A WORD ABOUT THE FORMAT

This book is divided into forty days during which you will cover the basic aspects of discipleship. Each topic has a key scripture or passage, a few questions to answer and some foundational teachings.

Some days include relevant personal testimonies. Some have action points with which you can get practical about your faith. These are designed for you to become a “doer of the Word” (James 1:22).

There is also a reading at the end of each day, covering the books of Matthew and John. This is followed by a page where you can begin a daily journal on what you have learnt.

Sometimes you will need to fill in a missing word in a Scripture passage. These words can be found in Addendum C.

I encourage you to look up the Scripture verses found under “Further reading”. In some instances I have also recommended books that relate to a specific topic.

At the conclusion of each week there are a few questions you will need to answer. It is very important that you find a mature Christian who is willing to spend time with you. Your cell facilitator/home group leader can discuss these questions with you, or assign another mature Christian for the task.

Maybe you cannot complete this journey in 40 days due to time constraints — it is only important that you try to complete it as soon as is reasonably possible. Rather work slower for a fuller understanding of the work than rush through it for the sake of completing it within the time frame.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the format or content of this book, please e-mail us on info@walkingwithjesus.co.za.

You can also visit our website www.walkingwithjesus.co.za for more information.
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DAY 1 A NEED FOR SALVATION

Key Scriptures
Romans 3:23
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23
“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

To sin means to “miss the mark or purpose.” Many people believe that you only need to be a good person in order to go to heaven. This is not the case. We have been born into a fallen world and into sin.

We all know that you do not need to teach a child to be selfish and to sin because they naturally express their sinful nature. We sin because we are born sinners and we therefore need a change in nature and not just a change in behaviour. In order to change the fruit of an apple tree from apples to pears, you cannot just remove the apples from the tree. You would have to replace the entire tree.

Sin results in the following:
1) Slavery
2) Guilt and condemnation
3) Spiritual blindness
4) A lack of hope and purpose
5) Spiritual death
6) Separation between man and God

Sin separates us from God and as a result we need to be reconciled with Him. There is nothing we, as humans, can do to be reconciled with God.

Isaiah 59:1-2
“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your _______________ have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”

Sin entered this world through Adam and Eve. God’s command was clearly given to them (Genesis 2:16-17) and they chose to rebel against it. Read Genesis 3:1-3 to see their reaction.
The consequences of sin are death and separation, but what is God’s answer for our sins?

John 3:16
“For God so loved the world that He ____________ 2 His only begotten Son, that whoever ____________ 3 in Him should not ____________ 4 but have ____________ 5 life.”

God is a God of love and His love towards us is unconditional. There are no strings attached. His love is evident in the fact that He sent His only Son to die for us. He made a decision to love us even when we were not looking for Him.

What did Jesus do on the Cross?
1Peter 2:24 ______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Galatians 3:13-14 ______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

Testimony:
I grew up in a Christian home and went to church every Sunday. Although I was a good person, I still did not know God. Going to church or being a good person is not enough to qualify for a relationship with God.
We need a change in nature
2 Corinthians 5:17-19
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

Salvation as a process
Philippians 2:12
“Therefore my beloved...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

Scripture refers to salvation as a process, which starts with us receiving a “new nature” or being “born again”.

Do you think you can earn salvation by doing good works? Please explain:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Do you think you can only get saved once your sin is sorted out?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

FURTHER READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18

RECOMMENDED BOOK: There Were Two Trees in the Garden - Rick Joyner
Daily reading: Matthew 1

Date: _____ /_____ /20_____
DAY 2 | BEING BORN AGAIN

Key Scripture
Acts 4:12
“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

We have to understand that salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. He said in John 10:10 that the thief has come to steal, kill and destroy but that He has come to give us _____________ and life in abundance.

We cannot get saved by good works or by going to church! You have to enter into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Nicodemus was a learned Pharisee and he still did not “see the Kingdom of God” nor did he understand spiritual things.

John 3:3-5
“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot _____________ the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’”

According to Jesus, what two things need to happen in order for a person to see the kingdom of God?
1) Being born of ________________.
2) Being born of the ________________.
Here water refers to our natural birth and spirit to a spiritual birth.

Testimony:
I was a lot like Nicodemus, and even chaired our school’s Christian Students' Society, but still I did not know God. I was only born again after I met a teacher who had a living relationship with Christ. On the 4th of April 1989 I told him: “The Jesus that I follow and the Jesus that you know and follow are not the same. My Jesus is one I made up, but please introduce me to your Jesus — the real One.”
There are two requirements for us to be born again
Romans 10:9-13
“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’”

The requirements are:
- Confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord
- Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

The promise in verse 13 is that “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” God is a spirit being. When you are born again, you must learn to communicate with God in the spirit daily and to have a relationship with Him. We have been made in the image of God and your spirit has been made alive to Him.

Man consists of three parts — what are they?
1 Thessalonians 5:23
“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1) ____________________ 2) ____________________ 3) ____________________

When we are born again, we become a “new creation” but our soul (mind, will, emotions and intellect) has not been made new. This is why you may continue to struggle to overcome old habits and you therefore need to be renewed daily (see Day 38).

What happens when we receive Jesus as our Saviour?
Read John 1:12-13
day 2 | being born again

Daily reading:  Matthew 2

Date: _____ /_____ /20_____
DAY 3 | CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

Key Scripture
1 John 1:7-9
“But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

We saw yesterday that in order to be saved, we must confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our life. Lordship means that Jesus becomes the owner and master of our life. This includes surrendering your will, emotions, control, finances, relationships and every other aspect of your life to Him.

The Greek word for repentance is metanoeia. It literally means to “change your mind or attitude towards something.” It involves a 180 degree turn towards Jesus! We have to change our way of thinking as well as our actions.

Remorse is when we experience sadness or self-pity because of what we have done wrong, but repentance is liberating.

We need real Godly sorrow
2 Corinthians 7:10-11
“For godly sorrow produces _______________ leading to _______________ , not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

Godly sorrow means that we begin to hate sin because it destroys us, our relationship with God and our relationships with those we love.

Romans 2:4
“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the _________________ of God leads you to repentance?”

1 John 1:7-9
“...if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
Testimony:

As a child I perceived God as an old man brandishing a stick. I thought His main objective in my life was to punish me for what I did wrong. I really believed God was only out to spoil my fun. It was only after receiving Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour that my perception of Him changed. I no longer believed that God was a “sin-conscious” God, but rather that He was a “me-conscious” God.

 Forgiveness of our sins is a free gift; we cannot deserve it. So many times we feel guilty and we run away from God. We should, however, run to Him - He is quick to forgive when we repent.

Read what David said after he sinned with Bathsheba:
Psalm 51:4
“Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight - That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

Matthew 16:24
“Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him ___________________________ 13 himself, and take up his cross, and ___________________________ 14 Me.”

The message of Jesus

Who must repent?
Acts 17:30 ___________________________

What do you think it means to deny yourself? ___________________________

FILL IN
The proof of true repentance:

Acts 26:20

What are the three main areas in your life that you must still surrender to the Lordship of Jesus?
1) 
2) 
3) 

Ask Jesus daily to reveal Himself to you as Lord of your life. Remember that it is all about relationship with God. Be honest with God as you pray and spend time with Him.

Action:

Now take the boldness in this week to share with some of your friends about an area in your life where God’s light must still shine and where you must deny yourself.

If you have not committed your life to God, turn to Addendum A and pray the prayer or go to a believer and ask him or her to pray with you.

FURTHER READING: ACTS 2:38-39
LUKE 15:7-10
Daily reading:  

Matthew 3