

THE 2:7 SERIES



LEADER'S GUIDE

COURSE 4

The Navigators is an international Christian organization. Jesus Christ gave His followers the Great Commission to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). The aim of The Navigators is to help fulfill that commission by multiplying laborers for Christ in every nation.

NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators. NavPress publications are tools to help Christians grow. Although publications alone cannot make disciples or change lives, they can help believers learn biblical discipleship, and apply what they learn to their lives and ministries.

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LEADER'S GUIDE -- COURSES 3-5

The Ministering Disciple

Preface

Overall Perspective

Growing Strong in God's Family (Unit I), and *The Growing Disciple, Courses 1 and 2* (Unit II), have proven to be effective in introducing discipleship and helping participants become established in basic Christian disciplines. After completing these two units, many will be eager to move on to personal ministry. However, if people are not yet ready to disciple others, it would be helpful to direct them at this point to another study or fellowship group. You need to be sensitive to provide them with a healthy alternative.

The Ministering Disciple, Unit 3 (Courses 3-5), places an emphasis on learning ministry skills that will equip students to disciple others and lead evangelistic Bible studies, as well as learning another level of personal Bible study. Question-and-answer studies will be replaced by a chapter analysis method in Courses 4 and 5. Because of the additional commitment involved in this unit, it should be noted that usually only 10-15% of a congregation participate and benefit from being involved in Unit 3.

In Units 1 and 2, there was a uniform set of standards and everyone in the group moved together toward the same requirements. Unit 3 allows for individual goals in Scripture Memory and Quiet Time. The desire is that when people complete all 3 units they will be able to practice the basics without the formalized structure of the 2:7 Series. Our purpose is to help the individual become a healthy, interdependent part of the body of Christ.

Leadership Role

The leader's responsibility is to communicate a heart for God and a heart for people. Your objective as a leader is not to get people through the course. It is to equip them in their confidence and ability to minister to others. If those in your group feel you are trying to get them through a program rather than meeting their needs, you do them a disservice in training them to disciple others. Discipleship is a process and just because we have completed a number of courses doesn't necessarily equip us for ministering effectively to others.

Think in terms of more than eleven weeks to complete each of the courses if necessary. When students are learning something new, they may need an extra session to grasp the concept or finish the work that has been presented to them. Think in terms of accomplishing the **mission of making disciples** rather than having them complete exercises within a certain time period. Completing the course is not the goal. Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is.

It's critical that you as a leader have a clear vision of where you are taking those in your group. Your goal is to equip ministering disciples. There is a continual need to emphasize Christian character, that a disciple is growing deeper in his/her relationship to Christ. The danger is in making assumptions about the maturity, knowledge, marital harmony, and ministry skills of the students.

In Units I and II, the leader functions primarily as a facilitator. In the *Ministering Disciple*, Unit III, the leader needs to be a pace-setter as well. He/she needs to be doing what is being taught. Where you have failed in an attempt to serve God, share that, so you will not be hypocritical. In the last three courses you must *lead*. If you expect to see your people become involved in evangelism and reaching out to minister to others, you must be the example.

The emphasis in ministering to others in Unit III is as follows:

- Course 3 - Learning to lead question-and-answer Bible studies
- Course 4 - Learning follow-up doing chapter analysis Bible studies
- Course 5 - Role-playing evangelistic Bible Studies and learning to lead a Chapter Analysis Bible study

Important Suggestions

1. Leader's Guide

The leader's guide is filled with proven principles, methods and suggestions. Using it weekly will greatly benefit the leader's preparation as well as his/her ability to facilitate each lesson.

2. Leader Training Seminars

Leader Seminar Part II qualified you to lead Courses 3-5. If someone in your group wants to lead a 2:7 in the future, they should attend a Part I training seminar.

Information concerning the seminars can be obtained from your local Navigator representative or by contacting the Church Discipleship Ministries, The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. Telephone: (719) 598-1212

The Challenge Continues...

Your Goals as a Group Leader

As the leader of your group, you have 3 primary goals:

1. To help each person become a more mature follower of Jesus Christ.
2. To equip each person with the vision, tools, and know-how for winning people to Christ and training others in discipleship.
3. To pray each person will become a laborer in God's harvest field, Matthew 9:38.

To reach these goals, you and your group will want to be consciously growing in your relationship with God and others.

Evaluating Your Progress

Continue to evaluate your leadership on the basis of the following questions. You'll want to do this at least one time, preferably at the midpoint in each of the courses.

Who?	Who am I serving?
What?	What am I learning about the members of my group? What needs and expectations do my group members have?
Where?	Where am I in my own Christian life and ministry? Where am I leading this group?
Why?	Why am I leading this group? Why is each person in my group?
When?	When will I spend time socially with members of my group?
How?	How much am I praying for those in my group? How can I (we) best discern and meet their needs?

PRAYER for and with your group is essential for growth and effective ministry to take place. Dependence on the HOLY SPIRIT will help you be sensitive and alert to where your people are in their walk with Christ. Listen carefully - beyond their words. Look for clues that reveal unexpressed needs, roadblocks, or issues with which they may be struggling.

Leader's Guide

Course 4

Chart for 2:7 Course 4

	Scripture Memory	Quiet Time	Bible Study	Evangelism	Discipling	Other
Session 1	Scripture Memory Helps; TMS	New Bible Reading Highlights Record	Intro to STS Bible Study; Book Survey			The Hand
Session 2	John 13:34,35 &/or I John 3:18		Book Survey of I Thess. STS Blank	Discuss Opportunities	Discuss Plans	Spiritual Inventory
Session 3	Philp. 2:3,4 &/or I Peter 3:5,6 Quiz		I Thess. 1:1-10		Discuss Progress	
Session 4	Ephesians 5:3 &/or I Peter 2:11 Quiz		I Thess. 2:1-20		Pass It On Concept & Ministering One to One	
Session 5	Leviticus 19:11 &/or Acts 24:16		“Assurance of Salvation”	Activities Record	“How to do Effective Follow-Up	Role-Playing
Session 6	Hebrews 11:6 Quiz		I Thess. 3:1-13			
Session 7	Romans 4:20-21				“Individual Discipleship Record”	Role-Playing
Session 8	Galations 6:9-10		I Thess. 4:1-18		Progress on One to One Discipling	
Session 9	Matthew 5:16		I Thess. 5:1-28		Progress on One to One Discipling	
Session 10	Review and Quiz	↓	I Thess. Book Summary	↓ ↓		
Session 11	Review			Lifesaving Station	Small Groups and Triads	“Keep Growing & Ministering”

Guidelines for Course 4

Course 4 is crucial in the training of disciples, because in it students are challenged to review what they have learned during the past year and then to think through how they will pass on these vital ways of walking with Christ to others who are not participating in a 2:7 Series group. Every believer will not join a 2:7 group, but every believer should be meeting with Christ daily, be memorizing God's Word, and be involved in a good Bible study that emphasizes application. Begin praying that everyone who has participated in Courses 1-3 can help someone outside the 2:7 to grow in his/her relationship with Christ. Your leadership and example in doing this will be a major factor in the success of those you are leading.

Goals for Course 4

1. To continue to experience consistent and meaningful quiet times.
2. To maintain the ability to quote the verses memorized during Courses 1-3.
3. To memorize the twelve passages on "Grow in Christlikeness."
4. To learn the Search the Scriptures method of Bible study while studying the book of I Thessalonians.
5. To plan and participate in activities with non-Christians who are becoming friends.
6. To learn how to prepare follow-up plans on key topics.
7. To learn principles for ministering one to one, in triads, and in small groups.
8. To disciple another person using one of four Colossians 2:7 tools.

Preparing to Lead Course 4

The *Search the Scriptures* Bible study work is probably the most challenging part of Course 4. You will be leading most of the Bible study discussions so that the members of your group can concentrate on the new study techniques they are practicing. Start work on your Bible study early so that you are not rushed in your preparation. You are modeling in Course 4 how you will expect them to lead the Bible study discussions during Course 5.

Your work load is heavier in Course 4 than in either Course 3 or Course 5. And your leadership in setting the pace for those in the class is crucial in helping people in your group to minister to others.

Work hard in your preparation. Know your material. Think through in advance what you plan to do in each session.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you lead Course 4 in *The 2:7 Series*.

1. It is easy for your group to be so preoccupied with learning the Search The Scriptures Bible study techniques that, in the early sessions, some of the warmth and spontaneity that adds so much to Bible study discussions may be missing. It is, therefore, important for you to work hard at mastering the study techniques so you can emphasize the blessings. Your group will learn from your example.

2. It is important for you to carefully prepare your presentations on the follow-up plans. It has been said, "If there is a mist in the pulpit, there will be a fog in the pew." The principles and procedures must be crystal clear in your mind for you to be able to communicate them simply and accurately to your group.

3. The four Scripture memory quizzes (Sessions 3, 4, 6 and 10) are an important ingredient in making Scripture memory successful in the lives of your people. Encourage your group not to backstroke their preparation for these four quizzes.

Session 1

Goals for Session 1

1. Review the highlights of Course 3 and preview Course 4.
2. Increase the motivation and commitment of the students toward Scripture memory during this course.
3. Learn how to do a Search The Scriptures book survey.

The Process

1. Discuss “Review the Goals of Course 3” (page 7).

This might be a good time to discuss convictions about quiet time, Scripture memory, Bible study, extended times with God, and application of the Word. What Biblical reasons are there for practicing these disciplines?

2. Preview Course 4 by looking over the Completion Record.

Present the goals for Course 4 to your group with enthusiasm. Ask God to show you the importance of these goals before trying to present them to your group.

3. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions--Week One” (pages 8-10).

The various topics covered in this section are vital to the success of the students in their Scripture memory during Courses 4 and 5. Make sure that the various Scripture memory issues are clear in their minds.

If you have a good personal testimony to give about how God has used a verse of Scripture in your life recently, this would be a good time to share it.

Whether you share a testimony or not, you will probably want to have a few people tell briefly what Scripture memory has done to change their personal lives or ministry.

4. Discuss “The Topical Memory System in This Course” (pages 8-9).

a. Briefly discuss their comments and questions about the TMS verses in this course. Emphasize the importance of these verses by discussing the two short but very important paragraphs under “Conformity To Christ.”

b. Scripture Memory Review Pattern.

Point out that specific directions are given each week so they will know which verses to carry and which ones to leave in their verse box.

c. If some students have great difficulty in scripture memory, they have the option of learning six verses rather than 12. They would learn one verse on each of the six topics. The purpose is to not discourage people from completing *The Ministering Disciple Series* if scripture memory is the only deterrent.

d. Planning for Future Scripture Memory.

During Course 5 they will have the opportunity to either continue on using the Topical Memory System verses, or to select verses for themselves. The *Future Scripture Memory* page will be one of their major sources for selecting “on your own” verses, so they need to be using it during Course 4. (Look at a copy of that page with them in the back of the book so they are familiar with it.)

5. Read and discuss “Scripture Memory Helps” (pages 9-10).

You may want to select a couple of these and demonstrate how they would be used.

Encourage your group to experiment with some of these ideas on their own, and utilize these ideas in the group from time to time.

People learn differently. Some learn primarily visually, others audibly, some with hands-on approach and others by passing on what they have learned. You may draw your group out on how they best memorize Scripture.

6. TMS Sub-topics Quizzes in Courses 4 and 5 (pages 10-13).

Briefly discuss their comments and questions about this section. They will have four quizzes in this course, weeks 3,4,6, and 10. Remind them that when they take the quizzes they will write the first two words of each verse under the reference. No special lines are provided for this. They may want to write in the first two words for all the references on pages 11-13. Going over these pages is a good way to prepare for the quizzes. Explain that the difficulty that most people have with using Scripture with others is that they don't know how the verse begins or where the verse is located. Try to avoid people competing with one another. Assure the members that they will be able to complete the TMS.

7. Discuss “The New Bible Reading Highlights Record” (pages 14-16).

Briefly discuss their comments and questions about the new Bible Reading Highlights Record. Point out something you particularly like about the new one. Have them fill out a few items on the “Prayer Concerns” section or “Thanksgiving.” Point out that the days are not listed in this “Highlights” record. Each person will choose the number of days they want to be consistent and commit to that for a two-week period of time. The student book says “fourteen consecutive days.” It should read “for a two-week period of time.” Most will choose five or seven days. Journalizing can be very helpful to record a broader scope of God's working in our lives. Share your own experience or have someone in your group share the benefits. Point out that the four new items on the “Highlights Record” are optional. They have been added to provide variety and make your quiet times more meaningful.

8. Discuss “The Hand Illustration” (page 17).

Briefly discuss their comments and questions about THE HAND ILLUSTRATION. Demonstrate how we need to have a firm grasp of the Scriptures by first holding the Bible with your thumb and little finger. Let someone pull the Bible from your hand. Then keep repeating the process by adding one finger until you are using all four fingers and your thumb.

During the discussion, share something that impresses you about our need to firmly grasp God's Word (Ps. 119:9-11, 19, 28-31, etc.). The thumb (meditation) is important as it needs to be applied to each of the intakes. Meditation is internalizing the Word, making the Scriptures profitable for us.

9. Discuss “Introduction to ‘Search the Scriptures’ Bible Study” (page 18).

STS Bible study can be one of the most exciting spiritual growth elements that your people will experience. It is, however, a major step up from doing question-and-answer Bible study. It is more time-consuming and more demanding.

Have the group read this section aloud. Emphasize how important the personal study of God's Word is to the process of becoming a fruitful disciple (James 1:22-25).

- a. Read together “How to do a Book Survey” (page 18).

Discuss what resources are available to the group for doing the book survey.

b. Discuss the “Explanation of Eight Sections of STS Book Survey” (page 19). Talk about how knowledge of each of these sections might be helpful in interpreting certain passages or in understanding why a certain style or approach might have been used in dealing with an issue in a church.

c. Look over the “STS Book Survey Form” for I Corinthians (pages 20-21).

Encourage your group to read Acts 17:1-12 as well as the entire book of I Thessalonians in one setting to try to get most of the information for the book survey from the Bible itself before going to resource books.

10. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (page 21).

It’s important for you to prepare your group for the increased challenge of the Bible study preparation. You want to encourage them to start their Bible study work early in the week so they will not have to rush at the last minute.

Some people in your group will have the tendency to spend too much time on the Bible study. Some will have a tendency toward perfectionism. When a person does a question-and-answer Bible study, it’s clear when the question has been answered. In the STS Bible Study, it is possible to do a Bible study in one hour or extend it to ten hours. It might be wise to ask people to limit their Bible study time to 2-3 hours at the beginning. Be patient with people as they learn the new process.

11. Pray.

Have a brief time of conversational prayer. Perhaps focus the prayer time on asking God for insight into the book of I Thessalonians that will deeply impact the lives of every person in the group (Proverbs 2:1-5).

Session 2

Goals for Session 2

1. To apply a spiritual inventory that can be used periodically.
2. To learn how to analyze a chapter of the Bible using the STS study blank.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review John 13:34-35 and I John 3:18.

Encourage your people to stay current on Scripture memory. This is particularly important for Sessions 2-5 when they must memorize two passages each week. Suggest that they share testimonies of how the verses have helped them or that they pray together that God will use these verses in their lives in the coming week. Remember that there may be one or two people in your group that are learning just one verse this week.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

Come prepared to share something from one of your own quiet times that is fresh and encouraging. Review the passages referring to quiet time in Sessions 4 and 5 in the *Growing Strong in God’s Family*. Which of these passages motivate you most to be faithful in your time with the Lord? Consider sharing this with the group or having the group do this review.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experience where God used you to help someone move one step closer in the process of coming to Christ.

4. Share progress you have made with people listed on your Activities Record.

Remind the group that these people are not projects. We are the projects. God has us in training to learn how to love people and how to develop true friendships with those He has created in His image. Ask the group what they perceive the Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of those they are attempting to reach.

5. Discuss “A Periodic Spiritual Inventory” (page 23).

Have them share how they would rate themselves on THE WHEEL. Ask what they voted as the highest. Whatever someone shares, ask how many others voted that as highest. Then ask what is second highest. Have several share. After you have done this with THE WHEEL, do it with THE HAND. This part of the sharing should take about five to ten minutes. You might want to have the group take out a piece of paper and draw what the wheel really looks like in light of their strengths and weaknesses. This provides a graphic illustration to the person as well as to the group. It can be both fun and challenging.

Discuss the ways in which they are currently experiencing success in these areas. Then discuss some of the adjustments they plan to make in areas of weakness.

6. Discuss the book survey of I Thessalonians (pages 24-25).

The book survey is designed to draw a preliminary sketch of the book being studied that will function as a map showing only the primary roads. This sketch will prevent people from going too far astray in their interpretation of side roads they will look into as they analyze the book chapter-by-chapter.

Discuss the eight book survey sections. Ask people to share their information section-by-section. Discuss how each section may be important in the future study of I Thessalonians. Have several people present their overview of the book. Try to make sure people are using good evangelical resources.

Thirty minutes should be sufficient time to discuss the survey. You will need to allow adequate time to walk through pages 26-30 explaining the chapter analysis study blank.

7. Discuss the “Search the Scriptures” study plan (pages 26-30).

First, look at the STS study blank they will be using next week on pages 37-40. Then, read through the explanation of how to use the study blank on pages 26-30. Read one section and see if people have any questions about how to do it. Your best preparation for this as a leader is to have already done the study on I Thessalonians, chapter one, before coming to this session and before trying to explain it to the group.

Each of the methods of Bible study presented in this session are like tools used in any skill. A person must practice with the tools before being able to produce a good product. Suggest they choose a passage description method that they feel most comfortable with. Encourage the people to dig in and develop new skills for Bible study that they will be able to use all their lives.

When you study the “Verse-by-Verse Meditation” section, challenge the group to think through the main stream of thought in the chapter and give most of their effort to making

observations about the main thoughts. Emphasize that they are to work across the three columns of the STS blank horizontally, not vertically. Also, that six verses would be adequate for making observations, cross references, etc. We don't want the students to feel obligated to do every verse. Otherwise Bible study could be too laborious.

8. Read the “Assignment for Session 3” (page 30).

If the Bible study assignment seems to be overwhelming with the “Theme(s)” and “Conclusions,” you may hold off completing this section until the next week.

9. Pray

Pray conversationally about the Bible study preparation for next week's session. Pray over Proverbs 2:1-5.

Session 3

Goals for Session 3

1. To sharpen their grasp of the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM sub-topics and verse references.
2. To study I Thessalonians 1:1-10 using the STS Bible study techniques.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review Philippians 2:3, 4 and I Peter 5:5, 6.

Encourage the people to stay on top of their Scripture memory verses these first few weeks when they are required to memorize two passages. Ask people to share in the group any experience where God has used a memorized verse in their lives.

2. Share quiet time thoughts from your Highlights Record.

Encourage them to continue to respond back to God in prayer during their quiet time. Be sure you do this for your own benefit and to set the example. You might practice this by asking the group to spend some time responding back to God in prayer concerning anything that was shared.

3. Pray for people you are seeking to reach for Christ.

Take time to share what you experienced last week as you attempted to befriend people and how you saw God work as you presented the gospel. Then pray for God to touch the heart of each friend that was reached.

4. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and first two words for the first thirty-six passages of the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM.

The group may begin the quiz as soon as they are ready.

Allow about 10 minutes for the quiz.

After they have taken the quiz, have them exchange books. They can work in twos or threes to check the work.

It is a requirement for them to get 100% on a quiz over the first thirty-six references, topics, and the first two words for each reference. They may take the quiz on plain paper any

time with another class member. In Sessions 4, 6 and 10 they will have another opportunity in class to meet this requirement.

5. Discuss “How to Do Theme(s) and Conclusions” and Five-Point Application (page 35).

Read this section together and talk about anything that is unclear. Again, it is essential that you have completed this part of the Bible study before discussing the theory of it with the group.

Review how to do the Five-Point Application in Course 3, pages 55-56. There are no more application questions inserted in the Bible studies, so you need to emphasize the importance of application in each session. Concentrate on helping people bring the general teachings of the Word of God down to specific steps of obedience. You might want to review the Bible study on obedience in *Growing Strong in God’s Family* on pages 33-36 or do your own study on the blessings of obedience. Here are some verses to get you started: Joshua 1:8; Mt. 7:24-27; John 14:21; James 1:22-25.

6. Discuss the Bible study for I Thessalonians 1:1-10.

This is an exciting passage of Scripture that vibrates with the evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit. Your challenge will be to not let it become dull because you are trying to learn new methods of Bible study. Pray that God will move in the life of each group member as they study.

The material that follows has suggestions for leading the “STS” Bible study. Make sure you have done a thorough job of preparation for the Bible study. Then write your ideas for leading the study in the margin of your “STS” CHAPTER ANALYSIS study form.

HOW TO LEAD THE “STS” BIBLE STUDY

Leading a group discussion while studying the Bible chapter by chapter is similar to the section by section method learned in Course 3. The basic principles for formulating questions and guiding discussions are the same. You will use discovery and understanding questions as you discuss each section. You will continue to launch, guide, and make transitions in order to facilitate the discussions and you will emphasize application of the truth of God’s word to daily life.

The Passage Description: This section will reveal general impressions of the chapter. You might ask people in the beginning to tell what impressed them about the chapter as they wrote their passage description. Ask several people to share their description of the passage along with their Theme(s). Ask them to tell why they chose a certain theme. You may want to relate the theme of a passage to the survey study that you did on the book. You could ask, “If the theme of this chapter is, how does that relate to the background of the people, their location, or the problems that they were facing?”

When you sense you have elicited some of the major truths of the passage by discussing their Passage Descriptions, move on to the next section.

In the Verse-by-Verse Meditation section of the study, people have made some significant observations about the details of the passage. They have begun to interpret the passage by asking questions and have looked at what the Scriptures in other places say about their discoveries.

You might launch the discussion by saying, “Let's look at the first paragraph. Someone share an observation, questions you had about the observation, and a cross reference or two that gave you insight into the issue.” As people share, watch for ambiguous terms or religious clichés that need clarifying. Ask understanding questions in order to clarify meaning and to help people dig into the content of the passage. When someone in the group presents a question they had about an observation, let the group interact with them on the question.

When someone shares a cross reference, you can take the discussion deeper by asking the group, “What new light or insight does the cross reference bring to bear on the passage we are studying?” Then begin the process again by asking someone else to share an observation, questions, etc.

When people have discussed several observations about the passage, move on to the “Conclusions”. Submit one of your conclusions to the group. Ask if they think this is a valid conclusion from the Scripture they have studied. Encourage the group to work together. Is there evidence in the chapter or cross references to support the conclusion? Again, ask someone else to share one of their conclusions and go through the evaluation process. We want to teach people who are becoming Christ's disciples to be open to the ideas of others as they present their conclusions. We also want them to come to right conclusions and to be able to defend them.

Be sure to save plenty of time to talk about Applications. This is the heart of the issue. We are to “teach people to obey.” Ask people to share their applications if they are not too personal. Help people to become specific and practical in their applications. Each week when you start your time of Bible study, begin with applications from the previous week. Ask people what progress they have made with their applications. Volunteer to help people with this crucial element of Bible study--James 1:22-25.

7. Read the “Assignment for Session 4” (page 41).

8. Pray

One suggestion would be to focus your conversational prayer on the outstanding issues that were discussed in the study of I Thessalonians 1:1-10.

Session 4

Goals for Session 4

1. To sharpen their ability to remember where Scripture is located and how the verses begin so they can use them more skillfully.
2. To study I Thessalonians 2:1-20 while developing skill in using the tools of the “STS” method of Bible study.
3. To implant a vision for ministry to others by using what they have already learned about developing a relationship with God.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review Ephesians 5:3 and 1 Peter 2:11.

Encourage people to begin quoting their verses to someone when they first come in. Sometime make up a summary sheet on “How to Meditate on the Scriptures” from Course 2, pages 10-15, and let those who come early practice these beneficial disciplines.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Be aware of an individual who may not have shared something for a couple of weeks. You may want to call on that type of person. Your example in meeting with God and sharing from your quiet time thoughts is a great part of effective training.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Briefly share together any experiences of helping someone move one step closer in the process of coming to Christ. Ask the group what they are praying for regarding the lost. Take time to pray using Ephesians 2:1-3 and II Corinthians 4:4. These verses describe the real condition of people apart from Christ.

4. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and first two words for Series A, B, and C of the Topical Memory System.

Try to help the people relax as they take this quiz. Inform them that they may do this between classes with another member of the group or in Session 6 or 10.

5. Discuss “The Pass-It-On Concept” and the “Ministering One-to-One” articles (pp. 46-48).

This is a crucial time for your group. Ask God to use this discussion to develop a vision for ministry to others as you study “The Pass-It-On Concept” and “Ministering One-To-One.” God can use each person in the group to help another person get started in some basic spiritual disciplines. Take one copy each of “Beginning With Christ” and “Lessons on Assurance” with you to this meeting. Let the group discuss which of these Pass-It-On Concepts they would like to use with a friend. People will probably choose the concept that they enjoy the most.

The principles for ministering “One-to-One” are excellent and their application is clear and forthright. Ask them what impressed them in this section.

Discuss with the group different possibilities for completing this assignment. They may not know where to start so you could recommend someone in their family or people you may know who might respond. If your church has a new members class or if your leadership has any recommendations, they should be sought out. Dialogue and pray over who would be some potential individuals to whom they might minister. You as a leader need to be an encourager in helping them find the right person. If they are not able to complete this assignment in Course 4, they may do it in Course 5.

6. Discuss the Bible study for 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20.

Encourage people in the group to listen while others share their passage descriptions. Following the sharing of passage descriptions, give them a few minutes to revise their own passage description.

How is the group doing in selecting 5 or 6 key verses from the chapter? Praise them as they come up with good cross references and questions. They will be stimulated in this new approach to Bible study. And this is a great chapter on follow-up.

After the completion of the Bible study discussion ask the group what they learned about the cost of ministering to others. What kind of heart does this kind of ministry take? What are the eventual benefits of a personal ministry like Paul had?

7. Read the “Assignment for Session 5” (page 53).

8. Pray.

Pray conversationally as the group is led by the Holy Spirit.

Session 5

Goals for Session 5

1. To learn several principles, guidelines and tools for effective follow-up with new believers.
2. To study and discuss biblical passages that can be used for helping a new believer with assurance of salvation.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review Leviticus 19:11 and Acts 24:16. This is the last of four pairs of Scripture passages they have been assigned to memorize. When you are all back together, you might ask how many in your group have all eight signed off. Commend them for their hard work and offer to help those who are behind. Ask the group, “How has God helped you to trust Him to have victory over temptation?”

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Encourage them to primarily read directly from their Highlights Record rather than giving an ad-lib presentation. Keep the sharing a little shorter than usual because of the number of other important things that need to be done during this session.

3. Share progress you have made with the people on your Activities Record.

When you introduce the idea of the Activities Record this week, ask the group, “What progress have you made with yourself in developing the capacity to draw near to people on your Activities Record?” That is the real issue.

4. Share your thoughts on one-to-one discipling.

Ask what thoughts they have had about ministering using one of the pass-it-on concepts. Have they begun praying about someone to help? Have they decided which of the concepts they want to use and do they need you to order materials for them?

5. Discuss “How to Do Effective Follow-Up” (pages 54-58).

In this section, you need to communicate the importance of follow-up in a new believer’s life. Those first few months after conversion are critical for establishing patterns for future growth.

- a. What is Follow-up?
See if they have any comments or questions on this section. Stress the importance of the Apostle Paul’s example in this.
- b. A Link in a Chain.
Briefly discuss their comments and questions about these few paragraphs.
- c. Spiritual Parenting.
Discuss the similarity between spiritual and physical parenting. Have them list some principles in physical parenting and how they would be similar in spiritual parenting. Discuss Galatians 4:19 and I Corinthians 4:15-16.
- d. Spiritual Parenting Bible Study.
Discuss the spiritual parenting Bible study in detail. Cover each verse, one at a time.
First, see how some expressed the “characteristic.” Then, ask several to share how they answered the I Thessalonians 2:12 question.
- e. Hindrances to Personal Follow-up.
Have each of the five hindrances read aloud. Discuss each of them in turn. Ask the group members which of the items mentioned would be the greatest hindrance for them.
- f. Areas of Follow-up.
Explain that these are not the only areas of follow-up a new believer needs, but that they are four important ones. Ask them to list some other areas they think might be important.
- g. Developing Follow-up Plans.
Have this material read aloud and discuss it in detail. Insure that the group members understand each of the steps in the process section. Tell them that steps 1-3 are covered when they meet with a person the first time. Step 4 includes things to accomplish in subsequent meetings.

6. Observe the leader role-play a presentation of an “Assurance of Salvation” follow-up plan (page 59).

In the student material there is a blank follow-up plan titled “Assurance of Salvation.” Have the group members turn to this on page 59 and follow along as you role-play. You can use the sample follow-up plan provided for you in the leader’s guide or develop your own.

“Set the stage” for the role-playing demonstration. One member of the group will take the role of a new believer, and you will demonstrate meeting with him in the first follow-up session.

Using the following plan, or one that you have developed, role-play each of the first three steps.

Step 1: Tell them why.

- a. Say to the person, “Tell me about your relationship with Christ.”
- b. Ask the person to read I John 5:13 and discuss why they think the

issue of assurance is the main subject of one entire book of the Bible. (Or, you might want to compare John's purpose in writing the Gospel as recorded in John 20:31 with his purpose in writing 1 John as recorded in 1 John 5:13.)

c. Tell the person what having assurance has meant to you.

Step 2: Show them how.

a. Say something like, "I have an illustration that I would like to share with you that will help you understand how we can have this assurance. It is the three-legged stool illustration."

b. Draw out the illustration and, as you do so, discuss each leg of the stool.

-God said it in His Word, I John 5:11, 12

-Inner conviction of the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:16

-Outward evidence, Galatians 5:22-23

c. The seat is faith, Hebrews 11:6

Step 3: Get them started.

a. Set up an appointment for the following week.

b. Give the assignment to "Review the illustration and write down any questions you may have about the way God gives us assurance."

c. Also ask the person to read John 10:1-34 and write down observations about your relationship with Christ.

d. Tell the person that the next time you meet together you will memorize 1 John 5:13 together.

See if the group members have any questions about the demonstration. Discuss the material you covered from the follow-up plan and have the students fill out their blank plans. To save time you may want to reproduce the "Assurance of Salvation" follow-up plan from this leader's guide and hand them out. Encourage the students, if they know verses related to the topic of Assurance of Salvation, to use the verses that mean the most to them in their plan.

7. Discuss the sample "Initial Bible Study" follow-up plan (page 60).

People in the group may use this follow-up plan in the near future if they should choose to lead someone through the "Lessons on Assurance" Bible studies as part of their "Pass-it-on concept" ministry.

Have someone read the GOAL. Discuss whether this is a reasonable goal to try to believe God for in the life of another person.

Step 1: Tell them why. Discuss the motivation for Bible study in both of the passages of Scripture. We want the person we are helping to begin Bible study to be motivated from God's Word.

Step 2: Show them how. Discuss with you group how important it is to actually do some study with your friend. Take a copy of *Lessons on Assurance* with you to this session and actually look up the verses and fill the blanks in together. Do it with them. Your enthusiasm for God's Word will be passed on to your friend.

Step 3. Get them Started. Discuss why it is important to give an assignment.

There is greater continuity if you and the person can meet every week. However there is room for flexibility.

Step 4: Keep them going.

Because of the background of some people, they will not be ready to step into your church situation for several weeks or even months. You need to be sensitive to where they are and try to gear them in with other believers when the time is appropriate.

8. Discuss the Bible study “Assurance of Salvation” (pages 61-63).

One of the excellent follow-up tools to use with new believers is the booklet, *Lessons on Assurance*. Here you have Chapter One of that Bible study. Everyone in your group should keep in mind that you are role-playing as though all of you are young believers and don't know a lot about Scripture. One of the main reasons for having them go through this first chapter is to get the feel of what this type of Bible study is like and how a discussion of this material would go. Many Christians are not used to talking about the most elementary doctrinal elements, and they have a tendency to skim over this sort of thing or not to discuss it at all.

9. Read the “Assignment for Session 6” (page 63).

Session 6

Goals for Session 6

1. To tighten their grasp on the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM sub-topics and verse references.
2. To study 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 while sharpening their Bible study skills.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review Hebrews 11:6.

For Sessions 6-9 there will be one passage of Scripture to memorize each week. Encourage your people to keep their previous Scripture memory passages sharp by reviewing them exactly as “Your Weekly Plan” indicates. If they follow the guidelines, they will avoid many frustrations.

Paul often commended the churches he wrote for their faith, love and hope. What evidences of growing in faith is your group exhibiting? Let them share any experiences of growing in faith.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

One major reason for the quiet time to lose its vitality is that the person is rushing. A quiet time may be only 10 minutes long and be vital if it is not rushed. Another quiet time could be 30 minutes long and be rushed, therefore lacking quality. Trying to cover too much material can make a quiet time rushed. We are working on a relationship, not trying to cover a lot of material.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Have people share briefly what God is doing in their friend's life; then spend time together praying for them.

4. Briefly discuss your progress with your one-to-one discipling.

People may complete this requirement by meeting four times with another person and helping him/her with one of the Pass-it-on Concepts. They may complete this requirement in either Course 4 or Course 5, but it is good not to procrastinate.

5. Take the quiz on the topics, references, and first two words of Series A, B, and C of the

TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM.

This is the last of the three quizzes for the first thirty-six passages in the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM. In Session 10 they will take a quiz for the first forty-eight passages in the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM.

Even though people have gotten 100% accuracy on a previous quiz, they need to take this quiz and the one in Session 10. Taking the quizzes deepens their recall on the sub-topics and the first two words of each passage. These quizzes are very helpful tools for sharpening their Scripture memory work.

6. Discuss the Bible study for 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13.

Remind them of 1 Thessalonians 2:13. The Word of God is at work in those who believe in His Son. Encourage them to trust God to work in their lives through the study of His Word.

7. Read the "Assignment for Session 7" (page 72).

Have someone read aloud the "Assignment for Session 7."

8. Pray.

Ask people to pray over ideas that are outstanding to them from the verses they have recently memorized.

Session 7

Goals for Session 7

1. To practice following-up a friend by role playing the quiet time follow-up plan.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review Romans 4:20-21.

When they return from the review groups, ask how many of them have all of the memory work signed off up through this meeting. Ask people to share any special motivation they have experienced for memorizing the Scriptures.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

If you have people in your group who tend to share what the pastor said or what they read in a book, encourage the group to read directly from their Bible Reading Highlights

Record. Our goal in this course is to make disciples, so we want to hear what God is speaking to them about, and their response to His Word.

3. Pray for those on your Evangelism Prayer List.

Review the illustration in Course 3, page 19. Discuss where they think their friends are on the illustration. Share briefly what God is doing in your friends' lives and then pray for God to continue to move the hearts of your friends to bring them to Christ.

4. Discuss your progress with your one-to-one discipling.

Discuss what kind of response they have had as they prayed and approached people about studying the Scriptures together. You will need to be leading out in this issue. Students in your group need an example to follow in this ministry. If you are having difficulty getting started in one-to-one discipling, ask God to give you someone to help who is eager to grow in Christ (see John 17:6).

5. Role-play the follow-up plan for “Quiet Time.”

Instruct the people in your group to pair up with someone else and role-play the follow-up plan they have prepared on getting someone started in “Quiet Time.” People may find this a little awkward, but it is good preparation for one-to-one discipling.

In these role-play segments you need to monitor the time. Fifteen minutes per person will be adequate to cover most of the material. You may want to notify them when the 15-minute segment is almost over.

6. Discuss how to use the Individual Discipleship Record (page 75).

Again, be sure to remind your group that we are not making a project of people. This record is for our growth and benefit. We want to insure we are being faithful to help people in their walk with God and their obedience to Him.

7. Discuss “Assimilating New Believers into the Church” (page 127).

Briefly discuss their comments and questions about “Assimilating New Believers into the Church.” Emphasize anything you feel is important.

8. Read the “Assignment for Session 8” (page 76).

Have someone read the “Assignment for Session 8.” Remind the group that there are four weeks remaining in Course 4. Encourage them to be working hard on fulfilling the completion record, especially the seven consecutive days of Scripture memory review and two weeks of *Bible Reading Highlights Records*.

Session 8

Goals for Session 8

1. To study 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 using all the study tools available in the “STS” method of Bible study.
2. To spend time sharing personal needs and then pray over them.

The Process

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

Review Galatians 6:9-10.

This would be a good opportunity to have the group help one another with back review. Give them 15 minutes and have them help each other with verses they may be having trouble remembering.

2. **Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.**

Tell them that after the sharing session they will spend some time responding back to God about what has been shared in the group. Encourage them to take time daily to respond back to God in prayer as part of the quiet time.

3. **Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.**

4. **Share what you see God doing with people on your Activities Record.**

This is the last time you will share in the group the more specific things each of you have been doing with people on your Activities Record. Have them read what they have written down and done with one or two people on their list.

5. **Discuss your progress with your one-to-one discipling.**

Give people in your group the opportunity to briefly share highlights of what is happening in their one-to-one discipling endeavors.

6. **Discuss the Bible study for I Thessalonians 4:1-18 (pages 83-86).**

If everyone has been preparing the same type of passage description each week, take some time in this session to have your group work together on some of the other ways of describing the passage. Ask them to use a couple of different methods of describing the passage next week.

7. **Pray**

Share personal needs. The students have been busy doing STS Bible study and learning how to minister to others. It would be helpful to draw them out on some of their needs, i.e., family, personal, job, marriage, etc.

8. **Read the “Assignment for Session 9” (page 82).**

Session 9

Goals for Session 9

1. To work hard together to help everyone in the group catch up with requirements on the completion record.
2. To study I Thessalonians 5:1-28 using all the study tools available in the STS method.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Review Matthew 5:16.

This is the last assigned Scripture memory passage for this course. Tell people to work together in the next 15-30 minutes to try to get as much signed off on the Completion Record as possible. Encourage them to have all of their memory work signed off by next week, if at all possible.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

You might ask them which book of the Bible they have enjoyed reading most in their quiet times during recent months and why. You might call on those who did not participate in this part of last week's class. Commend them for their insights and ideas.

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Ask the group what they see the Lord doing in their own lives as they have sought to reach out to others. What are they learning about God through this process, and what are they learning about themselves?

4. Discuss your progress with your one-to-one discipling.

Let people share what is happening as they minister to others with one of the Pass-it-on Concepts or other follow-up ministries.

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28.

Discuss the Bible study they have prepared. Concentrate on the 5-point applications they have made during the past 5 weeks. Ask them to go back over their applications and share what progress they are making in putting the Scriptures into practice.

6. Read the "Assignment for Session 10" (page 88).

Remind them that this will be the first time they are taking a quiz that includes the "Grow in Christlikeness" verses. They need to work hard to learn the sub-topics before next week.

7. Pray.

Session 10

Goals for Session 10

1. To sharpen their grasp on the sub-topics, verse references, and first two words for the first forty-eight passages in the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM.
2. To complete a Book Summary of 1 Thessalonians.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Quote the twelve GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS passages you have learned in this course. There may be one or two that will have six to quote.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Come prepared to share something from one of your own quiet times that is fresh and encouraging. Your enthusiasm about your time with God will usually have a positive impact on others. Be praying that those in your group will also have a heart to meet with God

3. Report on any evangelistic opportunities this past week.

Have them share what kind of activities they have been involved in during the past week that would be considered as cultivation, sowing, or reaping.

4. Take the quiz on the topics, references and the first two words for Series A, B, C, and D of the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM.

In this last quiz, the first forty-eight passages in the TOPICAL MEMORY SYSTEM will be covered. By the end of this session everyone should have accomplished 100% accuracy on one of the quizzes for the first thirty-six references, subtopics and first two words under each reference. If they have not, they need to do it between classes with another member of the group.

5. Discuss the book summary of 1 Thessalonians.

Follow the book summary explanation on page 94. Explain to your group that this will be a time of helping each other tie together all the work they have put into the study of this inspired book. It is an opportunity to meditate again on the broad strokes in the book. Then, in light of these major ideas, ask God to align your lives with His revealed will. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 2:13 that God's Word is "at work in you which believe." Have the group share how the Word of God has been working in their lives during the past seven sessions of Bible study.

6. Read the "Assignment for Session 11" (page 97).

Underscore the fact that the main focus on Session 11 is to discuss the things that they have learned during Course 4. They should really set aside time to think and pray about this and write down specific things. Remind them that this would be a good time to look for trends in their Bible Reading Highlights Record.

7. Pray.

This could be a meaningful time to pray over truths learned from I Thessalonians...truths concerning Christ's return...truths concerning giving your lives to others. You could also pray over applications the students are making.

Session 11

Goals for Session 11

1. To discover and appreciate how much they have learned and experienced during Course 4.

The Process

1. Break into verse review groups.

Work on getting everything signed off on their Completion Records.

2. Share from your Bible Reading Highlights Record.

Keep this brief. Perhaps half of the group could share something from a quiet time.

3. Share any opportunities in evangelism this week.

4. Discuss your progress with your one-to-one discipling.

5. Discuss “A Parable: Saving Lives” (pages 98-99).

Some people may react to this story. Keep in mind that the purpose of the parable was to take an extreme position to get a point across. It is not intended to in any way be anti-church or negative about the church. There are many churches that are having a tremendous impact in evangelism.

6. Discuss “Ministering in Small Groups and Triads” (pages 99-100).

This is excellent resource material to which they can refer for months to come. Ask them what impressed them in the section “Using Small Groups.” After you have discussed that section go on to “Using Triads” and ask the same question.

7. Share lessons learned during Course 4.

Whatever specific things people in your group share, they will fall into two major categories: what has happened in their own individual lives, and what has happened in ministering to others. You may want to ask about specific subject areas such as Bible study, Scripture memory, activities with non-Christians, discipling and evangelism.

8. Briefly discuss “Keep on Growing and Ministering” (page 102).

9. Pray.

It would be appropriate to focus this time on giving thanks to God for all that He has done over the past 11 weeks. Some may wish to pray in anticipation of Course 5.