

WEEK 2

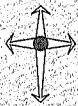
Live in the Word

This Week's Goal

You will grow closer to Christ as you learn to live in the Word by having a daily quiet time and by memorizing Scripture.

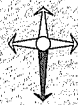
My Walk with the Master This Week

You will complete the following activities to develop the six biblical disciplines. When you have completed each activity, draw a vertical line in the diamond beside it.



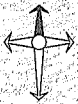
SPEND TIME WITH THE MASTER

- ◇ During your daily quiet time use the Daily Master Communication Guides in the margins of this week's material.



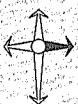
LIVE IN THE WORD

- ◇ Read your Bible every day. Write what God says to you and what you say to God.
- ◇ Memorize John 8:31-32.
- ◇ Review Luke 9:23 and John 15:5, which you have already memorized.



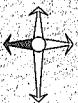
PRAY IN FAITH

- ◇ Pray for each member of your *MasterLife* group by name.
- ◇ Pray with your prayer partner once this week. If you do not have a prayer partner yet, find one this week.



FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

- ◇ Get better acquainted with a member of your group. Visit or call that person. Tell the person that you are praying for him or her. Talk about any blessings or challenges you are having in *MasterLife*.



WITNESS TO THE WORLD

- ◇ List the names of at least five lost persons on your Prayer-Covenant List. Begin praying regularly for them. Make any contacts the Spirit leads you to make.



MINISTER TO OTHERS

- ◇ Continue learning the Disciple's Cross. Learn the meaning of the bottom part of the cross to add to the information about the circle that you learned last week.

This Week's Scripture-Memory Verses

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

DAY 1

~

A Close Relationship

A quiet time is more than merely a habit. It is an appointment with Jesus Christ.

When I was a young adult, I began trying to have a quiet time. I had read about Christians who got up at 4:00 a.m. to read the Bible for an hour and to pray for an hour before breakfast. I tried to do that, but I could not be consistent. I followed that schedule for a day or two, but then I would be so tired that I could not get up on time. I promised myself that I would try again the next day.

I felt guilty because I could not be consistent. In fact, I almost endangered my health before I realized that the Christians I was reading about were going to bed at 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. I was going to bed at 1:00 or 2:00 a.m.

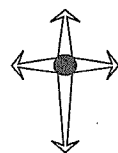
Soon I read a tract that emphasized spending a short period with God every morning. It stressed the importance of consistency and suggested a simple plan to achieve that goal. I decided that no matter what the circumstances, I would spend seven minutes with God every morning. Of course, I soon realized that was not enough. I continually set the alarm earlier to have enough time with the Lord.

I learned that a quiet time is more than merely a habit. It is an appointment at the beginning of the day with Jesus Christ, who is at the center of my life. I suggest that you begin by setting aside a few minutes every morning with Jesus Christ, for He is also at the center of your life.

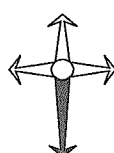
Your daily time with Christ is the first of six disciplines that are basic to a disciple's walk. Last week you studied denying yourself and putting Christ at the center of your life as part of becoming a disciple and developing a lifelong, obedient relationship with Him. This week you will begin learning what it means for Christ to be at the center of your life.

LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS

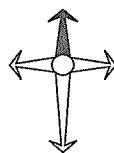
Last week you began drawing the Disciple's Cross to understand what Christ expects of you. You drew the center part to represent the role Christ is to have in your life. As you continue in *MasterLife*, you will draw the cross around the center, one bar at a time, as you incorporate in your life the disciplines that keep you abiding in Christ. You can visualize the cross as representing the six disciplines a disciple needs to practice. Each week your assignments are related to those six disciplines:



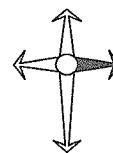
Spend time
with the
Master



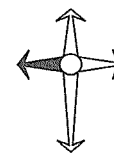
Live in
the Word



Pray
in faith



Fellowship
with
believers



Witness to
the world

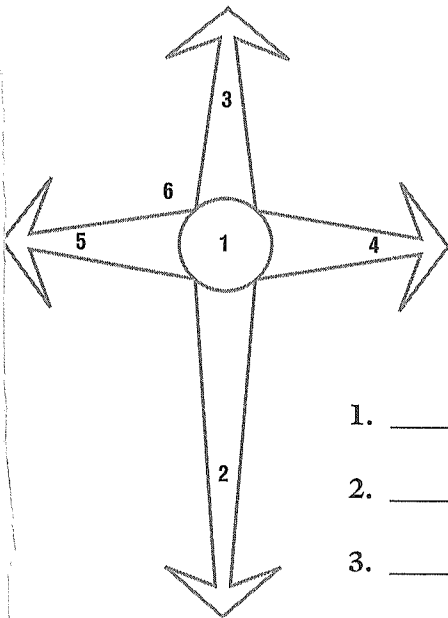


Minister
to others

You can visualize the cross as representing the six disciplines a disciple needs to practice.



List each discipline according to its position on the Disciple's Cross. Refer to page 32 if you need help.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

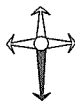
Each week you will add new information about the Disciple's Cross. By the end of your study you will be able to explain the cross and to quote all of the Scriptures that go with it.

Each bar of the cross represents one part of the Christian life. The bottom part represents the Word, and the upper part, which you will add next week, represents prayer. Together these form the vertical crossbar, which represents your relationship with God. In two weeks you will begin drawing the horizontal crossbar, which represents your relationships with others. In your life in Christ you have one Lord, represented by the circle with Christ as the center, and two relationships—with God and other persons.

REMAINING IN THE WORD

The way to have Christ living in you is to have His Word in you. The first discipline in which you will become proficient is spending time with the Master by having a quiet time. The second and third disciplines, living in the Word and praying in faith, will support your quiet time. Jesus said in John 8:31-32: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." The Word is food for you. You cannot grow unless you regularly partake of the Word.

The way to have Christ living in you is to have His Word in you.



Reread John 8:31-32, this week's Scripture-memory verses. Underline what the verses say about becoming Christ's disciple. Then begin memorizing John 8:31-32 by saying the verses aloud from one to three times.

You likely underlined the phrase "If you hold to my teaching." Christ's teaching is found in the Word. The absence of regular involvement with His Word keeps you from being the kind of follower Christ wants you to be.

You may wonder, *What difference does it make if I remain in His Word? Won't I still have the same problems as anyone else? Even though I hold to the teachings found in His Word, I will still have sorrows in my life. Will it really matter if I live as a disciple of Christ?* As a Christian, you are not exempt from difficulties. But remaining in His Word cultivates a relationship in which you can successfully weather those storms. When you have a relationship with Christ, He shows you how the Scriptures point to Him as the source of guidance and strength.

A DAILY APPOINTMENT

One way you can know Christ's teaching is through the habit of daily Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. No substitute exists for a quiet time. Persons God has used mightily are those who have discerned God's truth and power in private worship. Joshua 1:8 says of the Word, "Meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it." Memorizing puts God's Word in your head. Meditating puts it in your heart. Meditate on the Word until it is in your heart. With God's Word in your heart you can face any circumstance.

I had a significant experience in a quiet time several years ago. Getting ready for a second prostate surgery, I anticipated that this operation would be similar to the first one I had—although uncomfortable, without any lasting effects. In my quiet time I read Psalm 116:1-9. In verse 3 I read:

*The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.*

Becoming apprehensive, I wrote in my prayer journal, "This operation is going to be more dangerous than I thought." I prepared for the worst and then put my confidence in what God said in verses 7-9:

*Be at rest once more, O my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.
For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
that I may walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.*

**Memorizing puts God's
Word in your head.
Meditating puts it
in your heart.**

After the surgery the pathology report showed one cancer cell. At first I was startled by the word *cancer*, but the Scripture the Lord had given me came to mind and quieted my soul. The doctor said that the cancer cell might be the only one that existed and that he would monitor the situation every three months. I thanked God for His assurance. More than five years have passed since that surgery, and I have had no recurrence of cancer. However, the incident alerted the doctor to discontinue medicine that could have made the cancer cells grow faster.

I thanked God for His gracious warning about the cancer through His Word, which prepared me for the outcome of the surgery. Striving to live a life of obedience did not make me immune to cancer, but my habit of a regular quiet time made me open to a promise from God's Word that helped me get through a trying time with strength and comfort.

Have you had an experience that led you to closer fellowship with Christ so that you could be more receptive to His direction?
 Yes No If so, describe your experience.

A quiet time helps you get to know God through fellowship with Him.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The first reason for a quiet time is that it helps you get to know God through fellowship with Him. This week you will study this and three more reasons.

REASONS FOR A QUIET TIME

1. To know God through fellowship with Him
2. To receive direction and guidance for daily decisions
3. To bring needs before God
4. To bear spiritual fruit

Why do you desire close fellowship with God? To begin with, wanting to communicate with someone you love is natural. Think about the way you feel when you go for a while without seeing or talking to someone you love, such as a parent, a child, a spouse, or a friend. You long to connect with that person once again. You cannot wait for a letter to arrive or to hear the voice on the phone. You hunger for that sweet time of fellowship. When you are a child of God, you have a deep desire for fellowship with your Heavenly Father.

Read in the margin the verses from 1 John. Then answer in your own words the following questions.

Why do you love God (see 1 John 4:19)?

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:9-10).

How do you know that God loves you (see 1 John 4:9-10)?

A believer and the Father can enjoy the close relationship made possible by Jesus' sacrifice.

"[My determined purpose is] that I may know Him—that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding [the wonders of His Person] more strongly and more clearly. And that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers]; and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death" (Phil. 3:10, AMP).

You love God as a response to Him: He first loved you. You know that He loves you because He sent His Son to die for you. Failing to return God's love does not influence the way He feels about you. But your love for Him diminishes and grows stale if you do not have the nourishment of daily fellowship with Him. A daily quiet time is important so that a believer and the Father can enjoy the close relationship made possible by Jesus' sacrifice.

Read Philippians 3:10 in the margin. It is quoted from *The Amplified Bible*, which gives all possible meanings in the Greek language, in which the New Testament was written. Check the benefits Paul received from communion with Christ.

- 1. Knowledge of Christ
- 2. Freedom from problems
- 3. Resurrection power
- 4. Fellowship in suffering
- 5. Freedom from death

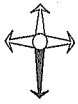
Christ does not promise that you will be free from death if you commune with Him. He does not promise that your struggles will be fewer. But He promises that you will have knowledge of Him, the power of the resurrection, and fellowship during times of suffering. The correct answers are 1, 3, and 4.

To summarize what you have learned so far, fill in the blank:

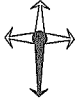
The first reason for a daily quiet time is _____.

When you love someone—and as a Christian, you are to love Christ above all else—you do not want to be separated from that person. You cannot really know someone unless you spend time with him or her. To answer the question in the previous activity, you likely wrote something like "so that I can know Him through fellowship with Him."

Your habit of a daily quiet time strengthens your relationship with the Vine, without whom you can do nothing. Last week's Scripture-memory verse, John 15:5, underscores your helplessness if you are not consistently connected to Christ. He wants to transform your character into Christlikeness as you stay connected to Him.



Continue memorizing John 8:31-32 and review Luke 9:23, which you memorized earlier. Say them aloud to a family member or a friend.



Continue reading your Bible daily. Today read Matthew 26:36-46, a passage describing a time when Jesus sought solitude for prayer. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

DAY 2



Guidance for Daily Decisions

As you consider living in the Word, the persistent problem of time may surface again. You may think, *Sure, it's good to read my Bible daily. I can try to establish that habit. But living in the Word sounds like something I do around the clock. Does anyone really have enough hours in the day to live in the Word continuously? I have my job, my family, and my other responsibilities. I can't walk around with a Bible in my hand all day.*

Certainly, reading your Bible regularly is a primary way to live in the Word. You need that daily discipline. However, you can receive the Word in many ways besides reading it. These include listening to someone preach it, studying it, memorizing it, meditating on it, recalling it, and applying it. Making Christ Lord and having a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Him mean that you want to study and meditate on the Word regularly. Then you live what it says.

In the previous paragraph underline ways to receive the Word.

God's Word can permeate your daily life in all kinds of situations. As you memorize Scripture, the verses you learn will surface in your thoughts when you are in various situations. In the same way, you find yourself in countless incidents that require you to apply scriptural truths. Even when you cannot have an open Bible in front of you, you can meditate on verses you have memorized. Hearing someone preach the Word teaches you what God has in mind for you. Developing daily habits of reading and studying the Scriptures helps you live in the Word. In the previous activity you likely underlined all of these ways.

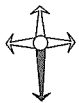
DAILY MASTER COMMUNICATION GUIDE



MATTHEW 26:36-46

What God said to me:

What I said to God:



Take time to work on this week's Scripture-memory verses, John 8:31-32. Say the verses aloud from one to three times. As you go about your activities this week, be aware of times you apply these verses to your life.

LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS



To help reinforce what you are learning about living in the Word, draw the portions of the Disciple's Cross you have studied. Draw a circle with *Christ* and *John 15:5* in the center and draw the lower crossbar with *Word* written on it. Now write *John 8:31-32* on the lower crossbar. As you draw, say aloud what you have learned about the Disciple's Cross so far.

One way to get the Word into your mind and heart is through a daily quiet time. Today you will study the second reason for a quiet time.

REASONS FOR A QUIET TIME

1. To know God through fellowship with Him
2. To receive direction and guidance for daily decisions
3. To bring needs before God
4. To bear spiritual fruit

A daily quiet time provides direction and guidance for your daily decisions.

ASKING GOD TO SHOW YOU THE WAY

A daily quiet time provides direction and guidance for your daily decisions. You discern God's will as you meditate on His Word and commune with His Spirit. Psalm 143:8 can be your prayer:

*Show me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.*

In Psalm 143:8 what did the psalmist ask God to do for him?

First John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." What does this verse say about God's response if you pray according to His will?

Like the psalmist, you can ask God to show you the way you should walk in your life in Christ. If you pray according to His will, you have the assurance that He hears you. I know of no greater reason for taking time to strengthen your relationship with the Vine daily!

If you pray according to His will, you have the assurance that He hears you.

FINDING DIRECTION IN THE WORD

God has used His Word to reveal His direction for me over and over again. Once my wife and I were in South Africa leading *MasterLife* training for nine countries. Word arrived that because of a political boycott, no passengers from South Africa would be allowed to disembark in Nairobi, Kenya, where we were to conduct training for another nine countries. We tried to get around this ruling but could find no solution. If we would not be allowed to enter Kenya, we would be forced to proceed to Europe without leading the training.

The day before we were to leave, we decided to go to Harare, Zimbabwe, to get new passports, visas, and tickets in an attempt to travel to Nairobi. On the morning we were to leave, I read in my quiet time Psalm 118. Verses 5-8 say:

*In my anguish I cried to the Lord,
and he answered by setting me free.
The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
The Lord is with me; he is my helper.
I will look in triumph on my enemies.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in man.*

I felt that these verses were God's promise that we would be able to enter Nairobi. Verses 14-16 seemed to offer further affirmation:

DAILY MASTER
COMMUNICATION
GUIDE



PSALM 118

*The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.*

Shouts of joy and victory

resound in the tents of the righteous:

“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!

The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;

the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

What God said to me:

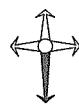
We arrived in Harare, Zimbabwe, with only one hour to obtain the new passports, visas, and tickets, but God did it! If you have tried to get any one of those in your own country, you know that what occurred was a miracle. When we reached Nairobi, the officials turned back the three persons in front of us, but they examined our new passports and visas and let us walk through! Shouts of joy and victory resounded from us and from the participants who had prayed that we would be able to enter the country. God had performed a miracle, and I was thankful that I had sought answers from His Word. Without God’s assurance, I would not have been bold enough to start on the journey.

Has God ever helped you make a decision as you sought answers from His Word? Yes No If so, describe your experience.

What I said to God:

To summarize what you have learned today, fill in the blanks below. Check your work by reviewing the list on page 38.

The first two reasons for a daily quiet time are:



Read Psalm 118 as your Bible passage today and see how God uses it to speak to you. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.



Pray for each member of your *MasterLife* group. Refer to your Discipleship Covenant to recall their names.

DAY 3



Petitioning for Needs

By now you probably realize that remaining in Christ's Word, or holding to His teaching, is not a one-time action. Have you ever read your Bible, closed it, and had a self-satisfied feeling like "Whew! Now that's done"? This is not a task that can be accomplished and then set aside indefinitely. Remaining in His Word, or holding to His teaching, means His Word is so much a part of your life that it is like the air you breathe. Your memory verses for the week are John 8:31-32: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Today you will spend more time studying the concept of holding to Christ's teaching.

BRINGING YOUR NEEDS TO GOD

If you hold to Christ's teaching, you will not wait to ask for His help as a last resort. He will be your first source of help. You will seek the Scriptures first when you have needs. This is the third good reason to have a quiet time of reading and meditating on God's Word and fellowshiping with Him. Needs and problems in your life can make you realize your dependence on God. He wants to meet your needs. In a quiet time you can bring your needs before God.

Today you will study the third reason for a quiet time. In the list below, the first two reasons are blank. See if you can remember them from days 1 and 2.

REASONS FOR A QUIET TIME

1. _____
2. _____
3. To bring needs before God
4. To bear spiritual fruit

Read the verses in the margin. Match the references in the left column with the prayer promises from the Bible in the right column.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Philippians 4:6-7 | a. God renews our strength as we wait on Him. |
| ___ 2. Psalm 34:17 | b. In prayer we find grace in our need. |
| ___ 3. Hebrews 4:16 | c. God delivers the righteous from trouble. |
| ___ 4. Isaiah 40:31 | d. As we make our requests known to God, He gives us peace. |

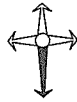
"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7).

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles" (Ps. 34:17).

"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" (Heb. 4:16).

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isa. 40:31).

These are wonderful promises about what happens when you pray! God provides grace, peace, strength, and deliverance from trouble. The correct answers are 1. d, 2. c, 3. b, and 4. a. Beautiful promises await you if you remain in the Word, as your memory verses, John 8:31-32, remind you.



Take a few minutes to review your memory verses, John 8:31-32. Without looking back at page 31, write the verses in the margin to see how well you can recall them.

Being able to recall verses as you need them is important in a Christian's daily walk.

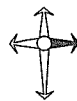
By this point in *MasterLife* you may be saying to yourself: *This memory work is tough. I've never been very good at memorizing things.* You may think that you are too busy or too old to begin memorizing Scripture. But Scripture memorization is a major part of remaining in the Word. Being able to recall verses as you need them is important in a Christian's daily walk. Read this story about an amazing woman who overcame challenges to Scripture memorization.

Pearl Collingsgrove of Polo, Missouri, became a Christian at age 79 and began asking to study *MasterLife* after hearing participants in her church talk about experiencing life in Christ. Because Pearl had only a third-grade education and was blind, some church members thought that she would not be able to participate. But one member recorded all of the materials on tape for Pearl, who quickly memorized all of the Scripture-memory verses and many more.

Pearl, a former entertainer, began singing her memorized Scripture verses as she played the guitar. Civic clubs around town invited her to speak and sing. A member of her *MasterLife* group made a cross the same size as Pearl. When she spoke, she showed the cross and sang a song that related to each point and the center. She said, "My feet are planted in God's Word, my hands are lifted up to heaven in worship and prayer, one hand reaches out to my Christian brothers and sisters in fellowship, and the other hand reaches out to the lost world that we need to tell about Jesus."

Word spread about Pearl's testimony, and to rousing applause she sang John 15:5 at the 1985 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas before 45,000 people. Neither age, blindness, nor a lack of education could deter this fervent woman's learning the *MasterLife* concepts and Scripture verses.

The same God who gives you strength to follow Him at all costs can also give you, like Pearl, the ability to memorize His Word.



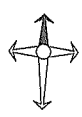
Get better acquainted with a member of your *MasterLife* group by visiting or calling that person. Talk about blessings or challenges you are having with Scripture memorization or any other part of *MasterLife*. Tell the person that you are praying for his or her ability to memorize Scripture and for other needs the person expresses. Together review the verses you have memorized in *MasterLife*.

TRACING ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Another way to stay connected with God is to keep track of the way He meets your needs. Too often we approach His throne with a request but forget to thank Him for the way He answers our prayers. One way to keep track of your requests and answers is by keeping a Prayer-Covenant List. Many Christians have used this system to remind them of what God has done in their lives. Here are some tips on how to use the list.

HOW TO USE THE PRAYER-COVENANT LIST

1. Use the list on page 138. You may want to photocopy the list and make individual lists for various categories of prayer or for different days of the week. Make at least one list of requests for which you pray daily. Pray for other requests weekly or monthly.
2. List each request in specific terms so that you will know when it is answered. For example, do not write, "Bless Aunt Dolly." Instead, ask that Aunt Dolly might be able to use her arm again. Record the date you make the request. If the Holy Spirit at any time impresses on you a Bible verse related to that request, write that verse in the appropriate column. Be alert to verses in your Bible reading that might apply to your request. (Later, you will study more about the different ways God answers prayer.)
3. Leave two or three lines on which to write entries in the answer column. Your prayer may be answered in stages. Write the date when each prayer is answered.



Begin keeping your Prayer-Covenant List, using the one on page 138. Make copies of the list provided if you wish. You may want to make a prayer notebook to use as you complete *MasterLife*. At first you may not have enough prayer requests to fill all of the lines. Record only the requests that represent genuine concerns at the time.

Your prayer list with dated answers may become the best evidence you have to convince yourself or someone else of God's concern and power. This was the case for a young construction worker named Dyke Dyer, a member of a *MasterLife* group Shirley and I led at our church in Goodlettsville, Tennessee. Dyke consistently listed his boss on his Prayer-Covenant List as someone who needed salvation. As Dyke reported about his witnessing efforts to the group week after week, we prayed with him, but still no answer came.

Finally, Dyke found a way to take his boss to church and to win him to the Lord. Dyke excitedly told the group, "This is the best thing that has happened to me since I was saved!" It was a joy to see this young man use his Prayer-Covenant List as a means to pray consistently for someone's salvation and to witness this result.

You can not only approach God with your needs during your quiet time but also keep track of how He meets those needs. A quiet time

DAILY MASTER COMMUNICATION GUIDE



I SAMUEL 1:9-20

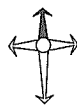
What God said to me:

What I said to God:

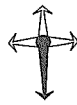
is an important habit to develop in your lifelong, obedient relationship with Him.

Recap today's study by listing the first three reasons for having a quiet time. You will study the fourth reason tomorrow.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. To bear spiritual fruit



Pray with your prayer partner once this week. If you do not have a prayer partner yet, find one this week.



Read 1 Samuel 1:9-20, about a person who prayed fervently, during your quiet time today. When you have read the passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 43.

DAY 4



Abide and Obey

The disciples followed Jesus because they recognized Him as their Master.

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love" (John 15:10).

At our family devotional time one day I asked my children why they believed the disciples James and John dropped their nets at Jesus' command and followed Him—no questions asked. My 11-year-old son replied, "They were tired of mending those nets." I do not think that was the real reason the disciples followed Jesus on command. They followed Jesus because they recognized Him as their Master. If you want to sum up discipleship, it is obedience to the lordship of Christ. To remain in the Word, or hold to His teaching, then, means to obey it. You can read the Word, meditate on it, pray about it, hear it preached and taught, and see it demonstrated, but if you do not obey the Word, you have wasted your time.

Read the verse in the margin and answer the following questions.

What happens when you keep Christ's commands?

Whose example do you follow when you keep Christ's commands?

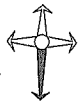
To abide in Christ means to _____ Him.

Obedying Christ's commands is the key to discipleship. When you obey them, you remain in a lifelong, obedient relationship with Him. You abide in His love. You obey because of the example Christ set in obeying His Father's commands. When you abide in Him, you obey Him.

How are you doing with your Scripture memorization? I hope that by now you are beginning to experience the benefits of having memorized verses to use instantly when you need them. When I give my testimony, I do not always have a Bible handy. I have found that the Holy Spirit brings to memory exactly the verses that fit each situation. Once when I talked with a woman who visited our church, she made numerous excuses for not coming to Christ. Because I had memorized many verses, the Holy Spirit led me to choose the right verse for each excuse. To each excuse I did not answer a word but asked her to read a verse I had memorized. After she read between 10 and 15 verses, she put her faith in Christ.

You obey because of the example Christ set in obeying His Father's commands.

Describe a time when a memorized Scripture proved helpful.



Continue memorizing John 8:31-32. Say these verses aloud to someone in your family or to a friend.

Having a quiet time helps you obey Christ's teaching. When you have a daily reminder of what the Bible says, Christ's teaching is fresh on your mind. You do not have to wonder how Christ would have acted in a certain situation; those truths are hidden in your heart. And when you are obedient, you bear spiritual fruit—the fourth reason for a quiet time.

You do not have to wonder how Christ would have acted in a certain situation; those truths are hidden in your heart.

Write the first three reasons for a quiet time.

REASONS FOR A QUIET TIME

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. To bear spiritual fruit

DAY 5

~

A Daily Discipline

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35).

“One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God” (Luke 6:12).

“After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone” (Matt. 14:23).

“After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray” (Mark 6:46).

Jesus modeled for us an obedient relationship with the Father.

In day 4 you studied about following Jesus' example for maintaining your growing relationship with the Father. You might wonder, *Why was it necessary for Him to pray, since He was God's Son?* The reason is that Jesus emptied Himself and became a human being (see Phil. 2:6). He placed Himself in the same relationship with God that we have: that of a learner (see Luke 2:52; Heb. 5:7-9). Jesus enjoyed a unique relationship with God the Father. Although He was God's Son and was filled with God's Spirit, He felt the need to maintain a practice of regular, private worship. He modeled for us an obedient relationship with the Father.

As you can see from the Scriptures in the margin, Jesus established patterns that enabled Him to maintain a special love relationship with God the Father. He prayed in the early morning, during the night without sleep, alone, and when He was away from others.

If Jesus felt a need for regular communion with the Father, we should feel an even greater need. Here is how you can have an effective quiet time

HOW TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE QUIET TIME

1. Schedule a regular time for it.
2. Find a place to be alone with God.
3. Follow a procedure.

A REGULAR TIME

Finding a regular time is the first key to an effective quiet time. Having your quiet time in the morning begins the day with a recognition of your dependence on God and His all-sufficiency. It gives you an opportunity to yield your will to Him and consciously dedicate the day to His glory.

What time do you usually get up in the morning? _____

What adjustments would you need to make to get up 15 minutes earlier tomorrow morning?

I believe it is important to meet with God in the morning so that you consciously seek His guidance and hear His word for the day. However, some Christians find that a quiet time at bedtime eases the tension

of the day, provides a peaceful prelude to rest, and prepares them for the next day. The important factor is that the time be daily and regular so that it becomes a habit.

Do you have a time of day when you habitually pray? Yes No
If not, make a commitment to schedule a quiet time at _____
 a.m. p.m. each day.

A QUIET PLACE

A second requirement for an effective quiet time is a place where you can be alone with God. Matthew 6:6, in the margin, describes how Jesus encouraged His followers to pray. Most people find that they can concentrate best when they have an established place away from noise, distractions, and other people—a place like a bedroom, study, den, or garage—where they can focus on the One to whom they are praying.

“When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Matt. 6:6).

Name the best place for you to have a quiet time: _____

A PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW

A third requirement for an effective quiet time is to follow a procedure. Unless you consciously follow a pattern that keeps your mind focused on spiritual matters, you will probably find that your mind tends to wander.

The following elements may be included in your quiet time. Check the ones you are currently using.

- Fellowshiping with God in prayer
- Bible reading or study
- Praying through the day's schedule
- Memorizing and/or reviewing memory verses
- Praying through your prayer list(s)
- Studying the day's *MasterLife* assignment
- Other: _____

Unless you consciously follow a pattern that keeps your mind focused on spiritual matters, you will probably find that your mind tends to wander.

The following is my personal procedure. You may want to adapt it to determine your procedure.

1. I kneel in prayer and renew my relationship with God after the night's rest. During this time I often use the ACTS model on page 19.
2. After fellowshiping with God, I sit or kneel and read Scripture. I usually read a chapter a day as I read consecutively through a book of the Bible. During *MasterLife* I suggest that you read Scriptures related to the day's lesson. Later, you will determine which book of the Bible to read and how much to read each day.
3. While I read or after I have finished reading, I summarize in my journal what God said to me and what I said to God.

Use your Prayer-Covenant List to pray for the requests listed.

4. I use my Prayer-Covenant List to pray for the requests listed. I add other subjects God leads me to pray about.

You may use my procedure or may develop another. Perhaps you could try several different ways to organize your quiet time in the next several days to see which one you are most comfortable with and which helps you best relate to God.

Write the procedure you want to use in tomorrow's quiet time.

To recap what you have studied today, explain the significance of the three requirements for a quiet time. Check your answers by reviewing what you have read.

A regular time: _____

A quiet place: _____

A procedure to follow: _____

LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS

In this week's Scripture-memory verses, John 8:31-32, Jesus said that His disciples are characterized by holding to His teaching.



To demonstrate that you understand the importance of remaining in His Word, or holding to His teaching, as a characteristic of a disciple, draw the portions of the Disciple's Cross you have studied so far. Draw the circle, the lower crossbar, and the words and verses that go in them. Explain mentally or aloud what you have learned about the Disciple's Cross this week.

First Peter 2:5 refers to believers as priests who may "offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." As priests, we have the privilege and responsibility to worship the Lord daily.

As priests, we have the privilege and responsibility to worship the Lord daily.

DAILY MASTER
COMMUNICATION
GUIDE



JOHN 15

What God said to me:

What I said to God:

Evaluate the degree to which you do the following by filling in the circles in the appropriate columns.

	ALWAYS	USUALLY	SOMETIMES	SELDOM	NEVER
Have a regular time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have an established place to meet God	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have a procedure to follow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Enabling sinful people to commune with God cost Him His only Son. Yet God was willing to pay that price to have relationships with us. Part of your life in Christ is daily communication with the Father. What is it costing you to have fellowship with Him?

Will you give God at least 15 minutes daily, starting tomorrow?
 Yes No If this is your desire, tell Him so now in a prayer.



Again read John 15 in your quiet time today. This time look for ways God uses this passage to speak to you about remaining in His Word, or holding to His teaching. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

HAS THIS WEEK MADE A DIFFERENCE?

Review "My Walk with the Master This Week" at the beginning of this week's material. Mark the activities you have finished by drawing vertical lines in the diamonds beside them. Finish any incomplete activities. Think about what you will say during your group session about your work on these activities.

As you complete your study of "Live in the Word," think about the experiences you have had this week.

- Are you truly becoming a disciple, as John 8:31-32 describes?
- Have you observed growth in your life this week as a result of what you learned?
- Are you abiding in Christ more this week than you were last week?
- Have you progressed in developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Him?

MasterLife encourages you not to stand still in your life in Christ but to move forward. You would not be participating in this study if you wanted only to stand still. I pray that God is working through your experiences to help you grow as a disciple.