

Language (the language in which the New Testament was written) it means “power or strength that has been brought under control or under direction of a leader or master,” in this case by the Master Himself.

What is the method by which the meek “inherit the land and the earth” as indicated in this passage? In personal terms, what does God promise to do for YOU if you take on the goal of meekness in the face of His program for you to obtain it.

7. This week’s focus on care and prayer...

Is there a “pain” in your life right now that you are running away from? Is the Spirit of God trying to make it work for you – or is the evil one trying to discourage and humiliate you with it?

It is not easy to share a real hurt that is difficult even for you to share.

Lesson 22 A Ready Heart For Worship

KEY VERSE: “I call on the Lord in my distress and he answers me.”

Psalm 120: 1

1. You're a senior in High School (what, again? – once was enough!) and you are just about to go out on a very important date with someone very special, someone you admire and respect. What are some of the things you would do to prepare for the occasion?

- If there was something negative going on between you and your date, in your opinion, would it be better to take care of the matter before you went out to the special event, during the event, or after the event?:

2. You are on your way to the worship service of the church home you have adopted. It's a 15 minute drive and just as you begin your trip, the man on the radio station to which you were listening says something odd: “Are you ready to worship God when you arrive at church this morning?” Your initial answer: “I don't know.” How would you prepare yourself for worship during the next 14 minutes?:

3. Read Micah 6: 6- 8. When the Hebrews came to the Lord to worship, there were things that the Lord requested, but there were some things that were even more important that He required...

REQUESTED

REQUIRED

4. Reviewing the passage in the previous question, what things do you think the Lord requests and requires in the church today?:

REQUESTED

REQUIRED

5. There are a number of things that are part of the worship of God that He has told us about through His servants. In the passages below, identify the act of worship, and speculate as to its purpose:

PASSAGE	The Practice	The Purpose
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a. Psalm 95: 1- 7

b. Romans 12: 1,2

c. Psalm 40: 6- 10

d. Psalm 51: 15- 17

6. This week's focus on care and prayer...

The worship of the Lord is one of the most frequently discussed topics in the Bible. Preparation for worship is right up there with worship itself. In fact, we would be hard pressed to distinguish between the two in actual practice. In your prayer and share time, take a few moments and talk about some of the things you do to prepare for worship, and then – exchanging ideas and suggestions, and if you have the freedom to do so – prepare yourself for worship with your partners...

Lesson 23 Being There For And With God's Team Members

KEY VERSE: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Psalm 122: 1

1. "Team sports." Just about everyone on planet earth has played team sports at some time or another, whether it be bridge or tackle football. Describe some of the consequences when (in a sport you can chose as an example) one or two of the members of your team decide to be a spectator instead of a genuine participant in the game? Will this effect the outcome of the game?

- Focus for a moment on what happens to the spirit and the attitude of the other members of the team?

2. Read Psalm 122: 1- 3. What kind of attitude does David (the author) describe as his when he considers spending some time in worship with his friends and fellow believers? Try to put this idea in present day language and discuss how this emotion might express itself in everyday conduct:

3. Read the following passages and describe the attitudes and corresponding actions related to the house of God as seen in these passages. (We need to realize that these are all experiences that would normally be shared with other believers, times of praise, rejoicing, thanksgiving and worship in its various forms.):

PASSAGE	Any Attitudes Revealed	Any Action Initiated
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a. I Chronicles 29: 3

b. Psalm 26: 8

c. Isaiah 37: 1

d. Psalm 27: 4

e. Micah 4: 2

f. Psalm 84: 10

4. When you worship God together with believers, what are some of the most meaningful things to you personally?; what activity enables you to most freely give expression to your “team worship”?

5. Read Hebrews 10: 19- 25. The author of Hebrews gives instruction about effective and enduring worship of God. Notice that the context is one of worship on the model of the Old Testament Temple...

What does he say about the role of a clear conscience?

What does he say about our general attitude?

What does he say about the role of joining with others in worship?

6. This week's focus on care and prayer...

Worship was designed to be not only a personal activity, but to be a group activity. In fact, there are things that God will do through groups worshipping together that he will not do any other way. The power of the group sing, the incredible joy sharing an answer to prayer, the testimony of god's hand at work in our midst shared with many people.

The mere thought of getting together with others to worship can be that which sparks a special joy in our hearts: "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Psalm 122: 1.

With your prayer partner(s), give some time of worship, praise and thanks to God. Experience that Joy together...

Lesson 24 In The Service Of The Lord

KEY VERSE: “As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master.. so our eyes look to the LORD our God...” Psalm 123: 2

1. It is one of the nicest restaurants in town. You’ve just spent the evening with some dear friends that you have not seen in some time. The dinner is over and you are about to depart. It’s time to leave a tip so you take a moment and ask those at the table, “What did you think of the service at our table?” “Terrific!” ...” Best I can remember!”.. are the unanimous responses. Describe some of the characteristics of service that might deserve those kinds of comments:

- When you look back on the service you receive at a church “service” who are the “servers”? In what ways does their service compare with the service given in your favorite restaurant?

2. During Biblical times, in the New Testament era especially, estimates are given that approximately two thirds of the population were slaves. The general population was very familiar with the role of a servant and the meaning of good service. In the New Testament there are numerous passages that describe the quality of a servant’s service. Some of these are listed below.

As you read these passages, note in column one the conduct befitting a faithful servant to men, and in column two, indicate how a servant/ Christian might express this quality in a worship service to God:

PASSAGE What the Word says about the conduct of a faithful servant

How it might be expressed in a worship service a.

Ephesians 6: 5

b. Colossians 3: 22

c. I Timothy 6: 1

d. Titus 2: 9

e. I Peter 2: 18

f. Psalm 84: 10

3. Read Psalm 123. In verses 3 and 4 there is a description of the kind of treatment servants sometimes get while carrying out the assignments of their master. Imagine for a moment (the write down) the kinds of things that might have happened to this worship service servant in this Psalm that could have prompted him to utter his prayer to God:

- How does this treatment compare with the typical treatment given to the average waiter or waitress in a local restaurant?

4. Based on what we have studied thus far, would you say one should expect some measure of difficulty to be encountered when conducting a service of worship?

- Read Romans 12: 1,2 (.. the NASB has it “spiritual service of worship” at the end of verse 1). What does it take to do an effective worship according to this passage?

6. This week’s focus on care and prayer...

In a worship service, we are the servants and God is the master. Our fellow Christians and those that do not know Christ are the ones that receive our service. In fact, the words “minister, “deacon” and “service” all come from the same basic origin (of meaning) so that all the people in the body of Christ are actually united as fellow servants.

Serving takes time and effort. And serving is best accomplished when it is done at the loving direction of a loving master. Because the Christian has the latter, the former becomes much easier.

How is your service – especially your worship service – doing? Share with your prayer partner about your service as the Lord leads...

Lesson 25 Dialing “911” For The Lord

KEY VERSE: “... if the LORD had not been on our side when men attacked us, when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive.” Psalm 124: 2,3

1. In almost every city in America there is some sort of rescue squad to help deal with an emergency involving people. In most major cities anyone can pick up the phone and dial “911” and get a host of services. Give some examples of the types of situations that would require such services:

- What are some of the situations which might qualify as a real emergency but for which “911” could offer no real help? Are there some difficult, emergency situations in which medical or police training is of little help?

- Who and how do we call in the case of a spiritual emergency?

2. In the following situations described in the Bible, the writer tells about a predicament and then describes the Lord’s help. In most every case, there is also listed a second and sometimes unexpected result of that help. List those helps and their results in the spaces provided below:

PASSAGE	Help The Lord Offers Results Of The Lord’s Help
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a. James 1: 5

b. II Corinthians 1: 3,4

c. John 16: 33

d. I Peter 4: 12,13

e. Psalm 23: 4

f. Psalm 37: 16- 19

g. Luke 12: 28

3. Read Acts 27: 14- 26, 42- 44. In this story of Paul's shipwreck during a storm on the way to Rome, we encounter several truths about God's care of His people and how He can care for people not yet in His family:

- Does man have control over the weather and the ocean currents? Where does one go when dealing with such forces?; where do we make our appeal?;

- What kind of protection did the Lord provide for His children in this situation? Physical? Mental? Emotional?

4. Read Philippians 4: 4- 7. As implied by this passage, what are some of the typical aggravations that might bring a person to find no satisfaction with earthly “911” and speak with God instead?

- What kind of practical results can we expect in calling Him?

5. This week’s focus on care and prayer...

Most emergencies can be most effectively dealt with if we have done the basic preparation (having a medical kit for example) and having the proper mental attitude (which means, basically, expecting them to arrive – they are inevitable!).

But many, if not most of life’s emergencies will find little help from “911”. The Lord has a vast array of people, power and tools at His disposal to help deal with things like major depression, unexpected feelings of hostility, deep fears, impeding death, etc. In each case, the Lord has some very important and unexpected blessings in store for the “emergency victim”.

A piece of paper was left in the church sanctuary recently that made its way to the church office. On it was written: “Pain is inevitable; misery is optional.” With your prayer partner – if you have the freedom to do so, share an area of “pain” and dial “911” – to God – together.

Lesson 26 The Meaning Of Godly Courage

KEY VERSE: “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” Psalm 125: 1

courage, n. 1. the quality of mind or spirit that enables one to face difficulty, danger, pain etc., with firmness and without fear; bravery. Also, to act in accordance with one’s belief’s, especially in spite of criticism.

1. There are various everyday situations in our society that call for the use of courage. Take a few minutes to identify some of these:

- There are also some extraordinary situations that require courage—ones which are rare; they don’t happen every day, and sometimes not in a month or a year, but they come along. Identify some of these:

2. In thinking about some of these instances that take courage, where would one expect to obtain this important quality if one did not have it or lacked enough of it to deal with a particular situation?

3. Read II Chronicles 32: 7. The Bible records many instances where people are asked to “take courage” or “be courageous” or “act with bravery.” Obviously the source has something to do with God. But how do you suppose the follower of God is to get this thing called bravery?

4. There are many instances in the Bible where one or more of God's people are told to "take courage" in the midst of some challenge, difficulty or obstacle in the path. In the following passages, see if you can identify what it is that will take courage, and from where or how we are to "take courage":

PASSAGE | Situation Requiring Courage | Its Source &/ or Basis

a. Deuter. 31: 6

b. Joshua 1: 6

c. Joshua 10: 25

d. I Chronicles 19: 13

e. I Chronicles 22: 13

f. II Chronicles 32: 7

g. Philippians 1: 27- 30

4. Someone has defined godly courage as "confronting an opponent with the confidence that we will ultimately succeed." In light of the passages we have examined in this study, how might we come to have this confidence referred to in this definition?

5. Most of the passages in the Bible referring to courage mention either the presence or the promises of the Lord or both. What would happen to Christian courage in the following situations if either of these were absent?:

Facing personal death...

Telling others about Jesus within a pagan culture...

6. This week's focus on care and prayer...

Bravery is a very special quality that every person has to some degree (after all, every human has been fashioned in the image of God), but having enough of it and using it wisely are the critical issues. If a person fails to use it properly, bravery becomes mere foolhardiness. If a person is in short supply, timidity and cowardice are the result.

The presence of Christ provides the perfect direction and guidance that bravery needs. The power of Christ provides the necessary energy and endurance to keep bravery in the picture throughout.

If you feel free to do so, see if you and your prayer partners can identify an area in which bravery is needed and ask the Lord for His presence and power to face and deal with it.

God be with you as you share...

