


# **DIRECTIONS**

**FROM THE WORD OF GOD**



**A Study Guide for Use by  
Individuals or Groups**

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## **Directions from God's Word**

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## DIRECTIONS FROM GOD'S WORD

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

*Directions* has been prepared for use by individuals or small groups of new believers who desire to know more about what the Bible teaches about some basic biblical themes. It may also be used by home Bible study groups, Sunday school classes, or any group of people who wish to study these topics together. We all need directions to get where we want to go. The Bible is the revelation God has given to us to help us on our spiritual journey. So, whether you've just started out or you've been on the journey a long time, everyone can benefit from reading and studying *The Directions*.

### Preparing to Lead

1. Pray for wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit.
2. Carefully study all the Scriptures in each lesson. The study notes in the *Concordia Self-Study Bible* and *Life Application Bible* (Both available from Faith and Fellowship Press Bookstore) will be helpful to the leader when studying each of the Bible passages referred to in the questions. Either one of these study Bibles may serve as a leader's manual.
3. Pray for ability to guide the discussion with love and understanding. Remember that your goal is for members of the study to deepen their understanding of God's word and to grow in their relationship to Him and to others within the family of believers.

### Leading the Study

1. Begin with prayer. Make it a simple prayer for open minds to understand the Scriptures and willing hearts to obey. You may have someone else open with prayer but it is usually best to ask such a person ahead of time. Not everyone feels comfortable praying in public.
2. Guide the individual or group through the lesson, question by question. The Scriptures should also be read during the study. Ask for volunteers from your study to read the Bible passages as they come up in the lesson. Participation may be further enhanced by using the opener or some other question or activity which will break down barriers and foster trust and discussion between members of the group.

3. Memorize the memory verses for each lesson. Review them each time you meet. Encourage members of your group to review them daily.
4. Always seek to summarize each question and aim toward application of the questions to daily living.
5. Start and end on time.
6. Close with a prayer of thanksgiving and committal.

### **Ways to Stimulate Discussion**

1. Ask several people to answer the question. You can also use questions such as, "What do the rest of you think?" or "Is there anything else which could be added?"
2. Omit any question which is not relevant to your group or which does not fit into the flow of discussion which is developing.
3. Keep the lesson on track and avoid issues not related to the topic. If such topics are brought up, suggest that they be discussed later in the evening when the study has been brought to a close, or set a later time for the group to discuss the topic.
4. Accept all contributions even if you think they are not correct. Never bluntly reject an answer. Press the rest of the group for their thoughts or in a friendly way ask the respondent on what he or she bases the answer.
5. Don't talk too much as a leader. Let the discussion develop between members of the group. Act as a moderator. Do not feel you must have the last word or be the final authority on every question. Remember here that the directions are to come from the Bible. Let the group find the answers together from the Scriptures.
6. Watch the members of the group closely. Some may be hesitant and timid, but you can detect when they have something to contribute. Encourage them.

## LESSON 1

### DIRECTIONS ON FAITH

*A Verse to Memorize: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

—John 3:16 (New American Standard Bible)

#### **Opener:**

What was your first impression of God when you were a child? How do you remember it?

#### ***"...God so loved the world..."***

1. What is love (John 15:13)?

2. How did God show His love?

a) Romans 5:8

b) 1 Timothy 1:15

c) Luke 19:1-10

3. What does the Bible say about the world which God loved? (The world is not the world of matter but the people who live in it.)

a) Romans 3:23

b) 1 John 1:8

c) 1 Timothy 2:4

d) John 10:16

***'...He gave His only begotten Son..***

4. Read the following passages and list what these verses say about Jesus, God's unique Son.

John 1:1-5

a)

b)

c)

John 1:10-14

a)

b)

c)

5. Why was Jesus given to the world (John 1:29)?

6. Whose sin will be taken away or forgiven (1 John 1:9)?

***"...Whoever believes in Him..."***

7. How can a person be saved (Acts 16:25-33)?

8. What does it mean to believe?

a) Matthew 8:5-13

b) Proverbs 3:5,6

***"...Should not perish, but have eternal life.."***

9. What has sin done to people?

a) Isaiah 59:2



b) Romans 5:12

10. What has God done to bring people to Himself?

a) 1 Peter 2:24

b) 1 John 3:5

c) Romans 6:23

### **Conclusion**

Faith in Christ is not a feeling. Faith, based on the reality of Jesus Christ and His salvation, is a truth to receive and believe. God loved you and sent His Son to die for you. That is a fact of history. As you trust Him, that is believe that He died to take away your sins, you are saved.

11. Write out John 3:16 from memory.

12. How do you know you have eternal life, based on John 3:16?

Thank God for the eternal life He has given you.

## LESSON 2

### DIRECTIONS ON FOLLOWING JESUS

*A Verse to Memorize: So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.* —Colossians 2:6,7

**Opener:**

Tell about a time in your life when you received Jesus Christ. How did this time affect your walk of faith?

***“...So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord...”***

1. Read John 1:1-18 and list all the things John says about Jesus. This is why He is to be the center of our lives and why we are to grow in Him.

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

2. How can a person become a child of God (John 1:12)?

3. What are some actions which show that a person has received and believed in Christ Jesus (Luke 10:38, 39; Acts 17:11; John 13:34, 35; Galatians 5:6; James 1:26, 27)?

4. Jesus is often called Lord. What does this mean to a person who is a Christian (Colossians 1:17, 18)?

5. What areas of your life right now need to be turned over to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

***“...Continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught...”***

6. What characterizes a person who is living in Christ?

a) 2 Corinthians 5:17

b) John 16:33

c) John 15:10

d) John 15:5; Galatians 5:22,23

7. How can a person continue to abide or live in Christ?

a) Galatians 5:13-26

b) John 15:1-17

8. Fortunately God has not left you alone. Based on Acts 2:42, what are some of the ways which He has given to help you grow?

a)

b)

c)

d)

9. How can each of the ways listed in Acts 2:42 assist you to grow in your Christian life?

a) Matthew 7:24-27

b) Hebrews 10:24-25

c) Matthew 26:26-28 (Compare with John 6:32-33, 53-58)

d) Matthew 26:41

10. List the specific opportunities God has given you to grow as a Christian. Place a check mark by those you regularly use.

***'...And overflowing with thankfulness.'***

11. Why should you be thankful (Psalm 100)?

12. When should you be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:6)?

### **Conclusion**

To grow as a Christian is to daily follow Christ by faith. As He leads you, He produces growth in your life by His Holy Spirit.

13. Write out Colossians 2:6,7 from memory.

14. How can you grow as a Christian based on Colossians 2:6,7?

Thank God for the spiritual life He has given to you.

## LESSON 3

### DIRECTIONS ON FORGIVENESS

*A Verse to Memorize: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

—1 John 1:9

#### **Opener:**

What illustration or example comes to your mind when you think of forgiveness?

#### ***"If we confess our sins..."***

1. Look up the word *confess* in a dictionary. Write out a definition in your own words.

2. How important is confession (Proverbs 28:13)?

3. What do the following passages say about the seriousness of sin?

a) Romans 6:23

b) Galatians 1:3, 4

c) Titus 2:14

4. What do the following verses say about the sinner?

a) Ephesians 2:1-3

b) Romans 5:12

c) Psalm 51:5

5. Using the following sections of Scripture, make a list of some of the biblical names for sin and define them.

a) Ephesians 4:25-31

b) Galatians 5:16-21

c) James 4:17

6. Which ones do you need to confess? Stop right now and confess your sin to the Lord. Be specific. He will hear you as you acknowledge your sin to Him.

***"...He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins..."***

7. Read Jesus' parable of the lost son from Luke 15:11-24. List and define the characteristics shown by the father. (Jesus, in Luke 15:11-24, is teaching what God our heavenly Father is like.)

8. What do these Bible passages tell you about God?

a) Psalm 108:4

b) Isaiah 6:3

c) Acts 10:34, 35

d) 1 Corinthians 1:9

e) Titus 3:5, 6

9. What is the basis for knowing you have been forgiven for all your sin? (The following three verses will help you find a biblical answer: Acts 13:38; John 1:29; Isaiah 43:25.)

***"...Purify us from all unrighteousness."***

10. What does God promise to those whose sin is forgiven?

a) Isaiah 43:25

b) 1 John 1:7

c) 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

d) Romans 6:23



**Conclusion**

Forgiveness of sin is not something for which you strive or work. It is God's gift to you. Jesus died in order that you might have this gift which brings eternal life. Receive it by faith today. Do not ignore it or reject it.

11. Write out 1 John 1:9 from memory.

12. According to 1 John 1:9, what assurance do you have that you are forgiven?

Thank God for the forgiveness He has given you.

## LESSON 4

### DIRECTIONS ON FACING TEMPTATION

*A Verse to Memorize: No Temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

—1 Corinthians 10:13

#### **Opener:**

Tell about a time when you were helped to overcome temptation.

***“...No temptation has seized you except what is common to man...”***

1. Describe temptation (James 1:13-15).

2. List the sources of temptation.

a) Acts 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5

b) 1 John 2:15-17

c) James 1:1-13-15; Matthew 15:19

***"...And God is faithful..."***

3. The statement, "God is faithful," means that He is true to what He says. He will not fail you. Read the following Scriptures. What does each one say about God's faithfulness?

a) 1 Kings 8:56

b) James 1:17

c) Deuteronomy 32:4

d) Psalm 36:5

4. To whom is God faithful?

a) 1 Corinthians 1:9

b) 1 John 1:9

c) 1 Peter 4:19

5. For how long will God be faithful (Psalm 146:5, 6)?

***“...He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear...”***

6. Why can Jesus help you when you are tempted (Hebrews 2:14-18)?

7. How did Jesus face temptation (Luke 4:1-13)?

***“...But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”***

8. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5.

a) What will the Lord do for you?

b) What should your response be?

c) What should you have others do for you?

**Conclusion**

Victory over temptation can be possible for everyone who closely follows the Lord. Claim God's promises and obey His commands. Always be looking for God's way of standing up under temptation.

9. Write out 1 Corinthians 10:13 from memory.

10. What temptations do you often face?

11. How do you think God will help you overcome these temptations? What does He want you to do to overcome them?

Thank God for the victory over temptation which He gives you through Jesus Christ.

## LESSON 5

### DIRECTIONS ON HOW TO PRAY

**A Verse to Memorize:** *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

—1 John 5:14,15

**Opener:**

Tell others in your group about an answer to prayer the Lord has given you.

***“This is the confidence we have in approaching God...”***

1. How do you think the following people felt in approaching God? Read each passage and try to describe what you think their thoughts might have been. Why do you think they thought God to be unapproachable?

a) Adam (Genesis 3:1-10)

b) Moses (Exodus 3:1-6)

c) People of Israel (Exodus 19:16-20:19)

d) Joshua (Joshua 5:13-15)

e) People of Israel (1 Samuel 12:18-25)

f) Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-7)

g) Saul (Acts 9:1-6)

2. What confidence can you have that God will listen when you pray (Matthew 7:1-11; Luke 11:1-13)?

3. What characteristics do you notice about the prayer Jesus taught us to pray (Luke 11:1-4)?

4. Why do you think the attitude of forgiveness is the cornerstone in a person's relationship to God (Luke 11:4)?

5. How forgiving are you to those who have wronged you?

***“...That if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us....”***

6. Describe what you think the phrase, “according to his will,” means. The following passages will help you: Romans 12:1, 2; Romans 8:6-8; Matthew 26:36-46.

7. How can we be sure that what we ask for is according to the will of God (John 14:13)?

8. What are some hindrances to praying according to the will of God?

a) Mark 1:35

b) Mark 10:35-40

c) Matthew 6:5-14

d) 1 Timothy 2:8

e) Matthew 5:23, 24

f) 1 Peter 3:7-12



9. Prepare a list of those requests that relate to you, your family, your church, which you know to be according to the will of God.

10. Prepare a list of those requests which you do not feel would be according to the will of God.

***“And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask- we know that we have what we asked of him.”***

11. When should a person pray?

a) Ephesians 6:18

b) 1 Thessalonians 5:17

c) Philippians 1:3-11

d) James 5:13-16

12. Using Paul’s prayer in Colossians 1:3-14 as an example, how should you pray for others?

### **Conclusion**

A small boy, who had tired of the toys his father had given him, knocked on his father's office door asking, "Can I come in?" "What do you want to come in for?" questioned the father. "I just want to be with you," replied the boy. Prayer is like this. Prayer is requests made to a heavenly Father who will answer. But it is much more; it is a relationship.

13. Write out 1 John 5:14,15 from memory.

14. What assurance do you have that God hears you? (See also Matthew 21:22.)

Thank God for giving you prayer by which you may approach Him.



## LESSON 6

### DIRECTIONS ON KNOWING GOD'S WILL

**A Verse to Memorize:** *"...For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..."*

—Jeremiah 29:11

#### **Opener:**

Talk about some plans you have made that have not worked out the way you planned.

***"...‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord..."***

1. What is God's will (1 Timothy 2:3,4; John 3:16)?
2. What is God's will about the way you live (Exodus 20:1-17)?
3. Why can't people live up to what God's will is for them (Romans 3:9-20)?
4. How can people who cannot do God's will obtain right standing with God (Romans 3:21-26)?

5. How should a person, who cannot perfectly keep God's Holy Law, live (Proverbs 3:5, 6)?

6. How can we be sure that God will make our paths straight (Psalm 37:5 Isaiah 26:4 Psalm 32:10)?

***"...Plans to prosper you and not to harm you'..."***

7. What are some obstacles to knowing God's directions for your life?

a) Jeremiah 32:33

b) Zechariah 7:11

c) Acts 7:51

d) Psalm 139:23, 24

8. Some people claim they can get guidance for their life from the occult. What do the writers of Scripture say about this?

a) Deuteronomy 18:9-13

b) Leviticus 19:31

c) Acts 13:6-10

d) Revelation 21:8

9. Jesus instructed His disciples about the will of God in the prayer He taught them to pray; the prayer we call The Lord's Prayer. What can we learn from this prayer about how God wants to prosper us and not to harm us (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-13)?

10. How is Joseph's life an example of the teaching that God wants to "prosper you and not to harm you" (Genesis 50:15-21)? (See Genesis 37-50 for account of Joseph's life.)

***"...Plans to give you hope and a future'..."***

11. Christians, according to the Scriptures, should have a focus not only on this life but also upon a future life. Why should Christians have this focus (Philippians 3:17-21)?

12. What, according to Philippians 3:21, is the hope for the future? What do you think this will be like?

13. What, according to Philippians 3:12-21, could cause a person to lose the prospects of a "hope and a future"?

### **Conclusion**

14. God specifically gave the promise in Jeremiah 29:11 to the captives in Babylon. They wanted to return to Jerusalem, but they were safer in Babylon. God, however, who does not change, has the same attitude toward you and all His children. How do you think this promise may apply to you? (See John 14:1-6.)

15. What is your hope?

16. What is your future?

17. How do you know this?

18. Write out Jeremiah 29; 11 from memory.

19. Where do the plans come from?

Thank God for the plans He is working out in your life.





## LESSON 7

### DIRECTIONS ON WORSHIP

*A Verse to Memorize: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.*

—Psalm 95:6,7

#### **Opener:**

Think about and describe the most unique worship experience you have had.

#### **“Come...”**

1. The word come, is often found on the pages of the Scriptures. Find the following references and record or discuss the invitation given in each one.

a) Psalm 66:16-20

b) Psalm 100

c) Isaiah 1:18

d) Isaiah 55:1-3

e) Matthew 11:28

f) Mark 6:3

2. What can you learn about worship from the Scriptures listed in question one?

***“...Let us bow down in worship...”***

3. Bowing down shows a spirit of humility and reverence for God. What are some ways for us to “bow down in worship”?

a) Judges 7:15

b) Matthew 15:8, 9

4. How may we worship God in the wrong way (2 Kings 17:17-29)?

5. How may we worship God in the right way?

a) Daniel 4:34-37

b) Psalm 29:2

c) John 4:24

6. When should a person worship?

a) Luke 4:16

b) Acts 2:46, 47

c) Acts 20:7

d) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

e) Judges 7:15

***“...Let us kneel before the Lord our maker; for he is our God...”***

7. Why do we worship God (Psalm 102:25-103:22)?

8. In Romans 1-11, the author, Paul, instructs the readers about the condition of the human race before God, and God's response to this condition. Following this section, in Romans 12:1-21, he tells us what our "spiritual act of worship" will be like. Describe this act of worship as you see it in these verses.

9. How do you think God wants you to live out this act of worship?

10. How do you think that these actions show that God is our creator; our God?

***"...And we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."***

11. Psalm 23 shows us how God cares for those under His care. How does He care for His own and why should this be a cause for worship?

**Conclusion**

The First Commandment states, “You shall have no other gods before me,” a stark contrast to the natural human reaction which places self in first place. Worship helps us to focus on the one true God who deserves our praise.

12. Write out Psalm 95:6, 7 from memory.

13. Based on Psalm 95:6, 7, how should you respond to your God?

Thank God for who He is and for enabling you to declare His worth.



## LESSON 8

### DIRECTIONS ON SERVICE

**A Verse to Memorize:** *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”*

—John 13:34

#### **Opener:**

Think of the kindest action someone has done for you. How did you feel? What did this action compel you to do?

#### ***“A new command I give you...”***

1. Jesus’ statement indicates that His words are not optional or a mere suggestion. What does the word command mean to you. The following Scriptures will help: Deuteronomy 4:1, 2; 8:1-5.
2. Read John 13:1-17 and note the context of our verse to memorize. What does this event tell you about Jesus’ view of service?
3. If Jesus only meant that they should forever wash each other’s feet, they would have had a simple solution to serving one another. However, He meant something far deeper. What do you think He meant?



4. How do you think Jesus wants you to apply John 13:1-17 to your life? (See also Romans 12:3-21.)

**"..Love one another.."**

5. The word *love* can be used in different ways. I love pizza. I love to swim. I love my country. I love my child, parents, wife. How do you think Jesus meant it here? (See John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4; 1 John 4:9,10; Deuteronomy 6:5.)

6. In what way is Joseph an example for us in loving others (Genesis 45:1-11)?

7. Who are you to love?

a) 1 Thessalonians 4:9, 10

b) Romans 12:10

c) Hebrews 13:1-3

8. What are some ways you can show this kind of love in your home; your church; your neighborhood; your place of work?

***“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”***

9. How did Jesus love?

a) John 10:1-18

b) Matthew 9:35-38

c) Matthew 11:28-30

d) Matthew 15:32

e) Luke 23:34

10. Jesus told three parables, recorded in Luke 15, which show the kind of love God has for people. Since Jesus is God, He was telling us about His own love. How does each parable illustrate His love?

11. Jesus wants you to demonstrate the same kind of love. How can you love as Christ loved?

a) 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

b) 1 Corinthians 13

**Conclusion**

Jesus spoke this command to His disciples the night before He died. It was one of the last words He gave to them. We can, therefore, conclude that to love one another is of utmost importance in the life of every follower of Jesus.

12. Write out John 13:34 from memory.

13. Based on this statement of Jesus, how are you to love? Be personal and give your answer in the context of your life today.

Thank God for Jesus' love for you and that you have the privilege of loving others.





# DIRECTIONS

FROM THE WORD OF GOD

We all need directions to get where we want to go.

This study takes those "directions" directly from the Word of God and helps you on your spiritual journey.

Whether you've just started out or you've been walking the "Christian walk" a long time, everyone can benefit from reading and studying the "Directions."



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