

## WEEK 5

# Witness to the World

## This Week's Goal

You will bear witness of Christ and your relationship with Him.

## 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

- ◇ Have a daily quiet time. Check the box beside each day you have a quiet time this week:  Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday



### LIVE IN THE WORD

- ◇ Read your Bible every day. Write what God says to you and what you say to God.
- ◇ Memorize John 15:8.
- ◇ Review Luke 9:23, John 15:5, John 8:31-32, John 15:7, and John 13:34-35.
- ◇ Study the reasons for memorizing Scripture in "How to Memorize Scripture."



### PRAY IN FAITH

- ◇ Pray about your priorities and use of time.
- ◇ Pray for the members of your *MasterLife* group.



### FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

- ◇ Share with your prayer partner some of your problems and pray about your and your partner's needs.



### WITNESS TO THE WORLD

- ◇ Review "How to Use MasterTime." Use it to plan your days and week.
- ◇ Make a new friend who is not a Christian. Learn all you can about your new friend and be ready to tell your *MasterLife* group about him or her.



### MINISTER TO OTHERS

- ◇ Continue learning the Disciple's Cross. Explain the meaning of the left crossbar to add to the information you have already learned.

## This Week's Scripture-Memory Verse

*"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8).*



## DAY 1



## Bearing Fruit for Christ

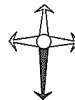
**The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness.**

After I made my initial commitment as a college student to be Christ's disciple, I felt a strong need to begin to witness. About four nights a week I began going to a rescue mission operated by college students. I thought I would witness there, but no one came to Christ. I would memorize Scriptures to counter the excuses I would hear when people rejected the gospel. Armed with about 50 Scriptures, I could answer almost any objection, but I had not discovered the real secret: the Holy Spirit is the one who empowers us to witness. He bears witness through us. When I allowed Him to fill me, the persons to whom I witnessed began to trust Christ. Book 2 discusses being filled with the Spirit.

### A NATURAL DESIRE TO SHARE

Christ intends for His disciples to bear fruit. Your memory verse this week, John 15:8, says the way to show that you are His disciple is to bear much fruit. If you have an obedient relationship with Christ, you will want to share with friends about that relationship. Just as a woman who is getting married wants to talk about her fiancé, you will want to talk about Christ. The branch that lives in the Vine bears fruit. If you practice the disciplines around the Disciple's Cross, you have a desire to share with non-Christians. If you fellowship with God's people as you live daily in the Word and pray in faith, you naturally and normally share with others the Christ who lives in you. When God's love flows through the Son to you and others, you want to share the good news of Christ with those around you. The Holy Spirit will empower you to do so.

*"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8).*



What does John 15:8 say you will do to show that you are Christ's disciple?

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How does John 15:8 say that you bring glory to God?

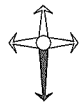
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**When God's love flows through the Son to you and others, you want to share the good news of Christ with those around you.**

If you are Christ's disciple, you show it by bearing fruit for Him. You do this as a natural result of following Him. You do not do it in your own strength, as I tried to do at first. You allow the Holy Spirit to empower you for the task. When you bear fruit for Him, you bring glory to the Father. The Lord uses you to teach others about Himself.

## THE FRUIT OF A LIFE IN CHRIST

What exactly does Christ mean when He talks about bearing fruit? Galatians 5:22-23, in the margin, describes the fruit of the Spirit—the traits of Christ that the Holy Spirit produces when you abide in Christ. How does fruit bearing relate to your life in Christ?



Read aloud John 15:8, this week's Scripture-memory verse, in the margin. What is the fruit you are expected to produce?

- The fruit of the Spirit, as listed in Galatians 5:22-23
- Producing other Christians

Actually, both answers are correct. To understand more clearly the purpose of fruit bearing, consider what occurs when a vine produces grapes. A vine does not produce fruit just so that a person can eat; it also enables the seed from that plant to be scattered. You are a Christian not merely to produce the sweet fruit of good deeds and good actions. As a Christian, you live a life that reflects those Christlike traits. The fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23 naturally flows from your life if you abide in Christ. The result of your fruit bearing is to produce other Christians.

To illustrate, let's identify some of the things the world, with all its troubles and difficulties, needs.

Check the qualities from Galatians 5:22-23 that the world needs.

- love       patience       faithfulness
- joy       kindness       gentleness
- peace       goodness       self-control

Is love one of the things you checked that the world needs? Certainly, the world needs love, but most people look for it in the wrong places. One way you can exhibit Christ's character is to demonstrate love, for example, in loving your enemy. When others see you do that, they may be puzzled. They may ask: "How can you love like that? How can you love persons who mistreat you?" That is your opportunity for the seed to sprout. You can say, "The truth is, I can't love like that, but Christ can love that person through me." Your life is a witness, but a verbal witness is also necessary to glorify God instead of yourself. To accept credit for your good deeds would be wrong, because that is your chance to give credit to Christ. Only through Christ can you love your enemy. Demonstrating this fruit of the Spirit enables you to plant a seed that bears fruit.

What would happen if you demonstrated love without telling others why?

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*"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).*

*"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8).*

**The result of your fruit bearing is to produce other Christians.**

**A follower of Christ confesses Christ as the reason for his or her love.**

If you planted the seed without telling others why, they would think you are just different than they are. Along with demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit, a follower of Christ confesses Christ as the reason for his or her love. You have an opportunity to witness when you plant the seed of love and it bears fruit in your life. The Lord uses you to teach others about Himself.

You may have also answered that the world needs peace—which people also look for in the wrong places. When they see peace in your life that is different from the world's chaos, they wonder what makes you different. But if you do not tell them that you are peaceful and serene in the face of chaos because of Christ's peace that lives in you, they will not understand the source. If a person comments on your calmness when you confront difficulty, you can respond, "Can I tell you an experience I had with Christ that helps me respond this way?" This is a good way to introduce Christ as the source of your peace.

The world genuinely needs joy. You can be a joyful person and can radiate that joy. Instead of being disheartened when you encounter difficulties, you may look on the positive side. If people notice that you look for the good in a bad situation or that you refuse to give up when you are sick, they take notice. If you confess Christ as the source of joy in your life, you produce the fruit Christ desires for His disciples.

**We have looked at three fruit of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23—love, joy, and peace—and ways they could lead to a witness. Now choose one of the remaining fruit and describe how it could become the seed of a verbal witness.**

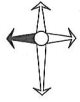
- patience       faithfulness  
 kindness       gentleness  
 goodness       self-control
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**Bearing fruit also includes producing another follower of Christ.**

#### THE FRUIT OF NEW BELIEVERS

As you have learned, bearing fruit can mean having the fruit of the Spirit in your life. Bearing fruit also includes the result: producing another follower of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 4:19, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Fruit bearing is the normal, natural result of a life that has Christ at the center.

You might wonder, *How do I learn to witness, since all of my friends are Christians? I'm willing to be obedient and bear fruit, but how can I find someone with whom I can share the gospel?* One way is to broaden your horizons, to reach beyond your comfortable circle of friends. You have persons all around you with whom you can become acquainted. Perhaps the following assignment will help.



Make a new friend this week who is not a Christian. Learn all you can about your new friend. Make notes and be ready to tell your *MasterLife* group about him or her.

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**LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS**

This week introduces you to the fourth bar of the Disciple's Cross, witness to the world. Just as the vertical crossbar represents the two ways a disciple relates to God—through the Word and prayer—the horizontal crossbar represents the two ways a disciple relates to others—through fellowship and witness. The cross illustrates a disciple's balanced life in Christ.



Draw the portions of the Disciple's Cross you have already studied. Now draw the left crossbar and write the discipline witness on it. Refer to the completed cross on page 136 if you need help with your drawing.



In your quiet time today read Galatians 5, the chapter containing the verses you studied about the fruit of the Spirit. When you have read it, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

**DAILY MASTER  
COMMUNICATION  
GUIDE**



**GALATIANS 5**

**What God said to me:**

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**What I said to God:**

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## DAY 2



## Relying on Christ

**A**s the Holy Spirit worked through me and as I began to witness more effectively, I often witnessed on the streets and in bars. One night when I witnessed in a bar, I talked with a man who seemed to be under deep conviction about his need for salvation. As we talked, he wept, but he would not receive Christ as Savior.

At that time the barkeeper told me that I was not welcome in his bar and made me leave. I was crushed, because the man with whom I had conversed was so burdened. When I left the bar, I went across the street to my car, knelt in the back seat, and pleaded with the Lord to lead the man to give his life to Christ. At that time I heard a tapping noise and looked up. Standing beside my car was the man to whom I had witnessed. We talked for a few minutes, and he trusted Christ. This was an answer to prayer, illustrating how God uses all six disciplines of the Disciple's Cross to accomplish His purposes. I kept Christ as my source of power instead of relying on my own strength, and the man was saved.

**I kept Christ as my source of power instead of relying on my own strength, and the man was saved.**

**Has Christ been your power source when you have witnessed? Describe an occasion when, as you witnessed, Christ was giving you the words to say and the strength to say them.**

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*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you" (John 15:1-4).*

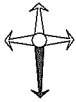
**Read John 15:1-4 in the margin. Then mark the statements that are true.**

- Fruit bearing is not a choice for a Christian.
- Some Christians are expected to bear fruit, while others are not.
- Christ cleanses you so that you can bear more fruit.
- Fruit bearing depends on remaining in Christ.

You may have the idea that witnessing is only for persons with outgoing personalities. You may think that you are excused from witnessing if you are not particularly talkative or do not have time. You may think that witnessing is not your major strength. But John 15:1-4 says that persons who are in Christ bear fruit. It does not say that only a few believers are fruit bearers. All Christians are expected to bear fruit. Christ made you clean through His Word so that you can bear more fruit. You cannot bear fruit apart from Him, as I learned during my futile attempts to witness in my own strength. When Christ became my source and I shared from my lifelong, obedient relationship with Him,

I became more effective in witnessing. In the previous exercise all of the statements are true except the second one.

Have you ever made excuses for not witnessing?  Yes  No



Try to say John 15:8, this week's Scripture-memory verse, several times from memory. Write what it says about making excuses for not witnessing.

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You may have answered something like this: The verse indicates that Christ's disciples bear fruit. If I want to be His disciple, no excuse is really valid for not witnessing.

How are you doing with the discipline of memorizing Scripture? By now you have likely memorized several verses you can use in various situations. I have found Scripture memorization helpful in times of temptation, trial, and testimony. When I am tempted, I remember 1 Corinthians 10:13, one of the earliest Scriptures I memorized. The Holy Spirit uses that verse to assure me that He will not allow me to be tempted more than I can bear but will offer an escape every time. Many times I have faced trials I could not understand. Each time the Holy Spirit reminded me of James 1:2-3: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

By now, the fifth week of your study, you have likely memorized five verses and are beginning to learn a sixth. Describe situations when having memorized these verses helped you. Be ready to share what you have written at your next group session.

Luke 9:23: \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:5: \_\_\_\_\_

John 8:31-32: \_\_\_\_\_

John 15:7: \_\_\_\_\_

John 13:34-35: \_\_\_\_\_



Read Acts 8:26-40, about Philip's witness to the Ethiopian, during your quiet time today. Then complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

## DAILY MASTER COMMUNICATION GUIDE



ACTS 8:26-40

What God said to me:

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What I said to God:

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## DAY 3

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*Every Disciple's Orders*

**Witnessing is part of every disciple's marching orders.**

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name" (John 15:16).*

**M**aybe you think that witnessing is something Jesus expects only of preachers, evangelists, or missionaries. You may think that Jesus does not expect ordinary Christians to bear fruit for Him in this way. But John 15, the passage you have been reading, makes clear that witnessing is part of every disciple's marching orders.

Read John 15:16 in the margin and answer the questions below.

What did Jesus say His purpose was in choosing the disciples?

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What did Jesus promise fruitful disciples they could do?

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Fruit bearing was not optional for the disciples. It was expected of them as part of their lifelong, obedient relationships with Him. Jesus told the disciples that to bear fruit that would last was the reason He chose them. Along with this expectation Jesus gave a promise: that the disciples could pray in Christ's name and have their prayers answered. Obedient disciples seek to live in keeping with the Father's will and to pray accordingly.

#### WITNESSING IS NOT OPTIONAL

In John 15:27 Jesus once again told the disciples that witnessing is not optional; it is a discipline He expects. The verse says, "You also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."

Why did Jesus tell the disciples that they must testify?

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Jesus commanded the disciples to testify about Him because they had been with Him from the beginning and knew firsthand of His saving truth.



Again read John 15 in your quiet time today. Let God speak to you about the importance of bearing fruit and of testifying about Christ. After you have read this passage, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide on page 100.



Although you did not physically live alongside Jesus, as the disciples did, you know firsthand of His saving truth, and you experience a growing relationship with Him. You can tell others what Christ has done in your life just as the disciples did. You can tell others about Him, based on your experience.

As you study about witnessing to others, you may find yourself thinking: *I want to do that! I know that Christ wants me to be His witness. But how will I know the words to say? How do I know I won't freeze up or embarrass myself?*

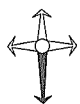
**Read John 15:4 in the margin and complete this sentence:**

**I am unable to bear fruit unless I \_\_\_\_\_.**

No branch can bear fruit by itself. The branch is part of the vine; it is not just attached to the vine. As the sap and the life-giving power that produces the fruit flow through the branch, they originate in the vine. The end of the branch that bears the fruit is the part you see, but the vine is always the life-giving source.

#### THE PROMISE OF CHRIST'S POWER

When you were saved, you became part of the Vine. You cannot bear fruit if you do not remain in the Vine, that is, stay in fellowship with Christ. If you stay in fellowship with Christ, you will be empowered to witness. In my early attempts at witnessing I learned that I could not succeed just because I willed myself to succeed. Only when I allowed the Holy Spirit to take control of my thoughts, my words, and my actions could I witness effectively.



See if you can recall John 15:5, one of your previous Scripture-memory verses. What does it promise will happen if you remain in Christ?

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The verse does not say that perhaps you will bear fruit or that only exceptional disciples will bear fruit. It says that if you remain in Christ, you will bear fruit. This is a precious promise from God's Word to you about what happens to a person who abides in Christ and witnesses to others. He will enable you to bear fruit if you remain in Him and seek His will.

**What are some ways you can remain in Christ so that you can bear fruit for Him?**

- Live in the Word by studying it and memorizing it.
- Pray that the Father will direct you to witness according to His will.

*“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me” (John 15:4).*

**If you stay in fellowship with Christ, you will be empowered to witness.**

DAILY MASTER  
COMMUNICATION  
GUIDE



JOHN 15

What God said to me:

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What I said to God:

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- Fellowship with other believers to hear instruction from God's Word and to draw encouragement from the body of Christ.
- Have a daily quiet time to hear God speak to you.

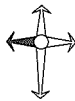
Which discipline do you most need to work on? Draw a star beside it. Then ask God to help you be more diligent in that practice.

As you reviewed the above suggestions, how did you evaluate yourself on your practice of having a personal quiet time with God? I have found that nothing takes the place of a personal quiet time with God every day. Like manna, it does not last long enough to provide for tomorrow. If I write in my Daily Master Communication Guide each day, God says more and more to me. Then when times are difficult, I can go back and read what God said to me in the previous days, weeks, or months. Many times this perspective gives me new insights about my relationship with God and restores my spirit.

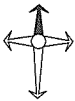
Complete this statement:

The time that works best for my daily quiet time is

\_\_\_\_\_.

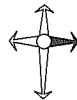


If finding time for your daily, personal time with Christ is still a challenge for you, review what you learned in week 4 about ways to set priorities using MasterTime. Use MasterTime to plan your days and weeks.

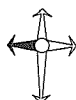


Stop and pray, asking God to help you with your priorities and your use of time so that you will be able to find a consistent time every day to remain connected to the Vine.

You can also abide in Christ by fellowshiping with other believers and by expressing your care and concern for them. For example, the time you spend with your prayer partner can be a time of fellowship.



Share with your prayer partner some of your problems. Pray about your and your partner's needs. Before you finish your conversation, say John 15:8, this week's Scripture-memory verse, to your prayer partner.



As you studied in week 4, your fellowship with others naturally leads you to share Christ with them. The Lord will use you to teach others about Him. You will have fellowship as you demonstrate your love for fellow believers, as you did with your prayer partner. You also need to relate to persons who do not know Christ, attempting to bring them to a saving knowledge of Him. Continue to cultivate the friendship with your new non-Christian friend.

## LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS



To reinforce what you are learning, draw the portions of the Disciple's Cross you have studied. Now draw the left crossbar and write *witness* on it. Write *John 15:8*, the Scripture reference that accompanies the left crossbar, under *witness*.

## DAY 4

*Compelled to Tell*

**W**hen I was six years old, I made my profession of faith in Christ while my father was attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. As he was preaching a revival service in a local rescue mission, I recognized that I was a sinner and that if a trap door were under me, I would go straight to hell. Realizing that I needed to repent of my sins, I almost ran down the aisle. I felt that a burden had been lifted from me. With the enthusiasm of a new convert I told my neighbor, my barber, and even the president of the seminary that I had trusted Christ. I could not help telling what I had seen and heard.

**I could not help telling  
what I had seen and heard.**

## WHAT HAS CHRIST DONE FOR YOU?

The Bible says, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Has Christ ever been so real to you that you



could not help testifying about what you saw and heard? Perhaps He answered a prayer in such a direct, specific, or meaningful way that you responded, "Only the Lord could have done that!" Perhaps you experienced physical or emotional healing. Perhaps He provided you special encouragement or counsel from a friend just when you needed it. You did not live at the time of Christ to observe His miracles firsthand, but perhaps you have experienced modern-day miracles. If so, how can you refrain from telling persons you encounter how awesome Christ is?

How ready are you to testify about what Christ has done in your life? Evaluate yourself by circling the appropriate number: 1 = sometimes, 2 = often, 3 = usually, 4 = always. Then pray about areas in which you need to improve.

I build relationships with non-Christian friends or acquaintances so that I can eventually have opportunities to witness to them. 1 2 3 4

I pray with persons or offer to pray for persons who have needs, and I remind them that God cares about them. 1 2 3 4

I visit or contact persons who visit my church and express concern for them. 1 2 3 4

I tell lost persons about Christ even though it means risking that they will reject me. 1 2 3 4

I do not hesitate to tell others when God answers my prayers. 1 2 3 4

Do not feel embarrassed or awkward if you answered with a 1 on several or most of the statements in the exercise. Learning to share your faith boldly can be a building process. Book 2 provides techniques and skills for sharing your personal testimony.

#### MAKE SURE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP

As you think about witnessing to the world, first be sure of your own salvation so that you can bear fruit. Be sure that you are connected to the Vine so that you have Christ's love flowing through you in a life-long, obedient relationship with Him. The following gospel presentation is called the Roman Road.<sup>1</sup> You will read eight passages from the Book of Romans that clearly explain the gospel message. Study the presentation to determine how you measure up in your relationship with Christ. You may want to memorize the verses or to mark them in sequence in your Bible so that you can also share the good news with others. *MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission* teaches you another gospel presentation you can use to witness.

#### THE ROMAN ROAD

1. God's power can make you secure.
2. God's power results in change.
3. Sin makes change necessary.
4. God still loves you.
5. Sin earns death, but God offers life.
6. Confessing Jesus as Lord means that you recognize His rightful authority over you.
7. Repentance means changing the direction of your life and living a God-oriented life.
8. Believing means trusting Jesus with your life.
9. Calling on the name of the Lord means asking Him for forgiveness of sin and for salvation.
10. You now have hope.
11. Faith = life for God.

## THE ROMAN ROAD

1. *God's power can make you secure.* Read Romans 1:16 in the margin. Many people today live without hope. They have no resources to strengthen them and guide them through their struggles in life. According to Romans 1:16, the focus of the Christian faith is the gospel, which is the good news that God's power is available to help you in whatever problems you face. Through Jesus Christ a power great enough to bring salvation and deliverance is available to any person who believes.

God's \_\_\_\_\_ can make you secure.

2. *God's power results in change.* Read Romans 2:4 in the margin. Through God's power, people can change. The biblical word for *change* is *repentance*. This means allowing God to change the direction of your life.

God's power results in \_\_\_\_\_.

3. *Sin makes change necessary.* Read Romans 3:23 in the margin. Why do people need to change? From what does Jesus offer deliverance? According to the Bible, every man and woman has a problem. The problem can be described in many ways, but the most common biblical word is *sin*. One meaning of *sin* is *to fall short of the mark God has set*. The Bible teaches that God's standard for us is Jesus Christ. If Jesus were standing in front of you in the flesh, could you say that you are as good as He is? The failure to meet God's standard is sin, which means that all people have a sin problem. You may do much that is good, and you may not want to do anything bad, but none of us can measure up to God's standard of always doing right.

\_\_\_\_\_ makes change necessary.

4. *God still loves you.* Read Romans 5:8 in the margin. Some people think that their failure to meet God's standard means that God is their enemy. Because they do not live up to His expectations, God must be against them. But the message of Jesus is that in spite of our sin, God still loves us.

God's love for you is not based on ignorance and an unawareness of sin. Nor is it based on a tolerance that overlooks your sin. Knowing your sin, God chose to love you, even though it meant His Son's death for you. In doing what was necessary to overcome your problem with sin, God demonstrated the depth and reality of His love for you (also see John 3:16).

God still \_\_\_\_\_ you.

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Rom. 1:16).*

*"God's kindness leads you toward repentance" (Rom. 2:4).*

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).*

*"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).*

*“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).*

5. *Sin earns death, but God offers life.* Read Romans 6:23 in the margin. According to the Bible, the consequences of sin are too serious to overlook. Although God is not your enemy, He is your judge. As judge He cannot ignore your failure to meet His standard of perfection. Romans 6:23 says that “the wages of sin is death.” Whenever you sin, you earn the wages of death. Since every person is guilty of sin, every person is subject to the consequences of eternal death and separation from God (see John 3:36; Rev. 20:11-15).

An alternative exists. Through your works you earn death, but “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 6:23). Jesus died on the cross in your place (see 1 Pet. 3:18). He took your guilt for sin upon Himself so that His death would fulfill the judgment of God against your sin (see 2 Cor. 5:21; Col. 2:13-14). Your sin is judged in the death of Jesus on the cross as our substitute. By your works you earn death, but by His grace you can receive eternal life. God offers eternal life and the forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ as His gift.

Sin earns \_\_\_\_\_, but God offers \_\_\_\_\_.

6. *Confessing Jesus as Lord means that you recognize His rightful authority over you.*

**Underline the words in Romans 10:9-10,13, in the margin, that indicate what you need to do to accept Christ as Savior and Lord.**

Read Romans 10:9-10,13 in the margin. The words *confess*, *believe*, and *call* summarize what someone must do to receive God’s free gift and be saved.

The biblical word translated *confess* means *to say the same thing*. *Lord* may be translated *ruler*, *boss*, or *sovereign authority*. When we confess Jesus as Lord, we are saying the same thing about God that He says about Himself (see Isa. 45:5-7,22-24; Phil. 2:10-11). We recognize His rightful authority over us. In acknowledging Jesus as Lord, we admit our sin in failing to meet His standard of perfect obedience and righteousness.

**Confessing Jesus as Lord means that you recognize His rightful \_\_\_\_\_ over you.**

7. *Repentance means changing the direction of your life and living a God-oriented life.* To confess Jesus as Lord also means to repent of your sins. In accepting His rightful authority over you, you turn away from life on your terms in order to obey and serve

*“If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” (Rom. 10:9-10,13).*



Him. This turning away from sin in order to follow Jesus is called repentance. More than feeling sorry, it is changing the direction of your life and living a God-oriented rather than a self-oriented life (see Luke 3:7-14).

Repentance means changing the \_\_\_\_\_ of your life and living a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

8. *Believing means trusting Jesus with your life. Believe means to trust.* When you “believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead” (Rom. 10:9), you have confidence that the death and resurrection of Jesus are enough to secure your salvation. You trust in the work of Christ rather than in the work of your life for your salvation. When you look at a bridge, you might know that it would hold you up if you crossed it. The bridge never actually holds you up, however, until you get on it and cross. Similarly, you may know a lot about Jesus, but until you trust Him with your life, putting your life into His hands, you are not believing in Him. To believe in Jesus is to put your life, both physically and spiritually, into His hands.

Believing means \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus with your life.

When you acknowledge that Jesus is the rightful Lord or boss of your life and when you are willing to believe in Him, trusting in His work alone for your salvation, you need only call on Him to be saved. In Romans 10:13 Paul wrote, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Note how broad the invitation is. *Anyone* who is willing to call on the name of the Lord will be saved. No other qualifications are needed. If you are willing to call on Him, you can be saved.

***Anyone who is willing to call on the name of the Lord will be saved.***

9. *Calling on the name of the Lord means asking Him for forgiveness of sin and for salvation.* When you ask Him for salvation, you are acknowledging Him as your Lord and expressing your intention to live a life of obedience and service. Persons who call on Him will be saved.

Calling on the name of the Lord means asking Him for

\_\_\_\_\_ of sin and for \_\_\_\_\_.

The three words that summarize what someone must do to be saved are: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

*“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 8:16-17,38-39).

*“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. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will”* (Rom. 12:1-2).

As you have proceeded through *MasterLife 1: The Disciple’s Cross*, you may have experienced some questions about where you stand in your commitment to Christ. As you have read about being totally committed to Christ, you may not be able to state firmly that you have taken that initial step of following Him that occurs when you receive Christ in salvation. *MasterLife* was designed for persons who have accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord and who want to learn what it means to be His true followers. If you find that you cannot say with 100-percent surety that you have made that commitment, you can accept Him now by inviting Him into your life. If you wish, use this sample prayer to express your commitment:

*Lord Jesus, I need You. I want You to be my Savior and my Lord. I accept Your death on the cross as the payment for my sins, and I now entrust my life to Your care. Thank You for forgiving me and for giving me new life. Please help me grow as a Christian so that my life will bring glory and honor to You. Amen.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Receiving Christ does not guarantee that you will not struggle with issues like self-denial, cross bearing, and following Jesus. It does not mean that you will not be tempted to give your devotion to someone or something else. It does not mean that you will not shy away from the costs of discipleship. It means that He forgives you; that He has a lasting relationship with you that extends into eternity; and that He will grant you strength, power, and wisdom as you seek to be His disciple. I suggest that you talk with your *MasterLife* leader, your pastor, a church-staff member, or a trusted Christian friend about any new commitment you have made.

10. *You now have hope.* Read Romans 8:16-17,38-39 in the margin. When you are saved, God adopts you as His child, and His Holy Spirit assures you that you are part of His family. According to Roman law at the time of Paul’s writing, someone’s adopted son also became his heir. While Christ is God’s heir by nature, Christians have become God’s heirs by adoption. Therefore, you are a joint-heir with Christ.

Verses 38-39 say that you are eternally secure in God. Because Christ has defeated the principalities and powers of this earth, you need not fear human and superhuman enemies. Nothing can separate you from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

As a believer, you can live with hope because you are a child of God and are secure in His love.

You now have \_\_\_\_\_.

11. *Faith = life for God.* Read Romans 12:1-2 in the margin on the previous page. When you become a Christian, you begin to live your life for God. You can expect your life to be different. God wants your life to change as you follow Jesus, even if it means sacrifice. The goal for believers is to look and live less like the unsaved people of the world and more like Jesus. That kind of change happens because God brings it about. He will transform your life, making it more like the life of Jesus (see Phil. 1:6; 2:13). Jesus will make you look and live like one of His children as you follow Him.

Faith = life for \_\_\_\_\_.

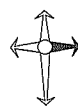
**YOU ARE HIS WITNESS**

Whether you just received Christ or have been His disciple for many years, you are His witness. You may want to learn the previous presentation so that you can explain to a lost person how to receive eternal life. You may first want to accompany your *MasterLife* leader when he or she uses it to witness to an unsaved person.

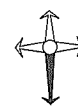
Do not be afraid to share your salvation experience with non-Christians. In *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality* you will learn how to share your personal salvation experience. In *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory* you will learn how to use a booklet to share the way someone can become a Christian. In *MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission* you will learn how to use another presentation to lead lost persons to receive Christ as Savior and Lord.



Read Acts 16:11-15, describing Paul's witness to Lydia, during your quiet time today. Then complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.



Pray for each of your *MasterLife* group members by name. Ask God to help each person receive a blessing from *MasterLife* and especially from the gospel presentation you have studied. Ask Him to help you be available as a friend to your fellow members.



Continue to memorize John 15:8, this week's Scripture-memory verse, which goes with the left crossbar of the Disciple's Cross. On a sheet of paper, write the verse from one to three times.

**DAILY MASTER COMMUNICATION GUIDE**



**ACTS 16:11-15**

**What God said to me:**

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**What I said to God:**

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*“Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me” (John 15:20-21).*

*“While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’” (Luke 22:47-48).*

*“Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. ‘Where did this man get these things?’ they asked. ‘What’s this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?’ And they took offense at him” (Mark 6:1-3).*

*“He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days must rise again” (Mark 8:31).*

## DAY 5

# The Price of Bearing Fruit

**H**igh-school principal John Eluru was rehearsing to play the role of Jesus in the Ugandan translation of the *Jesus* film, a riveting movie about the life of Christ. The film has brought countless people to Christ in every corner of the globe. As crews carried John and other film personnel from their Ugandan village to the production site, guerilla fighters burst onto the road and fired. John was shot in the heart.

That night as John lay dying, he urged the film technician: “Don’t stop the dubbing. Uganda needs this film. I have done my part, but don’t stop the work, and don’t ever be afraid.” The next morning John died, but today every time the completed film is shown in Uganda, John’s voice as Jesus tells hundreds of people how to know Christ.<sup>2</sup>

Being Christ’s disciple does not occur without sacrifice. Witnessing to the world as you bear fruit for Christ has its price. As John 15:20-21, in the margin, reveals, when you have a relationship with Him, you will be persecuted, just as He suffered. Everything you endure for Christ, He endured also. He knew rejection and suffering, and so will you.

**In John 15:20-21 what do Jesus’ words “No servant is greater than his master” mean to you?**

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### YOUR COMPANION IN SUFFERING

You are subject to the same rejection Jesus encountered. The same type of hard-hearted, closed-minded people who rejected the Master will also reject you. In contrast, the same type of people who were open to His teachings while He was on earth will be open to your words and deeds today.

**What did Christ suffer for you? Read the three verses in the margin. Then match the statements in the right column with the correct references on the left.**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Luke 22:47-48 | a. Respected persons in authority rejected Him.    |
| ___ 2. Mark 6:1-3    | b. A friend betrayed Him.                          |
| ___ 3. Mark 8:31     | c. The people in His hometown took offense at Him. |

**Go back and draw a star beside any type of persecution you have experienced.**

Have you had an experience in which you felt persecuted because you witnessed for Christ?  Yes  No If so, describe it below.

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How does it make you feel to realize that Christ has already endured any type of heartache you have suffered?

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Christ's suffering for you was so great that listing all of the trials He endured on earth would be impossible in this book. The Scriptures in the margin on page 108 represent only a few. Likewise, because of Christ-honoring stands you take, you sometimes experience the rejection of friends, family, neighbors, your community, and people you respect. I hope as you thought about the fact that Christ is your companion in suffering, you described feeling strengthened and encouraged by considering the depths of His love for you. The correct answers to the previous matching exercise are 1. b, 2. c, 3.a.

**Because of Christ-honoring stands you take, you sometimes experience the rejection.**

#### LEARNING THE DISCIPLE'S CROSS

After studying the Disciple's Cross for five weeks, you know that the left crossbar represents bearing fruit by witnessing. The Disciple's Cross itself embodies fruit bearing. If you learn and practice the six disciplines, you will live an obedient life and thus will bear fruit.



Again draw the Disciple's Cross, writing *witness* on the left crossbar. Also include *John 15:8*, the Scripture that accompanies the left crossbar.

**DAILY MASTER  
COMMUNICATION  
GUIDE**



**MATTHEW 4:1-11**

**What God said to me:**

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**What I said to God:**

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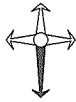
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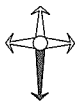
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To reinforce what you are learning about fruit bearing as a characteristic of a disciple, say aloud John 15:8, this week's Scripture-memory verse. Recite it to a family member or to someone you regularly see in the course of your day.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION:  
A KEY TO BEARING FRUIT**

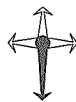
Each day you have been asked to memorize Scripture. I hope you will not look at this merely as busy work or as course requirements. Memorizing Scripture enables you to claim victory over Satan, to claim victory over sin, to win others to Christ, to meditate on the Word, and to direct your daily life. Most important of all, you memorize Scripture because God commands it.



Try to memorize in your own words the six reasons listed in the following chart.

**REASONS TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE**

**1. To claim victory over Satan.**



Read Matthew 4:1-11, the account of Christ's temptation in the wilderness, during your quiet time today. When you finish, complete the Daily Master Communication Guide in the margin.

- a. Jesus set the example. Read Matthew 4:7,10.
- b. Satan sometimes misuses the Scriptures. Compare Matthew 4:6 with Psalm 91:11-12:

*He will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways;  
they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

c. The Word is the sword of the Spirit:

*How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your word.  
I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you (Ps. 119:9,11).*

**2. To claim victory over sin.** See Psalm 119:9,11.

**3. To win others to Christ.**

- a. You will always be ready to give an answer about your faith:  
"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have"  
(1 Pet. 3:15).

- b. The Holy Spirit can bring to mind the word that is needed for any situation: "When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come" (John 16:13).
- c. Understanding the Word will make you bold in your witness: "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31).

**Understanding the Word will make you bold in your witness.**

**4. To meditate on the Word.**

*His delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither (Ps. 1:2-3).*

**5. To direct your daily life.**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light for my path (Ps. 119:105).*

- 6. **Because God commands it.** "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deut. 6:6). "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16).

**Memorize Scripture because God commands it.**

**Give an example of how memorizing Scripture has helped you in one of the above ways.**

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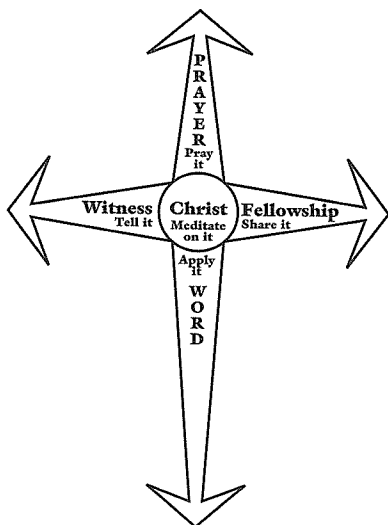
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**Read on the following page the suggestions for memorizing Scripture. Check any suggestion you have tried. Draw a star beside any you pledge to try.**

**Review is the most important secret of Scripture memorization.**



## HOW TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE

1. Choose a verse that speaks to your need or, if the verse is assigned, discover how it meets a particular need in your life.
2. Understand the verse. Read the verse in relation to its context. Read the verse in various translations.
3. Record memory verses on a cassette tape so that you can listen to them. Leave a space after each verse so that you can practice quoting it. Then record the verse a second time so that you can hear it again after you have quoted it.
4. Locate and underline the verse in your Bible so that you can see where it is on the page.
5. Write the verse on a card, including the Scripture reference and the topic it addresses. This allows you to relate the verse to a particular subject so that you can find it when a need arises.
6. Place the written verse in prominent places so that you can review it while you do other tasks. Put it over the kitchen sink, on the bathroom mirror, on the dashboard for reviewing at stop lights, and on the refrigerator.
7. Commit the verse to memory. Divide it into natural, meaningful phrases and learn it word by word. If you learn it word-perfect in the beginning, it will be set in your memory, will be easier to review, will give you boldness when you are tempted, and will convince the person with whom you are sharing that he or she can trust your word.
8. Review, review, review. This is the most important secret of Scripture memorization. Review a new verse at least once a day for six weeks. Review the verse weekly for the next six weeks and then monthly for the rest of your life.
9. Use these activities to set a verse in your mind: see it in pictorial form; sing it, making up your own tune; pray it back to God; do it by making it a part of your life; and use it as often as possible.
10. Use the version of the Disciple's Cross in the margin to master the verse. Note that you can make the Scriptures a part of every facet of your life (see John 8:31-32).
11. Have someone check your memorization. Or write the verse from memory and then check it yourself, using your Bible.
12. Make Scripture memorization fun. Make a game of remembering verses with your family and friends. A game I have used is to cite a reference to a *MasterLife* group member before the person can cite it to me. For instance, if you cite John 15:5, the other person must quote it. If the other person says the reference first, you must quote it.
13. Set a goal for the number of verses you will memorize each week. State your goal: \_\_\_\_\_ per week. Do not try to learn too many verses so fast that you do not have time for daily review, which is essential to memorizing Scripture.