdens. They were ordinary people, but they had received Christ as their Savior. They were believers.

Jesus' followers were common, ordinary people. They were not perfect at all, but they were all believers. Peter was a believer, yet he denied knowing the Lord (Mark 14:66-72). Thomas was a believer, yet he doubted that Jesus had risen from the grave (John 20:24-25).

From the day that John the Baptist announced, "There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), many people followed Jesus. But just as quickly, He had enemies. His teachings did not always agree with the teachings of the rulers and priests. From the beginning they planned to do away with Him. The same people who treated Jesus badly also mistreated His followers.

In Acts 9:1-2 we read that before he believed in Jesus, Saul (later called Paul) received permission from the priest to destroy the Christians. Why did Christians meet if they knew they might be taken and put in prison or beaten? They came together because they needed each other.



For You To Do

- 1 Suppose a friend of yours tells you he feels that he can't be a believer because he has many doubts. What verses would be best to share with him to encourage him?
- a) Mark 14:66-72
 - b) John 20:24-25
 - c) Acts 9:1-2

In Acts 12 we read that Peter had been put in prison for preaching. After he was set free by an angel, he found the believers together praying for him.

The need for teaching often brought the believers together. Aquila and Priscilla, for example, took Apollos to their home so they could explain the way of God to him more correctly (Acts 18:26). Paul told the believers in Colosse to teach and instruct each other (Colossians 3:16).



There were times that believers needed to be together to make decisions, as we see in Acts 6:1-6.

These examples tell us that *need* brought the believers together. We see that the followers of Christ needed each other.



For You To Do

- 2 Aquila and Priscilla met with Apollos in order to
- a) listen to him preach.
 - b) explain God's way to him.
 - c) make decisions.

It is rare for members of a family to refuse to help each other. Those first believers who were members of God's family didn't! When some of the widows in the church thought they were not receiving what was due them, the disciples found a way to take care of their need (Acts 6:1-6). We know that Dorcas sewed clothes for the needy widows (Acts 9:39). Others shared their hospitality (Acts 16:15). The church was made up of believers who worked to help other people.

Paul was one of the best-known Apostles of the church. When he had material need, the church at Philippi shared with him, and Paul thanked them for it (Philippians 4:14-16). These people must have been just ordinary believers who reached out to help. But what ministry they had to Paul!

Paul told the Corinthians that God comforted them in their sorrows so they could do the same for someone else (2 Corinthians 1:4). This was another way the believers helped each other.

As we read the book of Acts we see that the believers taught, encouraged, comforted, and helped one another. The church was full of workers. They worked to meet people's needs and so the church was strengthened.

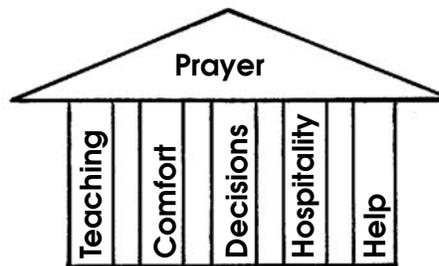


For You To Do

3 Match each Bible verse or verses describing the first church (left side) to the phrase that tells why the believers met together (right side).

- | | | |
|--------|---------------|---|
| a | Acts 6:2-6 | 1) To pray for each other |
| b | Acts 11:22-23 | 2) To learn about God |
| c | Acts 11:29-30 | 3) To meet material needs |
| d | Acts 12:5, 12 | 4) To comfort and encourage one another |
| e | Acts 14:22 | 5) To choose people for a certain work |
| f | Acts 18:26 | |

We can see from our study that the members of the first church worked together like a body. When someone was in need, the believers prayed, sent food, provided clothing, or gave comfort. If someone did not understand God's way, the believers taught him. If someone failed in some way, the believers helped him to follow the Lord.



There was cooperation and caring. At one time the believers shared their goods so that everyone had enough (Acts 4:32-35). When there were dangers, they protected one another (Acts 9:29-30). The ministry of the body of Christ in the first church was to help each other and anyone who was in need.

THE CHURCH TODAY

Objective 2. Choose statements giving ways the first church and the church of today should be alike.

We use the word *church* to mean the assembly or gathering of those whom God has called out of the world to belong to Him. Because the church is not a building but the people who gather together, you are a part of the church if you believe on Jesus, even though there may not be a special building for you to worship in.

The church includes people from every race. We may be of different language groups but we are one body. God wants the world to see Jesus through His church. It is to be a continuation of the work of His Son on the earth. Believers are to bring the message of life and healing to the nations. This is God's purpose for the church in the world today.

We know that people's needs do not change. Thus the ministry of the church is much the same today as it was at the beginning. We know that all need to be saved, so the church preaches Christ as the one who forgives sin. Believers need God's power in their lives, so they are urged to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is need for encouragement and comfort, so the church offers times for sharing and fellowship. Many people need healing, guidance, or advice. The pastor and leaders are there, appointed by God, to be of help in all these ways.



For You To Do

- 4 The most important reason why believers should gather together is to
- pray for people in prison.
 - be like the first church.
 - minister to each other's needs.
 - meet people from other races.

We can gain strength when we are with the church body. This strength will help us overcome Satan, our enemy, who tries to discourage us and tempt us to sin.

When we gather with our brothers and sisters we are helped as the Word is preached and as we sing and pray together. Do not try to live the Christian life without the help of the church. It is there to minister to our needs.

In the church truth is explained and people pray together. It is a place where believers serve one another in the love of Christ, where burdens are shared and sins confessed (James 5:16).

Not every meeting is alike. We read in 1 Corinthians 14:26, "When you meet for worship, one person has a hymn, another a teaching . . . another a message in strange tongues, and still another the explanation of what is said."



If each one has something to say or do, who should lead? In Ephesians 4:11-16 we read that God has given gifts to the church. These gifts include leaders. In almost every church we find a pastor or a leader who leads the service. An evangelist or teacher is also God’s gift to the church. No one works alone. “We are partners working together for God” (1 Corinthians 3:9).



For You To Do

- 5** The following things were true about the church as we read about it in the book of Acts. Which of these should also be true in the church today?
- a) Began in Jerusalem and was led by the apostles Peter, John, Paul, and others
 - b) Gathered together for teaching and prayer
 - c) Was persecuted by the apostle Paul before he believed in Jesus
 - d) Prayed that the apostle Peter would be freed from prison
 - e) Shared their goods and possessions with those who had needs
- 6** Are you part of a certain church? If so, answer the following questions:
- a** What needs of yours are being met by the leaders and other believers?
.....
 - b** What needs of the other believers are *you* helping to meet?
.....
 - c** What needs of yours and of other believers still need to be met?
.....



Check Your Answers

- 4** c) minister to each other’s needs.
- 1** b) John 20:2–25. These verses show that it is possible for a believer to have doubts. Later on, Thomas’ doubts were replaced by belief (John 20:26-28).
- 5** b) Gathered together for teaching and prayer.
e) Shared their goods and possessions with those who had needs.
- 2** b) explain God’s way to him.
- 6** Your answer. Did you list some needs that need to be met? As you continue studying this course, pray that God will help you see if there are any of those needs you can help meet.
- 3** a) 5) To choose people for a certain work.
b) 4) To comfort and encourage one another.
c) 3) To meet material needs.
d) 1) To pray for each other.
e) 4) To comfort and encourage one another.
f) 2) To learn about God.

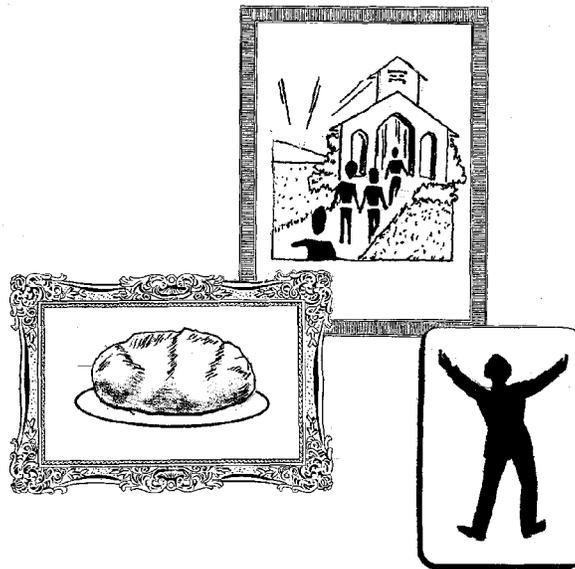
Lesson
3

God's Design for Workers

Kim studied the reasons why believers in the first church met with each other. He saw that there were many kinds of needs that brought them together—needs for teaching, for encouragement, for material help, for guidance, for strength. But Kim wanted to know more about what the church should be like so that it could actually meet those needs. He wanted to know how its different parts should work together.

As Kim continued to study his Bible he found several pictures or illustrations of the church. Each one he studied helped him to understand better God's purpose and design for it. He also discovered that people who were members of the church had ministries—special abilities to help each other. When the members of the church used their abilities, the church was able to fulfill God's purpose for it. Kim was amazed to find out how many of these abilities there were!

You are about to discover more about God's purpose for the church and the ministries of its members. May the truths you learn in this lesson inspire you to be part of God's purpose and fit into His design for the church.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Three Pictures of the Church
The Body at Work

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the church using three illustrations.
- Explain what Christ does as head of the body.
- List several ministries that believers have as members of the body.

THREE PICTURES OF THE CHURCH

Objective 1. *Describe the church using three illustrations.*

A Bride

As believers in Jesus Christ, we join together to worship God, to encourage one another, and to make Christ known to others. By working together, we can accomplish more for His Kingdom. The New Testament gives us several pictures or illustrations of the church. We will look at three of these: *a bride, a building, and a human body.*

The apostle Paul used the image of a bride to help the Corinthian believers understand their relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin” (2 Corinthians 11:2).

Revelation uses this same figure of speech to describe the wedding of the Lamb (Christ) and the bride (church). “Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and his bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7, 8).

An angel of the Lord spoke to John, the writer of the book of Revelation, saying, “Come. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb” (Revelation 21:9).

The church is described as the bride of Christ to help us understand our close relationship to Christ.

A Building

Just as the apostle Paul compared the church to a bride, so another Bible writer compared it to a building. Stones were a common building material in Israel. It was natural for Peter to think of stones when he wanted to tell us about a building. In 1 Peter 2:4-5 he tells us to let ourselves be built into a spiritual temple of living stones. Notice that there is only one building but many stones, just as there are many believers but only one church.

We also read in 1 Corinthians 3:9 that we are God’s building. We become a dwelling place for God. It is true that He lives in each one of us as believers, but it is also important to realize that all believers together make a spiritual building where God dwells.



A Body

There is a third picture of the church; it is compared to a human body (Ephesians 1:23; Romans 12:4-5).

The body of Christ is not just a group of Christians gathered in one place. Its members are like different parts that work together. Though they are different from each other, there is oneness of purpose and oneness of heart. So the body does not express the idea of just one member. It presents itself as a complete unit. Christ’s body, the church, is made up of many members that form one body that works together.



For You To Do

- 1 Circle the letter in front of each Bible verse that compares the church to a building.
- a) Romans 12:4-5
 - b) 1 Corinthians 3:9
 - c) 1 Corinthians 10:17
 - d) Ephesians 1:23
 - e) 1 Peter 2:4-5
- 2 Each of the three pictures of the church shows us a special truth about it. Match each picture (right side) to the truth you think it emphasizes the most (left side).
- | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------------|
| a | God's dwelling place | 1) Bride |
| b | Parts working together | 2) Building |
| c | Closeness to Christ | 3) Body |

THE BODY AT WORK

Objective 2. *Tell the difference between the work of Christ as head of the body and of believers as members of the body.*

One of the great wonders of God's creation is the human body. It has the ability to heal itself and to recover if there is illness or accident.

The body of Christ, the church, has this ability too. When problems come, it has a way of healing itself through the Holy Spirit. It functions best if every part is present and working. God wants the church to be like a healthy body that has no parts missing.

Let us consider how the body of Christ works.

Christ Is the Head

In the Bible, the example of the human body is used to show the way believers work together with Christ. The human body without a head is useless. The head is very important. The head of the church is Jesus Christ.

In a human body, the head directs the body; it causes all the parts to function together as one unit. The head controls the activities of the body. When something is needed in the body, the head is aware of this. In the same way it is the work of Christ, the head, to direct the different parts of the body so that they work together and help each other.



A brother may be suffering and need help. As the head, Christ tells another member of the body to pray for the sick member. When a teacher is preparing to give a Bible study, he prays and Christ gives guidance. Thoughts come to his mind to help him teach. This is the work of Christ as the head.

Sometimes Christ gives directions, but we do not want to do what He says. When that happens the work of the church does not get done. There is a story of a lady who was impressed to give some money to a poor family. She planned to obey but she was always busy with her work at home. Three days went by before she gave the mother some money. The mother burst into tears and said, "Oh thank you, thank you. We have been without food for three days and now God has answered our prayers."

As the head, Christ gives gifts to His body, the church, to provide it with all it needs to do its work. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given (Acts 1-2). As members of the church, God wants each of us to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39).

The church must cooperate with Christ, its head, so that what Christ wants will be done. When we as members of the church pray, the Holy Spirit helps us understand what Christ wants us to do.



For You To Do

- 3 The relationship of Christ to the church is compared to that of a head to a human body to show that
- a) the church must be directed by Christ.
 - b) each member of the body has a different function.
 - c) the human body is useless without a head.

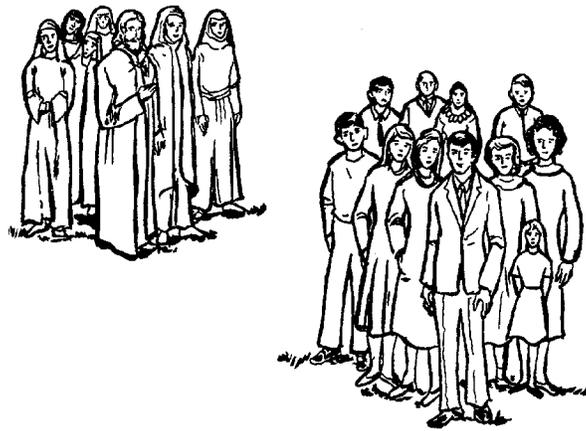
Believers Are the Body

Through His body, the church, Christ continues His work in the world. God has given different gifts and ministries to the members of the body so that this work can be done. These gifts and ministries also keep the body strong and help it fight against evil. As each member, filled with the Holy Spirit, allows the life of Christ to flow through him or her, the church is strengthened for all its work.

Let us study these gifts and ministries. They are our equipment to help us do the work of the Lord. Some are mentioned in Ephesians 4:11, others in Romans 12:6-8, and more in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Read each of these passages and pay careful attention to the following explanations:

1. An *apostle* is sent to start new churches.
2. A *prophet* speaks forth God's Word.
3. An *evangelist* goes from place to place preaching the gospel.
4. A *pastor* guides the church as a shepherd guides his sheep.
5. A *teacher* explains the Word of God.
6. One who *exhorts* calls people near to God and to His purpose.
7. *Serving* means to give relief and assistance.
8. *Sharing* is giving, whether money, time, or talents, to spread the gospel.
9. One who has *authority* wisely governs those under him.
10. One who *shows kindness* gives practical help to the needy.

11. A divine message of *wisdom* gives advice or helpful words.
12. *Knowledge* is the use of information and facts for a particular need as God directs.
13. *Faith* is believing God in a special way.
14. *Power to heal* is the ability to pray effectively for the sick.
15. Power to work *miracles* is special ability to do things that overcome the laws of nature.
16. One who *speaks God's prophetic message* builds up, comforts, or encourages others.
17. Ability to *tell the difference* between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not is that of knowing whether or not the Spirit of God is present.
18. The ability to *speak in strange tongues* is the power to say things by the Spirit in a language unknown to the speaker.
19. The ability to *explain what is said* is the power to give the meaning of words spoken in an unknown language.



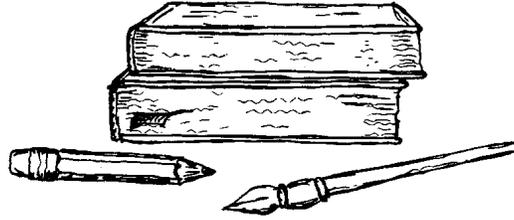
When these gifts are active among the believers, the body is blessed and strengthened and God's work is done.



For You To Do

4 Match each need (left side) to the gift or ministry that would best help meet it (right side). Write the number of the gift in front of each need it could meet.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| a Sara feels discouraged. | 1) Teaching |
| b Jim is very sick. | 2) Encouragement |
| c Robert doesn't understand the Bible. | 3) Power to heal |
| d Larry's family needs clothing. | 4) Showing kindness |
| e Susan wants to learn about spiritual gifts. | |



5 In front of each activity (left side) write the number of the person who would be most directly responsible for it (right side).

- | | | |
|--------|--|---------------------------------------|
| a | Impresses one member of the body to pray for another | 1) Christ as the head of the body |
| b | Encourages others to draw near to God | 2) A believer as a member of the body |
| c | Decides whether or not the Holy Spirit is present in a certain situation | |
| d | Gives gifts and ministries to members of the church | |
| e | Gives a believer a message to share with the body | |





Check Your Answers

- 3** a) the church must be directed by Christ.
- 1** b) 1 Corinthians 3:9.
e) 1 Peter 2:4-5.
- 4** a) 2) Encouragement.
b) 3) Power to heal.
c) 1) Teaching.
d) 4) Showing kindness.
e) 1) Teaching.
- 2** a) 2) Building.
b) 3) Body.
c) 1) Bride.
- 5** a) 1) Christ as head of the body.
b) 2) A believer as a member of the body.
c) 2) A believer as a member of the body.
d) 1) Christ as head of the body.
e) 1) Christ as head of the body.

Lesson
4

I Can Be a Worker

Kim now understands more about the church and the ministries God has given to its members. As he looks at the church he notices that not everyone has the same ministry. There are those who preach and teach, those who give messages of wisdom and knowledge, and those who serve and share. Kim realizes that there are many different ways he could help his brothers and sisters in the Lord.

As Kim realizes that there are many ministries, he finds that there are some more things he would like to know. He would like to know how he will be able to work for God. He would like to know how he can find out what ministry gifts God has for him. He would like to know how he can receive these gifts from God.

Perhaps you have been wondering about these very same things! It may be that you have been a believer for a while but have thought that there was nothing special for you to do. But God *does* have a ministry for you. We read in 1 Corinthians 12:7 that “the Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.” May the truths in this lesson show you how you can discover your special ministry in the body of Christ.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Special Help for Workers
Gifts for Workers
A Gift for You
Receiving Your Gift

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain why Christian workers need God’s special help.
- Describe God’s part in giving us ministry gifts.
- Tell what our part is in receiving ministry gifts.

SPECIAL HELP FOR WORKERS

Objective 1. *Identify the Christian worker's source of special help.*

We Have a Great Task

Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples . . . and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you," Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20. This is our task: to make disciples and teach them.

Most of the world is not saved. Christian workers have a duty to help the masses hear the gospel. We cannot neglect this. Jesus left the command for His followers to obey. This is a great task. We need God's special help to do it.

We Have an Enemy

As we do God's work we have an enemy. Our enemy is Satan, who wants to see God's work fail. Alone we cannot overcome him. And if the Christian worker fails, God's work suffers. So Satan attacks the Christian worker.

Do you remember the story of Samson in Judges 16? Samson's long hair was a sign that he was set apart for a special work for God. But he became careless about God's call. While he slept, Delilah cut off his hair. When he awoke, he stood up and he thought he could face any enemy as he had done before.

But Samson's strength was gone. He was without God's help, and was powerless to overcome his enemies.

We Have God's Power

Because the task is great and the enemy strong, God gives us special help to work for Him. Jesus gave His disciples a great task (Mark 16:15), but He promised them the power they would need to carry it out—to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8). We can have the same power of the Holy Spirit today.

God wants the world to be saved. He uses workers but He knows they need help, so He gives the Holy Spirit to be the helper who is needed. God furnishes the power and we work for Him using His power.



For You To Do

- 1** We read about the power God gives us to do His work in
 - a) Matthew 28:19.
 - b) Mark 16:15.
 - c) Acts 1:8.
- 2** The Christian worker's source of special help is
 - a) power he has received from the Holy Spirit.
 - b) deep desire he has to serve the Lord.
 - c) work for which he has been set apart.

GIFTS FOR WORKERS

Objective 2. *List the ways God uses to call a person to work for Him.*

God is all-knowing. He sees the work to be done and He sees the worker. In His wisdom He is able to select the right one for the right place. So He calls us to work for Him.

Sometimes the call comes while we are reading the Bible. The Holy Spirit can take the inspired Word of God and it becomes God's voice to us. It becomes a call to service in our hearts.



Or God can put a burden on our hearts as we pray. We might become interested in a place that needs the gospel. As we work to help take the gospel there, we sense in our hearts that God wants us to become workers in that place.

The call may come as believers are seeking the Lord. In Acts 13:2 we read that the Holy Spirit said to the church at Antioch, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul, to do the work to which I have called them."

God does not call everyone to do the same work. For example, there may be a businessman who does not preach or teach. He loves God and wants to do His work. God may call him to be a witness for Christ in the way he runs his business. A woman may stay at home and work in the house. God may call her to be a godly woman in her home and community, praying for those who preach and teach the Word, and witnessing to her neighbors and other people she meets.



No one is left out of God's call. Just as people are different from one another, the calls are different. God needs you as a Christian worker. When you sense the Spirit speaking to your heart, pay attention.



For You To Do

3 Suppose a friend of yours were to ask you how God calls people to work for Him. In your notebook, list at least three ways God does this which you could tell your friend about.

God Equips

Objective 3. *Identify statements showing how God equips workers to do His work.*

When a person feels God's call, he will be able to obey that call because God has gifts for ministry that He gives to His workers. We studied these gifts in Lesson 3.

The gift of the Holy Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost. That was the first gift. We may be able to do many things, but to do a spiritual work we need the Holy Spirit's help.

A gift, of course, is not something we earn by our own efforts. A gift is given because someone has a need. God gives gifts to Christian workers because they have need of them. In Ephesians 4:7 we read that "each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given."



For You To Do

- 4 God equips workers to do His work by
- putting a burden on their hearts.
 - calling them to work for Him.
 - giving them the ministry gifts they need.

A GIFT FOR YOU

Objective 4. *Select descriptions of the relationship between God and the gifts that a believer has.*

God Chooses Our Gifts

We have already said that God can pick the right person for the right job. This tells me three things:

1. God knows what work I am to do.
2. God knows what gifts I need.
3. God will give those gifts to me.

For example, suppose that a certain church in your town needs a pastor. God knows this need. In a nearby town a believer named Edward is praying about the work he should do. He knows about the need of that church and he feels that God wants him to offer himself to be its pastor. How would God help Edward do the work of pastoring? God would give him ministry gifts as he needs them,

but Edward should also do what he can to prepare for his work and develop his gifts. Perhaps there is a Bible school where he can go to receive training. Or perhaps he can study by sending for Bible lessons through the mail.

And so it is with us. God calls us to work for Him and chooses the gifts we need. The gifts fit both the work and the worker. God knows what gifts are important in our work. He knows what gifts fit us. He can choose better than we can and we can trust Him to make the right choice. When He gives us a gift, it will be just what we need to do the work He has called us to do.



For You To Do

5 Complete the following sentence: Because God knows what work I am to do,

.....

God Uses Our Gifts

God gives us special abilities to serve Him; He uses these abilities. God can also use any skill or talent that we dedicate to Him. For example, suppose a man who can paint pictures accepts Christ. If this man gives his talent to God, God can use it to bring a blessing to the church. The man could paint a picture to hang in the church. He could paint pictures to help his Sunday School teacher teach the lesson. In this way his talent could become a gift to the church.

Whatever your gifts or talents are, God can use them. In Romans 16:1-2 we read about Phoebe, a servant of the church. We do not know what she did. But God must have used her life because the apostle Paul says that “she herself has been a good friend to many people and also to me” (Romans 16:2). No matter what gifts a Christian worker has, God can use them to bless and minister to the body, the church.

WORKER TASK GIFT



Field of Grain



Sickle



For You To Do

- 6 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a Because we know what work needs to be done for God, it is our part to choose the gifts we need.
 - b Since God decides which work to call us to, He also chooses which gifts to give us.
 - c God will give a believer as many gifts as he needs to do the work to which He has called him.
 - d Because God gives us gifts to serve Him, we don't need to prepare ourselves.

RECEIVING YOUR GIFT

Objective 5. *List the steps that a person can take in order to receive gifts from God.*

Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome that a part of worship is to offer ourselves to God (Romans 12:1). In the Old Testament sacrificial offerings, the animal was set apart for the particular ceremony. In the same way the Christian gives himself completely to God's service. You must first offer yourself to God before you can receive gifts from Him. You must consider your work for God to be the most important thing you do.

You also need to think about the gifts as you study the New Testament. Become acquainted with the way they were used and how they built up the body. Notice the gifts as they are used in your church. Think about how the gifts would help you as a Christian worker.

The reason why you want to receive gifts is important too. No gift is given to make a person great. It is wrong to desire a gift so that people in the church will think you are spiritual. Pray about your work. Desire the gifts that give you power to minister and help others. Start with the gifts you feel drawn to. Think about the gifts that the Holy Spirit brings to your attention. Do not forget that God gives the gift (1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11). Pray for and desire the gifts, but leave the choice with God.



For You To Do

7 Suppose a friend of yours asks you what he can do in order to receive ministry gifts from the Lord. In your notebook, list three things you could tell him to do.



Check Your Answers

4 c) giving them the ministry gifts they need.

1 c) Acts 1:8.

5 Your answer should say something like this: Because God knows what work I am to do, He will give me the gifts I need to do it.

2 a) power he has received from the Holy Spirit.

6 a) False.

b) True.

c) True.

d) False.

3 Your answer should include these ideas (in any order): through the Word of God; through a burden placed on our hearts when we pray; and through the Spirit's speaking to our hearts.

7 Your answer should include these ideas (in any order): offer himself in complete dedication to God; study the gifts and observe how they are used; and desire the gifts and pray that he might receive them.

Lesson

5

Being a Worker

Kim is rejoicing. He has been discovering that he can be a worker for the Lord. As he has studied his Bible and spent time praying and seeking the Lord, the Holy Spirit has been showing him how he can minister to others.

He was asked to go to the home of a sick man and pray for him. As he prayed he felt the precious anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit. A week later he prayed for a child who had a fever. The child was healed. One Sunday he went with another believer who goes each week to preach in a nearby town. He led the believers in singing and sharing with each other what God had done for them. He also taught a class of boys.

Kim is excited as he thinks how God gives everyone gifts for his work. Now that Kim has learned that he can be a worker, he wants to know more about just what kind of worker he should be and how he should develop his gifts.

Perhaps you, too, would like to know more about these things! As you study this lesson, you will see what the Bible says about being a Christian worker. And you will also find out more about how you can develop your ministry gifts.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Follow Christ's Example

Develop Your Gifts

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the qualities a Christian worker should have.
- Name several things you can do to help develop your ministry gifts.
- Determine to be the kind of person God can use as His worker.

FOLLOW CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Objective 1. Match qualities Christian workers should have to Bible verses giving examples of them.

Be a Servant

What kind of person was Jesus when He lived among men? The Bible shows Him as a man who cared much for people and their needs. He was an unselfish man.

In Matthew 14:13-14 we read that Jesus was grieved when He heard that John the Baptist had died. Jesus wanted to be alone, but the people followed Him. Did He reject them when they found Him? Did He say He wanted to be alone? No. When He saw them He felt pity so He went to them and healed the sick. He did the will of His Father even though He was sad and perhaps weary. In the same way, the Christian worker will not always be able to do just what he wants to do. He is the servant of the Lord; a servant does what his master wants.

We read in John 13:1-17 that Jesus served His disciples by washing their feet. When Jesus had finished, He said, "I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet" (v. 14). To be successful Christian workers we must be "like the Son of Man, who did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life to redeem many people" (Matthew 20:28).



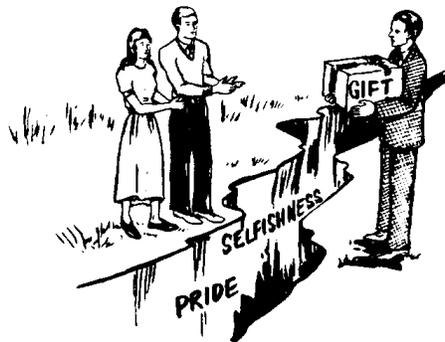
For You To Do

1 Read John 13:1-17. In your notebook, write one or two sentences telling what lesson you think Jesus was trying to point out to His disciples in verse 16.

Have the Fruit of the Spirit

When we follow the example of Christ, His qualities are seen in our lives. The Bible refers to these qualities as "fruits." The person who is filled with the Holy Spirit has a responsibility to make sure that the fruits of the Spirit are seen in his or her life.

God not only gives us gifts for ministry but also gives us power to control ourselves so that we are the kind of people who can minister. People can be helped by our gifts but hindered by the kind of persons we are. We must be careful not to let pride or the idea that we don't need any help make us unable to minister.



For this study we are going to consider a list of the fruits of the Spirit found in Romans 12:9-21. This portion has been chosen to help you understand more about working for the Lord. It shows what the person who ministers must be like. This is a list for us.

In giving this list we have used words which help us know the meaning of the Bible message. You can help yourself as a worker by studying the list, praying about your own life, and asking for the Holy Spirit's help. Do not be discouraged if your life is not perfect. No worker is perfect, but we can become like Christ as we love and serve Him.



The Christian worker should . . .

- have love that is honest.
- hate what is wrong.
- hold on to what is good.
- love other believers.
- show honor and respect.
- not be lazy.
- be earnest in spirit.
- serve the Lord.
- be joyful.
- be patient in trouble.
- pray always.
- share what he has.
- open his home to the needy.
- bless those who persecute the believers.
- weep with those who weep.
- have equal concern for all.
- not be proud.
- accept humble tasks.
- not think too much of himself.
- not repay wrong with wrong.
- try to do what is right before all men.
- try to live in peace with everyone.
- feed his enemy.
- give water to his thirsty enemy.
- overcome evil with good.

What kind of church would it be if every believer followed the example of Jesus!



For You To Do

2 Read the Bible verses given below. Then match each of them (left side) to the quality of which it is the best example (right side).

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| a | John 11:32-36 | 1) Be patient in trouble |
| b | Acts 16:22-25 | 2) Share what he has |
| c | Philippians 4:14-16 | 3) Weep with those who weep |
| d | Revelation 1:9 | |

3 Are the qualities given in the list you have just studied part of your life? Underline each one that is.

Check your answers.

DEVELOP YOUR GIFTS

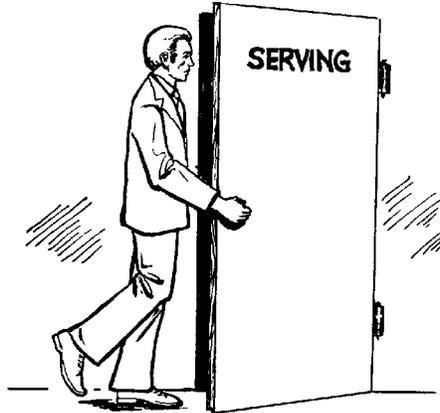
Objective 2. *Identify examples of people who are developing their gifts.*

We may not always know exactly every gift that God gives us, but we can be aware of God's leading. We already know that our gift will be right for us. Anyone does better work when he feels he can do it well. Know, too, that God can give us a gift that has nothing to do with our natural talents. What kinds of ministries are possible for us?



Discover Your Gifts

The Holy Spirit can make even timid people to be bold. Yield your life and talents to God and you will enjoy ministering to the church. Do not be afraid to try new kinds of work, especially as you feel God drawing you to those things. Do not force yourself into doing things, but allow the Spirit to direct you into certain kinds of work.



You may receive a word from an elder or a leader in the church, which may help you know what your ministry is. Often those who have served the Lord in leadership work can sense ministry gifts in others.

Whether you receive a definite gift or whether you only feel the urging of the Spirit as you serve God, know that you do have a ministry. Know too, that there is help for you in using that ministry.



For You To Do

- 4 In discovering your gifts it is best to
 - a) concentrate on doing those things you already know how to do.
 - b) try doing anything you haven't done before.
 - c) try doing those things you feel the Spirit directing you to do.

Appreciate Your Gifts

Your ministry is God's gift to you. Always honor it. This does not mean for you to be proud. To be proud is to think too much of yourself. To honor your gift is to realize that God gave it to you and to give the glory for it to God.

People who work in the church often get praise from those with whom they work. Praise makes anyone feel good. We all like it. But the devil may try to defeat us through it. We cannot take the glory for our ministry. It is God's gift to us. We honor the gift, but we do not praise ourselves because we have the gift. We must always remember that God has given us everything we have (1 Corinthians 4:7).

Use Your Gifts

In Romans 12:6 we read that we should use whatever faith we have in manifesting our gift. If that gift is to speak out the message from God, then we should do just that. It would seem that we are being told to find our ministry or gift and then use it.

Already we have seen that there are two ways to develop our ministry once we have discovered what it is. We exercise our faith and we study. What shall we study? Think of your gift. If you are a minister of God's Word, your first responsibility would be to know what it says. This knowledge would come by prayerfully reading it and giving it careful thought.



For You To Do

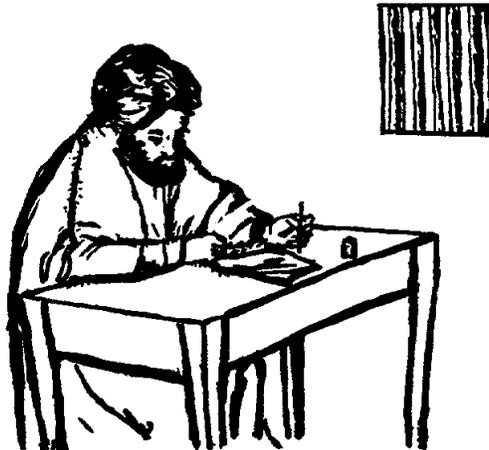
- 5 According to 1 Corinthians 4:7,
- a) all gifts are the same.
 - b) our gifts come from God.
 - c) we can earn God's gifts.

The Spirit of God is your helper (John 16:13). Ask Him to teach you what the Word really means so you will teach truth. You may use books about the Bible as well as the Bible. But remember that not all books written about the Bible give the truth. If a book does not teach the same truth as the Bible, do not use it.

Any work in the church is to be a spiritual ministry. Remember that the first deacons were men full of the Holy Spirit even though their work was to take care of the money that was given to the widows. It is desirable that every worker be filled with the Holy Spirit.

So these are the ways you can develop your gifts: exercise faith, study, pray, and use your gifts. This is what Paul meant when he said that you should teach, if teaching is your gift. You should serve, if serving is your gift. And you should give, if giving is your gift (Romans 12:6-8). Use your gift. If you do not, the body will suffer because your gift was given to benefit the body. Exercising your gift will require your time and energy, but it will bless the entire body and make you stronger.

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy encouraging him to use his gift: "I remind you to keep alive the gift that God gave you" (2 Timothy 1:6). We, too, should keep our gifts alive!



For You To Do

- 6 When Paul says, "If your gift is to teach, then teach" (Romans 12:7), he means
- a) use the gift you have.
 - b) teaching is the most important gift.
 - c) everyone should teach.

Which gifts you have is not as important as using them. Every gift can minister life to the body. Use your gifts.



For You To Do

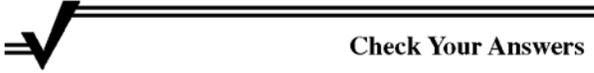
7 Match each description (left side) to the step in developing gifts of which it is an example (right side).

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>.... a Mabel has the ability to show kindness to others. So she looks for needy people and finds practical ways of helping them.</p> <p>.... b Arthur is interested in teaching the Bible though he has never taught. So he prepares himself and tries teaching a class in his church.</p> <p>.... c Jane praises and thanks the Lord that she is able to encourage others in their walk with the Lord.</p> <p>.... d Donald has the gift of sharing. So he often shares with those who need the kind of help he can give.</p> | <p>1) Discover</p> <p>2) Appreciate</p> <p>3) Use</p> |
|---|---|

8 Think of yourself as a Christian worker. In your notebook, copy the chart below. Then list the gifts you have and the gifts you feel drawn to. Put an **X** under each phrase that tells what you need to do about that gift or ministry (review Lesson 3 to remind yourself of the gifts). An example has been written in.

	Discover	Appreciate	Use
Gifts I have			
<i>Speak God's message</i>		X	
Gifts I feel drawn to			
<i>Evangelist</i>	X		

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT ONE*. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide.



Check Your Answers

5 b) our gifts come from God.

1 Your answer should say something like this: He was trying to point out that just as no disciple or slave is greater than his teacher or master, they as His disciples were not greater than He. Therefore they should follow His example. (Your answer may be different, but the idea should be the same.)

6 a) use the gift you have.

2 a 3) Weep with those who weep.

b 1) Be patient in trouble.

c 2) Share what he has.

d 1) Be patient in trouble.

7 a 3) Use.

b 1) Discover.

c 2) Appreciate.

d 3) Use.

3 I hope you were able to underline several of them. Pray that God will help you to begin practicing the others.

8 Your answer. I hope that the chart you made in your notebook helps you to see new gifts you can develop. I hope it has also helped you to see ways of strengthening the gifts you have.

4 c) try doing those things you feel the Spirit directing you to do.

Lesson
6

Workers Need Each Other

Kim has continued to teach his class of boys. He has been developing his gift of teaching by using it. One Sunday on his way home after teaching his class he met his friend John. John noticed that Kim looked discouraged.

“How is it, Kim?” John asked.

“Not so good today,” replied Kim. “Only four boys came. Maybe I am not the right one to teach the class.”

“But Kim,” John said, “don’t give up. God’s Word is like a seed. If you keep planting it, there will be a harvest. Give it time. Water it with prayer and God will give the harvest.”

Kim smiled. “You came just at the right time, John. Thanks. You have been such an encouragement! I need to depend more on God.”

It was John’s turn to smile. He had felt for some time that God had given him the ministry of encouragement.

To hear Kim say what he did made him more certain. He was glad he could encourage Kim.



In this lesson we will learn why God gives different abilities to different people.

In this lesson you will study . . .

Our Relationships
Our Work Together
Our Attitudes

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the relationships Christian workers should have with each other.
- Explain the result that comes when believers work together.
- Appreciate the importance each person has as a member of the body.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Objective 1. *Select examples of the kind of relationships believers should have with each other.*

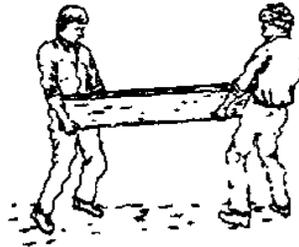
In Lesson 1 we studied about God’s family of workers. Think of what it means to be part of a family. There are many benefits!

In a family, a newborn baby needs the feeling of being close to his mother and those who love him. The same is true for the church family. If someone comes into our church, the first thing he should feel is that he is wanted.

A family is the place where children grow and develop. The same is true in the family of believers, because believers grow and develop when they are with other believers. It does not require a large group for this to happen. Matthew 18:20 tells us that when two or three are gathered together Jesus meets with them there. Where could a Christian worker get more help for his ministry than to be with Jesus and His workers?

In the first church, believers made a practice of coming together often. They joined together in fellowship and shared each other’s needs. They came from an unfriendly world and met together for encouragement, then went out, prepared by their time together, to witness and work.

Besides being members of the same family, workers in the body are partners. Partners share the same interests and the same burdens. They work together on the same tasks. We read in 1 Corinthians 3:9 that we are “partners working together for God.”



Think of yourself as a partner with those in your church. You all share the same goal and work. In order to carry out that work, each person must cooperate. Each person is useful when he or she works together with the others.

But in order for us to cooperate we need to have the right attitude or spirit. When you find a person with a willing spirit, you find a person useful to the body. When you find a person with a forgiving spirit, you find a person useful to the body. A pastor may have talents and be called by God. But if he cannot control his spirit he will fail as a leader.

God does not expect all to be able to do the same things. He does expect us to have the right spirit—the spirit of Christ.



For You To Do

- 1 In order to *cooperate* a person must
 - a) work with others.
 - b) have many talents.
 - c) do his work alone.

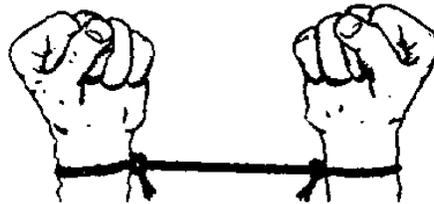
2 Match each example (left side) to the kind of relationship it represents (right side).

- a Arthur and Bob work together in witnessing in their neighborhood. 1) Members of a family neighborhood.
..... b As Bill meets with other believers, he grows as a Christian. 2) Partners in a task
..... c Jane feels loved and wanted by her brothers and sisters in the Lord.
..... d Philip and Fred pray together about starting a Bible class for young people.

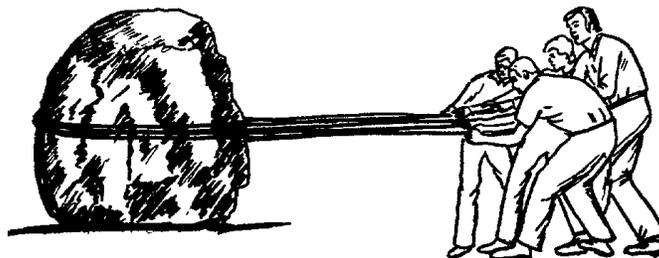
OUR WORK TOGETHER

Objective 2. Choose statements giving the reason why believers should work together.

If someone were to tie your wrists together with a thin cord, you could give one jerk and snap the string.



If there were more strings, however, it would not be so easy to break them. In the same way believers can do things together that they cannot do alone. The body is strong when all work together.



In the Old Testament we read that Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He knew before he started that there would be enemies and that he could never succeed alone. With the help of all the other Jews, the walls were rebuilt (Nehemiah 3).

Many different people worked—priests, a goldsmith, rulers, merchants, and even one who made perfume. A great work was done that could not have been done by one person.

In the New Testament we read that Jesus chose twelve disciples to be with Him (Mark 3:13-15). He also sent them out to minister two by two (Mark 6:7). We also read that in the first church the Holy Spirit directed certain people to work together (Acts 13:2).

This is God's plan for the body. The work that cannot be done by one person can be done when many people work together. The pastor or the evangelist could not preach to all the world. Every believer must help carry the message of Jesus to others. Everyone has a place in building God's

kingdom; no one is left out. Some preach, some teach, some sing, all pray, and the work goes on. This is working together.



For You To Do

3 Circle the letter in front of the statement that gives the reason why believers should work together.

- a) The Holy Spirit guides and directs believers.
- b) Some tasks can be done only if believers work together.
- c) Those who work for the Lord have great joy and happiness.

OUR ATTITUDES

Objective 3. Choose verses that help show what attitudes workers should have towards themselves and other workers.

There is a saying in South America that goes like this: *One hand washes the other.* In 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 we read a similar idea.



For You To Do

4 Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 and answer the following questions:

- a How many parts are mentioned?.....
- b What can each part *not* say about itself?
- c What can each part *not* say about another part?

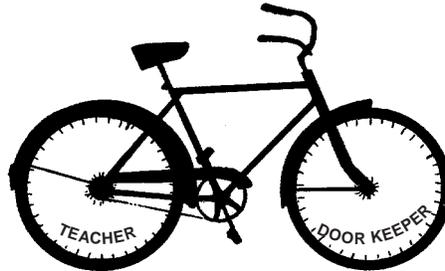
.....

We notice in the verses given above that the apostle Paul is teaching us something about the body. Let us apply his teaching to workers in the church.

One “part” might be a teacher. In the same church, another “part” might be a brother who greets people as they come into the church to worship. The one who greets people might think his work is not important to the church. Paul would say to him, “That does not keep you from being part of the church. Who would greet visitors at the door if you did not? The teacher has to be with his class. He cannot be at the door. The body needs you.”

The teacher may think his work is more important *We do not really need the doorkeeper*, he may think in his heart. He would be wrong to think that!

But God has set each one in the church. He made one to teach and another to lift burdens and make people feel welcome. He has set other kinds of workers in the church too. The church needs all of them. As you think about your work in the church and the work of the other believers, Paul would want you to have this attitude: *They need me and I need them.*

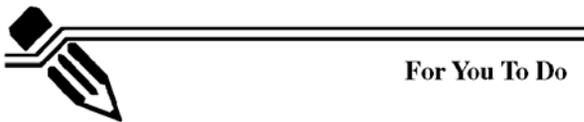


Ephesians 5:29-30 says, “No one ever hates his own body. Instead, he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ does the church; for we are members of his body.” The message is plain. No one hates his own body or any part of it. Neither should members in the church hate each other, for all are part of the same body. When the eye knows that it needs the ear, when the hand cannot get along without the foot, there will be unity in the body.

Each of us should serve where God places us. If we have to be in the important place before we will do our work, God cannot use us. If we are willing to let God use anyone He wills and place them as He sees fit, then we will see the church grow.

We should support one another by praying, sharing burdens, helping, loving, being concerned, being faithful to meet together, and giving thanks to God for one another.

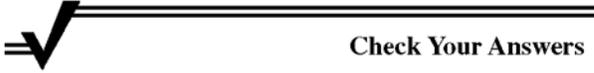
How wonderful is the ministry of the Christian worker!



5 Suppose some friends of yours don't understand what it means for workers to be part of the body. What they say is given below. Match each thing they say to the Bible reference that will help correct it.

- 1) 1 Corinthians 12:15
- 2) 1 Corinthians 12:18
- 3) 1 Corinthians 12:19
- 4) 1 Corinthians 12:21

- ... **a** I'll work in the church if I can have the position I choose.
- ... **b** Pastors are the only workers the church needs.
- ... **c** Since I have the gift of prophecy, I don't need to learn from those who are teachers.
- ... **d** I am not needed in the body because I am not an apostle or prophet.
- ... **e** Because I don't have the gift of teaching, I am not part of the body.



Check Your Answers

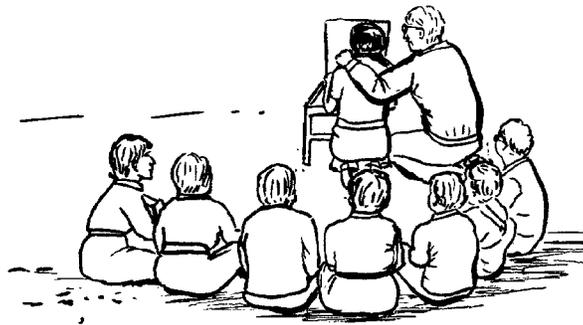
- 3 b)** Some tasks can be done only if believers work together. (Choices a) and b) are true, but don't give the reason.)
- 1 a)** work with others.
- 4 a)** Four: foot, hand, ear, eye. (Five if you count the sense of smell, verse 17, to be the nose.)
- b)** "I am not part of the body."
c) "I don't need you."
- 2 a)** 2) Partners in a task.
b) 1) Members of a family.
c) 1) Members of a family.
d) 2) Partners in a task.
- 5 a)** 2) 1 Corinthians 12:18.
b) 3) 1 Corinthians 12:19.
c) 4) 1 Corinthians 12:21.
d) 1) 1 Corinthians 12:15.
e) 1) 1 Corinthians 12:15.

Lesson
7

Working in Love

Though there were several boys coming to Kim's Bible class he was having some trouble teaching it. He carefully prepared his lesson for his students and taught it as well as he could. He spent extra effort thinking of interesting things for them to do as part of their learning. But there were times when they didn't pay attention. Often they acted differently than he remembered behaving as a boy. They said things that seemed disrespectful. All of this disturbed Kim. Yet he knew that the Lord had guided him to this ministry.

One day during the week Kim was reading his Bible and thinking about his class of boys. As he read John 13 he noticed that Jesus washed His disciples' feet. Then in verse 34 he read the new commandment that Jesus gave to His disciples: they were to love each other as Jesus had loved them. Though Kim had read these things before, now he saw them in a new way. He began to realize that there was more to working for the Lord than just using his ministry gift. He must learn to love those he helped and worked with, and that included the boys in his class.



As you study this lesson, you will learn more about the kind of love you need to have as a Christian worker. You will learn about where it comes from and what results it can have in your life.

In this lesson you will study . . .

Love Is From God
Love Is Needed
Love Brings Results

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the kind of love a Christian worker should have.
- Explain why a Christian worker needs God's love in his life.
- Determine to express God's love to others.

LOVE IS FROM GOD

Objective 1. *Apply to your own life the examples of the kind of love a Christian worker should show.*

When we read the Bible we do not need to search long to find that God has shown His love to us. “This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven” (1 John 4:10).

There is no love greater than God’s love. The Father loves so much that He gave His Son. The Son loved so much that He gave His life. Jesus did not die for His friends, but for His enemies. Can any love be greater? “But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!”(Romans 5:8).

In Luke 15:11-24 we read the story Jesus told of a young man who wasted his life and the money his father gave him. At home the father waited. On the day the son came home, the father was there. He saw his son before he reached the home place. He threw his arms around him and rejoiced because he was home at last.

Why did Jesus tell this story? He wanted us to know how God feels about everyone. God does not love only the pretty ones or the clean ones or those who have tried to be good. His love is far greater than human love, for God is love, and He loves everyone.

Let me tell you a true story about a pastor whom I will call pastor John. Some young people began attending the services in his church. They dressed in a way he could not accept. He let them come, but in his heart he did not really love them. They were different.

One day while he was in prayer, the Holy Spirit said to him: “John, you do not love these young people. You only love those who think like you. You only love those who are like yourself.”

This surprised pastor John. He knelt in prayer for a long time. He did not want to admit that he did not love everyone. Yet he knew it was true; he did not really love those young people. He allowed God to change his heart and he began to welcome them. He taught them God’s Word and they brought their friends. They all felt loved in pastor John’s church. God’s love reached them because pastor John let God change his heart and love them through him.



God’s love is in your heart. God can make you able to love the one who is wasting his life in sin. He can make you able to love the one in prison. He can make you able to love anyone.



For You To Do

- 1 In one or two sentences in your notebook, tell what aspect of love is most clearly shown by each of the following:
 - a Jesus as described in Romans 5:8
 - b The father in Luke 15:11-24
 - c The man called pastor John

2 Perhaps you know some people like the ones in this lesson. In your notebook, answer the following questions:

- a Who are the people who are my enemies that I need to love?
- b Who are the people different from me that I need to love?
- c Who are the people who have wasted their lives in sin that I need to love?

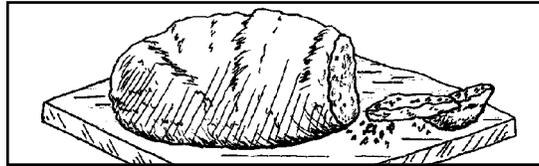
LOVE IS NEEDED

Objective 2. Choose statements giving the important reasons why Christian workers need to show love.

God has given Christians a great responsibility. In Matthew 5 we read these words: “You are like salt for all mankind . . . You are like light for the whole world . . . Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven” (vv. 13, 14, 16).

Unless the lives of Christian workers are different from those of the unsaved, how will the world see Jesus?

The Christian worker is like a sample. A sample is a small part of the real thing. If you take a sample of bread you take a bite out of the loaf. The bite is exactly like the rest of the loaf. When the world looks at us they should see the sample of the real thing. You may be all of God that some people will ever see. How much we need to be like God!



When people see your light they will be drawn to Jesus, the Light of the world. When they see your love they will be drawn to God, who is love. When they see the good things you do they will know that God is in you and they will praise Him (Matthew 5:16).

It will not always be easy to be like God. When Jesus was here on earth it was not easy for Him. Your love will be tested. You will not always feel like “going the second mile” (Matthew 5:41). But if you do you will be showing the Father’s love.

Our ministry will change people’s lives when we are changed by the Holy Spirit. True love will act. We will be drawn to those who have need when we are ready to minister to their needs. Love flows into the area of need.

Let us sum it all up in this way: “My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action” (1 John 3:18).



For You To Do

- 3 Which statements give the most important reasons why Christians workers need to show love?
- a) The world needs a sample of God’s love.
 - b) It is very difficult to love everyone.
 - c) A Christian worker’s love will be tested.
 - d) True love will draw people to God.

LOVE BRINGS RESULTS

Objective 3. *Identify statements giving the source and results of the Christian worker's love for others.*

If Christ is in us, His love is in us. Remember that we said that when God is in us He lives out Himself in our actions. He will be in us as we allow Him to express Himself.

God's love reaches where your love alone will not go. God loved us when we were still sinners. God's love in us will love sinners. God loved His enemies. God's love in us will love our enemies. God loved those who rejected Him (Luke 23:34). God's love in us will love those who mistreat us (Matthew 5:11-12).

So it is possible to love everyone. We can do this when we let God's love flow through us to them. This love is for you. It will do many things that your own love will not do.



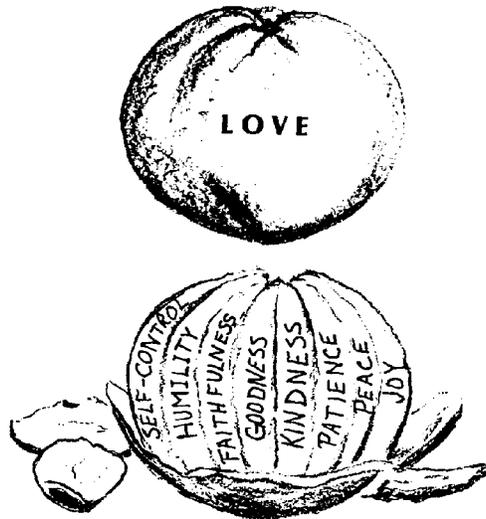
For You To Do

4 We especially need God's love in order to be able to love those who

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| a) love us. | e) are kind to us. |
| b) are sinners. | f) reject us. |
| c) are our enemies. | g) understand us. |
| d) hate us. | h) mistreat us. |

What a wonderful gift the Holy Spirit is to us! The Holy Spirit does not just come upon you once and that is all. The Spirit abides with you. Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever" (John 14:16).

While the Spirit lives in you He works in you. One of the things He does is produce the fruit of the Spirit in you. This fruit is not any natural goodness that a man might have. If you will read Galatians 5:19-21 you will see what the natural man is like. How opposite is the product that the Holy Spirit causes to grow in the believer!





For You To Do

5 Read Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and answer the following questions in your notebook:

- a** Which Scripture names a total of nine qualities that the Spirit produces?
- b** Which Scripture describes at least fifteen ways in which love acts?

Do you see that in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 we are told *how* love shows each of the qualities named in Galatians 5:22-23? How important love is! And how important it is for a Christian worker to show God's love. As we read in 1 Corinthians 13:2, "I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains—but if I have no love, I am nothing."

When God made the world He made everything to produce after its kind (Genesis 1). This is true with the Holy Spirit's work in us too. He produces after His kind, and He produces it in us. He makes it possible for us to love.



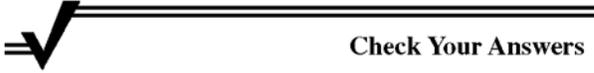
For You To Do

6 According to 1 Corinthians 13:2 the ministry gifts are

- a) useless without love.
- b) unrelated to love.
- c) not important.

7 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a** The ministry gifts are listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
- b** If we try hard, our natural goodness will make us able to love others as God loves them.
- c** It is the Holy Spirit's work in us that makes it possible for us to love as God loves.



Check Your Answers

- 4** b) are sinners.
c) are our enemies.
d) hate us.
f) reject us.
h) mistreat us.
- 1** a Love for those who were still sinners.
b Love for one who had wasted what was given to him.
c Love for those who were different from him. (You may not have used these exact words. But the ideas you have should be similar.)
- 5** a Galatians 5:22-23.
b 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
- 2** Your answer. I hope you will ask the Lord to help you love each person you have named.
- 6** a) useless without love.
- 3** a) The world needs a sample of God's love.
True love will draw people to God.
- 7** a False.
b False.
c True.

Lesson
8

Working With Leaders

Kim had been a member of his church now for more than a year. He had learned so much! He began to think of the leaders in the church who had helped him. He thought of the ones who had encouraged him to develop and use his gifts. He thought of those who had taught him God's Word. He thought of those who had led him in singing praises and worshiping God along with the other believers. What good examples they were of workers for the Lord!

As he thought over these things, he found that he wanted to know more about the kinds of leaders there were in the church. He wanted to know God's purpose for each one. He also found that he wanted to know his responsibilities towards his leaders. They had given so much of themselves to him.

This lesson will help you discover more about why the church needs leaders. It will help you understand what kinds of leaders there are and how you can work with them so that God's wonderful purposes for the church can be carried out.



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Leader's Work
Our Responsibility
The Benefits Received

This lesson will help you . . .

- Understand why leaders are needed in the church.
- Describe the ways you are responsible to your leaders.
- Appreciate the leaders God has given you.

THE LEADER'S WORK

Objective 1. *Identify examples of the different kinds of work leaders do.*

Where there is work to be done there needs to be a leader. God has appointed some in the church to be leaders (Ephesians 4:11). It is a great responsibility to be a leader in the church; leaders will have to give God an account of their service (Hebrews 13:17).

The duty of a leader is to see that the work continues. He works together with those under him to see that the job goes smoothly.

The Pastor

Under God, the leader of a church is the pastor. What does the pastor of the church do? He leads, he feeds, he teaches, and he watches.



He leads. The pastor leads by example. “Be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). One of the best ways to learn is to watch someone who knows how to do something. It is very important that the pastor live right and do his work right. It is easy to see that an entire church could be led astray if the pastor is not a good example. He leads the people in the ministries of the church and in meeting many needs. He must guide the young, help the weak, give special teaching, and explain salvation. He may not do all this himself, but he leads.

He feeds. The pastor spends time in prayer and Bible study in order to prepare the spiritual food the church needs. From God’s Word he feeds each person—the one who is mature as well as the one who is a new believer. He must preach all the truths of the Bible; he cannot preach just what people want to hear, for some do not want to hear the truth.



For You To Do

- 1 The verse that tells us a leader will have to give account of his service is
- Ephesians 3:11.
 - 1 Timothy 4:12.
 - Hebrews 13:17.

He teaches. In 2 Timothy 2:24 we read that one who is the Lord’s servant must be “kind toward all, a good and patient teacher.” When a pastor teaches, he explains truth to his hearers. He makes plain what God is saying in His Word. Those who are taught can teach others and be workers with the pastor (2 Timothy 2:2). Teaching is a great responsibility (James 3:1).



He watches. The work of a pastor is often compared to the work of a shepherd. A good shepherd is concerned about every sheep, but a hired man runs when there is danger. The good shepherd, though, stays with the sheep. In the same way the pastor who is only working for his pay will not care what happens to the church. The pastor who is like a good shepherd, however, watches so that nothing destroys the believers.



For You To Do

2 Match each sentence (left side) to the pastor’s duty it is an example of (right side).

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------|
| a | Guide people in carrying out their ministries. | 1) Lead |
| b | Tell all the truths that God’s Word gives. | 2) Feed |
| c | Be sure that nothing destroys the church. | 3) Teach Word |
| d | Help others understand the truths in the Bible. | 4) Watch |
| e | Live a good life in front of the believers. | |
| f | Explain what the truths of the Bible mean. | |

The Elders and Deacons

The Bible also speaks of elders and deacons as being leaders in the church. In the first church, the elders ministered the Word and the deacons served the needs of the church. Today, elders help the pastor. Some are more like exhorters. In James 5:14 we read that the sick should call the elders of the church to pray for them. Elders should be mature, spiritual men.

The work of the deacons may be different from that of the elders, but they, too, are the pastor’s helpers. They may be responsible for the church building or for helping needy people in the body. The work is different in each church, so people with many kinds of abilities are needed. A deacon may have much natural ability. It is his willingness to serve and God’s anointing on his life, though, that make his ministry useful and valuable to the church.



For You To Do

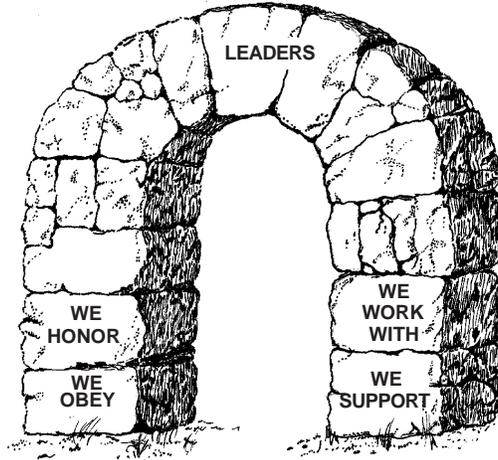
- 3 Circle the letter of each TRUE statement.
- a In order to be useful to the church, a deacon needs more than ability.
 - b All of the leaders in a church need the ability to do the same kinds of things.
 - c It is important for deacons and elders to be spiritual persons.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Objective 2. Choose examples of people who are carrying out their responsibilities to their leaders.

There are four ways we are responsible to our leaders:

1. Obey the Word they preach.
2. Honor them.
3. Support them.
4. Work with them.

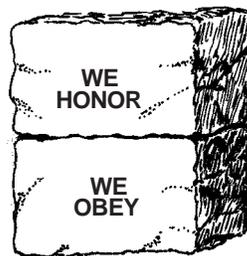


Obey the Word they preach. The pastor has the sacred work of preaching God’s Word. As members of the church, we are to receive it into our hearts and obey it (Romans 6:17, 1 Peter 1:22). The Word benefits us only as we receive it, believe it, and obey it (James 1:22-25).



Honor them. The Bible teaches us to honor our leaders. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 tells us to “pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do.”

One way to honor pastors or leaders is to refuse to find fault with them. If there is a problem which concerns a leader, our duty is to go to him directly. We are not to turn against him or speak evil of him. Remember that the leaders are appointed by God and are God’s gift to the church. We honor God when we honor the leaders He has given.



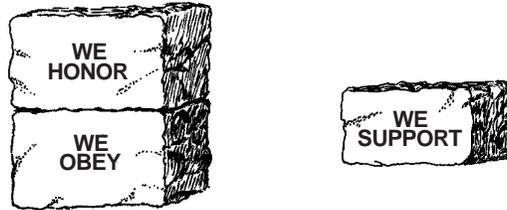
Support them. One way to support our leaders is to pray for them. They need God’s help against Satan’s power. They need God’s help to preach effectively. Another way to support them is by giving our money and gifts. This is God’s way of providing for His workers. In the Old Testament the men serving in the temple (who were called Levites) were supported by all of God’s people sharing in providing their wages (Numbers 18:21, Deuteronomy 18:1-5).



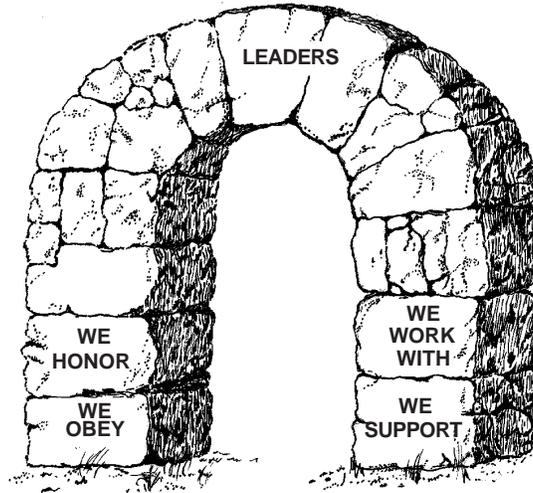
For You To Do

- 4 One Scripture that has to do with respecting our leaders is
- a) Numbers 18:21.
 - b) Romans 6:17.
 - c) 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
 - d) James 1:22-25.

We also support our leaders by faithfully going to church. When a pastor labors to preach the Word, to pray and minister, he depends upon the church body to stand with him. Hebrews 10:25 tells us to keep up the practice of gathering together: "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer."



Work with them. We are responsible to follow the orders of our leaders and obey them (Hebrews 13:17). When we do this, God's work goes forward. We must not be like the Israelites, who complained against their leaders Moses and Aaron (Numbers 14:1-4). Instead, we should be like the people who followed Joshua's orders and won great victories (Joshua 6:1-21; 8:1-23).



- 5 Match the responsibility (right side) to each description which gives a good example of it (left side).
- a Charles spends time each day praying for his pastor.
 - b Jane follows her pastor's directions in deciding what to teach her Bible class for children.
 - c Ted speaks of his pastor with respect.
 - d Andy tries to live by the messages his pastor preaches from the Bible.
 - e Bob and his family give of their money to help pay their pastor's salary.
- 1) Obey the Word they preach
 - 2) Honor them
 - 3) Support them
 - 4) Work with them

THE BENEFITS RECEIVED

Objective 3. *Select statements knowing the results that come when believers work with their leaders.*

God Is Glorified

When God's people work together with their leaders He is glorified. The unity of the body that comes when everyone is in harmony is a testimony to the world that Jesus was sent from God (John 17:21). It brings Him real glory. In Psalm 133 we read that God commands His blessing to come upon those who are living together in unity. It is a mark of godliness when people live and work together without strife and division. It is when God is in control that there is peace and harmony. That is why God is glorified.

The Church Is Built Up

Unity among believers makes it possible for God's will to be done in the body. It takes the entire church working together to do what needs to be done. In Ephesians 4:16 we read that "when each separate part works as it should, the whole body grows and builds itself up through love." This means that each part must work with every other part. Each member must share his or her ministry with the whole. When Christ is in control, "the whole body is nourished . . . and grows as God wants it to grow" (Colossians 2:19).

The Workers Are Strengthened

The ability to work in harmony with the body is a sign of meekness. A person who is meek does not get angry quickly, is patient, and submits to those over him or those who work with him. This meekness is a sign of strength, not weakness, because a believer who can work with leaders becomes stronger. God gave leaders such as pastors to the church in order to make the church strong and prepare each member for his or her work (Ephesians 4:11-12).

The workers who are the greatest blessing to the church are those who submit themselves first to God, then to their leaders, and then to one another. When workers in the church do this, they will find themselves becoming the kind of mature people described in Ephesians 4:13-14.



For You To Do

- 6 Which Scripture says that unity among believers shows the world that Jesus came from God?
- a) John 17:21
 - b) Ephesians 4:11-12
 - c) Ephesians 4:13-14
 - d) Colossians 2:19
- 7 Below are three descriptions of the results that come when believers work together with their leaders. Which one is the most complete?
- a) Each person is edified as an individual.
 - b) God receives glory and the world sees that Jesus came from God.
 - c) The whole church grows, each believer becomes stronger, and God receives honor.



Check Your Answers

- 4 c) 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.
- 1 c) Hebrews 13:17.
- 5 a) 3) Support them.
b) 4) Work with them.
c) 2) Honor them.
d) 1) Obey the Word they preach.
e) 3) Support them.
- 2 a) 1) Lead.
b) 2) Feed.
c) 4) Watch.
d) 3) Teach.
e) 1) Lead.
f) 3) Teach.
- 6 a) John 17:21.
- 3 a) True.
b) False.
c) True.
- 7 c) The whole church grows, each believer becomes stronger, and God receives honor. (This choice is the only one that has all three results mentioned in the section.)

Lesson
9

Finishing With Joy

The church was crowded. It was harvest time. Everyone was bringing the tithes and offerings from their crops to the church. There was rejoicing as the people sang praises to God.

Kim thanked God for the many blessings he had received. *God has done so much for me!* he thought. Only a few years before he had not even been saved. Now his whole family was a part of the body of believers. And God was using him in the work of the church, too, as he yielded himself to the Holy Spirit. He had prayed for the sick and had taught God's Word. He had learned how to work with the leaders God had given him in his church.

As Kim listened to the singing he thought of another harvest-time—that time when his work would be done and he would meet Jesus face to face. *What will that day be like?* he wondered.

Perhaps you also have asked yourself what the future will be for the Christian worker. This lesson will help answer that question. Let the truths it presents inspire you in your work for the Lord and fill your heart with joy.



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Work Finished
The Joy Experienced

This lesson will help you . . .

- Give three descriptions of the work of a Christian and its results.
- Describe five rewards the faithful Christian worker will receive.
- Work for the Lord with joy as you look forward to the day when you will see Him and receive the rewards He has for you.

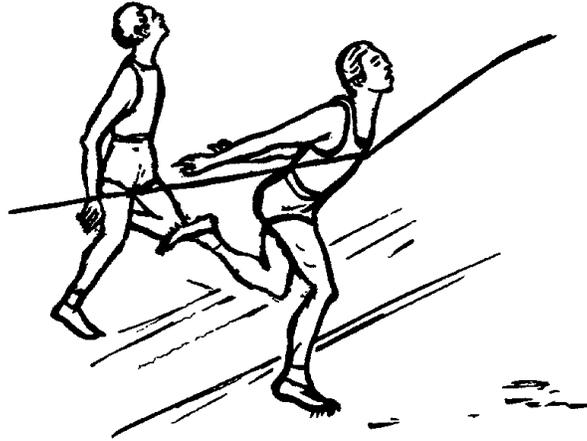
THE WORK FINISHED

Objective 1. Match descriptions of the work of a Christian to the lessons or results they give.

The Race Run

The New Testament compares the life of a Christian worker to a race that is run by an athlete. The apostle Paul said, “So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God’s call through Christ Jesus to the life above” (Philippians 3:14). In the Christian race, *every faithful runner can be a winner!* “Listen!” says Jesus, ‘I am coming soon! I will bring my rewards with me, to give to *each one* according to what he has done” (Revelation 22:12). What joy awaits the Christian worker!

But in order to finish your race you must overcome the tests and temptations that may come. You may be tempted to feel sorry for yourself. Disappointments may come. Your plans may not always succeed like you want them to. But through the power of the Holy Spirit you can face each of these situations and be victorious. One day the race will be run. Some may quit, some leaders may fail, but “whoever holds out to the end will be saved” (Matthew 24:13). Live and work so that you can say with the apostle Paul, “I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).



The Task Completed

The New Testament also compares the ministry of a Christian worker to a task or a job that needs to be completed. Jesus realized that He had an important work to do and that He must finish it. He knew it would not always be possible to work. He said, “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me; night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4). Jesus knew when His work was done. He said to His Father, “I have finished the work you gave me to do” (John 17:4).

Jesus described our task in Matthew 28:19-20. We need to realize that at one point in time, our opportunities to be workers for the Lord will be gone. But each Christian worker can have the satisfaction of knowing that the task God has given him or her to do *can* be completed. You are doing that task now. Be faithful!



For You To Do

1 In your notebook, complete the following sentence in your own words: The Bible’s comparison of the Christian life or work to a race that is run by an athlete teaches me that . . .

The Harvest Gathered

The New Testament says that the work of a Christian is like that of gathering in a harvest (Matthew 9:37-38). Harvest speaks of seed sown, of a crop ripened, of the fruit gathered. Harvest-time is always a season of great joy. There will be joy in heaven, too, at that final harvest-time. The joy of that harvest will come when the Christian workers see the multitudes who have eternal life, because the members of the body of Christ worked together to show them the love of Christ. As a worker for God, you will share in that joy. You will see the fruit of your labors—those who have believed in Jesus, the sick who were healed, the ones who were encouraged. What a wonderful time it will be!



For You To Do

- 2 The Scripture that speaks of the Christian life as a race that is run is
- Matthew 9:37-38.
 - Matthew 24:13.
 - Philippians 3:14.
 - Revelation 22:12.
- 3 Suppose you wanted to describe the work of a Christian to someone. In your notebook, list three comparisons you could use and at least one Bible reference for each one.
- 4 Match each description of the work of a Christian (right side) to what it teaches us (left side).
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| a Complete the work or job that was given | 1) Race that is won |
| b Faithfully finish the course and reach the goal | 2) Task that is finished |
| c Share in the joy of seeing the people who have believed in Christ | 3) Harvest that is gathered |

THE JOY EXPERIENCED

Objective 2. List the rewards the Christian worker will receive.

There is a payday for the hired worker. There is a time to give prizes to the winner in a contest. In the same way, those who work for the Lord will receive their rewards.

God has given us the privilege of working for Him. He has set a time in His future plan to bring all Christian workers together. Each person will be rewarded according to his or her work (1 Corinthians 3:8; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

There will be different kinds of rewards. First of all, those who are faithful will be welcomed by the Lord Himself. He will say, “Well done, you good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:21). This approval from the Master will be precious beyond anything we can imagine.



Then, too, we will receive all that God has promised to us—our inheritance. In Romans 8:17 we read that “we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ’s suffering, we will also share his glory.”

Another reward will be the joy of seeing the people we have helped spiritually. The apostle Paul looked forward to this joy. “After all,” he wrote to the Thessalonians, “it is you—you, no less than others!—who are our hope, our joy, and our reason for boasting of our victory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes” (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

The Bible also speaks of workers receiving crowns. During the times the New Testament was written, the crown that a winning athlete received was just a wreath of flowers or vines. It did not last long, but it was still very precious; he had worked long and hard to gain it. In 1 Corinthians 9:25 we read that our crown, unlike one of flowers or vines, will last forever. It will be a glorious crown (1 Peter 5:4).

But the best reward of all will be to experience the full joy of being in the Lord’s presence forever (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This joy will never end!



For You To Do

5 Suppose you wanted to tell a friend about the rewards a Christian worker will receive. In your notebook, write down five of those rewards and a Bible reference for each one.

Be a faithful Christian worker. Remember these words that Paul wrote to the workers in the first church; they are as true today as they were then: “So then, my dear brothers, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord’s service is ever useless” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

You have now finished studying *Christian Workers*. May the Lord bless you as you find your place of service in the church and use the gifts God gives you to bless and strengthen the body. As you continue to work more with other believers, you may want to read some of the lessons again to remind yourself of the ministry gifts God has given or the duties of leaders. Never forget that the body of believers is Christ’s church. He is the one who will build a strong body and help you as a Christian worker.

Now that you have completed the second unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT TWO*. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide and ask about another course of study.



Check Your Answers

3 Your answer should include the following ideas (in any order) and at least one Scripture reference for each:

It is like running a race; Philippians 3:14.

It is like finishing a job or task; John 9:4; 17:4.

It is like gathering in a harvest; Matthew 9:37-38.

1 Your answer may be something like this: The Bible's comparison of the Christian life or work to a race that is run by an athlete teaches me that there is a goal the Christian worker must reach. He must move straight toward that goal and allow nothing to turn him aside. (You may have written down another lesson the comparison teaches you.)

4 a 2) Task that is finished.

b 1) Race that is won.

c 3) Harvest that is gathered.

2 c) Philippians 3:14.

5 Your answer should include the following (in any order):

The approval of our Master; Matthew 25:21.

An inheritance; Romans 8:17.

The joy of seeing those we have helped;

1 Thessalonians 2:19.

A crown; 1 Corinthians 9:25 or 1 Peter 5:4.

The joy of being in God's presence forever;

1 Thessalonians 4:17.

One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are happy people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems which trouble almost everyone in the world. These happy people believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus who gave his life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions, or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book you should find a card called *Decision Report and Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions, or make requests for prayer or information.

If there is no card in this copy of the book, write to your ICI instructor and you will receive a personal answer.

Christian Workers

UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

STUDENT REPORT DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the answer sheet for that unit. Do only one unit at a time. Return each answer sheet to your ICI instructor or office in your area as soon as you have completed it.

The following are directions on how to indicate your answer to each question.

EXAMPLE

There is one best answer. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 1** To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*, so you would blacken space **b** like this:

1	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C
---	---	-------------------------------------	---

Now read the questions in your Student Report and mark your answers in the answer section as we have shown in our example. Choose your answer and blacken the space **a**, **b**, or **c** according to your choice.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** The first man with whom God had fellowship was
 - a) Adam.
 - b) Noah.
 - c) Abraham.
- 2** Jesus gave the work of preaching the gospel to
 - a) the angels in heaven.
 - b) the Old Testament saints.
 - c) all believers in Him.
- 3** The needs believers have today and the needs believers had in the first church are
 - a) not alike.
 - b) similar.
 - c) unusual.
- 4** God wants us to be like His Son because God
 - a) prefers uniformity in His children.
 - b) knows this is the only way we can continue Christ's work.
 - c) wants us to be different than the Old Testament saints.
- 5** According to Acts 9:39, Dorcas met the need other believers had for
 - a) clothing.
 - b) teaching.
 - c) healing.
- 6** When believers gather together for worship
 - a) no leadership is necessary.
 - b) they receive help from each other.
 - c) every meeting should be the same.
- 7** The first church and the church of today are alike in that both
 - a) minister to people's needs which remain the same.
 - b) emphasize that buildings are unnecessary for worship.
 - c) stress the importance of church membership.
- 8** Three New Testament illustrations of the church are bride, a building, and a
 - a) rock.
 - b) circle.
 - c) body.
- 9** Which picture of the church emphasizes the fact that Christ controls or directs its activities?
 - a) A building
 - b) A bride
 - c) A body
- 10** Which ministry would be most helpful to a person who needs to understand what the Bible says?
 - a) Teaching
 - b) Authority
 - c) Power to heal

11 The story of Samson in Judges 15 teaches us that as Christian workers we must

- a) fight against people who are our enemies.
- b) wear a special outward sign such as long hair.
- c) have God's strength in order to resist Satan.

12 The Christian worker's source of special help is

- a) wisdom from Christian literature.
- b) the power of the Holy Spirit.
- c) the support of fellow workers.

13 God can call us to work for Him

- a) as we pray.
- b) only in church.
- c) only through our pastor.

14 God gives workers gifts because

- a) He values workers more than non-workers.
- b) He is generous.
- c) they have need of them.

15 God chooses our gifts because He

- a) wants us to earn them.
- b) knows the work we are to do.
- c) gives gifts only to certain people.

16 When God gives us a gift, it will fit

- a) both the work and the worker.
- b) us but not necessarily what we do.
- c) any work we care to do.

17 In receiving gifts from God it is important for us to

- a) offer ourselves to God first.
- b) desire gifts in order to become important.
- c) not want any of the gifts.

18 People can be helped by our gifts but hindered by

- a) God's message to them.
- b) the kind of person we are.
- c) the need for God to help them.

19 Using our gifts means to

- a) do what we have been given the ability to do.
- b) appreciate them and give God the glory for them.
- c) realize that our gifts make us important.

20 God has given gifts to the church in order to

- a) give believers something to work for.
- b) meet the needs the members have.
- c) show which people are most important.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** In order for believers to work together, each one needs to have the
 - a) correct ability.
 - b) right attitude.
 - c) same gifts.
- 2** In order for us to cooperate with other workers, we need to have the right
 - a) job.
 - b) partner.
 - c) attitude.
- 3** The story of Nehemiah in the Old Testament teaches us that
 - a) only Jews can work for God.
 - b) city walls should be rebuilt.
 - c) believers need to work together.
- 4** Believers should work together because this is God's plan for the
 - a) Bride of Christ.
 - b) Body of Christ.
 - c) Bread of Life.
- 5** The church is like a human body because
 - a) it has the same number of parts.
 - b) the beautiful parts are the most necessary.
 - c) each part is needed by each other part.
- 6** We will see the church grow if we
 - a) are willing to let God use us where He wills.
 - b) do not have to work with uncooperative people.
 - c) do what we most enjoy doing.
- 7** If we are to be like the father Jesus told about in Luke 15:11-24, we must love those who have
 - a) wasted their lives in sin.
 - b) followed a good plan of living.
 - c) used their money wisely.
- 8** Jesus told the story of the father waiting for his son who had wasted his life and money to illustrate
 - a) the penalty for sin.
 - b) the importance of stewardship.
 - c) God's love for everyone.
- 9** Our ministry will change people's lives when we
 - a) are changed by the Holy Spirit.
 - b) do good deeds.
 - c) have the gifts of the Spirit.
- 10** If a Christian's love is a sample of God's love this means that it is
 - a) similar in some ways to God's love.
 - b) a good effort at loving the way God loves.
 - c) actually God's love flowing through him.

- 11** It is possible for us to have God's love in us because
- it comes from our natural goodness.
 - the Holy Spirit will produce it.
 - we know that we need it.
- 12** In order for a Christian to have a useful ministry it is necessary for him or her to have
- all the gifts.
 - real love.
 - full knowledge.
- 13** When the Bible says that a pastor is like a shepherd it means that he is the
- one who is responsible to lead and guide.
 - most important person in the church.
 - person with all the gifts that are needed.
- 14** The duty of a leader is to
- get the job done no matter what.
 - see that the job goes smoothly.
 - exhort everyone to work harder.
- 15** According to 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 we are to honor our leaders especially because they
- make good decisions.
 - have all knowledge.
 - do God's work.
- 16** God's usual way of providing for the leaders in the church is for them to
- be paid through money given by the people.
 - earn money working somewhere besides the church.
 - live on whatever they are able to gather together.
- 17** The workers who are the greatest blessing to the church are those who are
- talented.
 - submitted.
 - hard workers.
- 18** The Bible compares the Christian worker to an athlete who runs a race because
- a goal must be reached.
 - the fastest runner wins.
 - only strong people can run.
- 19** In working for the Lord it is important to remember that
- nothing we do for Him is ever useless or unimportant.
 - the number of talents we have will determine our reward.
 - those who are sincere should not expect a reward.
- 20** God will reward each worker according to his or her
- talents.
 - creativity.
 - work.

End of requirements for Unit Two. Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your ICI instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

Christian Workers

Answer Sheet for Unit One

CL5250

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

Age Sex

Occupation

How many members are in your family?

How many years have you studied in school?

If you are a member of a church, what is the name of your church?
.....

.....

What responsibility do you have in your church?

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone? In a group?

What other ICI courses have you studied?
.....

.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT ONE

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....
.....
.....

Now look over this answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your ICI instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page of your study guide.

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score

Christian Life Program

Christian Workers

Answer Sheet for Unit Two

CL5250

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The ICI office in your area will be happy to send you information about other courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

ANSWER SHEET FOR UNIT TWO

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We have enjoyed having you as a student and hope you will study more courses with ICI. Return this student report answer sheet to your instructor or to the ICI office in your area. When we have checked your answers, we will send you a certificate for this course in your program of studies.

Please print your name below as you want it to appear on your certificate.

Name

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score

Christian Life Program

CL5250 Christian Workers
Decision Report and Request Card

After studying this course, I have placed my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I am returning this card with my signature and address to your ICI office for two reasons: first, to testify to my commitment to Christ and, second, to request information about more material to help me in my spiritual life.

NAME.....

ADDRESS

.....

SIGNATURE



**THE GREATEST OF ALL
IS THE SERVANT OF ALL**

Serving is one of the greatest ways we can show our love to God. ICI courses prepare you to better serve others.

Using our courses will create an orderly system of Bible study and encourage a better understanding of spiritual truths.

To begin preparing for God's service, we suggest enrolling in courses offered from our **Christian Service Program**.

Some courses from the **Christian Service Program** are:

- THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- GOD LOVES YOU
- WHO JESUS IS
- WE BELIEVE
- GOD'S DESIGN—YOUR CHOICE
- CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
- ALIVE IN CHRIST
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY

If you desire a more detailed description about each course or directions on how to enroll in any of these courses, contact your local ICI director.

**SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES
OF YOUR FRIENDS**

We will send them Lesson 1 of
“The Great Questions of Life.”

Print Clearly

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Name

Mailing Address

City.....

Province or State

Country

E-mail.....

Your Name

Mailing Address

City

Province or State

Country

E-mail