

*The New 2:7 Series*

# **Leader's Guide**

**For**

**Book 2 — Deepening Your Roots  
In God's Family**

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**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

# *Preface*

## **THE NEW 2:7 SERIES**

What the Holy Spirit expresses through Paul in Colossians 2:7 clearly defines the specific goals of *The New 2:7 Series*:

1. For Christians to be built up in Christ and established in their faith. This series of courses includes instruction in practical Bible study techniques, scripture memory skills, strengthening the devotional life, and how to be effective in evangelism.
2. For Christians to learn to overflow with gratitude in their everyday lives. The series helps the individual learn to experience and enjoy a stable, consistent Christian walk.
3. For Christians to be instructed. This implies that training must take place before individuals develop into the kind of Christian lay people whose lives will have an impact on their communities.

Each course in *The New 2:7 Series* builds on the previous one. A person must complete Book 1 before going on to Book 2, and complete Book 2 before going to the last course, Book 3.

## **IMPORTANT**

### 1. Leader's Guide

It is important for one person to act as the leader during each group meeting. This may be the same person each time or the responsibility may be shared by two or three group members.

This leader's guide is based on extensive field testing and the worldwide use of the original *2:7 Series*. It is imperative for the group leader to use this material each week as part of his or her careful preparation. The leader's guide is filled with proven principles, methods, and suggestions. Using it can significantly lighten the preparation load for a group leader.

### 2. Leader Training Seminars

Excellent leader training seminars are available once or twice a year in many areas of the United States, Canada, and in several other countries. **Group leaders who have invested a few hours in a Leader Training Seminar are able to maximize the effectiveness of *The New 2:7 Series*.**

Information about training seminars may be obtained from Church Discipleship Ministries, The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. Phone: 719-594-2446. e-mail: [cdm@navigators.org](mailto:cdm@navigators.org). Web site: [www.navigators.org/cdm](http://www.navigators.org/cdm).

## **GROUP SIZE**

The professionals in the field of small group discussions say that 4-8 people make for the best discussions. For this course, **Plan on 8-10 participants**—not including yourself. You may find it necessary to have more. Just remember that each person over 10 diminishes the

impact of this course. It is wiser to break a group of 12 or more into two groups when possible. Your only limitation may be the number of qualified group leaders available.

## **STUDY BOOKS**

It is imperative that each person in your group have his or her own 2:7 book. People should write their names or put an address label on their books for easy identification.

Each person will be expected to do homework every week. It is motivational for individuals to complete their own work and fill in their own answers. Each 2:7 book will become a valued possession and will be a personal reference book for years to come. With this in mind, suggest that the members of your group make neat and legible entries as they go through the course.

## *The Challenge Continues...*

### **THE BENEFITS OF BEING A 2:7 GROUP LEADER**

During Books 2 and 3, your group members will experience:

1. Solid spiritual growth through consistency in quiet time, Bible study, and scripture memory.
2. Foundational ministry training through study, discussion, and individual field assignments.

This leader's guide is not the final authority on how to lead your group. Each leader and each group is unique. But the information included here offers you invaluable help!

Remember that *The New 2:7 Series* is only a means to an end. These are excellent and proven materials. However, printed materials and programs do not make disciples. Only *a disciple can make a disciple*. It is imperative that you practice what you teach. As you know, only as the Spirit of God uses the Word of God (the Bible) in a life can there be significant and lasting changes.

You will see your own spiritual life and ministry skills taking on new dimensions as well as your students.

### **YOUR GOALS AS GROUP LEADER**

You have two long-range goals when helping people become functioning disciples:

1. To help each person become a more mature follower of Jesus Christ.
2. To equip each person with the tools and know-how for winning and training others.

Give each person in your group the opportunity to develop the qualities, habits, and discipline that mark him or her as a person of God. People in your group need to be growing in their relationships both with God and with other people.

Members of your group also need to be encouraged to share with others some of the things they are learning during the group sessions and what they are experiencing in their walk with God.

## EVALUATING YOUR PROGRESS

Use the following questions (and your own) to evaluate your leadership:

- Who? Who am I serving?  
Who are the people in my group? Do I really know them?
- What? What are my goals for Books 2 and 3, and what are my goals for each session?  
What needs and expectations do my group members have?
- Where? Where am I in my own Christian life?  
Where am I taking this group?
- Why? Why am I leading this group?  
Why is each person in my group?
- When? When will we reach our goals?  
When will I spend time socially with members of my group?
- How? How do we achieve our goals?

## GETTING ORGANIZED

1. Since you need at least an hour and a half for each session in *The New 2:7 Series*, the Sunday school hour is usually not long enough to serve as a meeting time. So when should you meet? Your final decision may involve some sacrifice on your part—you may have to give up a night or an afternoon each week that you wanted to save for yourself. But, after all, you've decided to serve this group, so find out what time is best for your group.

Consider such things as the types of jobs your group members have. For example, those with construction jobs or other outside work may prefer not to meet in the early evening. But people who commute to work early in the mornings may not want to be out late at night. Couples with young children may have days or times that are easiest for them to find baby-sitters. Assess your group's needs and encourage each member to be willing to compromise some if necessary.

2. Where will you meet—at church, in your home, in the homes of other group members, or somewhere else? You may find that a rotation system is best, in which you take turns going to each other's homes. This allows everyone to share the responsibility for hosting the group, and also divides the driving time.

Whatever you work out, try to find comfortable surroundings that encourage group involvement. You will have from eight to twelve people who need room to interact in a relaxed way. You will want to sit in a circle so that you can all see each other and talk easily with one another. There are times when the group divides briefly into twos and threes.

3. What about refreshments? Let the group decide how much effort, if any, they want to give to refreshments. Preparing refreshments shouldn't become a burden to anyone. Be sure to keep them simple.

4. The presence of children during the meeting can be a distraction. What arrangements do your group members need to make for baby-sitting?

5. Should you allow for informal socializing before the scheduled meeting time, with the group arriving early for this? Or would they prefer to begin the session when they arrive, and use the time afterward for refreshments and talking? Discuss this and set a policy that will help them plan when to come and how long to stay.

## **HANDLING POTENTIAL PROBLEMS**

Your group may face a few of the problems listed here. By considering them in advance you will be better able to deal with them should they occur.

- Frequent absences
- Frequent tardiness
- Lack of preparation
- Lack of motivation
- Difficulties in relating to each other or to you
- Members who drop out
- Varying degrees of expectations and interest
- Members who seem to monopolize the group's time
- Considerations that require changing your regular meeting time
- Couples in which the husband and wife seem to be going different directions in their interests and expectations
- Members who are experiencing "dry" periods in their spiritual lives

Difficulties such as these will not simply go away. You must handle them in an attitude of love and concern. Be prepared to do so. Here are several suggestions.

1. Talk alone with the persons involved. Share with them your concern and your desire for their success.
2. Establish a satisfactory agreement with the persons involved or with the group as a whole. This will make them accountable to each other.
3. Share some concerns with the entire group. Point out your goals as their leader and your desire for them to share these goals with you. Do this in a positive, encouraging manner.
4. Give occasional "locker room chats" in a gracious, loving way to remind, encourage, and correct.
5. Share with your group relevant biblical principles that deal with problem areas.
6. Seek outside help from your pastor or from other mature Christians when necessary.

## **GETTING TOGETHER**

1. Start and end on time. Most people appreciate punctuality. Don't allow the time to get away from you at the end. You want the group to be eager to return next week.
2. Try to involve each group member in all of the discussions.
3. Avoid embarrassing anyone. Some may feel uncomfortable at first in such activities as praying aloud or group discussions.
4. As the leader, participate in all the activities. A new group especially needs to see your example. Keep your comments brief.
5. Be sure any instructions you give are clearly understood.
6. Be yourself. Use the outlines given in the leader's guide for each session, but don't be mechanical about it.
7. Be prepared. The others will be discouraged if you do not seem to know what you are doing, especially after they have taken the time themselves to prepare.
8. Have your goals clearly in mind for each session.

## **BETWEEN MEETINGS**

Your commitment to the group includes more than just the giving of your time to the weekly group session itself. Accomplishing your goal of making disciples will require additional activities on your part.

1. Are you establishing a caring relationship with each person? Get to know them apart from your time in the group. The stronger your relationship with each one outside the group, the more productive the group sessions will be. Use the social time at the end of your sessions to deepen your friendship with the group members.
2. Are you praying regularly for each group member?
3. How are you growing as a Christian? To succeed as a leader, you must keep growing yourself.
4. Remember your priorities. Don't let your responsibilities to the group override your personal relationship with God or your responsibilities to your family.

## ***How to Make the Bible Study Discussions Effective***

### **GROUP LEADER RESOURCE MATERIAL**

It is important for you to carefully prepare so you can do a good job of leading each of the Bible study discussions. The following material has been compiled to assist you in preparing for the Bible study group discussions.

### **STUDENT PREPARATION**

A key ingredient to stimulating and beneficial Bible study discussions is for each member in the group to have his or her Bible study completed before coming to class.

From time to time, you will need to remind the members of the group how important it is (for you and for them) to have the Bible study done prior to the group meeting. If people come without the study completed or partially finished, don't ignore or punish them with non-verbal looks of disapproval. Make them feel accepted and as much a part of the group as the others. It is important for those people to enjoy and benefit from the group discussion and not be made to feel rejected and unaccepted. At the beginning of the discussion you might assign that person one or two questions that can be quickly prepared and ready for discussion when you get to that part of the lesson.

### **GROUP LEADER PREPARATION**

First, prepare the Bible study for your own enlightenment and application. Ask God to speak to you and to strengthen you from the study as you begin to work on it. You want correct and good answers without being academic and theoretical. If you get excited about the topic of the study and its content, you are well on your way to being an exciting and animated group leader. Second, look over your questions and answers. Think of the needs and interests in your group. To which parts of the study should you give more attention? Thinking through and planning in advance can make for a more effective Bible study discussion. During the actual Bible discussion you may find it wise to deviate from your original plan. Thoughtful preplanning gives you a general direction in which to move, but you must remain flexible and willing to adjust your original plan.

## **THE BIBLE SAYS...**

In your group, you want people to share what the Bible teaches, not opinions and conjectures. On one hand, we don't want people to be afraid of making theological mistakes. On the other hand, we don't want people to share opinions and hearsay. Comments need to be backed up with a Bible verse or two. Generally it is best to stick with the verses, questions, and answers in the Bible study. Don't let the discussion drift into tangents in which you and the group members have not done your homework. Stick with the subject at hand.

## **SEVERAL HELPFUL DISCUSSION GUIDELINES**

1. *Sit in a circle.* This is the best seating arrangement. Each person has eye contact with most of the people in the group. It creates an informal and warm atmosphere. The group leader is considered more of a peer because he or she is not placed in a dominant physical location.
2. *Don't dominate.* As the leader, you are both a facilitator and a participant in the group. You should not talk more than others in the group. As the facilitator, you give direction and ask questions. As a participant, you share your insights and study answers along with the others. Share humbly, not as an expert.
3. *Not the authority.* Avoid becoming the authority figure in the group. You don't want all the questions directed to you with the others thinking that you should be able to answer them. Direct questions back to the group. Say something like, "That is an interesting question. What thoughts might some of you have that would help us answer that question?" Sometimes you might recruit a volunteer who will take a difficult question to the pastor or an associate pastor. The volunteer can come back to the group with an answer the following week.
4. *Work together.* Your role as group leader is not a teaching responsibility just as the students' role is not to sit, listen and take notes. You and the group members are working together to find answers and clarify issues.
5. *Too talkative.* You will soon find the one or two people in your group who have something to say about everything. Chat with them on the side. Say something like, "You have some great ideas. You are excellent in the discussion times. I need your help. There are others in the group who need to talk more so they can grow in confidence. Could you help me in getting some of these people to talk more? Before you talk in the group, let one or two others go first. Don't be afraid of silence. It sometimes takes some silence before John and Mary will talk. Maybe you could share only your best thoughts in the group. Thank you for your help in this!"
6. *Too quiet.* When you direct a question to the group, give the quiet people more eye contact. Sometimes ask one of your less vocal people to read a quotation or to answer a specific question.

A number of things in the general structure of *The New 2.7 Series* are designed to build confidence and help people participate more comfortably. Reading around the circle helps bring people out of their shells. Quoting verses and working on the *Completion Record* in groups of two or three each week also nurtures a growing confidence and security.

7. *Acknowledge answers.* Thank that person when he or she participates. Thank each for reading a paragraph or answering a question. This is particularly important with those who tend to be quiet. An acknowledgment doesn't always have to be verbal. Many times it can be a nod of the head or eye contact that communicates approval. As you apply this, others in the group will follow your example and begin doing it.

8. *Ask the group.* Usually you will address your questions to the group, not to an individual. (An exception to this would be to ask a quiet person a specific question). As you ask a question, let your eye contact sweep around the group. Don't let your eyes lock in on one person.
9. *Get several answers.* After one person has given an answer to a Bible study question, you will usually ask for two more people to give their answers to the same question. This allows several people to participate on each question. It also helps insure that the answers reflect a correct handling of that particular Scripture passage.

A simple question should be answered by only one or two people. A more difficult question could be answered by three or four people. Thought and application questions could be answered by half of the group or more if you wish.

Have people read their answers exactly the way they have written them down. This keeps things moving. After people have read their written answer they may wish to express an ad lib sentence or two for clarification.

10. *Application questions.* In *The New 2:7 Series* Bible studies you will find a sprinkling of application questions. These questions encourage us to use and apply the truths taught in the lesson. Be careful not to rush over the answers to these questions. Application questions need to be given a high priority. Some application questions may be so important that you will ask all the people in your group to share their answers.

## **THE “THINK ABOUT” QUESTIONS**

You may have observed that there is a “Think About” question at the beginning of most Bible studies. Remind the group members to give two or three minutes of thought to the “Think About” question before starting to prepare their Bible study. Its purpose is to get the mind moving in the direction that the Bible study topic will be going.

You will notice that there are no correct or “school” answers to “Think About” questions.

They are designed to stimulate thinking and they precipitate a wide range of answers.

## **HOW TO LEAD THE BIBLE STUDY DISCUSSION**

There are excellent books on this topic. You may wish to study one or two of these books to sharpen your own group discussion skills.

Navigator 2:7 Leader Seminars also provide excellent suggestions and guidelines for leading small group discussions.

# **Leader's Guide Book 2**

## **Deepening Your Roots in God's Family**

**The Navigators  
[www.navigators.org/cdm](http://www.navigators.org/cdm)  
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

## Overview

### Book 2 — Deepening Your Roots in God’s Family

Session #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Scripture Memory</b>	Scripture Memory Instructions Week One  Principles for Memorizing Scripture	2 Cor. 5:17 ----- Optional: Gal 2:20  Review Beginning With Christ verses ----- Scripture Memory Principles Quiz	Romans 12:1 ----- Optional: Jn. 14:21	2 Timothy 3:16 ----- Optional: Josh 1:8	John 15:7 ----- Optional: Phil 4:6-7 ----- Self-Checking Quiz	1 Jn. 1:3 ----- Optional: Hebrews 10:24-25 -----		Mt 4:19 ----- Optional: Rom. 1:16 -----		Review all verses learned in Book 2	
<b>Quiet Time</b>		Share	thoughts	from	<i>Bible</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Highlights</i>	<i>Record</i>		→	
<b>Bible Study</b>	Bible Study in This Book	“Maturing in Christ”	“Spiritual Warfare”	“Faith and the Truths of God”	“Knowing God’s Will”	“Walking as a Servant”					
<b>Prayer</b>	Practical Suggestions on Prayer									Various Prayer Guidelines and instructions	Half Day in Prayer
<b>Witnessing</b>	Continue to use	Evangelism	Prayer	List							→
						Developing a Relationship With a Non-Christian	Various Testimony Guidelines and Instructions	Extended Testimony Preparation	Lead-in and Close to Personal Testimony		
<b>Other</b>	Review the goals of Book 1,								<i>My Heart Christ’s</i>		

	<i>Growing Strong in God's Family.</i>								<i>Home</i>		
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## ***Guidelines / Overview for Book 2***

As you know, a study course cannot produce a functioning disciple. A family of courses like *The New 2: 7 Series* can be an effective tool in the hands of a qualified and prepared group leader. But, each course only impacts a life to the degree that the Holy Spirit works in and through the materials and the group leader. Pray consistently for each person in your group. Carefully prepare to lead each week and be an example of what you are teaching.

### **GOALS FOR BOOK 2**

Discipleship is both life and ministry. It is what we are *and* what we do. There are two general objectives for Book 2: (1) to continue to develop those in your group in their relationship with Christ—so that each individual has a more consistent and closer walk with the Lord; (2) to increase their perspective and skills regarding relationship evangelism. During Book 2 you will want to help the members of your group to accomplish the following:

1. To develop consistent and meaningful quiet times that include Bible reading, prayer, and writing in the *Bible Reading Highlights Record*.
2. To memorize at least the first six verses of the *Topical Memory System*.
3. To review regularly the five *Beginning with Christ* verses learned in *Growing Strong in God's Family*.
4. To study and discuss five Bible studies on the Christian life.
5. To study and discuss the article *My Heart Christ's Home* by Robert Boyd Munger.
6. To spend a half day in prayer.
7. To give a personal salvation testimony in less than four minutes, using a written outline.
8. To participate in one relating activity with a non-Christian.

### **A FLOWCHART FOR BOOK 2**

This flowchart shows how and when various aspects of the Christian life are emphasized in Book 2, *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family*:

#### **Scripture Memory**

- Introduction to the *Topical Memory System*-Session 1.
- “Principles for Memorizing Scripture”-Session 1.
- “Scripture Memory Principles Quiz”-Session 2.
- Memorizing the first six verses “Live the New Life” from the *Topical Memory System*

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Sessions 1-8.

- Begin the normal verse review pattern-Session 2 and each session from then on.
- “Self-checking Quiz”-Session 5.

#### **Bible Study**

- “Bible Study in This Book”— Session 1.
- Completing and discussing Bible studies-Sessions 2-6.

## Prayer

- A regular activity—all sessions.
- “Practical Suggestions on Prayer”—Session 1.
- Memorizing one key verse on “Prayer”—Sessions 5.
- Studying the article *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*—Session 10.
- Practical suggestions on how to spend a half day in prayer—Session 10.
- Half day in prayer—Session 11.

**Quiet Time** Sharing quiet time highlights—Sessions 2-6, 10.

## Witnessing

- “Effective Personal Testimony Preparation”—Session 7.
- Writing out a personal salvation testimony—Session 8.
- Memorizing one key verse on “Witnessing”—Session 8.
- Giving a personal salvation testimony using a written outline—Sessions 8-10.

## Lordship

- Bible study on “Maturing In Christ”—Session 2.
- Memorizing one key verse on “Christ the Center”—Session 2.
- Memorizing one key verse on “Obedience to Christ”—Session 3.
- Studying and discussing the article *My Heart Christ’s Home* by Robert Boyd Munger—Session 9.

## Fellowship

- Memorizing one key verse on “Fellowship”—Session 6.

## PREPARING TO LEAD BOOK 2

Here are some things to plan for as you begin Book 2.

1. One or two members in your group may not have finished every *Completion Record* item in Book 1, *Growing Strong in God’s Family*. All members should complete that work before starting Book 2. Challenge the person to finish quickly. You or someone in your group may need to help the person complete those final requirements.
2. What can you do to reinforce the use of what was learned in Book 1, *Growing Strong in God’s Family*? Build some checks and review times into Book 2 to continue what the group has already learned. Occasionally discuss the *Beginning with Christ* verses. Be sure all of your group members are reviewing their scripture memory verses and still using the *Bible Reading Highlights Record*.
3. Encourage group members to complete the requirements soon for reviewing the *Beginning with Christ* verses for fourteen consecutive days.
4. Book 2 introduces the personal salvation testimony. Be sure you are well prepared to:
  - a. Give your own testimony.
  - b. Explain the principles of testimony preparation.
  - c. Organize the Session 8.
  - d. Encourage and help group members with their testimony preparation.
  - e. Constructively critique each person’s preparation and presentation of his or her testimony.

5. The half day in prayer in Session 11 may be the most significant experience for your group during Book 2. Make sure you have studied and practiced the principles and procedures involved.
6. Since Session 11 is devoted entirely to your half day in prayer, it can't be used for work on other items on the *Completion Record*. Help group members finish everything else by the end of Session 10.
7. Remind your group that all Bible study questions and the questions on pages 85-86 (*My Heart Christ's Home*) should have written answers before these items are signed on the *Completion Record*.

**THE FORMAT FOR SESSIONS 1-11 IN BOOK 2.** The leader's guide is organized so you will find the following things explained for each of the eleven sessions:

1. The specific goal or goals you should seek to attain during each session.
2. Specific instructions on how to lead each point on the session outline.
3. Occasional reminders which are designed to prod your memory regarding things that you need to work on with your group.

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# Session 1

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## GOALS FOR SESSION 1

1. To make sure each student knows what will be expected in Book 2.
2. To increase the students' motivation for scripture memory and to lay additional groundwork for their continued success.
3. To enhance their prayer life by introducing them to the use of Prayer Sheets.

### 1. Review the goals of *Growing Strong in God's Family* (page 7).

- a. If your present group combines people from two or more *Growing Strong in God's Family* groups, be sure to spend a few minutes getting acquainted. Go around the circle-and have each person answer the following questions, or any others you choose. 1. What is your name? 2. What is your occupation? 3. What is your favorite hobby?
- b. Before going over "Review the Goals of *Growing Strong in God's Family*" on page 7, discuss together these questions: What did group members expect when they began *Growing Strong in God's Family*? What do they feel they actually accomplished?

Without looking at the *Growing Strong in God's Family* goals listed on page 7, ask how many they can recall. This exercise will help you better understand your group's expectations, and how successful your leadership has been so far.

After this discussion, turn to page 7 and take turns reading aloud each of the goals listed there. Comment briefly on most of the eight statements, speaking positively about your group's achievements in *Growing Strong in God's Family*.

### 2. Preview Book 2.

Convey a sense of excitement as you lead the group in looking over the *Completion Record* on pages 5-6. Instead of mentioning possible difficulties, *help them anticipate the benefits* that will become theirs by successfully completing these requirements.

Be sure they realize that, in addition to memorizing six new verses, they must also review the *Beginning with Christ* verses for fourteen consecutive days. Point out that the new verses in this course all relate to the "Wheel Illustration."

As they learn new verses they will need to continue getting them initialed on their *Completion Record*. Beginning with this course, husbands and wives may sign for each other.

The group will take two scripture memory quizzes on pages 16 and 40-41. The first is an in-class activity. The second involves taking and checking the quiz on their own.

In quiet times and Bible study, they will follow the same procedures learned in *Growing Strong in God's Family*.

Book 2 gives some attention to three facets of witnessing by helping each person in the group:

1. Prepare a personal salvation testimony.
2. Discuss Relationship Evangelism.
3. Participate in one non-spiritual activity with a non-Christian.

For now, mention only the general scope of these three requirements without going into detail.

Two exciting parts of Book 2 are *My Heart Christ's Home* and *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*. Both are very helpful and stimulating.

**3. Survey "Scripture Memory Instructions-Week One" (page 8).** Go through the basic format of these instructions, touching on major points. Then have group members read page 8 aloud. Make a brief comment after each section is read. You might want to take a few minutes to have your group discuss why they want to memorize Scripture. This can be helpful and motivational.

Remind the students that six memory verses are required, but that they may choose to memorize any or all of the six optional verses as well. The required and optional verses are listed on pages 5 and 9.

Urge them to read and follow the scripture memory instructions each week. The memory suggestions help them avoid obstacles and lead them into successful and meaningful memorization and review.

**4. Read "Bible Study in This Book" (pages 9-10).** Have them turn to page 9. Point out the list of the five Bible Study topics. Have the group members read aloud the "Bible Study in This Book" material. Usually reading around the circle is a simple organizational way to do this. After it has been read, you might say something like, "These five studies cover some indispensable basics in the Christian life."

Remind your group to use a translation when doing Bible study, not a paraphrase. In paraphrasing, authors sometimes make inaccurate interpretations which reflect their biases.

**5. Read and discuss "Principles for Memorizing Scripture" (pages 10-11).** Have group members turn to page 10 and read around the circle until all the material has been read. Make appropriate comments along the way.

After they have read and discussed the material, have them close their books. Then ask them to give the main points under "As You Start to Memorize the Verse," followed by the other two sections. This will further stimulate their minds and help them to remember these principles.

**6. Discuss "Practical Suggestions on Prayer" (pages 11-12).** You might say something like: "What we are going to look at now is one format we can use for prayer. It is not something that we will want to use every day or it can lose its vitality. This is the type of format we may wish to use for a week or two, discontinue it for awhile, and then use it again later."

Have various group members look up the verses listed. After each verse is read aloud, have the students write down a summary of that verse in the space provided. After they have written down their two summary statements on “Adoration,” discuss “Adoration” very briefly. Do the same with the other three prayer topics.

It is a wise practice to ask for comments and questions at the end of any segment of instruction.

Have the “Use of Prayer Sheets” (pages 11-12) material read aloud. The sample is someone’s actual Prayer Sheet. Point out how the requests and answers were clearly stated and dated. Some of the requests have been already answered and some have not yet been answered.

Sometimes a person may feel led to stop praying about a request or may adjust it in some way. It would be wise to pray for a request at least for a week before making such changes.

**7. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (page 13).** Have someone read the assignment. The main point to stress is the quiz. They must pass this to graduate. They need not quote the principles verbatim on the quiz, but they do need to be able to write down the main ideas.

### **8. Pray.**

You may want to suggest centering this prayer time around the themes of self-discipline, insight, and motivation as you launch into Book 2.

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## *Session 2*

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### **GOALS FOR SESSION 2**

1. To reinforce the group interaction skills learned in *Growing Strong in God’s Family* in the areas of scripture memory review, quiet time sharing, Bible study discussion, and prayer.
2. To explore together some of what the Scriptures teach about Christian maturity.
3. To encourage prayer for non-Christian acquaintances.

### **1. Break into verse review groups.**

Review 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 2:20 (optional), and the *Beginning with Christ* verses. Get your group into the pattern of working on verse review and getting things signed on their *Completion Record* when they first arrive. You may need to remind them that this will be the standard procedure.

Remind couples to split up for review. You will want a show of hands to see how many are memorizing in each of the different versions. This will enable those using the same translation to pair up for review.

Ask group members if they have applied the instructions on page 15 under the heading “Your Weekly Plan.”

- a. Have they put a card in their verse cards with name, address, and phone number?
- b. Have they put each of the five *Beginning with Christ* verses on a 3 by 5 card?
- c. Have they been able to memorize their new verse in less than five days?

**2. Share quiet time thoughts.** Strive to keep enthusiasm high for this activity each week. Let the group know how much the *Highlights Record* has helped you personally. As the leader, begin the sharing. Work at keeping the sharing brief and to the point. Encourage them to share only what they have written on their *Highlights Record*. Usually everyone will share each week, but don't make it compulsory. Be sure to casually thank each one who shares.

**3. Complete the "Scripture Memory Principles Quiz" (page 16).** Have the group briefly look over the principles on pages 10-11 before taking the quiz. They may begin taking the quiz as soon as they have done their brief review. Suggest they write down more than six items—possibly eight or ten to ensure that they get at least six correct. They do not have to quote the principles verbatim. They simply need to communicate the intent or thought of the principles.

After several have completed the work, you can say something like, "As soon as you have finished your quiz, please exchange with someone else and correct each other's paper. You may wish to refer to pages 10-11 as you correct someone's paper. Feel free to sign each other off on the *Completion Record* after you have passed this quiz. You may do that now or at the end of the class."

#### **4. Discuss regular use of the Evangelism Prayer List.**

Ask the students to get out their Evangelism Prayer List if they have it with them.

Ask what they are learning. Are they adding or dropping any names? What sort of things are they praying for the people on their list? How consistent have they been able to be in using their Evangelism Prayer List? What other insights or comments do they have?

**5. Discuss the Bible study, "Maturing in Christ" (pages 16-21).** You must be completely familiar with the questions and answers in the material you will lead. This helps you to be excited about what you are discussing and to pass your excitement on to the others.

Begin by having one or two group members read aloud the introductory paragraphs on pages 16-17. Next, let the group "brain storm" some possible answers to the "Think About" question. Allow several to share. If the answers are brief, a person could share more than once. Spend just two or three minutes on this question. (Remember that there is a "Think About" question at the beginning of every Bible study. Its purpose is to get the members of the group to focus their minds on the subject of the Bible study). Then proceed by having people share their answers as you work through the study. It is often good to have someone read aloud the quotations and the section introductions as you come to them in the lesson.

Do a thorough job of personal preparation on your Bible study each week. First, answer the questions for your own growth and benefit. Then, as you prepare to lead the study, choose which sections you will probably emphasize because of the specific interests and needs you are aware of in your group. At the end of the study, you might ask what was most meaningful to them.

The Leader's Guide provides you with additional discussion questions for each Bible study. Remember, you may ask an additional question only after someone in the group has answered the original Bible study question. For example (see below), after someone has given his or her answer to question 8a on page 19, you may then ask, "What do you feel that verse 3 means, 'now that you have tasted that the Lord is good?'" Most additional questions are "understanding questions" that drive the discussion deeper.

Additional Discussion Questions for "Maturing in Christ":

- Question 8 1 Peter 2:2-3-What do you feel that verse 3 means, "Now that you have tasted that the Lord is good?"
- Question 8 Hebrews 5:13-14-What do you feel must happen to get a person beyond "milk" to "solid food?"
- Question 12 2 Peter 1:5-7-Does God work on more than one of these at a time in our life?
- Question 12 2 Peter 1:8-1 I-What do you think it means to be "ineffective" and "unproductive?"

**6. Read the "Assignment for Session 3" (page 21).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 3. Encourage them to stay on top of their scripture memory work in these early weeks.

### **7. Pray.**

Have several people lead briefly in prayer focusing on people from your Evangelism Prayer Lists. Remind them to pray for one another during the week.

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## *Session 3*

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### **GOALS FOR SESSION 3**

1. To emphasize the importance of obedience in our relationship with God. (The scripture memory verse emphasizes obedience.)
2. To clarify the issues involved in relationship evangelism.
3. To become aware of the spiritual warfare around us.

**1. Break into verse review groups.** Review Romans 12:1 and John 14:21 (optional).

As soon as people arrive, urge them to start reviewing verses and getting things signed on their *Completion Record*.

NOTE: As the tempo picks up on the scripture memory aspect of *The New 2:7 Series*, it helps if you provide additional review time to ensure that each person goes home having experienced success. Ask how many were able to quote the two verses word perfectly. Compliment those who did.

**2. Quote the five verses learned in *Growing Strong in God's Family*.** Remind them that during this review time they are supposed to quote the five passages they learned in *Growing Strong in God's Family*. When the group gathers together, ask if they are reviewing the *Beginning with Christ* verses daily along with the new verses they are learning.

### 3. Share quiet time thoughts.

As the group leader, you should almost always share a quiet time thought that is both *simple* and *encouraging*. You don't want to get a spiraling competition going as to who can share the deepest truth during the quiet time sharing.

Remember to give them a few seconds to look over the *Bible Reading Highlights Record* to determine what they want to share. It is often better for someone to share briefly twice than to share once at length. As they learn to share thoughts from the Scriptures briefly, they will carry this ability of being direct and brief into other areas of life.

**4. Discuss “Relationship Evangelism” (pages 23-28).** As you know, they have read and marked this article before coming to class. Discuss the material one section at a time. They will usually read something they marked and may comment on that. To get the discussion going, you might first ask what impressed them up to the heading “The Unreached World.” After some discussion there, move on. Ask what they observed in “The Unreached World.” Proceed to take each section in the order it appears in the text.

This is very important material. It is the basis on which the “Witness” requirements have been laid out for The New 2:7 Series.

**5. Discuss the Bible Study, “Spiritual Warfare” (pages 28-32).** Handle this much the same as last week. Discuss the “Think About” question to get started. Then, continue on through the study itself. You will want to have each part of the Summary read aloud at the end of each study. You might ask for volunteers, and possibly call on individuals. Be careful that a few do not monopolize the time.

Continue to have group members read printed quotations and paragraphs when discussing the Bible study. Be sure you prepare well in advance and that your people are sharing applications.

Remember that you may ask an additional question only after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Spiritual Warfare”:

- Question 1    How can a person with a secular job keep from being entangled in “civilian pursuits?”
- Question 1    How does this balance with our being responsible to provide for our families?
- Question 3    How does Satan use this same approach today?
- Question 6    How might more than one of these three be impacting our lives at the same                      time?

**6. Read the “Assignment for Session 4” (page 32).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 4. By Session 4 they will have been using Prayer Sheets for two weeks. Remind them that in their assignment for Session 2 they were told that they would be asked to report their experiences in using Prayer Sheets.

**7. Pray.**

Have a time of brief conversational prayer. Make sure you have enough time for unhurried conversational prayer. Your prayer times may become a major highlight of your weekly sessions.

When praying conversationally, remember you should:

- a. Start praying—don't share prayer requests.
- b. Cover only one topic at a time.
- c. Be brief. Sentence prayers are ideal.
- d. Be spontaneous. Don't pray around the circle, but let each person pray for whatever interests him or her.

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## *Session 4*

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### **GOAL FOR SESSION 4**

To emphasize the importance of knowing the Scriptures and applying them to our lives.

#### **1. Break into verse review groups.** Review 2 Timothy 3:16 and Joshua 1:8 (optional).

After group members have completed their review, you might want to ask, “What does ‘all Scripture is given by inspiration of God’ mean?” and “How do you meditate on God’s word day and night?” This will help everyone to think through the content of the verses. Keep this mini-discussion brief.

**2. Share quiet time thoughts from your *Highlights Record*.** Continue to have each group member share from his or her *Highlights Record* as much as possible. Occasionally (probably not every week) you may want to make a comment, or ask a question about something someone has shared. Several will usually join in the brief discussion that follows.

Don't let this portion of the session drag. If there are some dead spots, call on someone. Occasionally call on those who hold back during sharing times. Make sure you are also sharing each week as the pacesetter for the group.

#### **3. Discuss results from using Prayer Sheets.**

In the assignment for Session 2, they were asked to start using Prayer Sheets. They were told that in Session 4 they would report on their experience in using Prayer Sheets. In Session 3 they were reminded to bring their Prayer Sheets with them to Session 4.

Our purposes in this segment are:

1. To discuss in what ways the Prayer Sheets were helpful.
2. To see if there are any prayer answers they would like to share.
3. To motivate them to use their Prayer Sheets regularly.

Simply ask, “What has been your experience in using a Prayer sheet?” They will share both problems and benefits.

Your attitude and purpose should not be to identify those who have not been using a Prayer Sheet and then rebuke them. This is simply an honest discussion where we can learn from one another. We want to discuss the benefits and the difficulties they have experienced in using a Prayer Sheet.

**4. Discuss the Bible study, “Faith and the Truths of God” (pages 34-38).** If you have not had prayer yet, have someone pray before you begin the Bible study.

Always start the study with a brief discussion of the “Think About” question. Remember you are not looking for one “correct” answer to a “Think About” question. These questions are simply designed to stimulate discussion and to help the group focus on the subject at hand.

As you conclude the study, have several people participate in reading the various parts of the Summary.

Remember that you may ask an additional question only after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Faith and the Truths of God”:

- Question 1 Hebrews 11: 1 How does faith influence prayer?
- Question 2 How can we use our gifts, education, and experience without falling into one of these traps?
- Question 4 Do the people in Hebrews 11 strike you as spiritual giants or fairly average people?
- Question 6 How do you think faith and patience are related?

**5. Read the “Assignment for Session 5” (page 38).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 5.

## **6. Pray.**

Have a period of brief conversational prayer. Occasionally you may divide into two groups for conversational prayer, perhaps with men and women in separate groups.

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# *Session 5*

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## **GOALS FOR SESSION 5**

1. To learn biblical principles and guidelines for determining the will of God.
2. To continue to motivate class members in scripture memory by discussing the “Self-checking Quiz.”

**1. Break into verse review groups.** Review John 15:7.

This is a good time to ask if the students can still quote the *Beginning with Christ* verses perfectly. Ask how they are doing in getting their verses signed off.

**2. Briefly discuss the “Self-Checking Quiz” (pages 40-41).** Group members are coming to class having done the “Self-Checking Quiz.” Most of them will have already checked their answers. The correct answers are found on page 41 of the student book.

You will not lead every 2:7 group the same way. You need to know your group and will want to continue to evaluate where they are in their lives. There are two usual options for discussing the “Self-Checking Quiz” based on whether

1. They need more encouragement and help in scripture memory.
2. They are strong in scripture memory and have gleaned most of the benefit from the quiz when they did their homework.

If they need help and encouragement, review every question. Go around the circle and have each person read a question and answer aloud until you have gone through the whole quiz. This is excellent review! Keep this discussion moving along.

If your group is very strong in scripture memory and unusually quick to learn, you may just review highlights from the quiz. Ask the group to share some of the questions and answers that express the most important scripture memory guidelines. There are 18 answers in the quiz. You will not want them to share more than nine question and answer combinations before you move on.

**3. Share quiet time thoughts from your *Highlights Record*.** Ask if they are reading consecutively through a book of the Bible, without skipping around. Ask if they are using *My Personal Reading Record*. Ask how many have fourteen consecutive quiet times signed off.

You will want this part of the session to last about 20 minutes. Should some interesting question or point of discussion come up, it could go longer, but you will want to keep your eye on the time.

**4. Discuss the Bible study, “Knowing God’s Will” (pages 42-48).** Draw out the quiet people. Give one of them eye contact as you ask a question. This will usually cause the person to respond with an answer. If that doesn’t work, you may sometimes need to call on a quiet person by name and ask him or her for an answer.

Remember that you may ask an additional question only after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Knowing God’s Will”:

- Question 1 How far into the future can we know God’s will for us?
- Question 4 Matthew 6:33—What are some ways we can seek God’s Kingdom?
- Question 4 Matthew 28:18-20—How does evangelism fit into this passage?
- Question 4 2 Peter 3:18—What does it mean to “grow in grace?” What does it mean to “grow in knowledge?”
- Question 6 Psalm 143:8—How frequently do you feel a person should pray for guidance from God?
- Question 6 James 1:5—How do you think wisdom fits into knowing God’s will?

**5. Read the “Assignment for Session 6” (page 48).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 6.

### **6. Pray.**

Have a time of brief conversational prayer. This week, encourage the group to focus on people from their Evangelism Prayer Lists. You can enhance this time of prayer by asking them (or sharing with them) what to pray for a non-Christian.

Past 2:7 groups have “brainstormed” and have come up with a number of things to pray for a non-Christian. Here are some of them.

1. For a deepened friendship and open communication with the person.
2. For circumstances that will draw the person toward the Lord.
3. For protection from false teaching and cults.
4. For a hunger to understand about God.
5. For a willingness to admit problems and needs.
6. That he or she might clearly understand the gospel when it is presented.
7. That the Holy Spirit will be at work in the person’s spouse as well as in the person.
8. That the person might see inconsistencies and error in the false religion in which he or she has been involved.
9. That the person’s heart will continue to be prepared through things he or she sees, reads and hears: TV, magazines, circumstances and people.
10. That he or she will see Christian families and/or individuals who model an attractive lifestyle.

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## *Session 6*

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### **GOALS FOR SESSION 6**

1. To monitor each person’s progress on the *Completion Record*.
2. To deepen their commitment to be relating to non-Christians.
3. To encourage them to be serving others.

#### **1. Break into verse review groups.** Review 1 John 1:3.

After they have reviewed verses together, take five minutes for a brief discussion. Ask, “Where have you experienced or observed strong fellowship among believers in a group or between individuals? Can you give us an example or two?”

Have them get their verse card or open their Bible to Philippians 4:6-7. You can simply ask, “What are some of the things you see in Philippians 4:6-7 that you particularly like or appreciate?” It will take about five minutes to interact on some of the thoughts in this passage.

**2. Share quiet time thoughts from your *Highlights Record*.** You can begin by sharing something practical and specific from your *Highlights Record*. Once again, find out how they are doing in completing the 14 consecutive days of quiet times. Ask how they are enjoying reading the Bible. Have some brief comments about reading the Bible daily, and again stress the importance of being consistent.

**3. Read and discuss “Developing a Relationship with a Non-Christian” (page 50).** Have this material read aloud. If they both hear and see it, the impact will be greater. You may ask them to read around the circle. It is less controlled and structured if you encourage any volunteer to continue the reading after the previous reader has stopped.

After someone reads the list of activity examples, ask the group, “What are some other ‘relating activities’ that come to mind? Let’s jot down a few more ideas in the margins on this page.” After several additional suggestions have been jotted down, continue the reading. After the remainder of the material has been read, you can ask what other comments they would like to make about it. After a few comments, move on.

**4. Discuss the Bible study, “Walking as a Servant” (pages 51-55).** Continue to do a good job in your own Bible study preparation. If God has really spoken to you during your preparation, the discussion will probably be vital and meaningful to everyone.

Don’t try to force the people in your group to be excited about the same passages that impressed you. But, they will follow your pattern of enthusiastic sharing when it is their turn to share what impressed them from their Bible study preparation.

Remember that you may ask an additional question only after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Walking as a Servant”:

- Question 1 What is the relationship between these two purposes for which Jesus came?  
(That is, to serve and to die)
- Question 4 Is it easier to be God’s servant or to serve other people?
- Question 6 Why do you think the spiritual qualifications were so high for those who would serve tables?
- Question 11 1 John 3:17—Do you think of serving and meeting people’s needs as being the same thing? Why or why not?
- Question 13 How does being proud differ from taking pride in your responsibilities?

**5. Discuss a tentative time and place for Session 8.** In preparation for this planning time with your group, review the leader’s guide material under Sessions 7 and 8.

A Christian education area in another church is often the best location. You can set it up so there are several tables in a “study hall” room. Then, you can locate yourself at the end of a table in a separate room with several chairs along one side of the table. As the students complete a draft of their testimony or have made corrections or improvements, they can come into your room and sit. They learn and get ideas for their testimony as they hear your critique of other students.

Before Session 6 you may want to phone another church to see when their facility might be available so you can schedule Session 8. Some churches would have a financial charge for using part of their facility. Others would be happy to make an area available at no charge. Be sure there is a clear understanding. If you do not know a pastor or key lay person at another

church, you may ask your pastor or Christian education director to phone the other church for you.

It is less desirable to have Session 8 at your own church, but it can work. An advantage of being at another church is that there are no rooms, bulletin boards, and other visual reminders that precipitate a whole parade of memories about people and events. It is often less distracting to be in another church.

**Most groups choose to meet on a Saturday morning, a Saturday afternoon, or a Sunday afternoon.**

**6. Read the “Assignment for Session 7” (page 55).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 7.

Remind them of the importance of the next two class sessions. They need to carefully prepare the “Personal Testimony” assignment for Session 7! The better job they do in Session 7, the easier it will be for them to handle the extended testimony workshop in Session 8.

### **7. Pray.**

Have a time of brief conversational prayer. Concentrate on praying about activities for relating to non-Christians on their prayer lists.

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## *Session 7*

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### **GOAL FOR SESSION 7**

To help the group understand the ingredients of an effective personal salvation testimony. The preparation of a personal testimony is one of the most significant and most challenging aspects of Book 2 and The New 2.7 Series. Prepare carefully to lead this testimony segment.

#### **1. Break into verse review groups.**

They quote all the verses they have learned up to this point in Book 2. Keep encouraging your people to stay current in their work. Praise them for their progress. Keep a positive and optimistic atmosphere.

**2. Read “Congratulations” (page 56).** Read aloud the “Congratulations” paragraph. You can do this or have someone else in your group read it. Compliment them for their hard work. Affirm them for their commitment to discipleship training.

#### **3. Discuss the material on personal testimony preparation (pages 57-72).**

Remember they have studied all of this testimony material in preparation for Session 7. As you turn from page to page in this salvation testimony material, discuss something under each major heading. You can simply ask what comments and questions they have when you discuss each of these major topics, one at a time. Whatever methods you use, make the discussion a time of summary, review and application.

Strike a balance between the extremes of going through the material too rapidly and belaboring every point and subpoint. You want this material to make a deep impression on each

person in your group. Watch for their non-verbal responses during the discussion. You can spot facial expressions that reflect confusion or the desire to make a further comment.

- a. *“Why Prepare a Personal Testimony “ (page 57).* Briefly review the value of using a personal testimony. One or two personal examples of how God has enabled you to use your personal testimony when witnessing would be encouraging to share with the group. You might also check to see how many of the group were witnessed to as a non-Christian by someone using their personal testimony.
- b. *“Preparing a Personal Testimony— General Comments” (pages 57-59).* Your enthusiasm regarding this assignment is essential. Make sure you have thought through on the benefits of developing an effective personal testimony. Thousands of people have successfully developed their personal testimony using this material. Convey a positive, “you’ll do great,” attitude.
- c. *“The Grape Illustration” (page 58).* A possible way to discuss “The Grape Illustration” might be to explore what the word “testimony” means, in both a secular and a Christian context. Come up with concrete examples of how we actually use the word in our everyday lives, such as a “testimony” in a court of law, “testimonials” for products being sold, and so on.

Say something like, “As we can see, this illustration shows a cluster of grapes, and each of the grapes illustrates a possible testimony. These are some of the subjects on which some of us could give personal testimonies of how God has worked in our lives. But there is one central testimony which is perhaps the most important and the most useful tool available to a Christian for use in spiritual ministry. That is the shaded one in the illustration. Please write in the shaded grape: **‘Salvation: how I received eternal life.’** (Repeat the statement.)

Mention that a salvation testimony is like the proverbial “lady’s basic black dress.” It can be dressed up to look fancy for a formal occasion, or it can be worn with few embellishments and look informal or even casual. The basic black dress is versatile, and so is the personal salvation testimony. In different circumstances, you can summarize it in only a few sentences, or expand it to include more details. It can be adapted to meet the specific interests and questions of the non-Christian with whom you are talking.

Emphasize that the testimony the students will be preparing in the coming weeks will be about personal salvation, and not about the other areas shown in the illustration. Then say something like this: “I think you’ll find preparing your testimony a meaningful and worthwhile exercise. It won’t be easy. It’s going to take some hard work. But it will be well worth it!”

- d. *“Effective Personal Testimony Preparation “ (page 59).* Briefly review “Outline for a Personal Testimony,” and “Guidelines for Preparing the More Specific Content,” (pages 59-60). Handle any questions as completely as you can. The better the group members understand the “whys” and the “hows” of writing out their testimony, the more productive their own preparation will be. These principles must be clearly understood by each person. These principles are the heart of their testimony preparation. Thoroughly cover “Developing the *Before, How, and After* Sections” (pages 61-62).

- e. *“Two Ways You Might Organize Your Story “ (page 62-63).* More than half of the 2:7 participants use the “Overview / Flashback” approach to organizing their testimony story. This allows the person listening to the testimony to get acquainted with the testimony-giver before the story gets into spiritual issues. The dentist can say he or she is a dentist. Human interest can be inserted into the overview. It is a versatile approach. On the other hand, the straight chronological approach can be interesting and dynamic as well.
- f. *“Choose Your Testimony Format-Samples Worksheets” (pages 63-72).* Ask how many were able to select one of the three formats and complete their testimony worksheet. Then, ask how many still have some work to do on this assignment. Simply get a show of hands for each of these two questions. For those who yet have work to do, ask if they have been able to select one of the three formats. You and the group can spend a few minutes to help a person select one of the formats. Then you may need to allow time for some of your people to complete their testimony worksheet.

If all or most of your people have completed their testimony worksheet they can get started writing out their testimony. Most people are accustomed to putting things in writing to be read, not spoken. Encourage them to write their story using the vocabulary and structures they normally use in everyday conversation.

If you use part of this class session as a “study hall,” **be sure you allow about 10 minutes at the end of the time to cover the rest of the class outline.**

**4. Read “Workshop Outline for Session 8” (page 73).** Have this outline read aloud. Ask if there are any questions or comments about it.

#### **5. Finalize the time and place for Session 8.**

The workshop for Session 8 will require additional time and space for your group to spread out and work. Homes are not suitable for this type of workshop. Usually a church is better. Use tables which are convenient for writing. An evening meeting is usually not satisfactory, because people are tired. It is an option to consider, however.

You are usually the one responsible for the place. The group needs to help you decide on the time. Both of these issues have been discussed in Session 6 of this Leader’s Guide. This is the time to be sure everyone knows where to be and when they should be there for Session 8.

#### **6. Discuss a tentative time and place for Session 11.**

Discuss the date and location for Session 11, which is a four-hour prayer time. Here are important considerations:

A church is usually the best location. You will need to have sufficient space to give each person privacy with minimal distractions.

You may plan to have beverages or other refreshments available, and perhaps plan for a meal together afterward. Do what meets the needs of most of the people in your group. They may want to leave as soon as you have completed this session together. They may want to have a potluck dinner at some other time. Look ahead at the suggestions for leading Session 11. You might share some of the main organizational details with your group at this point in Session 7.

**7. Read the “Assignment for Session 8” (page 73).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 8.

**8. Pray.**

Continue to focus on people from your Evangelism Prayer Lists and any upcoming activities. Your group has embarked on the whole area of witnessing. A possible prayer theme might be asking God’s help in testimony preparation.

Suggestions have been made regarding possible prayer topics from week to week. This does not mean you should ignore the needs of individuals within the group, or the things for which they want to praise God. Encourage spontaneous prayer which reflects the desires, aspirations, and feelings of those taking part.

**Reminders:**

1. You are now about two-thirds of the way through Book 2. How long has it been since you spent extra time with individuals, or couples, to encourage and motivate them? Think about planning at least some minimal social contact with some of your group members over the next few weeks.
2. Have you ordered the materials for Book 3? Do it now so you can ensure their arrival on time.

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## *Session 8*

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**GOALS FOR SESSION 8**

1. To have all group members well on their way to completing their written personal salvation testimony.
2. To communicate appreciation and commendation for the work the group has accomplished on their testimonies.

**1. Read the “Assignment for Session 9” (page 75).** Have the assignment read aloud when you have everyone’s attention and they are looking at page 75 where the assignment is printed. Mention that, during the workshop, possibly not all the students will get their testimony ready to put on a 3” x 5” card, but most will. Mention how interesting and helpful the article *My Heart Christ’s Home will be*.

**2. Participate in the extended class session for refining personal testimonies.** The purpose of the workshop is to have your group members meet and do nothing but work aggressively and intensely on their personal testimonies. This will enable each person to complete a great amount in a short time. It will lift spirits and enable people to see the end within their grasp. Sometimes, working on the personal testimony is the most difficult and most discouraging part of Book 2.

Occasionally two workshops will be needed to help a class complete its work. Between these workshops the students can make the changes suggested by the group leader.

### *A Suggested Format for a Workshop*

1. Have all the students seated at tables.
2. Point out the location of the coffee pot, restrooms, scratch paper, and 3” x 5” cards. Handle any other administrative details for the workshop.
3. You should do your critiquing work in a separate room near the larger room where group members are seated at tables. Set it up so there are several tables in a “study hall” room. Then you locate yourself at the end of a table in a separate room with several chairs along one side of the table.

Explain that anyone may come into the critiquing room whenever he or she has a draft ready for evaluation. Having several students listening to your comments to others will often give them new ideas and information that will save time when it is their turn to be critiqued.

After people have been critiqued, they should go back to the “study hall” room and work on their next draft, using your suggestions.

#### *Husband and- Wife Leader Team*

If both the husband and wife are qualified leaders, each may wish to take half of the class — men with men and women with women. When both the husband and wife work on testimonies, it greatly speeds up the process.

#### *Number of Testimony Drafts*

Emphasize that writing several drafts of a testimony does not indicate a lack of intelligence or spirituality, but rather depends on how complex the individual stories are. The second draft may be enough for some, while others will need to write three or four. Convey this point clearly so that those who complete their work quickly are not “proud of it,” and those who must work longer are not discouraged.

#### *Follow One Vein*

Insist that each person select and follow one specific course or theme in writing out his or her personal testimony.

Discourage them from starting over on a different track after the second or third draft. This would result in frustration and delay. In the future, your group members may well benefit by developing other versions of their testimony along different veins. But, for now, each one should pursue a specific direction until he or she completes the work.

#### *Leader Attitudes*

As the leader, you must maintain the right attitude for handling this segment of the course. Remember:

1. People are emotionally attached to their stories. They are not able to be highly objective about their past experience, and when you correct their testimonies they feel you are “tampering with their innermost life.”

2. You should move rapidly through this work, but do not create a rushed atmosphere. Be calm, relaxed, and alert. In order to help each person as much as possible, concentrate intensely on what each student says.
3. Praise everything you can in their work. Be optimistic and confident about each one's ability to complete this part of the course. But do not settle for substandard work.
4. Don't be overly serious, because quite frequently the students will need to laugh. They need some type of release because they are being introspective. Be ready to mix in some fun and humor.

### *Critiquing Procedures*

1. Look for changes that will provide the greatest improvement in the least amount of time.
2. Organize your critique around the three sections-*Before*, *How*, and *After*. Does each testimony clearly include all three sections? Is any section missing?
3. Select the part (*Before*, *How*, or *After*) which is closest to completion and make suggestions which will help to finish that part.
4. Study the guidelines on page 60 of the student book and keep alert for any violations.
5. Take notes rapidly as you listen to each testimony. You can use these general markings:
  - + good
  - not good
  - ✓ a comment you have
  - ? a question you have

You can use a slash (/) to mark the flow of the story. This eliminates the need for punctuation and separates ideas. For example:

Born in Houston/ 3 brothers, I sister/ tell more about older brother/ father: engr./ +invented oil drill bit/ +mother: swim coach/ +could swim when I was 4/ -hated math/ oldest so worked hard/ +parents knew God personally/ ?confused about future/ etc...

It takes practice to become proficient at simultaneously listening and taking rapid notes.

6. Commend a student for everything you can.
7. After hearing the first draft, emphasize only the necessary general improvements. Don't overload him/her with suggestions and criticisms.

8. When complimenting, say *you* —“You’ve done a fantastic job on the Before. It’s full of human interest.” But when making suggestions for improvement, say *we* — “Perhaps in the How we can go back and include the gospel in more detail.”

Thoroughly review these eight procedures periodically. You need to have them firmly fixed in your mind.

### **3. Pray.**

Have someone pray briefly, pray yourself, or have two or three others pray.

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## *Session 9*

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### **GOALS FOR SESSION 9**

1. To complete personal testimony preparation.
2. To help the group understand the concept of Christ’s lordship.
3. To help each one evaluate the degree of submission to Christ’s lordship in his or her own life.

#### **1. Break into verse review groups.**

They quote all the verses they have learned up to this point in Book 2. Encourage your people to polish up all their verses before next week.

**2. Give completed testimonies from a 3” x 5” card outline.** Have several give their testimony from their card outline. Leave time for working on any testimonies that are not ready on a 3 by 5 card.

Have someone time each testimony and give the speaker a signal at the three-minute mark. This gives him or her time to finish in less than four minutes. If a testimony does go over four minutes, suggest that the speaker re-evaluate the content so he or she can shorten the testimony and give it under four minutes. They can try again later in the same session, or at the next session. Don’t become so engrossed in the time, however, that you aren’t listening to the content of each testimony. Let the timekeeper keep the time.

#### **Reminder:**

Group members have only Session 10 in which to finish all of the assigned work. Check on the progress of each individual.

**3. Discuss the *Lead-in* and *Close* to the personal testimony (pages 76-77).** As you know, the people in your group have already studied this material. You may want to go around the circle and have each person take one of the numbered suggestions and briefly describe the idea in his or her own words. This can be done quite rapidly but it is an effective way to review and underscore each of the principles under “Lead In” and “Close.”

**4. Discuss *My Heart Christ’s Home* (pages 78-86).** Have several people assist in reading aloud the paragraphs and verses under “A Discussion of *My Heart Christ’s Home* (page 84). (Don’t get into a discussion of the various rooms yet.) Usually people are quite impressed with the

verses and God seems to give them more enlightenment concerning lordship. They see it is not necessarily one giant step, but a lifetime of continually giving Christ control of their lives.

After page 84 has been read and briefly discussed, have each person turn to the actual text of *My Heart Christ's Home* (page 78). They will have read and marked this article. Briefly discuss highlights and their general impressions one page at a time. (Remind them that in a few minutes you will be discussing each of the rooms in more detail. You don't want to get into the specifics of each room at this point). It is much easier and more efficient to discuss the highlights of an article a page at a time than it is to discuss the whole article at once. Say something like, "On page 78, what did you mark or what impressed you as you studied this article?" When the group is through discussing one page, go on to the next page. They will usually share something they have marked, but discussion should not be limited to what they have marked. Suggest that they write in the margin of the text some of the best thoughts gleaned during the discussion. Don't try to squeeze the last drop of discussion out of each page. After several have made meaningful comments, move on to the next page.

After briefly discussing the text of *My Heart Christ's Home*, have everyone turn back to page 85. First, have the group define "The Library" by sharing various thoughts that different individuals wrote on the blank lines under "The Library." Go through each of the rooms and "Transferring The Title" in this manner. Remind the students to write down additional thoughts under each section during the discussion. These may be ideas, insights, or Scripture references. On the following pages, you will find some of the answers that groups have come up with for each of the rooms. It is good to stop the discussion on each room when interest is high. Don't drag out the discussion to the point of diminishing returns.

### **THE LIBRARY**

The mind. What we think about. What we read and see. Think about Scripture and Christ. Think on helpful, pure and good things. Philippians 4:8. Luke 6:45, Proverbs 23:7. Control room. Volitional thoughts. What we imagine.

### **THE DINING ROOM**

Our appetites and desires. Positive aspects: food, sex, sleep, exercise, correction ambition. Negative aspects: lazy, lustful, self-promoting, indulgent, selfish, materialistic and proud. Seek what God wants, not what we want.

### **THE DRAWING ROOM**

Meditation and thinking time. Enjoy God for who He is. Intake of the Bible. Do not rush. Get aside from the busy world. Our quiet time or devotional life — "the withdrawing room." God appreciates and desires it. He is always there. Time in the Word and prayer.

### **THE WORKSHOP**

Our talents, abilities, gifts and skills. We need to be good stewards — God would like to use them. God wants our availability more than our ability. God wants to use them under His control—use them to the fullest. What is your life producing? For what is your life counting?

### **THE RUMPUS ROOM (Recreation Room)**

Friendships, activities, recreation and entertainment. The use of free or spare time. We should not be wasting our time. Laughter and music are a part of our relationship to the Lord. Don't leave God out of these times.

### **THE HALL CLOSET**

Hidden, clinging sins. Private or secret sins. This is an area on which Christ focuses attention, and He wants it adjusted and corrected now. Indulgence. Authorize Him to open it and clean it out. Personal areas that others don't know about. Job 17:9. Psalm 66:18. Psalm 32:5. Psalm 51:2.

## TRANSFERRING THE TITLE

Give Christ the authorization to completely take us over and help us to be what we ought to be and want to be. It is a decision. Complete surrender. Complete control. This is the last step. Allow Christ to take over the administrative responsibility — the maintenance.

After you have discussed pages 85-86, thank the students for their excellent ideas and for making the discussion practical and helpful. You may want to conclude by saying something like: “In our discussion, we have talked about how lordship takes place to a greater degree over a period of days, weeks, months, and even years. This does not mean that from time to time we will not have to make a decision at a ‘fork in the road.’ We may be confronted with very critical and difficult lordship decisions at certain points along the way.

“Submitting to Christ’s lordship can mean blessing, peace, and fruitfulness to the obedient Christian.”

**5. Read the “Assignment for Session 10” (page 86).** Remind the students that they can read and mark *How to Spend a Day in Prayer* in the same way they have read and marked their Bibles.

They will want to thoughtfully study *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*. In two weeks they will be doing what this article teaches.

### **6. Pray.**

Pray about the concepts discovered in *My Heart Christ’s Home* and the issues they raise.

Also pray for non-Christian friends, family, and acquaintances at work or in the neighborhood.

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## *Session 10*

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### **GOALS FOR SESSION 10**

1. To help the group anticipate the benefits of spending an extended time alone with God.
2. To give practical suggestions for getting the most from this time with God.

#### **1. Break into verse review groups.**

Quote all the verses learned up to this point in Book 2. The course is almost over. Perhaps some should do extra verse review. Challenge their understanding of their verses and their ability to use them. See that they plan to complete any remaining work this week. Volunteer to help them in whatever way you can to ensure that they meet the course requirements.

**2. Share quite time thoughts from your *Highlights Record*.** Remind everyone they may want to take their *Highlights Record* with them for the half day of prayer. They can review what they have written down over the last several weeks, and look for trends and impressions.

**3. Take the opportunity to give testimonies from a 3” x 5” card outline.** This is the last opportunity for people to give their testimony in a class session. Make certain everyone has this requirement completed.

**4. Briefly share results from using your Prayer Sheets.** This is not a specific time to check up on them. It is more a time of sharing together the benefits and lessons learned while using the Prayer Sheets. You might say something like, “What are some of the benefits you have noticed or some lessons you have learned in using the Prayer Sheets?” This discussion will not take long, but it will be both helpful and motivational to those in your group.

**5. Confirm the time and place for Session 11-your half day in prayer.** In deciding the time and place for Session 11 you should consider the following:

- a. Most groups choose to meet on a Saturday morning, a Saturday afternoon, or a Sunday afternoon.
- b. Your group needs to be fresh and alert. Don’t schedule it at a time when they will be worn out, or feel rushed. Keep in mind whether they are morning, afternoon, or night people. Some compromise may be necessary.
- c. You need to have sufficient space and privacy to ensure minimal distraction and disruption. Consider a church or a larger home, and how you will handle children, pets, and phone calls. Anticipate these types of problems, and all will benefit. **The Christian education area in a church is usually the best location.**
- d. Some groups like to have coffee and other beverages available during this time. If the group wants beverages, someone needs to be responsible to bring them and set them up. Some groups have chosen to have a potluck meal after the half day in prayer. Others have wanted to get home to their children or other responsibilities right after the extended prayer time.

The main priority is to have a time and a place to spend the half day in prayer. The logistical decisions should not dominate, but the options need to be considered and decisions need to be made.

**6. Discuss: *How to Spend a Day in Prayer* (pages 87-93), “Why a Day in Prayer” (pages 94-95) and “Divide the Day into Three Parts” (page 95).** You will first ask your group what observations they want to share from reading through the quotations at the bottom of page 87.

After this brief discussion (page 87), have them turn to page 94 and prepare to take notes. Then ask what they felt was being communicated in the first of the four reasons for having a day in prayer, “For Extended Fellowship with God,” (page 88). Then from page 89, in the same way discuss reason 2, then reason 3, and finally reason 4. From these brief discussions they take notes on page 94.

Omit discussion on the fifth section (“For Adequate Preparation” — page 89), not because it is unimportant, but because in your half day of prayer you will be emphasizing just the first four categories. You may wish to share that they can set goals under number four on page 89 in four major areas:

- a. Personal
- b. Family
- c. Ministry
- d. Job

During the discussion of pages 88-89, emphasize the advantage in using these points during the half day of prayer.

Then turn your attention to page 90. Have someone read “Wait on the Lord” and three subpoints. Then say something like: “What else from this section would you like to emphasize? You might want to look at the article again and see if there is anything else to which we should give our attention. You may wish to add such things as ‘Don’t rush but Don’t loiter.’” Suggest passages of Scripture they could read related to His presence, His cleansing, or worship.

Then go on to “Pray for Others” and “Pray for Yourself” Handle these sections the same way you handled the first. Suggest also that some may want to pray for themselves before praying for others. Encourage them to be totally honest in this, in the spirit of Psalm 62:8: “Pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.”

Under “Pray for Others” you might brainstorm together about categories of people you could pray for. Other groups have come up with such subjects as: (1) family (wife, husband, children, and relatives); (2) church; (3) ministry (evangelism and discipling); (4) others at work; (5) government officials; (6) friends and contacts; and (7) missionaries.

You will not always find the discussion of *How to Spend a Day in Prayer* exciting and stimulating. But you will find that these truths sink deep into the hearts of most people, and they are eager to spend this time with God in prayer in Session 11.

### **7. Discuss “How to Stay Awake and Alert” (page 95) and “How to Make a Worry List” (pages 95-96).**

Have these two sections read aloud around the circle. Highlight whatever needs the group may have. The material is self-explanatory.

It is important for the leader to have experienced everything that is discussed in the group. As soon as possible you should try out these things, if you have not already done so.

### **8. Discuss “A Checklist for a Day in Prayer” (pages 96-97).** Have the check list read aloud around the circle. Let the group know that these are items which others have found helpful during a half day of prayer.

You may receive some feedback on your suggestion to bring a bag lunch and beverage. Someone might say something about fasting and prayer going together. But because this is only a half day, going without food could be a much greater distraction than having a good meal.

Depending on the time of the year, as the leader you will need to keep in mind that the location for your half day of prayer should not be too hot or too cold.

### **9. Discuss “How to Take Notes During a Half Day in Prayer” (pages 97-98).**

Give some brief instructions on what these examples mean. You might say something like,

“During your half day of prayer you will find it very helpful to take notes in order to keep track of what you do during your time with the Lord. This will give you a record of the things which He is speaking to you about. It will also help you to keep a clear mind. After you

make some notes, you can review them and pick up a trend of how the Lord is dealing with you during this particular half day of prayer.

“Some people like to keep track of the actual time, as you see in the example on pages 97 and 98. You may wish to record the Scripture passages you read. You can see how the person recorded the highlights of what he or she read in John 14-16. Not everyone likes to be as detailed as this, but it is still important to keep some kind of written record.

“How each of you divides up the four hours will vary greatly. Some of you will want to spend a large portion of the time in reading and meditating on the Scriptures. Others will want to spend most of the time in prayer.

“Some of you will feel you have personal needs, decisions, or other items to which you will want to give yourself. These might be in the area of planning, or other things which you feel you need to pray over. It might have to do with setting up objectives or analyzing your ministry situation.

“Others of you will feel that your life is pretty well up-to-date, but you feel you have neglected intercession for other people. So you might spend almost the whole time in intercession for others. You can see that if you have a half day in prayer every month or two you will eventually end up with a good balance in what you have covered in your time with the Lord. So do not hesitate to put a strong emphasis during your half day of prayer on one area, even if other areas are neglected.”

#### *“Do List”*

“Spending an extended time in prayer almost always makes you think of other things you need to do or things you have forgotten. By keeping a sheet of paper ready to list these things, we can keep our minds free from distractions. Then we can really give ourselves to concentrating on our time with God. You can see on page 98 a segment of the do list that this person wrote during his half day of prayer.

“Often it is the little things which need to go on the list. So often it is not the big things in life which defeat us or hinder us, but an accumulation of many little things. The do list will be a very helpful part of your half day of prayer.”

#### *“Conclusions”*

“Toward the end of the half day of prayer you will want to spend 15 or 20 minutes writing down some conclusions. These will summarize the major impressions you had during your half day of prayer. You can see on page 98 that this individual was impressed with the importance of consistency in quiet time and memory review. He was also impressed that he should have a balanced Christian life.

“*Conclusions are not do-list* items. The do-list items are specific things a person is going to do. The conclusion items are more overall impressions that a person feels the Holy Spirit was making during the time. An individual might come up with his or her conclusions by going back through the notes they wrote down during the day. By reviewing their notes people can see any repeated impressions or recurring thoughts.

“You will want to keep these notes in a notebook and review them weekly for a while. This will insure that you follow through on the things with which God has impressed you during your half day of prayer. Doing this periodically will bring about change and progress in your spiritual life!”

**10. Read the “Assignment for Session 11” (page 98).** Have someone read the assignment for Session 11.

**11. Pray.**

Pray for protection against “the enemy” who will seek to hinder attendance at the half day of prayer through sickness, baby-sitting problems, and a number of other distractions. Have several pray.

Continue to focus on people and activities related to the non-believers on your Evangelism Prayer List.

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## *Session 11*

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**GOAL FOR SESSION 11**

To experience a half day alone with God.

**Preparation**

You will want to go to the half day of prayer as well prepared as your students. Plan to spend your time with God in the same activities they will be doing. You should approach this session not so much as the leader, but as one of the participants.

The most common location for this extended time of prayer is the Christian education wing of a church. This usually provides enough rooms so that each person can be alone. Arrange for the facility well in advance. It is often best to meet in a church the people do *not* attend. Familiar surroundings can be a distraction, they often trigger daydreaming about people and past events. Have a clear understanding with the pastor (or other leader) about which rooms are available for your use.

Arrive early and get organized before the others come. Since all of you will meet together initially, you need to select a room that will be large enough. You will also come back together in this room at the end of the session.

Walk through the facility—even if you walked through it several weeks ago when you got permission to use it. Review which rooms are available. You may need to do some minor straightening up. Locate enough individual rooms so that you and each of your students will have a room or an area where they can be alone. There are often more possibilities than just the rooms. Other satisfactory areas are wide hallways, outside patio or lawn areas (in nice weather), choir lofts, a corner of a gym, or a narthex. Just be sure you have permission to use such areas.

You might list the room numbers of the available rooms on a white board before the students arrive. Don’t assign rooms. It takes too long and is unnecessary. Ask if they have any questions.

**1. Meet together for a brief orientation (10 minutes).** After everyone has arrived and you are ready to begin, you might say something like: “You will notice on page 99 that we will have a brief orientation, and then you will have over three hours to spend alone with the Lord. We will then meet back here so we can share how we used our time, some of the things we learned, and our reactions to a half day of prayer. This will be an exciting time, and we want to start just as soon as we can so you can spend most of your time alone with the Lord.”

In the orientation, tell them where the restrooms are, and how to regulate the heat or air conditioning. There may also be some rooms which should not be used. Any necessary logistical announcements should be handled at this time.

Follow the skeleton outline on page 99. If you need to change the schedule, change it in favor of a shorter sharing time at the end. The minimum sharing time should be twenty minutes. The maximum sharing time should be forty minutes. The full schedule is usually from 1 to 5 p.m. or any four-hour equivalent.

Lead in a brief prayer for the Lord’s guidance. If your time for meeting is 1-5 p.m., you will all meet back together promptly at 4:30. Tell them they may wish to start writing their conclusions somewhere around 4:15 so that they will be ready to stop at 4:30 and come back together.

**2. Scatter and spend individual time alone with God (3 hours and 20 minutes).** It is often helpful for the leader to remain in the room where the students will be returning at the end of your time. If both men and women are involved in the half day in prayer, make sure the women get the most comfortable rooms.

**3. Come back together again to share (30 minutes).** When your students return, they will be excited and have a wonderful attitude and spirit. You will be as thrilled as they are just to see how God has worked in their lives during these hours. Find out how they used their time with the Lord, and have them share their impressions.

You might begin by telling them very briefly how you spent your time. You might say something like: “After praying Psalm 139:23-24, I used the first five minutes for confession. I spent about thirty minutes reading Colossians. Then I prayed over some of the teachings in Colossians. Next, I spent thirty minutes planning how to use my time better. Then I spent fifteen minutes praying for others.” And so on. You might end the overview of what you did by sharing one major impression. For example, you might share how much Colossians 4:12 meant to you regarding wholeheartedness and fervency in prayer.

Open the discussion to those who want to briefly share what they did, enjoyed, or learned. Others may share an overview of what they emphasized in their time. Communicate that just because different people had a different blend of activities during the half day of prayer does not mean that some were right and some were wrong. There will be differences in the ways people spend their time with the Lord.

The excitement of your discussion will increase as you go along. Encourage each person to share something about his half day with the Lord. Keep careful track of who has shared and who hasn’t. From time to time you might say something like: “Now who else has not shared

yet? We would like very much to hear how your afternoon went.” People may share more than once. They may share several times after everyone has shared once. Draw out the quiet ones.

Be sure to end promptly. The only exception would be if your group starts ten or fifteen minutes late. Then at the beginning of the meeting you should ask their permission to go ten or fifteen minutes longer at the end because you are starting late. If you go ten or fifteen minutes late and someone has to leave early, let him or her share first. Thank everyone for a good day and rejoice together in the Lord’s goodness in meeting with you. Lead in a brief closing prayer.

You may wish to enlist two or three people to help you put things back the way you found them. Make certain the doors are locked, the heating and ventilation taken care of, and the chairs and tables put back in their right places.

This half day in prayer can be a life-changing experience for many members of your group. If you give yourself to this session, there will be great rewards in the lives of your people.

**Reminders:**

1. You have now completed Book 2. Evaluate the status of people in your group. Are their *Completion Records* all signed off? Are they ready to go into Book 3? Have you set a time and place to begin Book 3?
2. Be sure materials are on hand for Book 3. Congratulations for helping your group come this far! There are still more rewards for both you and the members of your group as you get into Book 3, “Bearing Fruit in God’s Family.”