

Guide for Evening Speakers: Discipleship

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MORNING CLASS</u>	<u>EVENING CLASS</u>
SUN		(Overview of week's lessons)
MON	<u>Remembering God in Youth</u> Reasons for remembering God (God is creator, you are accountable, Christ's example, secret of true happiness, friends are influenced by you, youthful decisions determine eternal destiny, it's commanded)	<u>God's Young Heroes</u> Joseph David Josiah Daniel Others
TUES	<u>Worldliness</u> Is condemned Is of the devil (a powerful adversary) Is love of the world (passion for earthly things, a concern for Christians, destructive to the soul, do the will of God to abide forever) How to keep from loving world (know God's word, avoid things which excite lusts, pray for wisdom)	<u>Overcoming the Devil</u> Recognize him when you see him If hand offends, cut it off Put kingdom first
WED	<u>Respect for Authority</u> God is primary authority Apostles have delegated authority Should exist in home, government, and church Regarding church (elders, God's design, this is biggest problem in religion today)	<u>A Contrast in Authority</u> America - "Children's Defense Fund" "Police brutality" cry erodes civil authority Schools coddle gangs OJ goes free in court Court rewrites laws God- Tolerates no changes (Uzzah, Nadab & Abihu)
THUR	<u>Cost of Discipleship</u> Cheap religion is worthless Christianity cost Christ His life Put kingdom before food, clothing, shelter, etc., love own life less, (Stephen, early Christians) Self-denial Daily cross bearing Christ places value on discipleship Will you pay the cost?	<u>Practical Applications</u> Make commitment to God Be prepared for cost (Give up TV, reject some music, be example to friends) Develop plan of action (failing to plan is planning to fail)

Discipleship

(Lesson One)

REMEMBERING GOD IN YOUTH

- I. What are some reasons why you should remember God in youth?
- A. It is a command of God (Ecc. 12:1).
 - B. God is your creator.
 - 1. He created you in his own image (Gen. 1:26-27).
 - 2. He gave you a soul that is worth more than all the world (Matt. 16:26).
 - 3. He placed you above all His creation (Psa. 8:3-8).
 - 4. He provides all spiritual blessings in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
 - C. You are accountable to God.
 - 1. Solomon encourages young people to enjoy the days of their youth, but to remember that God will bring all things into judgment (Ecc. 11:9).
 - 2. Gal. 6:7
 - 3. Rom. 14:10-12
 - D. Christ left us an example of following God in His youth (Luke 2:52, I Pet. 2:21)
 - E. You have no guarantee of a long life (Prov. 27:1, James 4:13-17).
 - F. True happiness comes from following God's precepts (Matt. 5:1-12).
 - 1. Solomon couldn't find it in wisdom and knowledge (Ecc. 1:12-18).
 - 2. He couldn't find it in wisdom and knowledge (Ecc. 2:1-26)
 - 3. It was not in prominence, power, and prestige (Ecc. 3:1-5, 20).
 - 4. It was not in earthly pleasures (Ecc. 6:1-8, 17)
- II. What you do during your youth can have eternal consequences.
- A. For you.
 - 1. Acts 17:30-31, Heb. 9:27
 - 2. Ecc. 12:14, II Cor. 5:10, II Thess. 1:7-9, Rev. 20:11-15
 - B. For your friends.
 - 1. I Tim. 4:12
 - 2. Matt. 12:34-35, Phil. 1:27, I John 5:3, John 13:34-35, Tit. 2:14, Jas. 2:14-17, Gen. 39:9, Dan. 1:8

(Lesson Two)

WORLDLINESS

“My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36)

- I. We must understand and be wary of worldliness.
 - A. Worldliness is condemned (John 17:16, John 18:36, Rom. 12:2, Jas. 1:27, Jas. 4:4, Gal. 1:4).
 - B. Worldliness is of the devil (II Cor. 4:4, John 12:31, John 16:11, I John 5:19).
- II. What is worldliness?
 - A. Webster “...the disposition or tendency to emphasize the things of the world rather than things of the spirit: devotion or love of worldly affairs usually accompanied by neglect of religious duties or spiritual needs.”
 - B. Passion for earthly possession, power, and glory is “worldliness” (Matt. 4:8-9, II Tim. 4:10, Luke 15:13, Phil. 3:18-19)
- III. Why should Christians be concerned about worldliness?
 - A. The scriptures describe it as destructive to the soul (John 17:14, Gal. 1:4, Jas. 4:4, Jas. 1:27, Rom. 12:2, Tit. 2:11-12, I Thess. 5:22, II Pet. 1:4)
 - B. Worldliness is of the devil, our powerful adversary (I Pet. 5:8, II Cor. 4:4, Rev. 12:9, John 12:31, I John 5:19, Lk. 22:31, II Tim. 4:10, Jas. 4:7)
 - C. It is those that do “the will of God that abideth forever,” not those that love the world (I John 2:17, Heb. 1:11-12, Matt. 24:35, I Pet. 1:23-25, Heb. 12:28).
- IV. What is needed to keep from loving the world and the things of the world?
 - A. There must be a thorough education in the word of God.
 - 1. Phil. 1:9-11; Heb. 5:12-14
 - 2. We must store the word of God in our hearts each day.
 - B. Strive to avoid those things that excite lusts (Jas. 1:14-15; Phil 4:8).
 - C. The secret of victory is Jesus Christ. (Phil. 4:13; II Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:37 and 12:12)
 - D. Satan’s allurements are subtle, so pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5).
 - E. The world will pass away, but those who please God will survive (I Jn. 5:4-5).

(Lesson Three)

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

“All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth.” (Matt. 28:18)

I. What is authority?

- A. Webster – “the right to command and enforce obedience, the right to act by virtue of office, station, or relation; as the authority of parent over child, authority of an office.”
- B. Kinds of authority
 - 1. Primary authority, due to the relation of those who have the right to command and those whose duty it is to obey (John 19:10-11).
 - 2. Delegated authority, which can be given to another by the party holding primary authority.
 - a. God delegated authority to his Son (Mat. 28:18; Jn. 5:26-27; Heb. 1:1-2).
 - b. Christ delegated authority to the apostles (Matt. 16:18 and 18:18, John 17:8; John 16:3, Acts 2:1-4)
 - c. The apostles delegated authority to no one (Matt. 19:28; Luke 10:16; John 13:20)
 - 3. The apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, have revealed God’s will for us in all areas of life and we must respect and obey.

II. There must be respect for authority in the home.

- A. Home is a divine institution, and God has given laws regulating the conduct of all members of the home (Gen. 2:18-24).
- B. Every member of the family must respect and obey God. (Gen 18:19; Josh. 24:15; II Tim. 1:5)
 - 1. Husband must respect and obey God (Eph. 5:23-25 and 6:4)
 - 2. Wife must respect God-given authority of husband (Eph. 5:22-24; I Pet. 3:1, 5, 6)
 - 3. Children are to respect the authority of their parents in the home
 - a. Disobedient children are abomination to God (Deut. 21:18-21)
 - b. Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right (Eph. 6:1-2; Matt. 15:1-6)

III. God’s authority must be respected in government (Rom. 13:1-7).

- A. Civil government is ordained of God.
- B. We must render obedience to civil government (Rom. 13:1, I Pet. 2:13-14)
 - 1. Honor (I Pet. 2:17; Rom. 13:7)
 - 2. Prayers (Jer. 29:7; I Tim. 2:1-2)

IV. God’s authority must be respected in the church.

- A. Elders of the church are a part of God’s arrangement for each local congregation (Acts 14:23 and 20:17; Titus 1:5)
- B. Elders have some authority in the church that others (including preachers) do not have.
 - 1. Overseer (Acts 20:28)
 - 2. Shepherd (I Pet. 5:2; Acts 20:28)
 - 3. Watch (Acts 20:31)
 - 4. Set over (I Thess. 5:12)
- C. We have duties toward the elders of the church.
 - 1. Know them (I Thess. 5:12)
 - 2. Esteem them (I Thess. 5:13)
 - 3. Honor them (I Tim. 5:17)
 - 4. Receive accusations with reservation (I Tim. 5:19)
 - 5. Obey them (Heb. 13:17)

6. Submit to them (Heb. 13:17)
- D. Many of the religious problems existing today are a result of lack of respect of authority, or a failure to accept any standard of authority.
 1. How do we know that a pound is sixteen ounces? 36 inches to a yard?
 2. Couldn't play sports if everyone made their own rules.
 3. In all phases of life, especially in the field of religion, one must not only recognize a standard of authority, but the source of the authority, because it is the source that imparts authority.

(Lesson Four)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

“And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

- I. What does it cost to be a disciple of the Lord?
 - A. Introductory thoughts
 1. A religion that costs nothing is worth nothing (Luke 14:25-33)
 2. Many teenagers (and adults) seem to have the idea that being a Christian really doesn't cost much. This cheapens Christianity and makes for indifference.
 3. Christianity is certainly not without cost from the divine side. It cost God His Son. It cost Christ His life on the cross
 - B. It costs all in order to put Christ first (Luke 14:33)
 1. Seeking the kingdom of God must come even before food, clothing, and shelter (Matt. 6:33).
 2. Putting these things before God shows little faith (Matt. 6:30; Matt. 18:19-22; Phi. 3:7-8)
 - C. It costs loving one's own life less (Matt. 10:39, Luke 14:26)
 1. Stephen loved his own life less (Acts 7:58-60)
 2. Early Christians (Rev. 12:11; Rev. 2:10)
 3. This was not a cheap religion for these people.
 - D. It costs self-denial (Mark 8:34)
 1. This is one of the hardest parts of the Christian life.
 2. Jesus left us an example of self-denial (II Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:5-9)
 3. Paul (I Cor. 8:9-13)
 - E. It costs daily cross bearing (Matt. 10:38; Luke 9:23)
 1. The Lord bore His (shameful) cross with honor (Heb. 12:2).
 2. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ even though it meant prison, beatings, loss of friends, and privation (Rom. 1:16).
 3. There are some crosses that all of us must bear at times.
 - a. Luke 14:26
 - b. Luke 12:51
 - c. I Pet. 4:4
- II. Is being a disciple of the Lord worth the cost?
 - A. It depends on whether you look at it from man's standpoint (no) or God's standpoint (yes).
 - B. Jesus says discipleship is better than performing miracles (Luke 10:17-20).
 - C. Discipleship is a closer and more tender relationship than a brother, sister, or mother (Matt. 12:46-50).
 - D. Being a disciple is better than being a prophet (I Pet. 1:4-5).
- III. Will you be a disciple?
 - A. Christianity is not cheap. It can really be enjoyed only by those willing to pay the cost.
 - B. The challenge is before you. You can play at religion and be miserable –or– You can really pay the cost and learn to enjoy what real Christianity is.