

CALLED TO SHEPHERD GOD'S PEOPLE

**200 CLASS OUTLINES FOR
PORTABLE BIBLE SCHOOLS**

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SECTION SIX

**HOLY LIVING
and Denominational Relationships
Bibliography**

HOLY LIVING

Lesson 1. FEAR THE LORD

There are wrong and right kinds of fear. “Fear not” is a precious message of Scripture, used about 50 times, and with its variations it is used 366 times. Remember the Lord’s words, “It is I, be not afraid”? But the fear of the Lord is something we must have. See these verses: Job 28:28; Psalms 19:9; 2 Samuel 23:3; Deuteronomy 6:13.

1. Here are some things we are not to fear:

1. Idols or other gods - 2 Kings 17:38.
2. Man - see Saul’s mistake in 1 Samuel 15:24. Notice Proverbs 29:25.
3. Earthly calamities, for they signify the near return of our Saviour - Luke 21:25-28.
4. Future punishments - Hebrews 10:27.
5. We are not to fear “fear”, for the believer casts his fears on the Lord - I Peter 5:7.

2. What is the fear of the Lord?

1. It is a hatred of evil - Proverbs 8:13.
2. It is wisdom - Psalms 111:10.
3. It is a treasure - Proverbs 15:16; Isaiah 33:6.
4. It is a fountain of life - Proverbs 14:27.
5. It is clean - Psalms 19:9.
6. It endures forever - Psalms 19:9.
7. It is godly - Hebrews 12:28.

3. What are the results of fearing the Lord?

1. It brings pleasure to the Lord - Psalms 147:11.
2. It brings acceptance with God - Acts 10:35.
3. It causes the Lord to comfort His children - Psalms 103:13.
4. It brings blessings - Psalms 112:1.
5. It brings separation from evil - Proverbs 16:6.
6. It brings Christian fellowship - Malachi 3:16.
7. It brings answered prayer - Psalms 145:19.
8. It brings long life - Proverbs 10:27.

Discussion: Have the class discuss ways to conquer the weakness of a fearful heart. Then discuss the wisdom of fearing the Lord.

Lesson 2. THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE - Ephesians 5:18.

Every believer possesses the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16), but the Spirit may reside and not preside in his life. He may be a resident, but not the president. As we yield the control of our lives He fills us more and more with Himself (Luke 11:13). The infilling is received when the believer consciously recognizes the Holy Spirit as being in full control of his life, completely governing every detail.

The original Greek is in the imperative progressive - **keep on being filled**. The filling must be constant and continuous. The Apostle Peter was filled with the Spirit in Acts 2:4, again in Acts 4:8, and again in 4:31. Each day needs its new fullness.

1. Conditions of being filled by the Holy Spirit:

1. Forgiveness of sins - Acts 2:38.
2. Sonship - Galatians 4:6.
3. The desire to be filled - John 7:37-39, also Isaiah 44:3.
4. Faith - John 7:39.
5. Obedience - Acts 5:32.
6. Waiting - Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4. Be unhurried.
7. Prayer - Luke 11:13.
8. Appropriate the fact - John 1:12.

2. Results of being Spirit-filled

1. Power to witness - Acts 1:8.
2. Power to live a victorious Christian life - Acts 20:22-24.
3. Glory will accrue to the Lord - John 16:14.

Conclusion: We are not reservoirs, but channels. We must overflow. Blessings must pour out. Notice the Bible pictures of the working of the Holy Spirit:

1. An overflowing spring - John 4:14.
2. An overflowing fountain - John 7:37-39.
3. Abundance of sap in the tree - Romans 8:11.
4. Overflowing waters - Ephesians 5:18.

Discussion: Perhaps some of the class have recognized that they are not experiencing the filling of the Spirit. A time of confession and prayer may be a means of great blessing.

Lesson 3. RESISTING THE DEVIL - I Peter 5:8,9.

We should never forget that Satan attacks every true child of God. This lesson will give some practical ways to ward off those attacks.

1. Ways in which Satan attacks Christians - 2 Corinthians 2:11.

1. He makes us lazy.
2. He weighs us down with the pressure of duties.
3. He oppresses us with nerves, moodiness and daydreaming.
4. We have hurt feelings, and become touchy.
5. Criticism discourages us - we forget that we must be prepared to receive it.
6. Discouragement.
7. The temptation to spiritual pride.

2. How to resist the devil

1. Recognize the problem as an attack of the devil - James 4:7.
2. Resist, fight, draw the sword - Ephesians 6:11.
3. Use the armor listed in Ephesians 6:10-18.
4. Put on Christ - Romans 13:14.
5. Use the Word - Matthew 4:4,7 and 10.

6. Use your will power by saying “I will not sin. I resolve by the power of the indwelling Christ to overcome and be victor over sin.”

7. Prayer - Ephesians 6:18.

8. Plead the blood of Christ to cover you - “and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” - (Rev. 12:11).

Discussion: - What experiences have you had of Satanic attack? What was the most effective means of defeating it?

Lesson 4. HOW TO FIND THE LORD’S WILL

The problem that faces every Christian is how to ascertain the will of God. There is a divine blueprint for each one of God’s people, suited to our personalities, talents, needs and environment - Ephesians 2:10.

God’s plan for you is very personal, just for you - Psalms 32:8.

It is very detailed - Psalms 37:23.

It is definite and specific - Isaiah 30:21.

He wants us to inquire about His plan - Psalms 143:8, and to be much in prayer for daily details.

And His plan is always good, acceptable, perfect for each particular believer - Romans 12:2.

1. God’s plan always includes these features:

1. Separation from sin unto holiness - I Thessalonians 4:3.

2. Prayer and thanksgiving - I Thessalonians 5:17,18.

3. Doing good works - I Peter 2:15.

2. Methods of guidance

1. God often guides through verses of Scripture. Saturate yourself with the Word of God. God’s will is never contrary to the Bible.

2. An inner conviction that is given by the Spirit of God - Romans 8:16; Acts 13:2; John 16:13.

3. Through circumstances. God closes one door and opens another. Nothing happens to the child of God by accident.

4. Sometimes, by putting out a fleece, Judges 6:37-39, but care must be taken to not arrange the circumstances.

3. George Mueller’s formula for finding guidance:

1. Surrender your own will. Have no definite choice in the matter. Be absolutely neutral.

2. Seek the Spirit’s will through God’s Word.

3. Note providential circumstances.

4. Pray for guidance.

5. Wait on God.

Discussion: Have you had definite experiences of God’s guidance? How did you determine His leading?

Lesson 5. THE QUIET TIME

The quiet time is the secret of a Christian's victorious living. Without it, spiritual defeat is certain.

1. Abraham's excellent example for the morning quiet time:

1. He got up early in the morning. This is an excellent practice.
2. He had a special place to meet God. We should, too.
3. He did this daily, not spasmodically.
4. He stood before the Lord, waiting for the Lord to speak to him.

2. Material for the quiet time:

1. A Bible. Read the Bible faithfully according to a set plan.
2. A notebook and pen to record some lesson from the Word.
3. A book with prayer requests and space for the answers.

3. A plan for the quiet time:

1. Have your quiet time at the same time each day if possible.
2. Aim at a systematic plan, probably half time reading and half time praying.
3. Don't be rigid. Continue praying, if the Spirit leads. If the Word shines with new light, read on and be filled.
4. A suggested order: a brief prayer, Bible reading, and then prayer. Use the Word as a basis for prayer and petition.

Lesson 6. SEPARATION - 1 John 2:15

"Love not the world . . ." What does the word "world" mean here? The next verse explains it: it means this present world system which is controlled by Satan.

1. Some things we know are wrong:

1. Marriage between a believer and an unbeliever is forbidden - 2 Corinthians 6:14-17; Amos 3:3.
2. All unrighteousness and all works of darkness - 2 Corinthians 6:14. This may include business partnership also.
3. Belial, the old devil, and infidels - 2 Corinthians 6:15.
4. Idols - 2 Corinthians 6:16.
5. False teachers - 1 Timothy 6:5.
6. All known forms of sin and immorality (drinking, etc.) - 1 Peter 1:16.

2. Basic rules to follow:

1. I must separate from anything that might overthrow my faith in God.
2. I must separate from anything that would destroy my testimony.
3. I must separate from anything that would debase my morals and lead me to sin.
4. If my action causes my brother to stumble, then I must not do it - 1 Corinthians 8:13.
5. I must separate from anything that harms my body - physically, mentally or emotionally.
6. Is it pleasing to Jesus Christ? If He would not do it, then I must not - 1 Peter 2:21.
7. Will it strengthen my testimony? Weaken it? - 2 Cor. 6:17.

Discussion: Have you had any struggles in separating from sinful practices? Are there still areas of conflict? How can you resolve them?

Lesson 7. THE SHEPHERD'S PERSONAL LIFE

The personal life of the shepherd is of prime importance, for people listen to the sermons of Sunday and watch to see how they are fulfilled through the week.

Again and again in his letters to the young preacher Timothy, the aged Apostle Paul insists on purity and piety of life. If the preacher is not living up to his preaching, the people will soon find it out.

1. The shepherd must be a **man of piety** - a pious, holy man who radiates the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. He must be **exemplary in his relationship with his wife and his family**. He must be an example in this to the flock.

3. He must be a **man of prayer**. His people expect him to spend much time in prayer daily - even hours. He needs this for maintaining his own holiness. Satan will send many temptations to the man of God.

He must remain before the Lord until all dross is removed - Isaiah 52:11.

He must pray for the flock - 1 Samuel 12:33; Colossians 1:9. His prayers for his people should be by name, person by person, if at all possible.

4. He must be a man with a **passion for the lost and dying** - Acts 20:31.

“Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.”

Discussion: Name some Christian leaders who have been examples to you. What were their outstanding qualities?

Lesson 8. INNER MOTIVES

The Lord's servant must work with a correct motive - to glorify the name of the Lord. Paul's motive was not money or fame, but men - their salvation and grounding in the faith.

His urgency and passion forced him to press on - 1 Cor. 1:15-18.

He was willing to forego eating and drinking if men would only believe - 1 Corinthians 9:4.

He refused a salary at Corinth to avoid suspicion and win more souls. He adapted himself to various classes of men - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. He was willing to forgo marriage, home and children if more people would be saved.

The wonderful message, the shortness of time, the nearness of death and the coming of Christ were his motives to do all for His glory - Colossians 3:17; 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Discussion: What were the personal sacrifices Paul made for the sake of the ministry? Do you feel they were important?

Comment on Paul's four motives listed in this lesson.

Lesson 9. QUALIFICATIONS OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER

1. He must be blameless, a man of honest reputation, good character and standing - Titus 1:6.

2. He must be the husband of one wife, of a single marriage - Titus 1:6.
3. He must be the father of faithful children, obedient and under control - Titus 1:6. This is the test. If one rules his household well, then he can govern the church.
4. He must not be self-willed; he is not a dictator - Titus 1:7.
5. Not soon angry - Titus 1:7. Temper and anger have no place here.
6. He is not given to wine - Titus 1:7.
7. He is not violent - Titus 1:7.
8. He is not greedy for money - Titus 1:7. This is important, lest church funds be a snare to him.
9. A lover of hospitality, Titus 1:8. He shows love to fellow believers and strangers.
10. He is a lover of all that is good, clean and wholesome - Titus 1:8.

Discussion: Consider each of these qualities and show why it is important in a church leader. Are there other traits that you would add to the list?

Lesson 10. ADULTERY

The devil will do all within his power to bring about the defeat of a servant of God, and nothing pleases him more than to cause a man who is at the height of his ministry to fall - he falls farther and harder, and more often than not, he brings with him others who have been his followers in their walk with the Lord. The sad truth is that many a spiritual leader has fallen from a mountain peak of spiritual victory and privilege to a black valley of defeat because he has been careless in his relationship with women. His own ministry has been ruined, his character has been irreparably blotted, and the church of Jesus Christ has been subjected to ridicule.

The servant of God must be constantly on guard against temptation. He must nip every temptation in the bud. He should be accompanied by his wife or an elder of the church when he counsels or prays with a woman. He must avoid all appearance of moral misconduct.

You must pray much that God will protect you against Satan's darts, but you must also be alert to every danger signal. We must watch as well as pray.

Discussion: Consider Samson and David, and show how their improper relationship with women brought great sorrow.

Lesson 11. LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME

Piety in the pulpit must be accompanied by piety in the home. Eli was punished because he couldn't control his wicked sons, while God first recognized Abraham's success in the home, and then granted him greater responsibilities.

1. The Christian leader must be a model husband. His devotion to his wife will discourage women from putting temptation in his path. His treatment of her as a partner will demonstrate the respect for women that is the standard of the church.

2. His children should show that they are the product of a loving and orderly home - I Timothy 3:12. They should be obedient and under control. It is difficult for strangers to respect a man whose children do not show him respect.

3. The leader's home should be open to fellow believers and to strangers - Titus 1:8. It should have the aura of godliness so that visitors will easily recognize that Christ is the head of that home.

Discussion: What will influence the children of a Christian leader to be examples to the other young people of the church? When should their training begin?

Lesson 12. ONLY THE TRUTH!

“Let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No,' 'No'” - Matthew 5:37.

There are no “little white lies” for the Christian worker. He must be a man who can be trusted. The Lord has strong statements about deceit - see Psalms 101:7.

1. Exaggeration - Evangelists often commit the sin of exaggeration. They often report great crowds in attendance and many, many decisions when the work is actually small. This is done to bring glory to the evangelist, not to God.

2. Unkept promises - If a promise is made, it must be kept. Otherwise the promise becomes a lie, and God has no blessings for liars.

Discussion: Read these verses and comment on them: Psalms 101:7; Proverbs 12:22; 19:5; Colossians 3:9; Revelation 21:8.

Lesson 13. FINANCES

You would expect that, of all the people in the world, the Christian worker would be the most honest and the most faithful in repaying debts. Sadly, that is not the case. Many businessmen refuse to extend credit or lend money to the Lord's servants, because they have been cheated by them. How tragic it is for the Christian leader to bring dishonor on the name of the Lord.

Paul's instruction was very clear: Owe no man anything but love - Romans 13:8. In personal finances and in handling church monies, the leader must be completely honest. A promise to pay must be fulfilled. If not, his ministry will end in failure, and the Lord's name will be dishonored.

Discussion: Read Romans 12:17. In your opinion, what is its meaning? Have you known Christian workers who have been careless, or dishonest, in their financial affairs? What effect has that had on the cause of Christ?

Lesson 14. DISCIPLINED STUDY

The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy the young minister to “give attention to reading” - 1 Timothy 4:13. Anyone who preaches the Word must get deep into the Word using all the study aids available. Remember this important suggestion: ***People should learn at least a few new things every time they hear you.***

Commentaries and study Bibles should be used freely, as well as the writings of men of God of all ages and of all time. “Much reading maketh a full man.”

Discussion: What have you read recently that has strengthened you in the Word? Recount some of the topics.

Lesson 15. KEEP YOUR BODY FIT

The body is the temple of God and it must be properly cared for (1 Corinthians 3:16). Eat balanced food and avoid overeating. Go to bed early and get up early. Get some exercise every day.

Good health habits will give you extra years of service for the Lord. Simple living and high thinking - this should be your watchword.

Discussion: Demonstrate some physical exercises that will benefit physical fitness. Discuss other factors that influence health.

Lesson 16. LAZINESS

Paul had his reason for writing, “We do not want you to become lazy” (Hebrews 6:12). The Christian worker has no supervisor to check the hours he spends on honest labor. He goes into the pulpit and repeats the same messages he has given many times before. There is often no power behind his preaching because he has spent little time in prayer. His people feel they have no shepherd, for he spends little time in visitation and counseling.

Harvest time is short, and “he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son” (Proverbs 10:5). The “hour has come to wake up from your slumber” (Romans 13:11). You are Christ’s servant, part of a noble calling and responsible for a glorious task. Rise up early in the morning, follow a schedule of worship and service so that every hour is profitably filled. “Wake up, O sleeper!” (Eph. 5:14).

Discussion: What are the conditions that make it easy for a preacher to become lazy? Have you known lazy preachers? Did their people respect them?

Lesson 17. PRAISE

Are you going through a time of spiritual darkness? Are you weary of a wilderness experience? Are you hanging your head over a burden?

The key to unlock the tunnel of gloom and spiritual defeat is praise. Praise is your medicine; it will work wonders in your body, soul and spirit (Proverbs 15:13; 17:22). Praise! Do not waste your time and energy blaming God and others for your circumstances. Divert your eyes from all circumstances and situations and focus them on the Lord. Forget your wounds and aches. Here is your chance to turn your problems into praise, to tell the world that there is One worthy of praise, even in the dark hours.

Sometimes it is not easy to praise - that is the reason we are instructed to offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.

When you kneel to pray, forget your petitions and read Psalm 103 or another of David’s praise songs and concentrate on giving praise to Him in worship.

Again I say, Rejoice.

Discussion: Read 2 Chronicles 20:22 and notice the effect that praise had. Scan the book of Psalms and notice the many injunctions to offer praise to God.

Lesson 18. WHEN TEMPTATIONS COME

Temptations will come to the servant of God: it is up to him to safeguard himself. When you feel the urge to take one step toward sin, may the Holy Spirit push you back by reminding you of the following:

1. Think of God - Genesis 39:9; 1 Samuel 2:22-25; James 4:4.
2. Think of yourself - 1 Corinthians 6:18; Proverbs 6:32.
3. Think of your spouse - Malachi 2:14-16.
4. Think of your partner in sin - Matthew 18:6.
5. Think of the children - Numbers 14:33.
6. Think of the family - Genesis 12:17, 20:18.
7. Think of the shame and remorse-Prov.5:11-14; 6:32,33.
8. Think of the church - 1 Corinthians 5:1-6; 1 Samuel 2:24.
9. Think of non-Christians - Romans 2:22,24.
10. Think of the enemies of the gospel - 2 Samuel 12:13,14.
11. Think of your ministry - Judges 16:19, 20; 1 Cor. 9:27.
12. Think of God's judgment - Hebrews 13:4; Ezekiel 16:38.
13. Think of eternity - Galatians 5:19-21.
14. Finally, think of the future glory if you overcome- Rev. 14:4.

Discussion - Which of the above reasons do you consider most important? Why?

Lesson 19. IMITATORS

Whether we like it or not, people will imitate the man who stands in the pulpit, both his good points and his bad. Paul said in Ephesians 5:1, "Be imitators of God", and there is no danger of failure if that advice is followed. But mortal man likes to follow a leader, and the spiritual leader is responsible for the example he sets for his flock.

If he is a man very careful about his walk with God, others will follow on the path of righteousness. But if he finds it easy to flirt with sin and compromise just a little in his Christian standards, they will probably go farther into sin. If he is zealous about seeking the lost and winning souls, he will probably gain some volunteers to begin training for witnessing. But if the leader is slow in reaching out to the lost, his people will likely be Sunday-only Christians, hearers and not doers of the Word. If his is a sacrificial, giving life-style, stingy Christians will soon open their purses and find joy in giving to the Lord.

Paul commended the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:6) by saying, "You became imitators of us and of the Lord." He determined too, to lead a blameless life and said, "I urge you to imitate me" (1 Corinthians 4:16).

Discussion: Your example will produce what kind of Christian?

Lesson 20. VICTORY IS SURE!

Read Philippians 3 and 4.

Many of the Lord's workers suffer an inferiority complex that gnaws from within, rendering them inactive. They are timid about introducing themselves as those serving the Lord. But God counts them "servants of the Most High" (Daniel 3:26). This was the attitude of Paul in serving God (1 Timothy 1:11,12).

God has given us a spirit of power. The Greek word for power in Acts 1:8 is dynamite. No power can stand against this divine power.

Do not underestimate the power God has given you. Attempt the impossible. Reach all possible areas. Never think you cannot reach the rich or the highly educated.

The “little” Paul did great things because he had confidence in God’s power. Realize that power and set to work. Give God a chance to manifest His dynamic power through you.

God needs **YOU**.

Discussion: Read these verses and consider some of the weak things God used to demonstrate His power and accomplish great results: Exodus 4:2; Judges 15:15; 1 Samuel 17:40; Zechariah 4:10; Matthew 13:32; John 6:9.

A great truth is found in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29. Memorize these verses.

DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Each denomination has its own unique characteristics and, since this is a course for all churches, it will be impossible to give a complete description of each one in the printed lessons. The teachers will be able to use the following guidelines, however, to present the history and distinctives of their own group.

At the end of the course the new catechist should feel thoroughly acquainted with his field of service and comfortable about beginning his work as lay-preacher.

Lesson One: History of the denomination overseas; its roots from other denominations; its founders and early leaders; reasons for its formation.

Lesson Two: History of the denomination in Africa; nations in which it works; size of the church in each nation; the leaders in these other churches.

Lessons Three, Four and Five: Doctrinal distinctives: How they differ from other denominations; special emphases and ministries; Scriptural bases for these distinctives.

Lesson Six: The denomination's national organization; its headquarters and officers; length of terms of officers and method of their election.

Lesson Seven: The denomination's schools and hospitals; its department heads; its annual conferences and any other national meetings.

Lesson Eight: Its district office and officers; district meetings and calendar.

Lesson Nine: Its local educational and medical facilities. The number of villages in the district and the number of villages with pastors or catechists.

Lesson Ten: The denomination's training schools for future catechists.

Lesson Eleven: The new catechist's responsibilities to his denomination; number of services expected.

Lesson Twelve: The preparation of new believers for baptism, using the denomination's liturgical guides.

Lesson Thirteen: What the catechist should do when members fall into sin; the denomination's way of handling this problem.

Lesson Fourteen: What the catechist should do if he is opposed by sorcerers or tribal leaders.

Lesson Fifteen: How weddings are prepared for.

Lesson Sixteen: The taking of church offerings and the handling of such money.

Lesson Seventeen: The building of church buildings in villages.

Lesson Eighteen: The churching of neighboring villages. Gospel teams.

Lesson Nineteen: Cooperation in districtwide exchanges of catechists for weeks of evangelism, etc.

Lesson Twenty: If an overwhelming problem arises in the congregation, to whom should the catechist go for counsel and advice?

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