

ONE LARGE GROUP

PRAYER:

PURPOSE: Provide an overview of what the Bible says about: God, man, marriage, and parenting

ASSUMPTIONS:

- God exists & He is sovereign (He is alive & active)
- God’s word is truth (God revealed the Bible for our benefit & guidance)
- The Bible is all we need to understand our world, and live to please God. This allows us to help our families, neighbors, and country

THEME: “Two Paths”

- Every day we decide to either obey God or disobey (honor God or self?)
- There are consequences to each path

LESSON 3 REVIEW:

- Salvation is God’s plan - Sinful man is unable to save himself
- God paid the price for man’s sin
- God offers salvation to all sinners
- Only those foreknown and called by God will be saved
- Each person of the trinity is involved in salvation
- Those saved must repent and believe (act on their belief)

OBJECTIVES OF LESSON 4:

- God is holy and desires His followers to be holy
- God works to produce Christ-likeness (holiness) in the believer
- Sanctification is the process of increasing in holiness
- God’s process is: put off old habits, renew your mind, put on new habits

BIBLE:

In the Bible God tells people what will happen in the future (prophecy). Many of God’s prophecies have already taken place, but some are still in the future. We can tell if someone is a false prophet or a true prophet by whether their prophecy comes true or not. Some of the Bible’s fulfilled prophecies are as follows:

- Israel will be in Egypt 400 years
- Captive in Babylon 70 years & released by Cyrus
- The Messiah will be:
 - Of the tribe of Judah & a descendant of king David
 - Born in Bethlehem to a virgin
 - Rejected by Jews
 - Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver
 - Crucified with robbers
 - Resurrected on 3rd day

Malachi Men Lesson 4 “Sanctification” Facilitator’s Notes

SANCTIFICATION: (note: most important verses in **Bold**, if short on time)

Q – What is new as a result of salvation?

Eph 2:1-2, 4-6 (1145) And you He *made alive*, who *were dead* in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience....But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Col 1:13 (1154) He has delivered us *from the power of darkness* and conveyed us *into the kingdom of the Son* of His love.

ANSWER 1 - A new kingdom & a new Lord

Ro 8:3-6, 9 (1106) For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace....But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed *the Spirit of God dwells in you*. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

1 Cor 3:16 (1117) do you not know that you are the temple of God and that *the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

ANSWER 2 - A new spirit

2 Cor 5:17 (1133) Therefore *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation*; old things passed away; behold, all things have become new.

ANSWER 3 - A new creature

Scriptural Contrasts:

<u>Status</u>	<u>Unbelievers</u>	<u>Believers</u>
King	Satan	Jesus
Kingdom	Darkness	Light
Slave of	Sin	Righteousness
Lead by	Flesh	Holy Spirit
Road	Wide	Narrow
Destination	Hell	Heaven

Notes:

- God forgives sinners (justification - addresses penalty of sin)
 - Usual emphasis in evangelism – you can live forever in heaven
- God changes sinners (sanctification - addresses power of sin)
 - Usually missing from evangelism
 - God is your new Lord/Master/Teacher
 - You are an apprentice/disciple/follower
 - God will change you into a true worshiper now!
 - Sanctification is a lifetime process & is the responsibility of the church
- Adam & Eve switched allegiance from God to Satan
- Sanctification changes that allegiance (new King, kingdom, creation)

Q - What would happen if a judge convicted a man, cancelled his conviction, and then released him?

- The man would probably go back to the same life of crime!
- God changes a saved person - he is a new man with new goals & purpose
- The changed life is called “sanctification”, and it is essential to salvation

SMALL GROUPS (each group reviews the following material)

Opening Prayer:

Review Homework: (ask the following questions)

- What did you learn? Are you now thinking differently?
- Do you understand God better? Do you understand yourself better?
- Are you resolved to act differently?

Recite Prior Memory Verses: (Gen 1:1, Prov 4:23, Eph 1:3)

SANCTIFICATION: (continued)

Q – What are God’s goals for the new follower of Christ?

Ro 8:29 (1107) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to *be conformed to the image of His son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Pe 1:14-16 (1187) As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also *be holy in all your conduct*, because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*”

Jn 15:8 (1053) By this My *Father is glorified*, that you *bear much fruit*; so you will be My disciples.

ANSWER 1 - Christ-likeness, Holiness, Fruitfulness

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Notes:

- Disciple = follower = apprentice (learn to become like teacher)
 - Conformed to image of Christ
 - Be holy for I am holy
- Millions want to be an apprentice of Don Trump (led by Flesh)
- Believers are apprentice’s of Jesus Christ (led by Spirit)
- Scriptural analogies:
 - Master – slave
 - Teacher – student
 - Vine – branches
 - Shepherd – sheep

Ro 6:4 (1104) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should *walk in newness of life*.

Eph 4:1 (1147) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to *walk worthy of the calling* with which you were called.

Eph 5:8-10 (1148) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. *Walk as children of light* (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Col 1:9-12 (1153) For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be *filled with the knowledge of His will* in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may *walk worthy of the Lord*, fully pleasing Him, *being fruitful* in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

1 Thes 2:11-12 (1157) As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would *walk worthy of God* who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2 Thes 1:5 (1160) Which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be *counted worthy of the kingdom of God*, for which you also suffer.

2 Thes 1:11-12 (1160) Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would *count you worthy of this calling*, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

ANSWER 2 - A worthy walk (demonstrates growth in Christ-likeness)

Illustrations: President/senator/police/fire – take oath to defend & honor, responsible

Q – What does the Bible call the process of becoming Christ-like, holy, walking worthy?

Ro 6:22 (1105) But now having been set free from sin, and having become *slaves of God*, you have your *fruit to holiness*, and the end, everlasting life.

1 Thes 4:3-5 (1158) For *this is the will of God, your sanctification*: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God.

1 Thes 5:23 (1159) Now may the God of peace Himself *sanctify you completely*; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ANSWER - Sanctification (a major theme in the Bible, OT & NT)

Conclusion:

- God saves sinners from both the penalty of sin and the power of sin
- Believers are new creatures with a new King and are in a new kingdom,
- God’s desire is to make believers Christ-like, holy, obedient to God
- This process is called sanctification

Q – How is sanctification accomplished?

Ro 8:10-14 (1106) And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as *many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God*.

2 Cor 3:18 (1132) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as *by the Spirit of the Lord*.

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Gal 5:16-25 (1143) I say then: *Walk in the Spirit*, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the *fruit of the Spirit* is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we *live in the Spirit*, let us also *walk in the Spirit*.

1 Pe 1:1-2 (1186) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the pilgrims of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, *in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience* and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace be multiplied.

ANSWER 1 - By the Holy Spirit

Note: Believers: Live, walk, are led by, are transformed by – the Spirit (this is big!)

Jn 17:17 (1055) *Sanctify them by Your truth; Your word is truth.*

2 Tim 3:16-17 (1168) *All Scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and *is profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (God’s deeds, not ours)

2 Tim 4:2 (1168) *Preach the word!* Be ready in season and out of season. *Convince, rebuke, exhort*, with all longsuffering and *teaching*.

ANSWER 2 - By God’s Word

Notes:

- Sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit, but man is not passive
- Note numerous prior exhortations

Q – What is the believer’s part in sanctification?

Phil 2:12-13 (1151) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling; for *it is God who works in you* both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

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Note: prophets trembled in the presence of God – God is in the believer!

Ro 8:13 (1106) For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if *by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body*, you will live.

Ro 12:1-2 (1110) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you *present your bodies a living sacrifice*, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

ANSWER – (Positive) Choose to be led by the Holy Spirit (let the Spirit work)

1 Thes 5:19 (1159) Do not quench the Spirit.

Eph 4:29-31 (1148) Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God*, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

ANSWER – (Negative)

- Don’t quench the Spirit (resist the Spirit’s leading)
- Don’t grieve the Spirit (speak in a manner that dishonors God)

Q - What is the process of sanctification?

Ro 12:1-2 (1110) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you *present your bodies a living sacrifice*, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (this is an exhortation to the church – plural pronouns)

Eph 4:23 (1147) *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*

Col 1:9 (1153) For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may *be filled with the knowledge of His will* in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

ANSWER 1 - A renewed mind (the battle with sin is in the mind/heart/will...)

Ro 13:12 (1111) The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us *cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

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Eph 4:22-24 (1147) That you *put off*, concerning your former conduct, *the old man* which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you *put on the new man* which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Col 3:9-10 (1155) Do not lie to one another, since you have *put off the old man* with his deeds, and have *put on the new man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

Heb 12:1-3 (1180) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us *lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your soul.

ANSWER 2 - Put off the old/put on the new (develop new, righteous, habits)

Note: New King & new kingdom (Dark to light, sin to righteousness, lie to truth)

Conclusion:

- Sanctification is accomplished by the Holy Spirit, using God’s word (the Bible), within the context of the church
- The believer’s mind must be renewed
 - We are trained in sin
 - We are more inclined to believe a lie than the truth
 - Believers must know the truth (God’s word)
- Believers must replace old, sinful, habits with new, righteous, habits
- Right behavior must be constantly practiced to make it a habit
- Endurance and perseverance are required
- The Holy Spirit enables believers to accomplish the sanctification process

SUMMARY:

- Believers are to become Christ-like
- God gave believers His word & the Holy Spirit to sanctify them
- Believers sin by ignoring either the Bible or the Holy Spirit
- As believers are sanctified they are a good witness to the world

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HOMEWORK:

- Memorize the following verse:

John 17:17 (1055) Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Memory Hint: Write out the verse(s) on paper. Writing helps engage another avenue of your brain’s memory center and will help as you repetitively write out the verse(s).

- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 (this is a promise to believers)
- Answer the following questions regarding 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - Are your temptations/problems unusual, or common to mankind?
 - Are you all alone in resisting temptation, or is there help?
 - Are your problems more than you can bear, or bearable?
 - Are you trapped or is there a way out?
 - Who promises to help the believer? Is this person reliable?

Prayer Time: