

Discipleship Program

Lesson #1 Discipleship Assignment

Introduction to Discipleship

We're glad you have chosen to find out more about our Lord and start the program. This class is the basic introduction to our core beliefs or basics. Since we have students from many different church backgrounds and un-churched backgrounds, this assignment was designed to clearly explain who and what we believe and where we stand. Our goal is to help you understand the Father (God), the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost or Comforter) and develop a better relationship with God and to others.

At times, you may feel uncomfortable but do not worry, we want the best for you and for you to learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. (The Trinity). We are not to judge you but to increase your bible knowledge and hopefully equip you for ministry. For this program, we will utilize many different translations of the bible for this program. Many of you may have grown accustomed to a certain translation and that is fine, we want you to use your normal bible and the HCSB bible too.

The Basis for This Class:

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 NIV

We require two things from you; faithfulness and honesty. We do not want any more people in the ministry that do not know the Lord or who are not faithful or honest, you do not need to be perfect and in fact we prefer that our students are less than perfect, but we want heart. Please pray about this before starting the assignment.

The Goal of This Class:

I will commit myself to JESUS CHRIST and to God's Word, the Holy Bible.

What are the Basics?

Three Things Connect Us

1. Salvation (Connect to God)
 - What advantages are there to being "in Christ"?
 - How do we find ourselves "in Christ"?
 - The what and why of baptism.
 - The what and why of communion.
2. Purpose (Teaching the Word of God)
 - Our purpose statement
 - Our statement of faith
 - Our structure
3. Commitments (Connecting to Change)



- Who we are trying to reach (target)



Salvation (Connect to God)

"All of you are God's children because of your faith in Christ Jesus. And when you were baptized, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes. Faith in Christ Jesus is what makes each of you equal with each other, whether you are a Jew or a Greek, a slave or a free person, a man or a woman."
Galatians 3:26-28 (Contemporary English Version)

We will go in great detail about salvation much later in other lessons.

Why Am I Here?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing, "Why?" They occupy time, space and resources on planet Earth. They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is,

"What is the meaning of my life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try in many ways:

- Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions**
- Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure**
- Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power**

Real happiness comes from finding God's purpose for my life.

That's right; God has a purpose and a plan for you!

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (New Living Translation)

The Bible says my King is the King of the Jews. He's the King of Israel. He's the King of righteousness. He's the King of the ages. He's the King of Heaven. He's the King of glory. He's the King of kings, and He's the Lord of lords. That's my King. I wonder...Do you know Him?

My King is a sovereign King. No means of measure can define his limitless love. He's enduringly strong. He's entirely sincere. He's eternally steadfast. He's immortally graceful. He's imperially powerful. He's impartially merciful. Do you know Him?

He's the greatest phenomenon that has ever crossed the horizon of this world. He's God's Son. He's the sinner's Savior. He's the peak of civilization. He's unparalleled. He's unprecedented. He is the loftiest idea in literature. He's the highest personality in philosophy. He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology. He's the only one qualified to be an all-sufficient Savior. I wonder if you know Him today?

He supplies strength for the weak. He's available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves. He strengthens and sustains. He guards and He guides. He heals the sick. He cleanses the lepers. He forgives sinners. He discharges debtors.

He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent, and He beautifies the meager. I wonder if you know Him.

He's the key to knowledge. He's the wellspring of wisdom. He's the doorway of deliverance. He's the pathway of peace. He's the roadway of righteousness. He's the highway of holiness. He's the gateway of glory. Do you know Him?

His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous, and His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I wish I had the words to properly describe Him to you. Yes, He's indescribable. He's incomprehensible.

He's invincible. He's irresistible. You can't get Him out of your mind. You can't get Him off of your head. You can't outlive Him, and you can't live without Him.

Well, the Pharisees couldn't stand Him but they found out they couldn't stop Him. Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him, and the grave couldn't hold Him. I wonder if you know Him.

Why Am I Here?

1. God made you to GLORIFY Himself.
"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9 (New International Version)
2. God made you to LOVE you.
"And from far away the Lord appeared to his people and said, 'I love you people with a love that will last forever.'" Jeremiah 31:3 (New Century Version)
"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)
3. God made us to KNOW him in a personal relationship.
"I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest." Hebrews 8:10b-11 (NIV)
4. God made us to have a FULL and SATISFYING life.
"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness." John 10:10 (NLT)

What's the Problem?

Why is it that most people are not experiencing God's love and the full life that He wants them to have?

Man has a natural desire to BE BOSS and to ignore God's principles for living!

"To do my own thing. It's my life and I'll do what I **** well please!"

The Bible calls this attitude "SIN"

Note: What is the middle letter of this word? "I"



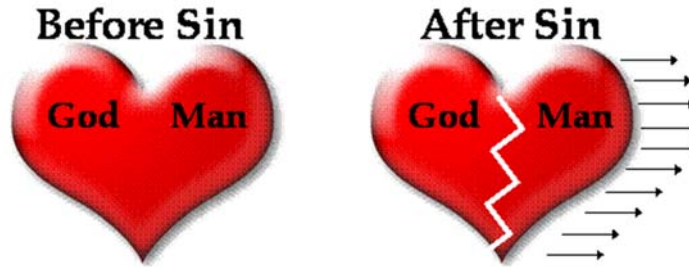
"All of us, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way." Isaiah 53:6 (New American Standard Bible)

"If we say that we've never sinned, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth." 1 John 1:8 (NLT)

"...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23 (NIV)

"Doing" sin involves two things:

1. DOING what we shouldn't.
"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." 1 John 3:4 (NIV)
2. NOT DOING what we should.
"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."
James 4:17 (NIV)



“But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away...” Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

When our relationship with God is not right, it causes **problems** in every area of our lives: marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc. When we have problems, we know we need God! However, often we try to cope on our own before turning to God.

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”
Proverbs 16:25 (NIV)

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try to know Him on our own terms and our own way!

- Salvation by HERITAGE
“My mother was a Christian...”
- Salvation by SINCERITY
“It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere”
- Salvation by SUBTRACTION
“I'll give up all my bad habits.”
- Salvation by SERVICE
“I'll work real hard and earn it”
- Salvation by ATTENDANCE
“I'll be religious and go to church.”

“No one can ever be made right in God's sight [saved] by doing what the law commands [keeping the law]. For the more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them; his laws serve only to make us see that we are sinners.” Romans 3:20 (LB)

**Can mankind save himself by doing good
and not doing bad things?
NO!**

So, we can't pay the price for our own sin -- and cancel the debt we owe -- so, if we're going to be saved...somebody has to pay!

What Is the Solution to Our Problem?

*“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so **Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people**; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”* Hebrews 9:27-28 (NIV)

*“Jesus answered, ‘**I am the way** and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except **through me**.’”* John 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus has already taken care of our sin problem!

*“God made **Him** who had **no sin** to be sin for us, so that **in Him** we might become the righteousness (in right standing with) God.”* 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (NIV)

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

- *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23 (NIV)
- *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.”*
Ephesians 2:13 (NIV)
- *“In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace....”* Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)
- *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...”*
Romans 8:1 (NIV)

How do I become "IN CHRIST"?

What Does God Want Me to do to Become?

"In Christ"? I have to "Get on B.A.S.E." with God.

BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died to pay for my sins. That

He and He alone can save me.

"I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it." Ephesians 2:8-9 (NCV)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

"No one can be made right with God by following the law. The law only shows us our sin. But God has a way to make people right with him without the law... God makes people right with himself through their faith in Jesus Christ. This is true for all who believe in Christ...." Romans 3:20-22 (NCV)

ADMIT that I have sin in my life that has separated me from God.

The Bible word for this is REPENT.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...." Acts 3:19 (NIV)

"...But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

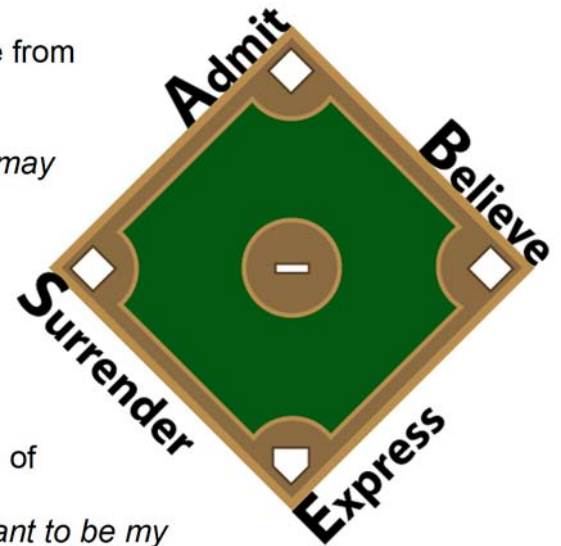
Luke 13:3 (NIV)

SURRENDER my heart to Jesus & make Him the Boss of my life.

"Then Jesus said to all the people: 'If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me, you will save it.'" Luke 9:23-24 (CEV)

"If you use your mouth to say, 'Jesus is Lord,' and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we use our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved." Romans 10:9-10 (NCV)

EXPRESS my new faith in Jesus by being baptized which pictures His death, burial and resurrection.



We realize many of you will not agree but these are foundations and things you should expect to learn. If you are not a believer or are new to the faith, you are still welcome.

Prisoners

All of us are in some type of prison, but I am talking about inmates, like Joseph, Peter, Paul and even our Lord Jesus were all locked up at one time. Even if you are in prison, no big deal to us. Some of the best ambassadors we have are either in prison or been released.

You can have a wonderful prison ministry and possibly even when you get out. I know of many students who are making many disciples inside the prison.

I know this is huge news to people that have been on drugs or in prison, but I believe God is big, big, big. He can use you if you fully submit to Him. I know it and I rather have a sold out ex-con preach to me anytime. At least they are real. I do not care anything about your past. I only care about your future.

Druggies, booze hounds, prostitutes, murderers, thugs, thieves: I love you and want you to succeed in ministry. I love you because God tells me too and I want you to have resources to help yourself and others.

I don't care where you are, what you have done or how long you are in, the Gospel can be learned and preached and that will change lives. It is not about religion but a relationship and we are commanded to preach unto the whole world.

If you threaten, intimidate, harass, or manipulate our instructors in any fashion, we will drop you from the program and file a report against you.

We are here for one reason only, to represent Lord Jesus and make fishers of men and believe it or not, the Lord uses broken and damaged people to build His Kingdom.

Who Should Be Baptized?

Every person who has **BELIEVED IN** Christ as Savior and Lord.

“On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized.” Acts 2:41 (CEV)

*“Simon, himself believed and was **baptized**....” Acts 8:13 (NIV)*

*“But **when they believed** Philip, as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.” Acts 8:12 (NIV)*

At TLC, our Instructors believe that we should wait until our children are old enough **to believe** and understand the true meaning of accepting and surrendering to Christ and the meaning of their baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation” for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in faith until the child is old enough to make his own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years **after** the Bible was completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible which was only for those old enough to believe. In the Bible we always note that:

BELIEF must precede baptism!

The purpose of baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

When Should I Be Baptized?

As soon as you have believed!

*“Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ **And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.**” Acts 8:35-38 (NIV)*

*“He then brought them out and asked, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved - you and your household.’ Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. **At that hour of night, the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.**”*

Acts 16:30-33 (NIV)

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to trust Jesus Christ as your savior, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect,” you’ll never be “good enough.” No one is close to perfect.

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

King Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth, but He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the Church two visible symbols (or "ordinances") as reminders of his death and resurrection. They are: baptism and The Lord's Supper or Communion. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for followers.

What Is the Lord's Supper?

- It is a simple **ACT**, not an elaborate **CEREMONY**.
*"For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, **took bread...**"*
1 Corinthians 11:23 (NIV)
- It is a **REMINDER**.
*"...and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this **in remembrance** of me.'" 1 Corinthians 11:24 (NIV)*
- It is a **SYMBOL**.
*"In the same way after supper he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in **remembrance** of me..'."*
1 Corinthians 11:25 (NIV)
- It is a **STATEMENT OF FAITH**.
*"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** until he comes."*
1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

Who Should Take the Lord's Supper?

- Those who are already **BELIEVERS**.
"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take it; this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them. 'I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of Go.'" Mark 14:22-25 (NIV)
- Those who are **RIGHT** with the Lord.
"Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."
1 Corinthians 11:27-29 (NIV)

In reality, communion is simply a warm-up party for the big party, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and I hope to see you there.

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." 1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV)

- **By INSPECTING.**

"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 (NIV)

- **By CONFESSING our sins to the Lord.**

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

- **By COMMITTING our lives to the Lord.**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

When and How Often Should We Observe the Lord's Supper?

King Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe this celebration. We see by the pattern of the Scriptures that Jesus instituted it on a Thursday night! At the beginning, the early church celebrated it on every day! Later, we see that they began to celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly, on Sundays.

*"On the first day of the week, **we came together to break bread...**"* Acts 20:7 (NIV)

We will go much more in to detail on the Lord's Supper in future assignments.

Purpose

(Connecting to God and People)

"Let there be real harmony among you so there will not be any splits in the Church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Corinthians 1:10 (LB)

Our Purpose Statement

This is why we exist as a bible college!

**To help everyone find an ever-deepening
relationship with Christ.**

This purpose can be summarized in another brief sentence based upon two key Scripture passages:

**We believe a great commitment
to the Great COMMANDMENT and
the Great COMMISSION
will grow a great church!**

The Great Commandment:

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

The Great Commission:

“Then Jesus...said, ‘...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.’”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

- To “Love God with all your heart” is WORSHIP!
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is MINISTRY!
- To “Go...make disciples” is EVANGELISM!
- To “Baptize...” is FELLOWSHIP!
- To “Teach them...all things” is DISCIPLESHIP!

We take these 5 elements and refocus them into three...

TLC Bible College exists to help everyone find an ever-deepening relationship Christ by:

- CONNECTING to God and others!
(worship and fellowship)
- CHANGING into Christ-like character and service, studying and mediating upon His word. (discipleship and ministry)
- CARING enough to share Christ with others!
(evangelism)

By doing these three elements we believe you can be used by God to help everyone be COMPLETE IN CHRIST!

*“We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every **man complete in Christ.**” Colossians 1:28 (NASB)*

CONNECTING to God and Others!

You need to connect to God in WORSHIP!

Worship is expressing love to God!

“Honor the wonderful name of the Lord, and worship the Lord most holy and glorious.” Psalm 29:2 (CEV)

After you get connected, you need to STAY connected!

Expressions of Worship

- Worship with your **LIFE!**
“So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship.” Romans 12:1 (NCV)
- **Worship with your LIPS!**
“My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you-- I, whom you have redeemed.” Psalm 71:23 (NIV)

TLC Bible College’s Worship Styles

- **Celebration**
“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” Psalm 122:1 (NASB)
- **Inspiration**
“But those who trust the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired.” Isaiah 40:31 (CEV)
- **Preparation**
“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.”
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

You will need to connect to Others In FELLOWSHIP!

- Fellowship: Being as **COMMITTED** to each other as we are to **CHRIST**.
- We believe that our church (the Body of Followers) must grow **LARGER** and **SMALLER** at the same time. *Larger in size, smaller and tighter relationships.*

CHANGING into Christ-like Character & Service!

We Change In to Christ-like Character Through DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship: Helping believers **GROW SPIRITUALLY**.

*“Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and **go on to maturity...**” Hebrews 6:1 (NIV)*

*“**Grow in grace** and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God’s people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**”*

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

We Change Into Christ-like Service through MINISTRY!

Ministry: Meeting NEEDS with LOVE.

“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:35 (NIV)

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. Now you are the body of Christ, and **each one of you is part of it.**”*

1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (NIV)

“...Serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

At TLC we say three things about ministry:

1. Every student (you) is a MINISTER AND AMBASSITOR
2. Every student (you) is IMPORTANT
3. Every student (you) is GIFTED in some area of ministry!

CARING Enough to Share Christ With Others Near and Far

We Care Enough to Share Christ Through EVANGELISM:

Evangelism: SHARING the good news with OTHERS.

“But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” Acts 1:8 (NCV)

*“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And **how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?** And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” Romans 10:13 -14 (NIV)*

We realize many of you will not agree but these are foundations and things you should expect to learn.

If you are not a believer or are new to the faith, you are still welcome.

Our Statement of Faith

What We Believe and will try to teach you

- In essential beliefs - we have unity.
*“There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called -- **one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God** and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)*

- In non-essential beliefs - we have liberty.
*“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on **disputable matters**... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls.*

And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand... So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.”

Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22 (NIV)

- In all our beliefs - we show love.
*“If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.**” 1 Corinthians 13:2 (NIV)*

We want to be flexible on the small biblical areas as long as you know Jesus is Lord, the only begotten of the Father, to learn the Gospel and know the truth. All the other areas are small and mostly our opinions and traditions.

We want to focus upon the Scriptures rather than experience. But experiences are permissible, some of us need to examine experiences and see how or where our identity and purpose has been influenced or changed.

We also may not always agree but if you understand our purpose, I believe we can learn together. We do not know everything. In fact, the Instructors know very little.

We prefer truth to tolerance and in today’s world, that statement is best accepted backwards. We will defend the bible and the Lord Jesus, these two do not need us to defend themselves, but we want you to know truth, for truth sets you free.

Do you want to be set free?

The Essentials We Believe

We realize many of you will not agree but these are foundations and things you should expect to learn. If you are not a believer or are new to the faith, you are still welcome.

God

There is one God existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14). He is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1). He knows everything (Psalm 33:13-15); is everywhere present (Jeremiah 23:23-24); He is just (Genesis 18:25); loving (1 John 4:8, 16); and full of grace (Ephesians 2:4-5). He can be sufficiently known only through Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Jesus

Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine. He is God. (Philippians 2:5-8) existing eternally, fully equal with the Father (John 1:1,2). He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34-35). He has proven Himself to be the Son of God by His deeds, fulfillment of prophecy, crucifixion and bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person existing eternally with the Father (John 15:26). He convicts of sin, righteousness and the judgment to come (John 16:8-11). Every believer is equipped with a gift or gifts by the Holy Spirit for ministry (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:7-16).

The Bible

The Old and New Testament Scriptures are inspired by God, and without error in their original manuscripts. They contain a complete revelation of his will for the salvation of man, and constitute the divine and only rule of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Salvation

Those who believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Savior (John 3:16); who repents of their sins and continually make Jesus the Lord of their lives (Acts 3:19); who confesses Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10); and who are baptized (by immersion [Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-7]); and have accepted the gracious gift of salvation (Romans 6:23) by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Those who follow this Biblical plan can have assurance of this Salvation (1 John 5:13).

The Church

We believe that Christ is the Head of His Church, and therefore every Christian is a part of His body, even you. We do not believe that we are the only Christians, but earnestly strive to be Christians only. We seek to speak where the Bible speaks, and remain silent where the Bible is silent. We take the Bible and the Bible alone, as our only rule of faith and practice. Eph. 2:20-22

The Lord's Supper (Communion)

The Lord's Supper was instituted by the Lord and delivered to the Apostles (Matthew 26:26-29) and is to be observed by believers in remembrance of Him (1 Corinthians 11:24-25).

The Christian

The Christian Life by its very nature is to be distinct from the world (Ephesians 4:22-24). Because of this, each believer is set apart (sanctified) by God for His purposes (Romans 6:22). The process of sanctification is carried out through prayer, the Word, witnessing, and fellowship (Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; Acts 1:8). Each believer has been given a spiritual gift or gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:7-8) to be used in serving others (1 Corinthians 12:7).

Second Coming

He is returning soon. The coming of Christ for His Church can occur at any time and will occur at some time. The Scripture teaches that Jesus will descend from Heaven (Acts 1:11); that all Christians, dead and alive, will be raised to eternal life (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18); and all non-believers will be judged or condemned to eternal punishment in Hell (Matthew 25:31-45; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Putting These Truths In to Practice

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into action. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

- The BIBLE is our sole authority.

"...and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15 (NIV)

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We encourage the practice of daily **Bible reading**, **Bible study**, and **Bible memorization**. The Bible is the basis for all we believe and do!

- The SPIRIT-LED living of the Christian.

(Jesus said,) *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**" John 15:5 (NIV)*

- We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So, we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18)

- The MINISTRY of every follower.

“...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” Ephesians 4:12 (NIV)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every follower is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry.

- **Every follower has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.**
- ***“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.”*** Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

At TLC , we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the Church as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. It is the sole support of our church’s enterprise.

- The IMMERSION (baptism) of believers.

*“..having been **buried** with him **in baptism** and **raised** with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.”* Colossians 2:12 (NIV)

We practice baptism by immersion under water - the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands it.

- WITNESSING to others about Jesus.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...” 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

Our Structure

“God is not one who likes things to be disorderly and upset. He likes harmony, and he finds it in all the other churches. ...Be sure that everything is done properly in a good and orderly way.” 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40 (LB)

We realize many of you will not agree but these are foundations and things you should expect to learn. If you are not a believer or are new to the faith, you are still welcome.

How the Church Is (should be) Structured

- The head of our church is JESUS CHRIST

“God has put all things under the power of Christ, and for the good of the church he has made him the head of everything.” Ephesians 1:22 (CEV)

- The church is a **monarchy** not a **democracy!**
- The leadership of the church has been delegated to the Elders and Pastors to carry out the commands of Christ!

A Brief Review of the History of the Church

- The Church ESTABLISHED (30—300 A.D.)

- Jesus promised that He would begin His Church and that it would be permanent.

“On this rock I will build my church, and the power of death will not be able to defeat it.” Matthew 16:18 (NCV)

- Jesus Christ, Himself is the cornerstone and foundation!
“Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead, so he is first in everything.” Colossians 1:18 (NLT)
 - The Apostle Peter was given the “Keys” to open the Church’s Door!
“[Peter] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven....” Matthew 16:19 (NIV)
 - The Church began in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost with 3,000 people baptized into Christ and the Family of God!
“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all.” Acts 2:41 (NLT)
 - The Church’s purpose and plan was efficient and simple!
“They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord’s Supper and in prayer.” Acts 2:42 (NLT)
- The Church CORRUPTED (300-1500 A.D.)
 - The neglect of the Bible, corruption of Church Leaders and institution of non-Biblical organization resulted in the Church being led away from God’s original plan.

- *“Dear friends, I wanted very much to write you about the salvation we all share. But I felt the need to write you about something else: I want to encourage you to fight hard for the faith that was given the holy people of God once and for all time. Some people have secretly entered your group. They are against God and have changed the grace of our God....”* Jude 1:3-4 (NCV)
- **Examples of teachings introduce without Biblical Foundation!**
 - The Nicene Creed—325 A.D. (Revelation 22:18-19)
 - Purgatory—593 A.D. (1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:8)
 - The institution of the Priesthood and the Papacy—660 A.D. (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - Transubstantiation— 1000 A.D. (Matthew 26:26-29)
 - Celibacy of the priests—1015 A.D. (Timothy 1:1-4)
 - Sprinkling as a substitute for Baptism by immersion—1311 A.D. (Acts 8:38-39; Romans 6:3-5)

“But you, friends, are well-warned. Be on guard lest you lose your footing and get swept off your feet by these lawless and loose-talking teachers.”
2 Peter 3:17 (The Message)

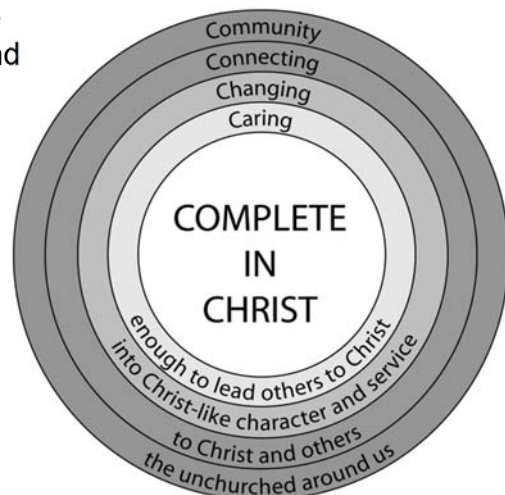
The Church REFORMED (1500-1800 A.D.)

- Godly men and women call for positive change in the corrupted Church.
 - Martin Luther—1530 in Germany
 - John Calvin—1536 in Switzerland
 - John Knox—1550 in Scotland
 - The Church of England—1552 in Great Britain
 - The Baptist Church—1611 in Europe
 - John Wesley—1739 in England
 - Add your name here...

- They had great intentions and a positive impact, but stopped short of the ideal and often caused greater division within the Church.

“With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on everything we taught you both in person and by letter.”

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NLT)



The Church RESTORED (1800 A.D. -Present)

- Godly men and women primarily in America determine to restore the Church to God's simple plan based on the foundation of the New Testament and not the established organized church.
Thomas and Alexander Campbell in Scotland then America and Barton W. Stone in American
- The simple goals of the "Restoration Movement"
 - To free the Church of creeds, traditions, and denominational distinctions that causes division.
 - To restore the pure teachings of the Bible as our rule, guide and only source of authority.
 - To unify all Christians to the goal of bringing the world to know Christ as Savior and Lord.

"Make them pure and holy by teaching them your words of truth. My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me." John 17:17,21 (NLT)

Commitments

(Connecting to Change)

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel..." 1 Corinthians 9:22, 23 (NIV)

Resources for Questions You May Have

You may have additional questions. We have provided a list below of some resources that help answer the following questions:

- Is the Bible inspired and what does that mean?
- Is Jesus the only way to be saved?
- Does God really exist?
- Am I saved?

Books to Start With

Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Josh McDowell
The Case for Faith, Lee Strobel

Websites

www.answersingenesis.org
www.leestrobel.com
www.carm.org
www.christiananswers.net

Who Are We Trying to Reach?

"... Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him." 1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

TLC's objective is to keep moving people **to follow the Lord Jesus and keep running the race** by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call students to three basic commitments:

The Three TLC Covenants

1. The **CONNECTING** covenant:

Is a commitment to Connecting to Christ and the TLC BIBLE COLLEGE student.

*"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow **citizens** with God's people and **members** of God's household..."* Ephesians 2:19 (NIV)

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)

2. The **CHANGING** Covenant:

Is a commitment to making the CHANGES necessary for Christ-like CHARACTER and SERVICE.

*"Continue to **grow in the grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

*"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, **train yourself to be godly.**"* 1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:5,27 (NIV)

3. The **CARING** Covenant:

A commitment to share the Good News with others NEAR and FAR.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

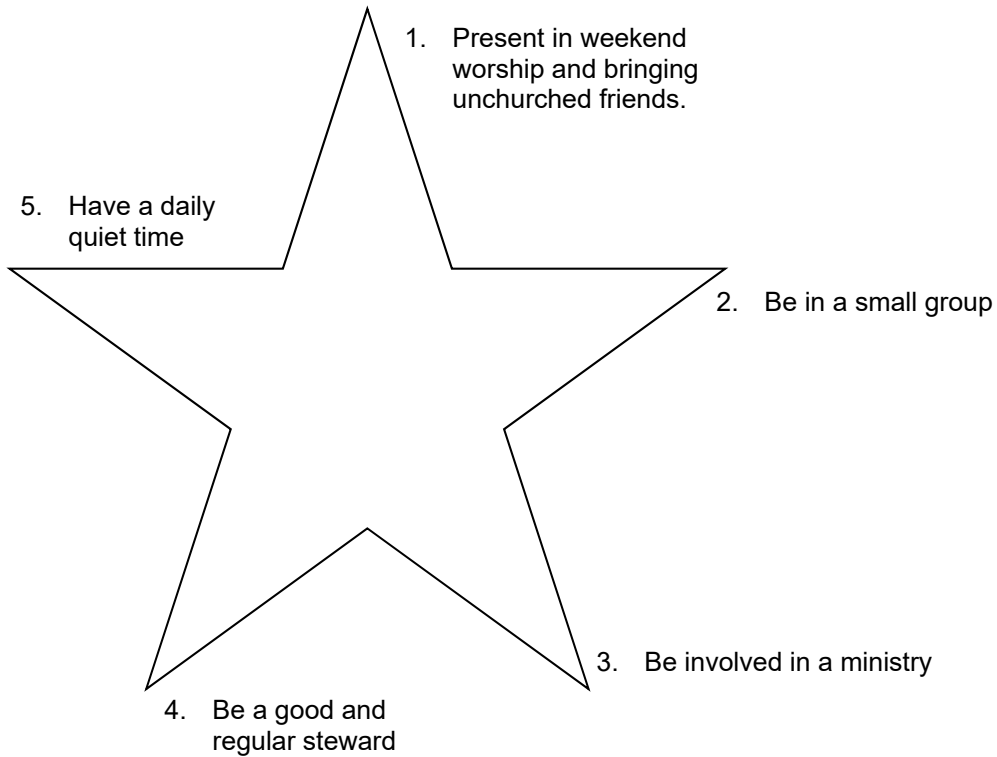
"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..." 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

What It Means to Be a Student

The difference between being an “attende” and being a “student” can be summed up in one word: COMMITMENT

What is Expected of Me
as a Connected Member?

TLC Bible College 5 Star Connected Student



Connecting Covenant

"I have received Christ as my Lord and Savior and have been (or will be) buried with Him in believer's baptism (immersion). I am in agreement with TLC Bible College's strategy of Connecting, Changing, and Caring. I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the TLC Bible College family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church...

- By acting in love toward other members/attendees
- By refusing to gossip
- By following the Church's Leadership

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." Romans 14:19 (NIV)

"May...God...give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus..."

Romans 15:5 (NIV)

"Now...that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart." 1 Peter 1:22 (NIV)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)

2. I will share the responsibility of my Church or Ministry

- By praying for its growth
- By inviting the unchurched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers."

1 Thessalonians 1:2 (NIV)

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'" Luke 14:23 (NIV)

"Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you..." Romans 15:7 (NIV)

3. I will serve the ministry of my Church.

- By discovering my gifts and talents
- By being equipped to serve in any needed capacity
- By developing a servant's heart

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

I understand if you cannot be a part of a formal church or are in prison. Try to connect to some fellowship. If necessary, talk to the Chaplain.

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV) **Even if in prison...***

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant..." Philippians 2:4,7 (NIV)

4. I will support the testimony of my Church.

- By attending faithfully
- By talking the "talk" and walking the "walk"
- By financially being a good and regular steward

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another -- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

"...conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ... standing firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel." Philippians 1:27 (NIV)

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..." 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD." Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

I agree with the Connecting, Changing and Caring strategy of TLC Bible College and commit myself to the Lordship of Jesus and the completion of His call of my life. I want to serve the Lord Jesus and want to remain in Him and learn of His ways. I realize this may be a hard task but I will allow the Holy Spirit to guide and teach me the deep things of God. I want to be a living sacrifice. I am willing to surrender all and be His disciple.

Name

Date

You keep this copy it is between you and the Lord Jesus.

Assignment #1 Discipleship

Please submit this information for your first assignment. Please cut or copy and submit this section to TLC.

Name _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Please use a blue or black pen.... Pencil is too light for faxes.

If in prison, provide an e-mail of a loved one that can mail you the grade assignment back. If you are not able to do so, provide your complete mailing address. We do not have funding for postage or printing. We are not asking you for funding, but prayer so that we can fund this ministry.

Student Information

You are not graded on this assignment, but we do want you to be honest and faithful. There is no right or wrong answers. You will not be harassed for your answers. If you are not a follower of Jesus, that is okay.

1. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the only Son of God?

Yes No Undecided

Explain _____

Scripture reference John 3:16

2. Do you believe that Jesus Christ died on a cross in Jerusalem approximately 2,000 years ago?

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Scripture Reference Acts 2:23, Philippians 2:8, Col 1:20

3. Do you believe that Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus Christ lived a sinless life?

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Scripture Reference 1 Peter 2:22

4. Do you believe that Jesus Christ resurrected from the grave in Jerusalem approximately 2,000 years ago?

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Scripture Reference Romans 1:4, John 11:25, Revelation 20:5

5. Do you believe that Jesus Christ's was born of a virgin?
 Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain_____

8. Do you trust the Bible as being accurate and reliable?
 Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain_____

9. Do you believe that trusting in Jesus Christ as the Savoir will save you from Hell?
 Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain_____

10. Is there a literal or real Hell?
 Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain_____

Scripture Reference Luke 16:23

11. Is the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost a real person (a being)? A person in the sense that He is alive and has feelings, and thought. A being in nature rather than a force.

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

12. Can you lose your salvation once you've obtained it?

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Scripture Reference Isaiah 45:17

13. Do you desire to know more about Jesus and His kingdom?

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

14. Have you committed any sins?

- Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

15. Have you confessed these sins to the Lord?

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Scripture Reference 1John 1:9

16. Do you believe that God created the World and all the plants, animals, stars in a literal 6-day period?

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

17. Do you believe in the power of prayer?

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

18. Are you ready to be taught and tested; are you ready to be proven a worker not ashamed of the Word? *Because we will test you in every way.* We are Followers and we want you to know what you are talking about. We might not always agree and that is acceptable.

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

19. Has Jesus forgiven you of all your sins?

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Confirm this to the Bible...
Scripture Reference 1st John 1:9

20. Have you forgiven yourself of your past? *This is the hardest question for many...*

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

Scripture Reference 2 Cor. 5:17

21. Are you ready for a new life as a disciple of Jesus? To continue as a follower of Jesus? To become a fisher of men?

Yes Yes, without any doubt Not sure No

Explain _____

22. Please tell us what Jesus' primary message. If unsure, that is okay. Very few know it.

23. Do you desire to abide by the TLC Bible College Connecting Covenant?

Yes No Renew

Explain _____

Is there anything else you would like to say or ask before proceeding?

24. Our degree program will not be good for anything except discipleship and hopefully ministry. Are you prepared to join the ministry? Explain

If you have been convicted of a violent crime or sexual crime, the church is generally unforgiving, but our Lord Jesus is the friend of sinners and wants you to be a disciple and leave a legacy of ministry.

Some of you will need to start your own ministry while others will have to rely on the Lord to find work while others will wash out. How about your plans?

25. Do you understand that following our Lord can be very difficult and following Him may cost you everything including your life. You will be mocked and persecuted. Have you factored in your in desire to be a follower of the Lord Jesus? Are you all in? Be honest.

26. I understand the TLC Bible College is not an accredited college and that my class or course assignments may not transfer to other colleges. Are you willing to continue for many dismiss this type of non-accreditation?

Yes No

Explain _____

27. I understand my assignments may be used in the future for teaching purposes, to glorify the Lord Jesus.

Yes No

Explain _____

28. I want to be part of the School's? You may select one box or write your preference....

Prayer Team Research Team Ministry Advise ment Team

Translation to Foreign Language _____

Other _____

29. Many students come to the ministry for various reasons. Why are you coming to Jesus in the first place and what do you want to do in your life?

30. I understand TLC's program is not accredited or approved or accepted by most educational facilities.

Yes No

Explain _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

31. I understand that the Instructor may or may not allow me to continue in the studies with or without cause. Some reasons that disallow course continuation may include but are not limited to lack of endearment towards God, disrespect of an Instructor or Assignments or Subjects. Lack of heart or heart change, rude or threatening comments about staff, God or other Students. Not adhering to biblical principles. Abnormal course comments or any other concerns the Instructor or Staff may have or not have. Lack of reference letters.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Please identify which program you are interested in completing.

- Bible Certification Program 12 lessons 480 hours or 36 credit hours**
- Biblical Education Associates Degree 24 lessons 960 hours or 60 credit hours**
- Occupational Education (18 Biblical plus 6 lessons on your occupation) Please collect your work history and work direction. We need letter(s) of work experience from your employer. We will give you 1 lesson credit for every three years of work experience towards this degree. Up to 5 lessons.**
- Bachelor's Degree in Ministry 1,920 hours or 120 credit hours
First 12 lessons + additional 48 lessons 60 lessons total**
- Master's Degree in Ministry 1,920 hours or 180 credit hours
First 75 lessons**

Normal fee for each lesson is \$400. But the program is free if you really desire a better life and relationship with God.

Our Sole Purpose

We are here for one purpose, to make disciples of King Jesus. We are here solely to equip you for ministry. We will not support you if you feel a calling or desire to the president of the bible interpretation club or you think ministry is a good place to make money or find fame. We need you to feed the hungry, visit the sick and love the prisoner (Matthew 25:40).

We receive a lot of spam; please place "Assignment #1" on the subject line.

You can also fax the assignment to us (928) 468-0675
Telephone (928) 468-0665 Ask for Jeff

TLC Bible College
Dr. Jeff Durbin
PO Box 3060
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

We prefer that you down load the assignment from our website. We normally do not mail the assignment for we do not have postage funding.

You can proceed to Lesson #2

You cannot fail this assignment, but you may fail any of the rest of the assignments. If you fail, you will be required to retake the assignment until you pass. You will not be allowed to move forward until you pass that assignment. The biggest cause of failure is not looking up scripture or trying to complete the assignment too fast.

One of the biggest problems is that we have sent too many new converts in to the field wearing Captain's uniforms. Hopefully you will be somewhat prepared to deal in these matters as a Disciple of Jesus. I will not allow any rookies to enter the field because too many are destroyed during the first years usually by lust or pride. These lessons will be tough and the reason is to prepare you for the world.

Remember, you are valuable and God loves you very much. Do not fret.