

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 7

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 7: The Name (Day One) *Family Honor*

We learned in Lesson 6B that the Spirit of the living God is the good Revealer. He uncovers truth for us. He gives us wisdom by making the things of God known to us. He takes the spiritually blind and opens their eyes to what was hidden. We cannot have revelation without the Revealer. Recall the word “revelation” means something has been made known that had been previously concealed (secret, hidden).

The Holy Spirit is the Revealer of our Lord Jesus Christ! Without Jesus, we could not be in relationship with God. The Holy Spirit not only opens our hearts to Jesus, but to the triune God as well. You and I are given the Holy Spirit for the purpose of knowing, loving, worshiping and obeying God. The Holy Spirit also resides within us so that we are able to help others know, love, worship and obey God.

The Holy Spirit’s *name* tells us some things about His godly nature. He is holy. Being holy, the Spirit is sacred and set apart. He is pure and perfect and inspires awe and reverence. We cannot see the Holy Spirit. He is a supernatural and divine Being whose presence is sometimes described as the wind, mysterious and powerful (John 3:8).

Definition: The noun *Name* is a word or phrase by which someone or something is known and distinguished from other people or things. It is what someone or something is called; it can also designate a good reputation or a bad one.

When you meet someone or are introduced, one of the first things that you learn is the person’s name. When parents find out that they are expecting a baby, they usually start thinking and investigating what they are going to call this new person. Names are important in society and usually tell us something about the individual. For example, with most names, we are able to discern the gender (male or female) without ever laying eyes on him or her.

The opposite of name is nameless. It is an adjective that can mean having or bearing *no* name, unknown by name; obscure, not designated by name; anonymous or defying description; inexpressible. It is difficult to get to know someone if you do not have a name in your mind or memory bank. Calling out to someone, “Hey you!” is just not conducive (favorable) to close friendships.

For a variety of reasons, some folks have nicknames. They can be either a shortened version of one’s given name, or a descriptive name of a certain attribute or personality trait. In other words, nicknames can further describe or tell something about the person.

1. Do you or have you ever had a nickname? If so, what is it and how did it come about?

Names are important today and they were important in biblical times. Just as parents today name children with positive thoughts of their future so did parents of old. In fact, names in ancient times indicated the person’s character, nature and essence (spirit). Thus if you knew a person’s name, you would have some idea as to his personal characteristics.

Not everyone is satisfied with his or her name. Our youngest daughter was not. We adopted her when she was 9 years old and at 10 she wanted to change her first name. Having read books that said not to change an adoptive child’s name, I tried to dissuade (talk out of) her but she was adamant (unyielding). It is quite interesting when you consider the name that she chose. Now she was not a believer at the time she chose her new name but it is obvious that God was leading her according to His plans. She chose the name Christine which means follower of Christ. As I write these words, she is a missionary in East Asia serving Christ just as her name indicates.

God changed Abraham, Sarah and Jacob’s names (Genesis 15:5, 15; 32:28) and Christ changed Peter’s name (Matthew 16:17-18). The new names indicated a change in their own character and future towards a fuller and more encompassing relationship and service to God. As a Christian leader, you will be going through changes in your character and abilities as well as helping others embrace the changes in their lives (1 Peter 2:2-3, Hebrews 5:12-14). We know that some changes may not seem very desirable at the time but God is working to make His people live up to their new name.

Read 1 Peter 4:16 and answer questions 2-4:

However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1 Peter 4:16

2. As a believer, what name does one bear (marked by)?
3. What name do *you* now bear?
4. If you are able to call yourself Christian, who are *you* named after?

Read Galatians 5:22-25 and answer questions 5-6:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
Galatians 5:22-25 (underlining by author for emphasis)

5. What are some personal characteristics of those who carry this name (v.22-23)?
6. Choose one of the above characteristics or personality traits that we identify as the fruit of the Spirit and share how this trait has developed since you have been called Christian?

Families want to protect their surname (last name), i.e. the name held by all their family members. They want the community to respect them and their name. If a family were wealthy, politically active, or highly religious, the older members would be even more vigilant (watchful) about other family members, especially the younger ones, to ensure their reputation would be preserved.

Names can even be protected by copyright. Think of famous Hollywood stars who have died. Their families are able to reap financial rewards by selling the use of their name and image for advertising and marketing purposes. If the star had a blemished (flawed) past or was not liked very much, the value of the name could be greatly diminished (lessened).

Christian is our shared family surname! As Christian leaders we should be diligent to live up to the high standards of our name as well as making sure younger Christians understand the responsibility of bearing this tremendous name. When we act dishonorably, we cast doubt on Christ and His followers.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:3

7. Read Psalm 23:3. God guides you in paths of righteousness for

His _____ sake.

Our allegiance and responsibility to God's name is significant. He guides you and me in paths of righteousness for the sake of, on account of His name. God aims to keep you on the right path to protect His character and reputation. He will strengthen you and help you walk an upright and moral life. God desires that you are holy as He is holy. God is in charge of guarding his reputation and that of His family. He knows best how to preserve the honor and praise of His name (Isaiah 48:9-11).

Just as a person's name was descriptive of his character in ancient times, so too the names of God illustrate His character. Thus God's identity is attached to His names. Throughout the Bible, God and His names are used interchangeably.

Read Ezekiel 20:9 and fill in the blanks in question 8:

But for the sake of my name I did what would keep it from being profaned in the eyes of the nations they lived among and in whose sight I had revealed myself to the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt. Ezekiel 20:9

8. God says that for the sake of His _____ He did what would keep it from being _____ in the eyes of the nations that they (Israelites) _____ among and in whose _____ He had _____ Himself to the Israelites.

God does not want His name to be treated irreverently or without respect (profaned). God had revealed Himself to the Israelites and other nations as a God of purpose, power and truth. Even when the Israelites went after false gods and betrayed Him, He did what was necessary to keep His promises and show Himself faithful. God would move to correct their dreadful behavior so that the world would know the truth about His name and character.

God moves in various ways to protect His name and reputation. He may allow wars, famine and other kinds of hardships to bring people back in line with the truth or He may draw the human soul with peace, plenty and blessings. God will use whatever is appropriate to protect His name and in so doing bring us back from rebellion and sin.

In the above verses, God delivered the Israelites out of the Egyptians' hands even though they had rebelled against Him and would not listen to Him (Ezekiel 20:8-9). His deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt foreshadows (future event) Jesus and His deliverance of sinners from Satan. The Israelites did not have anything that would ingratiate (curry favor) with God and neither do we. God acts out of the character and purity of His holy name.

God promised a Savior to deliver mankind from Satan and sin. Thus, true to God's word the Messiah was born for this remarkable deliverance. God continues to work through those called by His name in order to bring honor to His family.

God's working through us is called grace. We do not deserve to have God working through us. It is a gift. God gives us grace for the sake of His name to walk in righteousness and uphold His honor as well as the honor of His family. If you are in Christ, you are in God's family.

9. Can you share a time when God extended grace to you in a difficult situation in which you were about to fail His name? What did you learn through this experience?

God's grace does not mean that we do not have to do anything. When grace is offered we have to receive it and cooperate in whatever way the Spirit counsels or leads. Jesus is our model and example of how to cooperate with God. Remember that the Father, Jesus and the Spirit are One.

Read Ephesians 5:1-2 and answer questions 10-11:

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

10. Who are we suppose to imitate (v. 1)?

11. How did our model, Jesus, live a life of love (v. 2)?

Personal Application:

12. Prayerfully consider how you might live a life of love today just as Christ Jesus did. Share how the Holy Spirit leads you and the results, noting how your actions honored God's name:

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Two) Righteous is His Name

Historically Christians have not always lived up to the high standards that our name demands. Even today, it may be difficult to discern (tell the difference) Christians from non Christians. There are non believers, atheists and even cult adherents (supporters) who have high moral standards and pleasing personalities.

Our handbook for knowing how to successfully bear (carry) our new family name is the Bible. Scripture teaches us what is expected of a follower of Jesus Christ and how we should act or react in various situations. Not only does the Bible tell us what we should do, it informs us of God's grace and the Holy Spirit's enabling power in our lives so that we can live up to the high standards that the name Christian demands.

13. As a leader that others will look to and emulate (imitate), what can you do to elevate the name Christian to a higher and holier standard?

God's name in the Bible is synonymous (equivalent in meaning) with God himself. God and His names are used interchangeably for our benefit. This is one of the ways that God has chosen to reveal His personal identity to us.

Read Psalm 99:1-3 and answer questions 14-15:

The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.² Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy. Psalm 99:1-3

14. Who is to praise God's great and awesome name (v.1, 3)?

15. How do *you* praise the LORD and His holy name?

Definition: YHWH (יהוה) is "God's name in Hebrew known by the technical term 'Tetragrammaton' (Greek, meaning four letters), these are the four consonants which make up the divine name (Exodus 3:15; found more than 6,000 times in the Old Testament). The written Hebrew language did not include vowels, only the consonants were used; thus readers supplied the vowels as they read."¹ Yahweh (Yah weh) is the same Hebrew name with vowels added and is translated LORD in Psalm 99:1-2 above.

¹ Butler, Trent, "Holman Bible Dictionary", Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN.,1991. P.1429

The LORD and His holy name are used alternately in Scripture. God and his name have the same holy meaning. This is one reason why the Jews would not even speak or write the name YHWH for fear of misusing it, just as they would be afraid of offending God Himself. This is still true for religious Jews today.

All the nations are to praise the LORD and his great and awesome name. The phrase “all the nations” means everyone. None is excluded from praising *the Name*. This means praise for all of God and all of His majestic names in Scripture. Our handbook for knowing how to successfully bear (carry) our new family name is the Bible.

Read Philippians 2:9-11 and answer questions 16-18:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

16. What is one of God’s names that will cause every knee to bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth at the judgment seat (v. 10)? (also Romans 14:9-11)

17. Do you bow down to Jesus as Lord in *your* life? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

18. Why *are* you, or why are you *not* serving Jesus as Lord?

19. If you are having difficulty in bowing and serving the Lord, please write below how your Bible Minister might pray for you:

By focusing on God’s names in Scripture, we can learn much about Him and His holy nature. However, one of God’s characteristics is His incomprehensibility (beyond our understanding). This means that we will never completely comprehend or know God while on earth. Heaven may be a different matter in some respects, but will not change the facts of God’s vast superiority and supremacy of His infinite Being. He will always be incomprehensible to some degree.

In God’s goodness and grace, He has revealed a tremendous amount about Himself throughout the Bible. With the Spirit’s help, this Holy Book will keep you and me learning and growing in our relationship with the Lord for the rest of our lives.

What a joyful, lifetime quest – knowing God! Plus, as a Christian leader, you will have the opportunity to help others mature in their relationship with their Maker.

God's names or attributes can be divided into two parts: the attributes that He shares with us and those He does not. For example, God is merciful and we can share in this characteristic by being merciful to others. However, God is omnipresent (present everywhere) but we can only exist in one place and time zone. God does not share His omnipresence with us or others in heaven.

As powerful as the angels are, including the fallen ones, they are not omnipresent. Satan may be able to cover a lot of territory but not at the same time. He is no match for God. Although there is a battle of good and evil going on, our good God is vastly superior to any evil that Satan dares to throw at us. It is not an equal battle of good versus evil because God is vastly superior.

Satan is a created being who will always have to answer to Almighty God (2 Peter 2:4, Job 1:12; 2:6, Matthew 10:8 & James 4:7). Simply, God has no equal and therefore no opposite. God has given Satan free will (ability to choose; make decisions) within a certain framework, just as He has given us free will. Both Satan's freedom and ours can affect our world adversely (badly).

God is sovereign and supreme. Satan does not even have supreme power over his evil actions but must wage his dastardly deeds within allotted borders (Job 1:12). Neither Satan nor his demons have any power or control over a believer. When believers do get caught up in diabolic schemes, it is usually because we are not relying on God. Remember 1 John 4:4: *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* Keep this verse in mind whenever you feel attacked, persecuted or vulnerable.

We will look at two of God's names that He passes on or shares with us and one name that God does not pass on or share with us. Remember that God's "Being" encompasses all of His names or attributes at the same time. When God is righteous and punishes those who are disobedient, He is still loving and good.

Yahweh Tsidkenu (Hebrew language transliterated²) – **The LORD Our Righteousness** *Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness.* Psalm 48:10

² Transliterate means to represent (letters or words) in the corresponding characters of another alphabet.

20. Read Psalm 48:10. Praise for God and His name reaches the ends of the earth because His right hand is filled with:

Definition: The Hebrew word that we translate righteousness is tsedeq (צֶדֶק). It means that which is right, just, and normal. It also is defined as rightness, justness, and specifically of weights and measures. Right means that someone or something is correct, proper, morally good and appropriate. Just means that someone is fair, impartial, morally correct and reasonable.

Psalm 48:10 declares that God is praised in all nations because of His righteousness. Let us consider the word righteousness and how we would determine what is correct, just and morally good. In order to figure out the rightness of someone or some action we must set up a standard. A standard is a value or object by which something may be measured, judged or tested.

21. If you or your neighbor were to set the standard of what is right and correct, do you think there would be some bias (prejudice) in that standard? Yes No Maybe
(Circle One)

22. Do you think that you or your neighbor might be tempted to adjust or alter that standard according to changing feelings or situations? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

You may have heard, “What is right for you may not be right for me.” In our world righteousness is based on individual tastes and preferences. In that case, people do not care if what is right for them and their ensuing (following) actions hurt others or not. For example, “I want a new car; I deserve it. Since I don’t have enough money to buy the car I want, I will just figure out a way to embezzle (steal) from the company where I work and use the money to purchase the car I desire. Then won’t I be proud to drive it.” Pride can certainly motivate the heart to sin. It not only causes people to want material things but power and fame as well.

However, if folks care just a smidgen (bit) about others, they may say something like, “It doesn’t matter what I do, as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone. What people don’t know can’t hurt them. I can lie, visit a prostitute, be a prostitute, view sexual or violent materials, cheat, have sex outside of marriage, or not pay taxes. It is my life and as long as I don’t harm anyone else, it is okay.”

23. As a Christian leader, how would you respond to a new Christian who said, “It doesn’t matter what I do, it isn’t hurting anyone”?

24. As a Christian leader, how would you respond to professed Christians living together in a sexual relationship before marriage?

25. What do you think is wrong with an arbitrary (subjective, random) standard of righteousness?

It would be difficult, if not impossible to follow a rule of conduct that was applied by chance or whim. It would be a guessing game as to how one should act and respond each day. In the same way, what turmoil and chaos would result if each person made rules according to his or her own preferences or circumstances. God is our standard of righteousness. He always does what is correct and morally good. He is just and upright in all His ways. God does not change (Malachi 3:6) so that the standard of righteousness is fixed and secure. You do not wake up each morning and wonder what will be morally appropriate for the day. Righteousness is set in God Himself and revealed throughout His Word.

In regard to sex, it is God-given and the marriage bed is to be kept pure (Hebrews 13:4). Adultery is wrong and even looking on another lustfully breaks God's standard of righteousness (Matthew 5:27-28). Sexual immorality, including premarital sex (fornication), is considered wicked in God's eyes (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 12-20). Homosexuality is wrong and not right (Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1:18-32).

All of these sins that miss God's standard can be forgiven and overcome in the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:11, Galatians 5:16-18). God wants to help us control our bodies and live a righteous life (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). Learn to control your mind and heart, the source of evil thoughts and sexual immorality (Matthew 15:19-20). The Holy Spirit empowers and enables victory (Romans 8:9, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:3).

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. Psalm 7:17

26. Read Psalm 7:17. Do you thank God because of His righteousness? Why or Why not?

God, in His righteousness is the sovereign (supreme) administrator of justice. David, in Psalm 7:17, is secure in his God. He knows that the righteous God can save him from his enemies. God is the righteous Deliverer. Nothing, not any being, place or thing can withstand His righteous rule. He has the absolute power to enforce His judgments, punishing or rewarding accordingly.

27. What if God was righteous but not very powerful?

28. What if God was all powerful but not righteous?

If God were righteous and not very powerful, he could not enforce His laws. His people would have no protection from their enemies, nor be assured of eternal life. In addition, without an omnipotent (all powerful) God, the devil, demons and evil men might never be called to account for their loathsome deeds.

If the LORD were powerful and not righteous, people would not have much peace. We would never be sure of His will or desire for our lives. We would have no way to gauge (determine) our actions or even purpose. You and I would live in constant fear, never knowing what God wanted from us or how to please Him.

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. Jeremiah 23:5-6

29. In Jeremiah 23:5, who is the righteous Branch, the King? (Acts 7:52)
God the Father and God the Son share the name, The LORD Our Righteousness.

Although Jeremiah is speaking of his present day and the Israelite's freedom from the Babylonians, he is also prophesying about the Messiah. Jesus is the righteous Branch, the King and our High Priest who lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25-26). He is the Righteous One.

When we speak of God's righteousness we are also speaking of God's justice. As we learned, the word translated for righteousness in biblical Hebrew is tsedeq (צֶדֶק) and means justice. Thus when we speak of God as being righteous we are also saying that God is just. He gives the right consideration to everyone's claims and treats them accordingly. He is a fair Judge. Now, justice demands that all crimes be punished. Mercy, on the other hand, calls for refraining from punishment. Mercy is also one of God's holy attributes (Exodus 34:6).

30. How can God be both just and merciful at the same time?

God's justice and mercy met in Christ on the cross. We are the sinners who deserve punishment for our sins and yet God's Son, in unfathomable (impossible to measure or understand) mercy, paid the penalty for those crimes. Justice was

served and mercy was given in Jesus' blood sacrifice. For those who do not receive God's mercy, that is Jesus' taking the rap (criminal charge), justice will be served with an eternal sentence of hell.

The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness-- for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4:23-25 (underlining by author for emphasis)

Definition: The word credit has various meanings but in the context of the Romans passage it means that a payment has been recorded to one's account. Abraham was reckoned or credited righteous because he believed in God and His promises (Romans 4:20-22).

31. Read Romans 4:23-25. How are we righteous, sharing in God's attribute of righteousness?

32. Believers still sin, so how can you be called to live up to God's standard and be righteous in His sight? (Hebrews 9:14; Ephesians 4:21-24, 1 John 1:8-10, Romans 6)

Our righteousness is credited (reckoned, paid) to us through the blood of Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for our sins. Although we do not cherish sin anymore, we can still do wrong things. When this happens, we agree with God that we have sinned and ask forgiveness based on our faith and trust in Christ and his sacrifice on the cross.

Why Christians Continue to Sin

After we are born again in Christ we are a new creation. Our sins are forgiven and we have God's Spirit to lead us in all righteousness. Clearly, we have the ability to do what is right (Romans 6:11-14) but we do sin (1 John 1:8).

God does not take away our human nature and our ability to choose good from evil (Romans 6:19). We still have free will and we still have Satan and his followers who prowl around looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8). In our natural body we will always be tempted to put ourselves, our comfort and our own satisfaction above others. Plus we continue to live in a fallen and corrupted world that can entice or lure us into sinful activities.

Even Jesus, in His humanity, was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan tried to persuade Jesus to turn rocks into bread when He was hungry, to prove Himself deity by testing God, and to receive His reward early by false worship. Jesus was perfect and in every temptation He never sinned. He always chose God's way and righteousness.

Jesus lives within believers and helps us to resist temptation just like He did. We need to allow Jesus to take over and work through us (Philippians 4:13). Once we are saved, we begin the process called sanctification. We grow in holiness and purity each day (Hebrews 12:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). As a new creation, we should not enjoy sin nor should we continue in sinful behaviors.

When we do sin, we are to agree with God that we have done wrong (1 John 1:9). We use our free will to repent, that is, we turn from doing that particular sin. As Jesus taught, we should pray for help to keep us from temptation because the *spirit is willing, but the body is weak* (Mark 14:38). God gives us grace to follow him.

Note: The last 4 pages on this lesson contain a “**Contemplative Confession Guide**” for your use. Confess a sin whenever you become aware of it; this is ideal. However, you may have blind spots to your behavior and not realize how your actions and thoughts may be adversely (badly) affecting your walk with the Lord. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, use this guide to help bring these sins to mind so that you may confess, repent and remain in holy relationship with God.

Personal Application: You are righteousness in Christ Jesus. Give praise to His name:

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Psalm 5:11

We give thanks to you, O God, we give thanks, for your Name is near; men tell of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 75:1

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:28

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Three) The Shepherd

A shepherd is one who watches, tends or keeps a flock of sheep. Sheep are grass eating animals that were important in ancient Israel. They were used for their fleece, hide, meat, milk and also as an offering in the sacrificial system. Yes, sheep were significant in Israel's economy.

Sheep needed and still need a lot of care for them to be healthy and useful. Not only are they subject to attack by other wild animals, but they have certain characteristics that keep them from being successful as solitary or independent animals. They are skittish (jumpy), tend to overeate, attract parasites and are not able to keep their woolly hair manageable. The fleece can actually grow and become heavy and cause the sheep to fall over from its weight.³ Once the animal falls down from a full fleece, it will not be able to rise again on its own and without help will die.

Not every sheep herder is willing to do what is necessary to have healthy and productive sheep. Thus there are good shepherds who are concerned about their sheep and bad shepherds who are not. David, who wrote the 23rd Psalm, knew the difference between the two. Being a good shepherd himself, he was willing to risk his life for his sheep. The Bible tells us that he fought both bear and lion to keep his flock safe (1 Samuel 17:36).

Yahweh Rohi – The LORD is my Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. Psalm 23:1

33. Read Psalm 23:1. Who is *your* Shepherd?

for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
Psalm 95:7a

34. Read Psalm 95:7a. Whose pasture and flock do *you* belong to?

In the Bible sheep are used in various instances to symbolize God's people. God often uses what His people know and understand in the physical world to help them relate to Him in the spiritual world. For example, sheep can wander off, lose sight of the shepherd and become lost. In Isaiah 53:6 God tells us that we are like sheep and go astray (lost, off track).

³ *A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23* by Phillip Keller is an insightful guide that you might want to read. Published in 1970 by Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI.

35. What are some ways that *you* are like a sheep?

36. How has God been *your* shepherd?

David was not the first person to think of God as his shepherd. God established this particular name and how it relates to his people in the first book of the Bible. He then uses this strong and tender name throughout Scripture. It is a holy and meaningful picture of our God.

Then he blessed Joseph and said, "May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,"
Genesis 48:15

37. Read Genesis 48:15. How long did Jacob (Israel) say that God had been his shepherd?

Read John 10:11 and answer questions 38-42:

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11

38. Who is speaking in this verse?

39. Do God the Father and God the Son share the name Shepherd?
Yes No (Circle One)

40. How did the Good Shepherd lay down his life for *you*?

41. Can *you* be a shepherd to a flock or group of people?
Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

42. As a shepherd following Christ, how do *you* lay down *your* life for your sheep or people?

Read Revelation 7:17 and answer questions 43-45:

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
Revelation 7:17

43. What are two other things the Shepherd will do for you as a sheep of his pasture?

Jesus, the Lamb and Shepherd, leads His sheep to springs of living water. In Revelation 7:17, living water means eternal life. Not only will the Shepherd's sheep receive everlasting life, but they will receive a life with no tears. God's people will be filled with eternal peace and joy.

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." John 21:16

44. Read John 21:16. What does Jesus ask Peter to do?

45. Is Jesus asking you the same thing? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer:

46. What are some specific ways that a Christian leader is a good shepherd of sheep? (Suggestions to get you started: Matthew 4:19, 5:38-42; James 5:13; John 10:9-16, 21:15-17)

Personal Application: Pray and Practically Apply

O Great and Good Shepherd,

I am the sheep of Your pasture and have every good thing that I need. Your tender mercies are new every morning. Thank you for seeking me when I was lost and calling me back when I stray. I am forever indebted to You for laying down Your life for me, a simple sheep.

Thank You for continually protecting me from the evil one who wants to destroy me. No one can do anything to me except by Your permission. If I am caught in a trap or hindered in anyway, I know that You will release me in perfect timing.

O loving and caring Shepherd, I ask that You anoint and teach me to be a shepherd like You. Help me to lead, guide, serve, encourage, forgive and lay down my life in Jesus' name. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who powerfully works through me for Your holy service and glory! Amen.

47. Choose one of the ways that a leader is a good shepherd (see your answer to #46) and apply it to you own life this week. What did you choose to do and how did it work out?

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Four) I AM

Using God's name in a flippant or joking way is also wrong. This includes any names of the triune God. He is not a God to trifle with in humor or jest. He created us to have wholesome humor but we are surely guilty if we say or use God's names, including Jesus, in a frivolous or unworthy manner.

All of God's names are to be revered (honored) and not misused. The Bible makes this clear (Exodus 20:7: Matthew 6:9). But it is equally important to lovingly and respectfully speak the names that God has revealed to us in Scripture. If God did not want us to speak or meditate on His names, He would not have revealed them to us.

This reminds me of the story of the talents (Matthew 25:15-29). Recall the servant who received one talent. He hid it for fear of losing it and having to face a tough master. The master was not pleased at all. In the same way God is a righteous Master and He will punish anyone who misuses His name. However, like the earthly master wanted His talents increased and not hidden, God wants the proper use of His name increased and not hidden away. He desires His name to be praised and honored among the nations.

God has given us His name as a pure gift of revelation and love. Let us return this gift with our love and respect. Let us be thankful and always use the NAME properly.

48. What do you do when any of God's names are misused by friend or foe, in DVDs, CDs etc.?

49. Do you think that God will hold you responsible for your response to other's misuse of His Name? Why? Why Not?

When someone is misusing God's name, you can ask them *in a kind and loving manner* to stop. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in what to say and how to say it. If you are truly living out your faith, others may recognize your genuineness and refrain from swearing in your presence. If you are in a situation where the misuse

of the Lord's name is continuous and there is nothing you can do about it, pray for the strength of your witness and the mighty power of Jesus to change lives.

Our media (movies, television, CDs, etc.) misuses God's name constantly. At the least, do not watch or listen to these kinds of things. Pray that Hollywood and other film makers would not abuse the name of our Lord. At the most, undergirded (firm basis) by prayer write letters to studio leaders asking them to honor God's name in all of their products.

Personal Application: If you have ever misused God's name, take time now to confess, repent and receive God's mercy. When you get angry and offensive words just seem to slip out, confess, repent and again receive God's mercy. In time, you will cease to have those slips in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

YAHWEH – I AM, HE IS

We now turn our attention to the name God said was to be remembered from generation to generation (Exodus 3:15). It is a powerful and holy name that encompasses some of God's exclusive attributes. It is the name that God gave to Moses to use in a significant and historic mission.

Read Exodus 3:13-14 and answer questions 50-51:

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14

50. When Moses asked God for His name, what name did God give to him (v. 14)?

51. After God gave Moses His name, what further instructions did God give (v. 14)?

In the Hebrew text, the word God uses for His name, **I AM**, is EHYEH (אֲנִי־אֶהְיֶה). It is the *first* person, singular, qal, imperfect tense of the **verb to be**. Context, syntax (sentence structure) and grammar give words various meanings and nuances. Qal means that this verb is simple active. Imperfect has the sense of an incomplete action so that this verb can also mean: **I will be**. In fact, in the previous verse Exodus 3:12, the same verb is translated: **I will be**. Observe our timeless God **who is**, and **who was** and **who is to come** (Revelation 1:8).

When we use God's name we say YAHWEH (YHWH), **HE IS**. The word is the *third* person, masculine, singular, qal, imperfect of the verb to be. This is the name that Moses uses when he goes to the Israelites and tells them that YAHWEH (**HE IS**) has sent me to you.

In English, the verb **to be** can mean to have existence, give description, continue or happen. It can also mean to live, occupy a position, to have a certain identity or to become. Bible translators have made various attempts to bring out the real sense and meaning of God's name EHYEH (אֲנִי־אֵלֶּהּ), **I AM**:

I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS (NLT)

I AM THAT WHICH IS (YLT)

I am he who is (NJB)

I AM THE BEING

The One who Eternally Exists

The Self Existent One

I am the one that has being within himself ⁴

God is spirit and not restricted by time, space or matter. He created all three when He created the universe. God acts and moves within the time and space that He created but He is not limited by it. God is timeless and eternal, with no beginning and no end. So when God says I AM, He is revealing His self-existent nature. He is dependent on no one. However, all is dependent on Him.

God exists everywhere (Jeremiah: 23-24, Psalm 139:7-10); HE IS. He is omnipresent (Omni means all in Latin). God's omnipresence is difficult for us to understand because we live in time and space surrounded by matter. We can be separated from people and things but He cannot. He is present *with* you and me and all creation at the same time. He may or may not reveal His presence in a *personal* way to you or me, but that does not mean He is not here with us.

However, God is not identical or contained within His created universe (Pantheism). This is a non Christian idea. This in fact is a New Age view of God. Taken to extreme, the New Ager will declare that all things are god or in god so that basically there is no difference between God, man or a tree.

52. How does studying the name YHWH enlarge your view of God?

Read John 8:58 and answer questions 53-55:

⁴ Douglas, JD, New Bible Dictionary, p. 427.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds. John 8:58

53. What name does Jesus call Himself?

54. When Jesus called Himself "I Am," why did the Jews attempt to stone him? (Leviticus 24:16)

55. What name does God the Father and God the Son share but we do not?

Read Colossians 1:15-17 and answer questions 56-58:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15-17

56. Who is the image of the invisible God (v.15)?

57. Who do we depend on to keep our world together (v.17)?

58. Why should Jesus' name be revered and kept holy (v.15-17)?

Personal Application:

59. Share with someone today or tomorrow the truth of God and Jesus being one and sharing the same holy name, YAHWEH. Write about what happened:

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Five) In His Name

We looked at three names that God the Father and God the Son share: *The LORD our Righteousness, The Good Shepherd and YHWH*. Sharing the same name is another powerful testimony to the fact that Jesus and the Father are one. Recall that God's name is synonymous (identical) to Himself. No one could call himself YHWH except God.

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-- the name you gave me-- so that they may be one as we are one.¹² While I was with them, I

protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. John 17:11-12 (Judas was the one doomed to destruction as he denied Christ)

60. Read John 17:11-12. Jesus prayed to the Father to protect His disciples by the power of His name. Since John died in exile and the other ten were martyred, how was Jesus' prayer answered?

Jesus was praying that God would keep the disciples in His name. He wanted the disciples to be one with the Father and Himself rather than being lost to eternal damnation (condemned to hell or eternal punishment). Jesus was not praying that their bodies would remain safe but their souls or spirits would be true to God. Jesus' prayer was answered in that all His disciples except Judas remained faithful, even to death.

61. As a leader, how will you adjust or refine your prayers for others, especially for those you are discipling?

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13-14

62. Read and meditate on John 14:13-14. List two reasons Jesus will do what you ask in prayer:

Asking in Jesus' name means that you are dwelling in or living in Him. You are standing firm and following Jesus daily. Your desire is to bring honor to God and not to yourself. In fact, your prayers match up with the Father's will and what He wants to accomplish through you. You, like Jesus, have the Father's glory in mind when you make a request. These requests are answered.

Read Acts 5:40-41 and answer questions 63-65:

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Acts 5:40-41

63. Did Jesus' name keep the apostles from being flogged? Y N (Circle One)

64. After the flogging, why did the apostles leave rejoicing?

65. The apostles suffered physical pain and disgrace because of Jesus' name. Explain how this truth does not contradict but in fact agrees with John 14:13-14 and John 17:11-12?

Jesus suffered both emotional and physical persecution while he walked the earth in human form. Being in Jesus or living in His name means that we may be called to suffer in similar ways. The servant is not greater than the Master. In John 14 and 17, Jesus is not promising a life without pain and suffering but one lived victoriously through Him, both now and forever.

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20 (Revelation 21:27)

66. According to Luke 10:20, what should you rejoice about?

I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints. Psalm 52:9

67. Read Psalm 52:9. Where do you place your hope?

Personal Application: Memorize Isaiah 26:8 and 42:8

68. *Yes, LORD, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. Isaiah 26:8*

69. *"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. Isaiah 42:8*

70. Starting today, how will you walk in the LORD's ways, wait for Him and make His name and renown the desire of your heart?

- End Lesson 7 -

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 7
CLI Christian Leadership Study: The Name

Name & Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lesson 7: The Name (Day One) *Family Honor*

1. Do you or have you ever had a nickname? If so, what is it and how did it come about? _____

2. As a believer, what name does one bear (marked by)? _____

3. What name do *you* now bear? _____

4. If you are able to call yourself Christian, who are *you* named after? _____

5. What are some personal characteristics of those who carry this name (v.22-23)?

6. Choose one of the above characteristics or personality traits that we identify as the fruit of the Spirit and share how this trait has developed since you have been called Christian? _____

7. Read Psalm 23:3. God guides you in paths of righteousness for His _____
sake.

8. God says that for the sake of His _____ He did what would keep it
from being _____ in the eyes of the nations that they (Israelites)

_____ among and in whose _____ He had
_____ Himself to the Israelites.

9. Can you share a time when God extended grace to you in a difficult situation in which you were about to fail His name? What did you learn through this experience? _____

10. Who are we suppose to imitate (v. 1)? _____

11. How did our model Jesus live a life of love (v. 2)? _____

Personal Application:

12. Prayerfully consider how you might live a life of love today just as Christ Jesus. Share how the Holy Spirit leads you and the results, noting how your actions honored God’s name: _____

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Two) Righteous is His Name

13. As a leader that others will look to and emulate (imitate), what can you do to elevate the name Christian to a higher and holier standard?

14. Who is to praise God’s great and awesome name (v.1, 3)? _____

15. How do *you* praise the LORD and His holy name? _____

16. What is one of God's names that will cause every knee to bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth at the judgment seat (v. 10)? (also Romans 14:9-11)

17. Do you bow down to Jesus as Lord in *your* life? Yes No Sometimes
(Circle One)

18. Why *are* you, or why are you *not* serving Jesus as Lord? _____

19. If you are having difficulty in bowing and serving the Lord, please write below how your Bible Minister might pray for you: _____

20. Read Psalm 48:10. Praise for God and His name reaches the ends of the earth because His right hand is filled with: _____

21. If you or your neighbor were to set the standard of what is right and correct, do you think there would be some bias (prejudice) in that standard? Yes No Maybe
(Circle One)

22. Do you think that you or your neighbor might be tempted to adjust or alter that standard according changing feelings or situations? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

23. As a Christian leader, how would you respond to a new Christian who said, "It doesn't matter what I do, it isn't hurting anyone." _____

24. As a Christian leader, how would you respond to professed Christians living together in a sexual relationship before marriage? _____

25. What do you think is wrong with an arbitrary (subjective, personal) standard of righteousness? _____

26. Read Psalm 7:17. Do you thank God because of His righteousness? Why or Why not? _____

27. What if God was righteous, but *not* very powerful? _____

28. What if God was all powerful but *not* righteous? _____

29. In Jeremiah 23:5, who is the righteous Branch, the King? (Acts 7:52)

30. How can God be both just and merciful at the same time? _____

31. Read Romans 4:23-25. How are we righteous, sharing in God's attribute of righteousness? _____

32. Believers still sin, so how can you be called to live up to God's standard and be righteous in His sight? (Hebrews 9:14; Ephesians 4:21-24, 1 John 1:8-10, Romans 6) _____

33. Read Psalm 23:1. Who is *your* Shepherd? _____

34. Read Psalm 95:7a. Whose pasture and flock do *you* belong to? _____

35. What are some ways that *you* are like a sheep? _____

36. How has God been *your* shepherd? _____

37. Read Genesis 48:15. How long did Jacob (Israel) say that God had been his shepherd? _____

38. Who is speaking in this verse? _____

39. Do God the Father and God the Son share the name Shepherd? Yes No
(Circle One)

40. How did the Good Shepherd lay down his life for *you*? _____

41. Can *you* be a shepherd to a flock or group of people? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer: _____

42. As a shepherd following Christ, how do *you* lay down *your* life for your sheep or people? _____

43. What are two other things the Shepherd will do for you as a sheep of his pasture?

1. _____

2. _____

44. Read John 21:16. What does Jesus ask Peter to do? _____

45. He is asking you the same thing? Yes No Maybe (Circle One) Explain your answer: _____

46. What are some specific ways that a Christian leader is a good shepherd of sheep? (Suggestions to get you started: Matthew 4:19, 5:38-42, James 5:13, John 10:9-16, 21:15-17) _____

Personal Application: Pray and Practically Apply

47. Choose one of the ways that a leader is a good shepherd (see your answer to #45) and apply it to you own life this week. What did you choose to do and how did it work out? _____

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Four) I AM

48. What do you do when any of God’s names are misused by friend or foe, in DVDs, CDs etc.? _____

49. Do you think that God will hold you responsible for your response to other’s misuse of His Name? Why? Why Not? _____

50. When Moses asked God for His name, what name did God give to him (v.14)?

51. After God gave Moses His name, what further instructions did God give (v. 14)? _____

52. How does studying the name YHWH enlarge your view of God?

53. What name does Jesus call Himself? _____

54. When Jesus called Himself “I Am,” why did the Jews attempt to stone him? (Leviticus 24:16) _____

55. What name does God the Father and God the Son share but we do not?

56. Who is the image of the invisible God (v.15)? _____

57. Who do we depend on to keep our world together (v.17)? _____

58. Why should Jesus' name be revered and kept holy (v.15-17)?

Personal Application:

59. Share with someone today or tomorrow the truth of God and Jesus being one and sharing the same holy name, YAWEH. Write about what happened:

Lesson 7: The Name (Day Five) In His Name

60. Read John 17:11-12. Jesus prayed to the Father to protect His disciples by the power of His name. Since John died in exile and the other ten were martyred, how was Jesus' prayer answered? _____

61. As a leader, how will you adjust or refine your prayers for others, especially those you are discipling? _____

62. Read and meditate on John 14:13-14. List two reasons Jesus will do what you ask in prayer:

(1. _____

(2. _____

63. Did Jesus' name keep the apostles from being flogged? Y N (Circle One)

64. After the flogging, why did the apostles leave rejoicing? _____

65. The apostles suffered physical pain and disgrace because of Jesus' name. Explain how this truth does not contradict but in fact agrees with John 14:13-14 and John 17:11-12? _____

66. According to Luke 10:20, what should you rejoice about? _____

67. Read Psalm 52:9. Where do you place your hope? _____

Personal Application:

68. Write Isaiah 26:8 from memory: _____

69. Write Isaiah 42:8 from memory: _____

70. Starting today, how will you walk in the LORD's ways, wait for Him and make His name and renown the desire of your heart? _____

Next: Lesson 8 - Part One: Active Leadership Mission

Rev 9/27/2013

Contemplative Confession Guide:

Holy God, You are good and set the standard for righteousness. I pray that I may walk in Your holiness and light.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

Search my heart O God, my thoughts and my ways and see if there is any offensive way in me.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; Psalm 66:18

Holy Spirit, please reveal my sins to me and lead me in godly sorrow for my transgressions.

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. John 16:8-11

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. Romans 8:26-27

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

Examine your conscience and confess (agree with and say plainly) to God about your wrongdoing. You might begin by praying: Father, I come to You as Your child and ask how I have hurt You or caused You pain and heartache? (Genesis 6:6, Ephesians 4:30-32)

Listed below are questions to help recall the specific wrong action, deed or thought:

1. Relational Problems: Am I respecting and honoring God? Am I treating people including family, friends, strangers and enemies in a Christ-like manner? Have I mistreated anyone? Have I been jealous, prideful, arrogant or selfish toward another? Am I patient?

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4:29

Note: Sometimes it is helpful to confess to another person that is a trustworthy Christian who will listen, keep a confidence and pray with and for you to overcome temptation.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

2. Moral Purity: Do I have purity of mind and heart? How have I been impure? Am I watching or using the T.V., movies or the internet in ways that are dishonoring to Christ? Am I listening to conversations, CDs, radio or anything that does not honor God?

I will set before my eyes no vile thing. The deeds of faithless men I hate; they will not cling to me. Psalm 101:3

3. Anxiety: Do I trust God completely without worry or concern? Do I have a tendency to despair (feelings of hopelessness)? What am I concerned about that reveals my faithlessness?

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Matthew 6:27

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. Habakkuk 3:17-18

4. Disobedience: How am I following God's direction? Am I walking in God's will and plan for my life? Am I following His word, the Bible?

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14:15

5. Pure Motives and Attitudes: Do I have an unhealthy pattern of thinking? Do I complain or criticize others? Do I complain or criticize circumstances or things in my life? Am I self indulgent with my time? Do I harbor a grudge or unforgiveness toward anyone, past or present?

Whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, him will I not endure. Psalm 101:5

Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! James 5:9

6. Moral Character: Am I honest? Can people depend on what I say? Do I say things in a way as to hide the truth of a situation? Am I ethical and deal fairly with everyone? Do I cheat? Do I gossip? Am I easily angered? Do I lack self control? Do I submit to authority?

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:5-8

7. Is there anything in any area of my life where I have sinned?

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. I John 1:8-10

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

O Merciful Father, I am sorry and sad that I have not listened and obeyed You these situations or circumstances that I just acknowledged. I turn back to You and turn away from my sins.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. Cleanse me with (Jesus' blood) hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; buildup the walls of Jerusalem. Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar. Psalm 51:1-19
(When I pray, I pray Jesus' blood instead of hyssop and end verse 19 with: Then there will be one righteous sacrifice, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.)

Lord Jesus, You are the Christ, the atoning sacrifice for my sins. I accept Your free gift of forgiveness for all my sins, past, present and future, known and unknown, intentional and unintentional. I pray that I die to sin and live for righteousness. Thank You, my Lord.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense— Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, Titus 3:5

O God, Please show me if there is anything I need to do to restore anything that I have taken, either physically or spiritually from another. May I never blame anyone else for my sin but accept fully my responsibility.

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Luke 19:8

Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit, Thank You for continually forgiving me. Help me to always forgive others and follow Jesus' instruction. I ask to walk in the light with You and with other Christians. Thank You.

If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent, ' forgive him." Luke 17:4

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. I John 1:7

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Galatians 6:1

Lord Jesus, Thank you that I may now draw near to God and enter into His presence in assurance of faith.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Hebrews 4:14

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22

*All Scripture from NIV translation.

Bibliography: Disciples Cross by Avery Willis Jr.

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