

# the ■ ultimate Journey

## Phase 3 Embracing Self-Surrender

### Leader's Guide

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## **PART 1: PRE-FACILITATING READING**

These chapters are to be read by the facilitator prior to leading the group class for lesson 1. The following allegories were written by John Marquez in order to help you understand your purpose and objectives as a facilitator.

### **Introduction**

Beloved, you are blessed beyond human comprehension. You have the honor and privilege of bearing the presence of your Lord into the Arena of Testimony. As leader of your Phase 3 group, that's exactly what you'll be doing. You know what a tremendous opportunity this is for your continuing growth, maturity and living knowledge of God and His Covenant ways. As you pour your life out to serve others, He'll take you to awesome new levels in your own spiritual journey. He'll move you to a deeper, more intimate level of abiding in and depending on Christ. And so Father will reveal more and more of His beloved Son to you and in you. You'll have to become even more focused upon and attentive to your indwelling Lord. Thus will you intensify your personal knowledge of Him and of what it means to live out from the Life, Light and Power of that inner, spiritual reality we call, "Christ-Life".

You are not called to be a "leader" in the typical worldly sense of the word. Many exercise self-centered ideas of 'leadership' amid the Lord's flock. But in Christ-Life, we lead by being crucified, meek, child-like and teachable believers. We are the ones should be learning and growing the most in embodying the risen Lord. Because we were crucified with Christ, our self-life decreases even as the indwelling life of the risen Lord increases within us.

If Christ is to be free to work in and through us, our independent initiatives must remain crucified and out of His way. Human pride, arrogance, and a false sense of superiority have no place in us. So be filled with Christ's living, dynamic, overwhelming presence. Christ-Life leadership has nothing to do with being a platform professional and all-knowing authority and "star of the show". All authority and pre-eminence are reserved for the Lord Himself. The Christ-Life mode of leadership stimulates the growth and promotion of others. We encourage you to allow the group members watch you live out the crucified life before them. Pour your self-life out, that they may see Christ and experience His awesome reality and presence— emanating from your flesh. He will lead the group; you will rely on Him and rest in His dynamic love-power and grace.

Essential guidance is given in this Leader's Guide. Read the following chapters as you begin this group cycle. Revisit them throughout your Phase 3 experience. Repetition keeps you focused. Beloved one, cooperate with God in revealing His beloved Son, in your midst. The more Christ is seen and experienced in and through you, the more of a true Kingdom disciple and leader you will be.

## Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey

### Christ, The End Times Ark of Salvation

In the days preceding the great flood, Noah, at God's urging, persevered and finished building the Ark. God-less, radically independent people around him, remained absorbed in daily, worldly, self-serving affairs. But Noah believed God's warning—that judgment and certain doom were closing in on the fallen Adamic world. People scoffed, no doubt, at his apparently outrageous eccentricity. But zero hour finally arrived—just as Noah finished the ark. And his obedient diligence enabled him and his household to abide in God's salvation.

“I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.” (Genesis 6:17-18)

This is historical fact. But it's more than that. It's revelation—of the *death-resurrection* pattern God always uses to deal with our fallen flesh. Embedded in what God said to Noah, was also a revelation of the coming Christ and His enormous spiritual significance to all Creation. In that sense, God is saying, “I will also establish my New Covenant with you, and you will enter Christ!” Christ—God made flesh—is the true, infinite, eternal Ark for the entire world to enter and be saved in! Father sent Him to us all, for that very purpose.

Because Christ is God's infinite sanctuary and reservoir of grace for man, Father will use nothing else. It's all about living in Him and by Him. Father won't use even a speck of our fallen, radically independent Track B self-life or anything it produces, for His purposes. It isn't Christ plus what we do and how we do it. It's Christ period! Christ and what He has already done. Sin corrupted our human nature. We are all in total, desperate need of salvation! How then can the problem that originates within us be the solution that redeems and purifies us? What we are by nature must die and be completely exchanged for what only God Himself can be to us, by His grace. Self-improvement is not the solution. Christ invading us and taking over and living His unstoppable, incorruptible, invasive life in us, as our Lord, Master and Owner, is The Solution.

So be advised: God will follow this death and resurrection pattern within every true disciple. Phase 3 is geared to teach us to live on the resurrection side of the Cross, in Christ. But the Cross part must truly come first. Mere theological assent and self-improvement efforts won't suffice. The death part of the pattern must be applied to what we are in ourselves by our fallen nature. Then God will supply what comes from Him, through His Eternal Covenant with His Son, as applied by His Holy Spirit. Christ in us is the resurrection part and the essence of what salvation is. God will only accept Christ and His perfect humanity. So He, as our Eternal Covenant Representative, must become our new and eternal life. Your Phase 3 group is here to develop the new resurrection patterns that enable us to actually embrace, absorb, experience and embody the risen Christ-in us. God's pattern must become our pattern too. That's the heart of *repentance*.

The Holy Spirit will work in and through you and the facilitators to guide group members through their Exodus experience. You don't have to make it happen. Neither do the group members. The Lord Himself is in your midst to do it all. Let everyone else follow directions and rely on Him to do the necessary work in everyone's inner being. *Communicate this to the group—frequently.*

Follow the structure and directions provided for you. They match the Exodus structure that leads to the reality that the Holy Spirit has already put into our spirits. The group members will be in position for the Holy Spirit to do wherever He wishes, in their hearts. They will have optimum conditions for experiencing radical mental and emotional transition from their original self-life

habits to mature, supernatural, and spiritual Christ-Life realities. In addition, you'll plant good, true seed into them that will transform them into legitimate, mature, future Christ-Life group leaders and facilitators in their own right.

Our Exodus isn't necessarily geographical in nature; but it most certainly forces our spirits, minds, wills and affections to undergo a massive, gut-wrenching reality-shift. The Holy Spirit takes you far beyond the comfort zone of natural, obsessive self-centeredness. Christ must become paramount. He must be recognized and relied upon as our sole source, our head and our very life. Our radical independence was executed. Now the group is here to learn to deal with this awesome New Covenant reality—Almighty God has taken up residence within us and we must learn to deal with that fact, on His terms!

Remember: self-life is the root of all Sin. Don't expect God to allow even a speck of it in His Temple, even if you ignorantly offer it to Him with the best of intentions, as did Cain, He will reject it. Contrary to what many naively believe at the beginning of their walk with God, He isn't interested in "using us"! He wouldn't be God if He used anything that even so much as brushed against sin! How much less will He use something that originates in us, who were so thoroughly corrupted by our former reveling in deliberate sin?

No, there's no other way for us but Christ. He is our Blood Covenant Representative before God. So He must truly become our Life and our Source. God will only use His Son's finished work. He will apply it to us by His grace. So don't expect God to use anything that you religiously try to do on your own—FOR HIM, OR LIKE HIM!

It's just the opposite. God wants us to be crucified to our radically independent, soul-originated initiatives. Our part of the Covenant is to remain crucified (die daily) to self-life, and to be led, empowered and supplied exclusively by His Spirit. He will work into our spirits what pertains to Christ, bypassing the devices of our fallen soul (natural mind, will and affections) as sources. Then we are to work out in daily life, through our mind and body, the Christ-Life He has already worked into our spirits.

God wants us to BEGIN USING HIM for a change, by becoming one with His Son and drawing exclusively from what He has already done for us, in our name! This is the Christ-Life version of what 'Life in the Holy Spirit' is all about, and it's the heart of what Phase 3 is meant to convey.

We are fast approaching the awesome, terrible day of reckoning—God's Final Judgment. Let's not kid ourselves by underestimating how overwhelmingly perfect and demanding His holy standard of Judgment will be. Only Christ will pass that Judgment. So let's make sure that only Christ is living and operating from within us.

No one but Father knows the exact timetable. But the end of life and time as we know them, gets closer by the day. The awesome, turbulent forces that Christ warned would signal the beginning of the end are here. A rapidly escalating current is taking the whole world nearer and nearer to the point where we will all *go over the falls of eternity*.

"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

## Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations BECAUSE OF ME. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, AND THEN THE END WILL COME!” (Matthew 24:6-14 Emphasis added.)

Dear Christ-Life leader, grasp the gut-wrenching urgency contained in Christ’s warning to persevere and rest in Him. Do it yourself. Teach the others to do it too. In this end-time era, the Lord Himself is The True Ark—The Living Covenant that bonds God to men and men to God. He is the Narrow Gate and Narrow Path God provides for the human race. We don’t dare offer God any cheap counterfeit substitutes! (Cf. Matthew 7:9-20)

Let us persevere all the way to the end of the course God sets before us—into the total acceptance and embodiment of Christ-in-us. Then, when the Judgement comes, and God asks, “*How much of My Son is in you and in what comes out of you*” we will confidently and joyfully give Him the right answer. Christ is the One perfect Man that Father’s heart desires. Let Him be seen living and reigning from within our obedient, crucified flesh.

For these reasons, God’s sole priority and agenda is to reveal His Son *to, in and through* the human race. That’s why we must transform—into Christ’s own image and likeness. But without Him actually living in us as our Eternal Life, it can’t happen. He must be revealed, known, believed, embraced, and obeyed, on God’s New Covenant terms. We cannot create our own alternate way to love and serve God. There is no other way but Christ. And that’s why He has to be the true Leader of this group. Your job is to let Him do it in His perfection, through your poor flesh.

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing Power is from God and not from us.” (1 Corinthians 4:7)

The corrupt human flesh of worldly self-centered people is not equipped with the spiritual faculties needed to hear God’s voice and to know Him intimately. So, in order to reveal His Son to fallen, unredeemed people, Christ must appear to them on Earth, in His incarnate form. He must have skin on Him before worldly men can perceive and experience His reality and realize that He is real and truly did walk out of the tomb. That’s where God’s servants come in. In this era, the New Covenant Church must provide the Body He needs, and He must provide the Life, Authority, Anointing and Power that His living members will need to embody Him and testify to His real Presence.

“...You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Since the horror and tragedy that took place in the United States on September 11, 2001 many new priorities and imperatives were set into motion. And now, conflicting religions and political agendas are at odds. Contradictory paradigms concerning the true meaning and purpose of service to God, right and wrong and what true civilization is are on a collision course. It’s only a matter of time before these speeding forces intersect and full impact takes place. Then the lives and futures of all humans will be radically affected. The impact will shatter all of the conflicting, created priorities on this planet to bits. All that will remain will be the Lord of Glory, as He really is, reigning, without any competition, resistance or doubt—over all of Creation. We’ve been the problem thus far. But then, He will be The Eternal Solution.

The end-time events leading to God's Final Judgment, are bearing down on the world, just as they did in the days of Noah. The Christ-Life Ministry is one tool that God is apparently using to build and prepare the *End Times Ark of Salvation*. Christ, joined to His living members is the New Covenant Ark. He must have a physical Body on earth that is really and truly, unequivocally—His. That will happen as human beings that were once radically independent, God-less, self-life human beings begin to transform into Blood brothers of Christ—one in life, spirit, heart and purpose with Him.

We must become so at one with Christ in our own hearts, that to see and experience us will be to see and experience Him, living and acting from within our flesh. Only then will He have a Body worthy of His Name. We are to be like living branches, abiding in our common Vine—Christ. As The Vine grows more and more living branches, Christ's Vine-Body grows, spreads and brings His life-giving presence and life to more and more desperate needy, spiritually dead people. As they take in His life and become one with Him, the New Covenant Ark's size increases and extends further and further until it is big enough to contain all that will ultimately receive God's Son on His terms. And then the end will come.

In order for that Ark's size and influence to increase, veteran disciples, very similar to the original leaders of the baby Church described in the book of Acts, must emerge once more. The early Church had *Watch us* people that served as living demonstrations to others of what New Covenant Life in Christ is—what it means and how it works. God brought three thousand new people to cluster around the originals on the first day. Thus the original disciples were forced to begin serving as drill or training instructors, models and coaches for the ever-increasing numbers of brand new apprentices that the Holy Spirit continued to attract and add to their number. By watching the veterans, the newcomers learned to live in, with and from the risen Lord Jesus for themselves.

God intends to do it again, taking it further and deeper than ever before, in this generation. He will bring countless numbers into His Kingdom as the window of opportunity for reconciliation with God closes. Therefore we must have sufficient numbers of *Watch us* people to serve as the living, incarnate manifestation of His indwelling Son, through whom He can effectively and successfully reveal Him to the rest of the world.

The qualifications for such people are these: they must live with the Lord Jesus day and night, on His terms. As He indwells them, they live out from His indwelling life, authority, anointing and perfect atonement. Their former radically independent life is crucified and Christ reigns and lives from within them, in spirit and in truth.

That's where the group leaders and facilitators come in. You are commissioned to serve as the *Watch us* people for the Phase 3 groups. As such, you are equipped by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ, even as the others follow you through the Exodus process. Thus will you serve as faithful guides and coaches for the less experienced recruits the Lord places under your care. To the degree that you yourselves follow the Holy Spirit and the Exodus directions given to you, to that degree will you help Him to develop and reproduce the right kind of future Exodus leaders needed to fulfill Father's plan and purpose.

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

### **WELCOME TO PHASE 3 BOOT CAMP**

The Lord seems to be moving His Church in America—from a comfortable, self-serving, bless me civilian, country club mindset and attitude into a war time military format. It's almost as if He's mobilizing and training selected troops to become the first wave of an enormous invasion into the realms of the powers of darkness. They won't be self-indulgent country clubbers. They will be sons and servants of the Living God, entrusted with running the family business.

Christ-Life Ministries is commissioned to establish an array of training centers as the Lord prepares the way. The centers are to serve as His instruments in the preparation of some of the units that will participate in the invasion that will prepare for the emergence of the end times Church of the Future. Obviously, those group members that do not fall by the wayside and make it all the way to and beyond Phase 3 must be considered to be serious candidates for that invasion army that is in preparation.

But before the army can really form and be trained, the trainers and officers must first be developed. And that's what the Christ-Life leaders, facilitators and group members seem to be called to begin training for. They are probably all destined by the Holy Spirit to become first class disciples of the "Watch us...now you" level and caliber. To that end, we offer you this Phase 3 paradigm. We urge you to make copies of it so that you can pass them out to the members of your Phase 3 group. The seeds of The Church of the Future are even now being planted into those called from The Church of the Status Quo for that purpose. This paradigm will help them to gain a sense of direction and an understanding of the importance of what they are now in the process of learning in terms of the Exodus from self-life to Spirit-led Christ-Life.

There should be a radical difference between worldly self-life people and Christ-Life people. Self-lifers live by dependence on their own corrupt soulful faculties and natural devices. But those crucified disciples that actually live out from the New Covenant are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. To grasp the difference between self-life and Christ-Life, think in terms of the difference in mentality between civilians and those dedicated, highly trained warriors that serve in the armed forces.

The civilians come and go as they please. But the warriors follow orders and think, live and work as a synchronized, coordinated unit. Civilians scatter in all directions. Warriors have the discipline and focus to operate as one body. And just as there is a huge difference between civilians and warriors, so is there a vast discrepancy between those who indulge their radically independent self-life and those that are led by the Holy Spirit to embody the risen, indwelling Lord.

Let's compare the training of Christ-Life disciples to the training of those drill instructors that train and prepare elite, Special Forces commando units. That is similar to what the original Apostles did with the brand new baby Christians that God brought under their care on that original Pentecost day in Acts 2.

Before that Pentecost feast, no one had what Jesus had when He walked the earth. Only He was filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. He was the Living God. Yet He lived on earth, as 100% man. He depended entirely on the Holy Spirit, and was thus connected to His Father through Him. Jesus served as the Point of Entry through which God entered the world.

But after Pentecost, the baby church was given something even better than she had before the Lord ascended. By His death, He made it possible for each one to have the same Holy Spirit. Now, the Spirit was free to transmit the very presence, life, nature and perfect humanity of

Christ, the risen, glorified Lord, into and through every one of them! It wasn't Jesus of Nazareth living in them. It was the One that walked out of the tomb that lived in them—the risen Lord of Glory!

They all shared in His resurrection life, like branches on a vine. The Lord was their head and life, and they were all living members equipped to embody and reveal Him in their midst. Together they created an ever-growing Point of Entry through which God and His Kingdom could invade the earth in order to save, heal, liberate and transform anyone that would believe and respond to the revelation and summons of Christ.

After a few years of letting their apprentices watch them interact with their indwelling Lord in every kind of daily challenge, situation, problem, need and interaction possible, the apostles completed the training period of that first batch of new recruits. The “watch us...now you” trainers had done their job. And the trainees had learned well. Now they were ready for the ‘now you’ part of their training and education. And so it came:

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the Church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” (Acts 8:1)

The apostles effectively reproduced themselves in their apprentices. The former apprentices were now full-fledged disciples, just like their teachers. They too lived with their indwelling Lord day and night. Now they interacted with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on that wonderful New Covenant basis. And God sent them out in all directions—to reproduce exactly what they had seen and experienced during those early apprentice days. Now they allowed the risen Christ to do in them what they had seen Him do in the apostles. Others would now watch and learn from them.

As soon as they reached their newly assigned territories, they set up shop, so to speak. They made new acquaintances, built relationships, embodied Christ and brought His presence to many new people. And the people responded to the Holy Spirit. He drew them to Christ as He abided in His disciples. The scattered disciples proclaimed the risen Lord and by the Holy Spirit's power they reproduced themselves in the new recruits. And in one lifetime, by using this “Watch me...now you” pattern, they invaded the known world and turned it upside down. The Body of Adam was thus reduced, and the Body of Christ increased—one person at a time!

When the “watch us” part of the process is done properly, the “now you” part naturally follows again and again, and the faith spreads like wildfire. In a short time after the baby church scattered, the Holy Spirit's fire jumped across the traditional Jew vs. Gentile barriers and began to invade all races, nationalities and locales, just as God had planned from the beginning when He first revealed His pattern through Abraham:

“The LORD had said to Abram, ‘Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’” (Genesis 12:1-3)

The New Covenant Era started with Christ's original squad of Holy Spirit-empowered ‘drill instructors.’ Each generation must have that mature level of ‘believers’ in order for the ‘Watch us...now you’ process to continue down through the generations.

## Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey

So let's go back to our analogy of the drill instructors. Let's use civilian life as an analogy for that God-condemned self-life that is worldly, self-centered and radically independent of the Holy Spirit. We're all conceived in and trained to be self-lifers from our earliest beginnings. In that sense, we all begin as civilians.

Picture the world as an enormous coliseum. Put the civilian self-lifers in the grandstands. That's their place. They strive to reserve the choicest available seats for themselves. And once they find their places, they continually visit their false gods in the concession areas in an attempt to meet their own needs. In between times, they sit and watch what takes place down on the sands of The Arena of Testimony. They watch from safe, non-involved distances as observers and critics. Even though many of them were very religious, Scripture called such people, the multitudes. During His public life, the multitudes hounded Jesus. He didn't seek them; they sought Him. But Jesus Himself wanted disciples. He gave parables to the multitudes, as much as they could grasp.

"The disciples came to Him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?'

"He replied, 'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused. They hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'" (Matthew 13:10-15)

"With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when He was alone with His disciples, He explained everything!" (Mark 4:33-34)

Jesus gave His prime time and attention to those that lived with Him day and night. The multitudes hounded Him, drawn by desperate need, morbid curiosity and spiritual bankruptcy. They strove to get what they could out of Him. But the disciples loved Jesus for Himself. They were always with Him, watching and learning from Him. He was able to prepare them for the day when He would say to them, "Now you!"

The Holy Spirit led Jesus and His disciples into impossible situations, dire needs and deadly confrontations. Jesus obeyed the Holy Spirit, embodying exactly what His Father was doing. He interacted with Him while the disciples watched and learned to do the same thing. And the unbelieving world sat and observed from the stands. The crowds loved the danger and conflict and excitement Jesus stirred up in His absolute faithfulness to the One He called Father. But they wouldn't stop adoring their false gods in the concession areas.

Jesus and His disciples had no worldly resources, credentials or assets to work with. They were crucified to such things. They had God and His Covenant promises, which proved to be more than enough. And Jesus had unquestionable authority and ever-sufficient resources to back Him. God validated His Son's perfect, childlike faith, total obedience and absence of self-life—with awesome power. So the crowds came back repeatedly, to watch, judge, second-guess, criticize and ponder, but never to join.

When they tired of the spectacle, they'd go back home, everyone to his or her own life, private agendas, vested interests and personal priorities. They were religious, yet they lived radically independent, worldly, self-life existences. That's why Jesus, who did nothing but follow and obey the Holy Spirit, intrigued, mystified and confounded them so much.

When the shows were over and the goodies stopped coming, the multitudes would disappear, leaving Jesus to be alone with those few that remained. The disciples had nowhere else to go. Jesus was their Blood Brother, their life, agenda, motive and purpose, for better or worse, even to the death. So they stayed with Him at all times.

After He ascended, the disciples were no longer allowed to know the Lord in the flesh. But He started to be closer to them than ever before, indwelling their spirits, by the Holy Spirit. Now He communed with them, day and night—from within their flesh! So He continued to disciple them like before only better! Now it was, "Watch Me do what I do. But now, I won't do it before you. I'll do it from within you!"

And so, they learned the New Covenant pattern. Veterans taught newcomers, and newcomers learned, matured and taught still other newcomers. That's how the Holy Spirit can reveal Christ to every generation—through the flesh of His New Covenant disciples. As veteran disciples learn this Christ-Life way of being and doing, Father draws even more newcomers. They report for active duty and join the veteran disciples to be trained by them..

At the end of Phase 2, when the Christ-Life recruits sign on the dotted line and hand over the Title Deed to their life to the Lord Jesus, they too die to civilian self-life forever. From that point they are apprentice commando disciples, destined to be part of His Invasion Force. After they sign up to enter the New Covenant, they are readied to board the busses that will transport them to the Phase 3, Christ-Life Disciple Training Base.

When the busses arrive at the base, the recruits disembark, line up and wait to be taken to the Phase 3 Boot Camp quarters. Awaiting them as they step off the busses are their Christ-Life Phase 3 Drill Instructors. Not long ago, they too had stepped off busses exactly as the new recruits are doing. But now, they are full-fledged trainers—the very embodiment of Christ-Life. They live with the Lord day and night and draw exclusively from Him and His finished work, for everything they need. They are arena-tested, combat veterans that are firmly rooted in their New Covenant Ground and know how to hold it as the Lord gives more and more of it to them. Through them, the Lord will reveal Himself to the recruits and transform them also, into Arena-ready disciples.

Under this training, the new ones learn to be Christ-Life drill instructors, just like their disciple teachers. They are not there to learn to be super stars. They are there to be crucified to that and learn instead to depend on Christ and His finished work—100%! Thus they persevere on their Exodus Journey and serve as God's warriors, wherever the Holy Spirit assigns them. They learn to interact with God in the midst of their own impossible situations. They learn that Christ is Lord of All Creation. On that basis, they learn to hold and occupy all the ground that was already won by Christ's Atonement. They learn to trust in God, 100%, on the basis of His eternally fulfilled Covenant, and the infinite, Lamb-earned Blessing that flows out of it. Thus they are invincible and they overcome all things in Christ.

That's how the Body of the risen Lord will grow until Christ truly is all in all. And His arena disciples will share in His endless, limitless eternal Inheritance. He will personally share it with

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them since they loved Him and willingly endured anything and everything to the end— for His sake— in The Arena of Testimony.

**PASS IT ON - 'ABRAHAM'S CAMPFIRE'**

At the beginning of this group cycle your group needs a clear sense of direction. Phase 3 is totally focused on the discipleship process, the *"Watch us...now you"*, disciple training pattern that the Lord taught us. The paradigm and underlying structure that is currently in vogue in Christendom includes many features that do not match what God originally revealed. We are working to recapture and restore the original *"Exodus from this world"* pattern He gave us.

The *"Watch us...now you"* pattern flows out of our Blood Covenant relationship with God. Many people do not fully realize that God deals with us out of a Blood Covenant Reality, mentality and world-view. Because of that ignorance, parents do not know their Covenant. Nor do they personally own their responsibility to complete their Exodus and live and interact with God together as a Family, on that basis. Thus they cannot be the main source of instruction and example for their children as God intends. There is no real Covenant Family into which to bring anyone. That's why Christendom is so scattered, confused and divided. But God is here to do something about that—NOW!

In the Church of the Status Quo, it's common for parents to leave it entirely up to professionals to do just about everything. But the so-called professionals are total strangers to their children. The parents are the ones called upon by God to teach them. Unfortunately, the family is no longer the major vehicle of Covenant Life transmission. Outside agencies, such as Christian schools, Sunday schools, church organizations and ministries have supplanted the family as the primary sources. But even though God does much good through these existing ministries, they can only be secondary sources, at best. They cannot ever replace real, healthy family life. They can't give the personalized, individual attention every child needs. Impersonal sermons, seminars, conferences, classes, books, and multi-media tools are no substitute for the original, parental, intimately loving, *"watch me...now you"* way that God instituted from the very beginning.

This dismal state should not be. God's way of transmission always works by close, intimate, family-level, person to person interaction, master and disciple interaction, *watch me...now you* interaction. If it isn't real in the family, it isn't real anywhere. Parents must be equipped and trained to embody Christ and train their own family at this level. If they fail to do it, their family will get the message that none of this is real. Each family must produce its own veteran *God Bringers*. Only they will convincingly usher in God's Living Presence to the unbelieving, radically independent, *"God Seekers"* of the world.

If the Covenant is not that real to the parents, it can't become real to their children. Nothing can substitute for the intensely personal, gut-wrenching Blood brother, interactive relationship that God requires every family head and adult and Church leader to have with Him. God requires each believing adult to be a full-fledged Covenant Family leader. In the New Covenant of God, there is no such thing as clergy and laity. All are one with God and with each other. All are responsible for their own personal response to their indwelling God. That's why we must learn to live out our own personal covenant relationships with God before the members of our family, before our relatives, friends, co-workers and the whole world. All New Covenant sons of God are clergy to each other and to the whole world!

We must not fail in this regard. We must not give the message to our children and those that observe us, that God is not real to us, that He isn't really my God. We must not give the message that we do not personally own the responsibility for entering into and developing our own personal Covenant bond and interactive relationship with Him.

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

The paradigm that follows develops awareness of God's Covenant ways and how they work in everyday Covenant Family life. May we all become aware of our common responsibility before God and before our children, to be genuine, faithful Covenant guides and teachers to everyone God places under our care. To that end, consider this paradigm. If it is not in your Phase 3 group manuals, make copies for everyone in the group.

### **Abraham's Campfire**

Imagine what it must have been like, to be a child in Abram's (Abraham's) very large, immediate family household. Imagine watching the unfolding development of the blood covenant relationship between him and his Living God. How would you be affected as this unique family history begins to unfold from within his heart of hearts? Would you not be drawn into it as well?

Later on, it will pass down to Isaac's children, and after that, to Jacob's children. But right now, it's all about your generation. Because you're part of his household, you have a front row seat and can observe first hand everything that is going on from the beginning between this strange new God and the head of your very own household.

You'd be most interested wouldn't you? Instinctively, you'd know that what is happening is most definitely going to determine the direction and outcome of your own future. Whatever deeply stirs and affects Abram and Sarai will deeply affect you and all the other children.

Abram began as a moon worshipper just like his family had been for generations. The city of Ur was dedicated to the male and female lunar deities named Nanar and Ningal. Anyone living in Ur was automatically considered to be in covenant with them. Abram was thoroughly rooted and bonded by race, nationality, culture, tradition and locale to the gods of his fathers and everything connected with them. And that natural blood bond he shared with them also connected him to Adam, the original covenant representative for the human race and his broken, cursed covenant with the Creator.

Chaldean moon worship was all you knew and wanted. You were steeped in that atmosphere and mentality from the day of your birth. You had no way of knowing anything else. But then Abram began to change radically. Something quite unexpected entered his life and pierced him to the core. Some other god you'd never heard of, initiated contact with him. He was an invisible, Living God, that really invaded Abram's space and made Himself known to him at ever-deepening levels of fellowship and intimacy.

The leader of your life suddenly started going off alone, to be with his invisible God. And did he ever change! He transformed, right before your eyes. Each time he came back from one of those 'visits', he'd change even more. The whole family saw it and the people that knew and did business with him did too. No one could explain it. But centuries in the future this same God would appear on earth, in the flesh, and by way of explanation, this is what He would say to the whole world:

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and anyone who does not take his cross

and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:34-39)

So that's why this God was so adamant and jealous in dealing with Abram. You had no way of knowing that he separates us from what is corrupt and temporary so that we can be free to bond with Him for all eternity! The explanation would be the responsibility of the one to whom this God was revealing Himself. Who else but Abram could do it? He was the only expert on what was going on between him and his God! No school, manual or substitute could have done it in his place. Abram had to be your primary source of knowledge and understanding.

You thought you knew him, but after this, you couldn't be sure of anything. Something really strange had taken place, something deep and mysterious and real. You'd never seen Abram like this before. This God exploded all over him and he was not the same. And that really stirred and upset everybody else in the family and immediate household. Abram was the head and virtual source of whatever major thing happened in the family. And in that sense, now that this Living God had invaded his space, He was indirectly invading the whole family household's space as well.

Your kids in the household were upset and pretty angry over this at first. You used to love to go to the Nanar and Ningal festivals and ceremonies. They were always a big deal because it involved the entire city and provided lots of excitement and activity for all. Everybody went. Your teachers, neighbors, friends and family all took part in those religious festivals and all the drinking, reveling and whatever else that went with them.

But Abram suddenly stopped having anything to do with it. He said Nanar and Ningal weren't real! And that upset a lot of the local people. He said that his invisible God was the only real God there is and all other gods are the mere ideas of men. That didn't go over too well in Ur; but he was adamant in saying that his God is real and the others aren't. And Sarai began to agree with him as he began to reveal this God to her. This God told them that there are no other real gods beside Him. So, now what?

The neighbors began to talk. They asked your mother lots of questions. They even tried to pump you and your siblings. That's how much the changes in Abram upset things. Some said he was sick, crazy or something, because of this sudden strange behavior. They were displeased and scandalized by his irreverence and dismayed that he should suddenly betray the time-honored traditions of his family and fellow citizens.

Then one day, to top it off, he came home from one of his visits with this new God of his, and announced: “The Lord God has spoken to me and this is what He said: Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)

“So...” he added, “we're leaving Ur as soon as possible. My God wants to make a blood covenant with me. But to do that, I must forsake my covenant with Nanar and Ningal, and all that it entails, and that's exactly what I'm going to do.”

“We must make preparations. I'll clean up all the loose ends of my business, sell the house, gather all of the livestock, and buy provisions for a long journey.”

“But what about school and our friends, and where will we go?” you asked.

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“I don’t know, child,” he answered. “God said He would supply our needs and lead us where He wants to take us—later. But right now, we must do what He says. We must leave home and the city of the false gods, as soon as possible. He will guide our steps.”

So, before you knew it, life as you’d been used to having it from birth was gone forever. You and all the families of that household, and all the livestock, left the city. Now, you no longer lived in a comfortable home in a big city. You were nomads, roaming wild, open country, getting further and further away from all that you once held dear and precious, far from what is comfortable and familiar, farther away from home and further into the deliciously scary unknown.

And yet, your household continued to prosper and gain in size, wealth and well being. It had to be because this new, Living God was protecting and blessing Abram. And you began to get used to nomadic life. Sometimes, you felt pangs of homesickness. You missed your friends from back home. You missed being able to play the Chaldean games and singing the religious songs you once sang and eating as you once did. Everything changed. All things became new, strange, alien and disconcerting. You dearly wished that you could fully understand why all of this had to happen.

So now, here you are, up in the air, in no man’s land.. Abram keeps going off by himself for those visits with His mysterious, invisible God. And each time he returns, he has changed even more! Now you hardly know him compared to what he was before this began. He used to be a typical busy man of commerce in Chaldea. But now he’s more silent and pensive. There’s a far away look in his eyes. He’s lost weight and the sun has darkened his skin even more. He seems like an altogether different man. Everyone keeps looking at him with sideways glances to see what further things they might glean, any sign or shred of information, his body language, a hint of what else is happening in his heart, between him and this inscrutable...God.

At night, when the families of Abram’s traveling clan gather around the campfire, there’s only one thing on everyone’s mind, one subject on everyone’s lips. Everyone looks to Abram. They are bursting with curiosity and questions. Almost as if on cue...the questions begin to flow.

“Father, why are we here? Why are we doing this? Tell us again.”

“What’s going to happen to us?”

“Did He talk to you today? What did He say? What does He want?”

“What is He like? Is He mean and scary, cold and aloof, or kind and gentle?”

“Is He really as great and faithful and powerful as He says?”

“Does He talk about us too, or is it always just about you and Him?”

Adults and children ask the same questions, over and over, seeking reassurance, clarity and understanding. And Abram patiently answers, passing it on to the best of his ability, trying to put into words the unfolding drama of what is transpiring between him and this awesome invisible God that speaks and interacts with him and has taken over his entire life. And then it finally happens. He announces that something utterly terminal has happened, and you all knew, that from this point, that nothing would ever be the same again.

"Children, God has made a blood covenant with me! From now on, He and I are blood brothers! And every male of this household must be circumcised just as I have been!"

When he first made this disclosure, the whole camp jumped and stirred as if jolted by a huge surge of electricity.

"BLOOD BROTHERS?" they all gasped.

He had mentioned it before, but no one gave it much thought. But now it was reality. This God made Himself to be one, in blood covenant, with the head of your household! Oh my, now what was going to happen? Why on earth did this God do such a thing? You remember the shock that stirred everyone assembled when they first learned about this.

"Father Abram, why did He do this? What does He want?" they asked.

"How does this change our lives? What is required of us?"

"What did He swear in blood to do for you? And what did you swear in blood to do for Him?"

"Why would He want to be blood brothers with us too?"

The questions continue long into the night, every night. Imagine that, God and your whole household—Blood brothers forever! Wow, what an awesome thing! And Abram revealed that he has a new name too. He is no longer Abram and Sarai is no longer Sarai! The Living God has renamed them both—Abraham and Sarah! And everyone knows that when your names change, it's really serious! Along with that, you receive a new destiny as well, a destiny that links you with this God, who is now your Blood Brother—FOREVER!

Abraham answers your questions faithfully and patiently. What other option is there? He is the only one that knows this God and the only one that could make Him known to the rest of you. He has to be the expert. He has to tell you, or you'll all be left completely in the dark.

"Hear me," he says. "This covenant includes all of us. God wants me to make sure that all of you know that He has chosen us all. He has a wonderful purpose for having our whole family become His chosen people. He wants each one of you to be as close to Him as I am! I can hardly grasp all of this myself. I am overwhelmed at what the Lord says to me about all of us. The Covenant is for all of us and all our descendants, your children, and your children's children and beyond. This is what He promised to all of us when He made this Covenant:

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you!" (Genesis 12:2-3)

"Children, just think of what this means! God has given this family an awesome purpose that involves each and every one of you. It involves all your descendants. It is a purpose that will deeply affect the whole world, and all generations to come. And you all have a part in this—every one of you. We must all be faithful to hear God's voice and do everything He says—together—so that His purpose may be fulfilled through our family."

"As I pass this Covenant to you, embrace it and pass it on to those behind you. No other family is blessed like this. But with this awesome and unique Blessing, comes a serious responsibility.

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God picked us and we must fulfill the purpose He has given us, no matter what, even if it kills us! And God has promised to perfectly fulfill what our Covenant requires of Him—even if it kills Him!”

“And though I am too old to have children, God has promised me a son from my flesh and Sarah’s. And through this son, the promise of the covenant will be passed down, from this generation to the next one and to all future generations, until all these things are fulfilled in the future.”

“Remember children, God has committed Himself to you, as much as He has to me. Everything you will ever need Him to be—He will be to you. Watch me interact with Him. Learn to do what I do. Interact with Him for yourselves. Abide with Him. Hear His voice as I do. Be His covenant friends—face to face and heart to heart, on the same terms. He will take you beyond where He’s taking me. And He’ll take your children beyond you—until all is fulfilled perfectly.”

“Teach your children as I teach you. Show them how to teach their children and so on, until God’s purpose is completed and comes to full bloom. If even one of you fails to walk before Him in this covenant, those that follow you will be ignorant and excluded and the eventual purpose and fulfillment of the Covenant will suffer and be diminished. Never allow that to happen, children—NEVER!”

Thus began your new identity and lifestyle. This Covenant included you and all the other children. You were drawn into the inner, blood covenant circle that existed between Abram and the Living God and all the adults. Each one, regardless of age, was equally included and involved. Each had been hand picked by God, to be His own. It was a family matter, and you were all part of that family. So you all began to learn to interact with God just as personally and intimately as Abraham did.

By the time you reached your twelfth year, the family held you equally responsible for knowing, honoring and living out the covenant and fulfilling its requirements along with the adults. Each was called to be a close personal friend and servant of God. Each shared in the destiny, privilege, honor, favor and responsibility to serve Him and have no other gods before Him.

It began with the transmission of the living reality given to you by your family elders. They passed it on to you and the other children. You watched them interact with God in all situations. You listened as they shared with you, this intimate, wonderful, mysterious personal interaction they had with God. And little by little you children began interacting with Him too. He wasn’t just your elders’ God. He became your God too!

You became His very own. And through you and the others, He became the God of your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren too. Just as you entered into and abided in the personal embrace of God by watching your father and mother and the other adults do it before you, so did your children learn to do the same, by watching you and your spouse and the other relatives do it. You shared with your children what goes on between you and God. They watched you believe Him. They watched you interact with Him, just as you had watched your fathers before you.

And by watching you, they were prepared to take their own covenant places before Him. The adults taught the youths. The youths taught the little ones. The Family responded to God—as one. Children grew to stand with the mature adults of God’s Covenant Family, ready to live

before God as His blood brothers, and ready to transmit the Covenant to generations not yet born.

“Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim His Righteousness to a people yet unborn— FOR HE HAS DONE IT!” (Psalm 22:30-31 Emphasis added.)

This is the basic structure of our Christ-Life, New Covenant relationship with God. It is a Blood Covenant Family relationship with a legacy and purpose given by Him. We too are connected with Abraham and those that connected us to him. We too are to accept, own, honor, live out, demonstrate and pass on the Covenant, father to child, generation to generation.

You can't form a true cohesive Covenant Family with self-absorbed, competitive lone rangers. We must begin to learn to become one with God, one with our Covenant Fathers, one with each other and one with future generations. If we don't, Christ can't ever have a real Body that truly embodies Him in all of His Fullness—from Abraham all the way into Eternity. Right now, we are mere scattered bits and pieces. Each piece or group of pieces clings to a separate, independent life and agenda all of its own.

God gave us a Covenant family reality—identity, treasure, inheritance, legacy and purpose. We are one with God and one with each other. We never stand alone. We are a corporate unity. Those of each generation must learn to discover, learn, protect, maintain and pass on the legacy from their predecessors. It would have been unthinkable for Abraham to rely on outside schools run by total strangers to be responsible for teaching his family about his personal relationship with God! How could strangers that knew nothing about what went on between him and God take his place and convey such intimately personal things to his family? How could strangers speak more authoritatively than he could to his children about his God and their personal relationship? No, that would have been ludicrous and impossible!

And it still is. Who can teach and explain the Covenant relationship that you have with your Living God but you? Who else can be responsible for demonstrating, embodying, explaining and passing your faith on? Christ's original disciples were commissioned to do, with their generation, what Abraham did with his. They were responsible for owning and passing on God's New and Eternal Covenant which they learned by living with Jesus in the flesh, as individuals and as a brotherhood, day and night for over three years.

After the Ascension and the original Pentecost, those same disciples had matured enough to be able to pass it on to their own families and new apprentices. They included all of those people in this wondrous legacy and trained and commissioned them to pass it on. And by God's grace, it has passed down to us.

*But now it's our turn to learn, own and embody it!* But in many cases, that Covenant legacy was not passed down to us. That's why the Lord is making it possible for us to rediscover it through our time together.

**“DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME!”**

True disciples are responsible for living in the *Christ-in-us* Fulfillment Era of the New Covenant privileges. We are responsible for learning and passing on the knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven and God's ways of abiding in the midst of His people, onto our children and their children, and beyond, until the total fulfillment takes place. Our children, and each new apprentice God entrusts to our care, must be shown that through Christ and along with His living

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members, they too have an awesome birthright legacy, heritage and responsibility. They must know that they belong to something very real, powerful, enormous, heavenly and spiritual that far transcends color, race, gender, culture, circumstance or era. They are the people that have the privilege and honor of being able to personally caress the face of the Living God!

So many children of our time are bereft of their true, God-given identity. They have nothing of value to belong to, identify with or believe in. They're like rootless tumbleweeds, blown back and forth, by every changing wind. They know nothing of the Covenant Family God wants to give them. And that has proven to be a spiritual disaster in vast areas of this world for generations!

Many of us do not personally know the Living God. We are often very religious, but not at all intimate with Him. Many of us know nothing of the Covenant birthright that bonds us to Him and makes us all one in Him. Our elders did not pass that truth on to us because they didn't receive it from their elders either! So this spiritual legacy must be rediscovered NOW and reestablished. And the transmission process that provides a Rite of Passage for each generation must resume again, in earnest. And, thank God—it's beginning to happen in our midst. Our children are, 'getting it'!

God has stirred our hearts to learn and share this legacy. And He's predisposing the hearts of many from our children's generation to receive what He is preparing us to share with them. When those two elements come together again, we'll see some Eternal Covenant chemistry and massive, reproductive fireworks begin to happen that will have tremendous consequences for future human history and for God's eternal Kingdom.

Yes, the Living God will come again—as King of kings and Lord of lords—to take over all of Creation. But right now, He is taking over the hearts and souls of His New Covenant disciples and their children, and their children's children. We are destined to be the generation that offers itself to Him, to be His One Body, a Body that is really and truly His, and not another's. That's what Christ-Life, especially Phases 2 and 3 are all about. The bleachers are for non-involved spectators. But The Arena of Testimony is reserved for God's Covenant Family Members. They are the disciples that will serve as His witnesses, in spirit and in truth.

### **THE NEW CHRIST-LIFE UNDERLYING STRUCTURE**

Our material tells us that our new Christ-Life paradigm is a two-fold mental mechanism that covers our being, and also our doing. We can compare the being part to the hub of a wheel. That's the "What I am" portion of the Christ-in-me identity paradigm. And our daily activities are like spokes that radiate out from that hub. They are the "What I do" portions that naturally flow from the new Christ-through-me part of that identity.

Unless we first bond with Christ and identify with Him, nothing else can happen that is good. We must first become living members of His Body, in spirit and in truth. When that happens, Christ can truly take over. He will be able to reveal Himself and act through us, as He wishes. It's His life in us. So it's His right and prerogative to structure it as He pleases.

When anyone is in the presence of God and really knows it—that human is going to change! Notice what transformations took place in Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Saul of Tarsus and all the others that experienced God's invasive, confrontational presence. The whole course of each of those lives radically shifted, leading each one to a tremendously new, God-ordained destiny.

Not one of them had to study or take courses on how to make changes in his life. It was no longer his life. They belonged to God and He took over the running of whatever pertained to them. Not one had to practice self-improvement formulas or study theories on dynamic living. They didn't have to be told to change, nor did they need to summon up all sorts of will power to do it. They just had to be there, in His awesome presence, and everything else fell into its proper place.

The glory of the New Covenant is that the same God we read about in Scripture, interacting with these people, has made it possible not only for Him to appear near us, but to actually live and abide within us at all times! This is the tremendous spiritual New Covenant Reality that The Ultimate Journey tries to help people to take seriously. God's New Covenant indwelling presence is a spiritual fact that can only be known by faith in His promises. It's not something our minds can perceive or our senses feel. Nevertheless, faith tells us that He's here within each regenerated child of His, living and abiding in all His power and love, inside of us.

If we could get hold of Him with our physical senses and feelings and understanding, we'd be experiencing Him tangibly and cognitively. It wouldn't be by faith. But that's not the way it is in the New Covenant. He gives Himself to our spirits. In that case, we must live by faith, rather than by personal, sensory experience. We give what He is to us in our spirits, to our minds, wills and bodies as well.

Life in the spirit means that God operates with us from within an altogether different faculty, a non-tangible, non-sensible faculty, that we cannot perceive, feel, sense of control. We can only know Him and His presence by faith in His promises. That's why we must program that faith into our minds and wire it into our brains so we can operate in it and be in position to receive what God promised to give us through that faith.

So unless we feed and develop our faith by reprogramming our souls and rewiring our brains to enfold and embrace His presence, we cannot experience the Living God. Our brains won't be wired for it. So they won't allow us to know His reality or be impacted and affected by His transforming nearness.

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That being the case, we must adjust our inner mental and neurological workings. We must learn to abide and interact with our Covenant God by Blood Covenant-level faith and loyalty. And we begin to do that by creating a new identity paradigm of ourselves and installing it effectively into our inner workings. It is a paradigm that is compatible with God's New Covenant revelation and enables our brain to allow us to operate with God on that basis.

It is an awesome state to which Christ's atonement brings us. But without new wiring and programming, we're not equipped to experience the reality of the new position and condition to which God elevates us:

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in Glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

We must identify with Christ to the same degree that He has already identified with us, and begin interacting with Him. When we do that, our fallen faculties (soul and brain) become compatible and aligned with the spiritual reality God creates and fulfills in our regenerated spirits. They then give us access to Christ who is life and light abiding within our flesh. And we become able to perceive and rely upon that resurrection life and power and release it into every area of our existence.

And because of that compatibility that comes about by effective mind-renewal, we can finally, actually experience the wonder and abide in the glorious truth and power of God's presence and overwhelming Influence that changes everything around us and within us, spirit, soul and body, and past present and future.

Our new identity paradigm makes us one with Christ. Once it's properly and effectively installed, transformation begins to take place automatically. When we become profoundly aware of God's fiery spiritual presence within us, and interact with Him as our Lord, Owner and Master, we experience His powerful presence abiding and working and affecting us and our surroundings from deep within us. Then everything changes. Our priorities shift. Our viewpoints, perspectives, attitudes, agendas and desires change, seemingly all by themselves. God's presence does that to people, every time.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." (John 1:1-5)

Christ is life and light...the uncreated life and light of Almighty God. He is also The Creator. And He lives in us. If that's not enough to deeply impact your inner workings, what is enough? The more your mind and brain become aware of His indwelling, the more you naturally stand before Him to minister to Him and tend to His requirements, concerns and desires.

In time, the entire underlying structure of your life transforms. It changes from a structure that was geared to express our radically independent self-life and reflect created things around us. It becomes a new structure that is geared to express and reveal the risen Son of God, and His eternal, infinite spiritual reality within us, through our flesh to whatever and whoever is around us.

Teach your groups to focus on Christ in them. Teach them to drill that reality into themselves so they may worship and serve Him in the inner sanctuary of their heart. Teach them to install that new Christ-Life identity hub paradigm until it over-rides and totally replaces the former self-life one, and in due time, the various spokes of intimate service and love-interaction will completely restructure and transform the activity and energy flow of their lives.

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### HELPING OTHERS WITH THEIR CHRIST-LIFE IDENTITY PARADIGMS

A mature Phase 3 set of skills includes the ability to create a proper Christ Life Identity Paradigm. If you can do that, you can coach others and help them learn to do it too. Christ-Life veterans should be able to help others learn Christ-Life mind-renewal skills. With that in mind, ponder this example of how you and your facilitators might help group members create first-rate Christ-in-me paradigms, using the “*Watch me...now you*” pattern.

Suppose someone in your group wrote the following as part of a first attempt at creating a new Christ-Life Identity Paradigm. This is typical of many first time efforts.

“I repent of my self-life ways. I repent of seeing myself as being *unlovable, undesirable, and unwanted*. I am not a *failure*. I know God doesn’t see me that way. In Christ, I am a success. I am a conqueror. The Life of Christ is in me. I am a new creation in Christ. Without Him, I am *weak and sinful*. In myself I am nothing but *filthy rags*. But with Him I can do all things. I trust in my Lord Jesus and draw from Him in all things. In Him, I am more than a conqueror...”

Notice the words highlighted in the text. There are pictures of the person in question embedded in those words. Christ is this person’s new and eternal Life. But do those words reflect His reality as He abides within, or do they reflect the way the person was in the past, before Christ came in and took over?

You want to help this person truly identify with Christ and reprogram accordingly. This is the essence of the mental and emotional Exodus God requires. Here’s a principle:

When your patterns change—you transform. (Cf. Romans 12:1-2)

The following is a sample feedback analysis that a group leader might give to help this person understand the Exodus process with greater clarity and insight. As a coach you can show the apprentices what a powerful impact that words and the embedded pictures in them have on our computers. They affect our onboard computers, and then the computers run our lives accordingly.

Let’s say this person is really struggling to understand how one goes about creating a new paradigm and underlying structure for his or her life. As the coach, you are the “*watch me...now you*” person. You will thus demonstrate your personal Christ-centered, New Covenant awareness.

Here’s a sample analysis of how you can teach others to analyze their own words, by pointing out the following facts:

Your words and theology are true. But this exercise is not about theology or Bible Study. This is about renewing your mind and rewiring your brain. In that sense, notice how self-centered the focus of the paradigm you’re working from still is. That’s your original self-life paradigm that you learned as a child. It still prevails at this stage of your Exodus journey. By that I mean you’re still seeing Christ as distant and apart from you, and vice versa.

You’re not connected to Him. Your mental perspective has the two of you separated. You’re talking about Him, in His absence. He could be in outer space, or in the next room, but in your mind—Christ has His own separate Life and you are still hanging onto your old original self-life. You’re still radically independent in this picture. In that sense, you’re following a ‘gospel’ that is still primarily self-centered. That gospel requires you to ‘go a few steps higher up the ladder’ in

a self-improvement process. But the real Gospel of Jesus Christ is a death and resurrection event. That's what God reveals in Scripture. In New Covenant Reality, when the risen Lord comes into you to abide, He takes over completely, not as your assistant, but as your Lord and New Life! In that case, you're not separate from Him and you don't forget about or ignore Him. HE PERMEATES AND PENETRATES YOU AND BECOMES YOUR LIFE AND TOTAL FOCUS OF ATTENTION—FOREVER!

The person in this text doesn't picture himself dead to sin and alive only to God in Christ. (Cf. Romans 6:11. Read the whole chapter. Then re-read your text and you'll see that the person that wrote this does not yet truly consider himself dead to the sinful self-life, radically independent state in which we all begin.)

This is a good beginning. You're on the way. This is no longer *total* self-life. It reflects that you've already left 'Egypt' and passed through the 'Red Sea'. But you still have a way to travel before actually entering the Land of Promise and taking it over. In that Land, Christ is ALL in all of you. In this text, Christ is coming into the picture, like the first eastern rays of dawn streaking across the dark sky. 'Morning' is beginning. But it will be a while before the blazing sun of *Christ-awareness* reaches high noon and completely dominates and dispels all traces of the former self-life 'night'.

- 1) The words, *unlovable, undesirable, unwanted* and *failure* in the first sentence should be taken out and replaced with words that more accurately describe Christ living within you. He is none of those things. So don't put them anywhere near your onboard computer when you're describing your New Covenant self. Put into yourself what Christ is, since He has become your new eternal life and righteousness.
- 2) Later on, there are the terms, *weak and sinful* and *filthy rags*. They should be replaced too, for the same reasons.

The pictures embedded in these words pertain to your former self-life. They express old, childhood Phase 1 issues that became embedded in your mind and brain. These are soul and brain issues. They flow out of your natural 'pre-Christ', self-life experiences in this world. The term 'filthy rags' reflects your original, Adamic, unregenerate spiritual condition in which we're all conceived. But *The Blast* obliterated that and Christ reigns.

So now we're dealing with something totally spiritual—the New Covenant, Track A realities that are not at all of this world or your former fallen nature. They are heavenly realities that flow from the life and light that are in Christ—your new indwelling life.

The words to be deleted have nothing to do with Christ and His Life and Light that indwell you. Your task is to design, create and install your new Christ-Life identity paradigm. Don't put any fallen self-life 'weed seeds' in it. We want only pure, 'Christ-Life Wheat', without even a speck of your old self-life leaven!

Spiritually speaking, your self-life went up in smoke when *The Blast* took place. Christ is your only Life now. Is He an undesirable, unwanted, unlovable failure? Is He weak and sinful? And why would we link a picture of filthy rags to the Holy One Who now lives in you? Isn't His awesome presence enough to transform everything within your inner being? Why download such things into your brain when you're trying to tell it that you are now a brand new creation and that whatever is in Christ, is now also alive and blazing in His holiness—within you?

The overall sense of your words make clear what you intend to say. And it's perfectly correct to

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say that, EXCEPT when you're deliberately trying to reprogram your mind and rewire your brain with data that describes the new you and your new spiritual reality. This is not an exercise in objective theology or Bible Study. This is a downloading of proper personal, subjective pictures of who and what Christ is as He abides within you. This is about clear communication with your brain and nervous system to make sure they know that you are now completely brand new in Christ. Don't slip in any pictures of the old you. That will only confuse the computer and contaminate the data you're trying to give it.

Words aren't really the language your brain understands. It understands pictures. That's what gets it going. Your pictures are what matters to your brain. They become the pattern the brain follows to ensure that what is in the pictures will continue to appear in your physical reality. That's why paying attention to your words is so important—the pictures they force your brain to create will set your brain into action. As a result, your computer will keep your brain's neurotransmitter switch settings set to make you embody what is contained in the pictures elicited by, *undesirable, unwanted, unlovable* and *failure*. It will keep linking you to, *weak and sinful* rather than to Christ Himself. And it will be forced to link your righteousness level with that of filthy rags and whatever that implies, rather than to the righteousness of God that is in Christ, your New Life.

Don't assume that your impersonal mental mechanism, your brain, that responds powerfully to pictures, will automatically and accurately read between lines or interpret the subtle nuances required. You're taking a huge gamble when you do that. Your original wiring will prevail until it is effectively replaced. And that takes massive repetition.

To make sure that your brain follows the right picture patterns make sure you only give it the right picture patterns! I'll say that again because it's very important:

Don't force your brain to guess. It doesn't guess. It follows its current prevailing wiring *unless* you deliberately contradict and replace that wiring with something different. Don't assume it will calculate with theological accuracy what you *mean* to say. If you mean it, say it just the way you mean it, otherwise, your brain will automatically do what it's currently wired to do. Say exactly what you mean. Give it the right pictures in the first place. Repeat the new pictures consistently and persistently. Make sure your brain gets only what you want it to have. Regardless of what your intention may be, your brain reads the pictures embedded in your words.

This works the way commercials do. Commercials never show what's wrong, in a way that would cause your brain to link what's wrong with the product they want to sell. They only do that with the product of their competitors. In what they give to your brain, they are always emphasizing what's right and what you really do want. Commercials force your brain to link everything that's right, with their product, because the advertisers know that right programming leads to right action and big sales and right results.

An enormous amount of the wrong kind of self-life seed has a decades-long head start in you. That amounts to a lot of bad commercials that are already wired into you. You don't need any more of it, not even one more seed. From now on, plant 100% different and new seed. Do it 100% of the time. Make sure it's pure, unadulterated Christ-Life Seed. Then your brain will configure that new seed into a new and correct I.D pattern of you. It takes long enough to catch up to, overtake and pass what was originally put into us. Don't slow the process any more by carelessly inserting counterproductive, outdated seed from the past.

Develop the habit of analyzing your words carefully. Ask yourself, "What picture, or pictures, are embedded within these words?" Or, "what pictures do these words force my brain to automatically create for itself when it hears these words. Will it accurately picture Christ being who and what He is within me, or will it depict some element of my former, pre-Christ self-life? Do these pictures accurately depict Christ in me, or do they ignore, bypass, contradict and cancel Him out?"

Scripture has negative and positive in it. The purpose for that is to reveal the objective Exodus process God has to take all people through. That is general, objective revelation. But remember, what we're doing right now, goes beyond Bible study. This is "brain-programming". General revelation that's in the Bible isn't specific enough to fill this vital need. You are not specifically and personally named or described in the Bible text. You have to include yourself specifically and personally, as far as your brain is concerned. It may know what's in the Bible, but if you are not specifically inserted into what it reveals, your own brain will automatically exclude you until you re-educate and re-train it! Your brain is waiting for you to specifically tell it Christ is living in you— personally and subjectively! Then, it will make the necessary personal connections and allow you, personally and subjectively, to be included in the general and objective revelation of God and His awesome Kingdom.

Are you getting this? Don't rely on Bible Study to do what God told you to do. He didn't say the Bible would repent for you. He told you to do it. What we're doing in this exercise goes further and deeper than mere Bible Study. Note well Christ's words to the Bible experts of His day:

I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given Me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form, nor does His Word dwell in you, for you do not believe the One He sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:36-40)

You are not mentioned once in the Bible, as a specific individual. And your brain has to know the truth about you. You must appropriate the Word that is in the Bible to the Living Christ. And you must appropriate the Living Christ Himself, to yourself. Because of the way brains work, you do that with pictures. The pictures link you personally to the Living, risen Christ and you. You must be linked together with Him as one, in order for your brain to get the right, God-given picture revelation.

Do you see the difference? This is deliberate, aggressive brain rewiring for your personal brain. You are regenerated. You are no longer a fallen, self-life sinner. You are a child of God, bonded to Him in the New Covenant. Your mental field needs precision re-seeding. Do it with total, New Covenant accuracy. Let the new seed choke out any thing that no longer pertains to you as an individual. If you do, what you are specifically and subjectively in the Living Christ, will match what you are in the Bible, generally and objectively in God's revelation.

If you waffle back and forth, your computer will shut down, and automatically revert back to the radically independent self-life that it knows best. So let your "yes" be yes, and your "no" be no! The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, and only violent, aggressive, warrior types are able to come away with it. Don't compromise—specialize in Christ Himself! He lives in you! He is your new and eternal life!

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The brain switches that match the original self-life pattern are already turned on. They've been on for decades. And the ones that do not match what is already there, the Christ-Life ones, have yet to be turned on. That's why people have so much trouble processing or understanding the new information they receive in The Ultimate Journey. It isn't that we're obtuse or that what we're getting is complicated. It isn't that we're malicious or contrary. It's that our brains have very little wiring that predispose them to grasp and accept New Covenant revelation data. They're predisposed to resist and filter out what the Gospel says, because it doesn't match our old, original set of paradigms.

We have very little teaching of any depth in this area. So most of us are naïve and mindless. We allow salt and pepper, Adam-Christ mixtures to abide in our hearts—mixed portions of worldly tares (weeds) and Kingdom wheat. When we first begin the Exodus, the self-life weeds infest a much higher percentage of our mental garden than Christ does. And the results in our relationships and spiritual maturity levels show it.

Anything that contradicts what is already prevalent in your brain, such as this new Christ-Life pattern we're learning to create and install, will cause your brain to automatically interpret it as an enemy bogey on your radar screen. It will train its anti-aircraft defenses at this incoming data because the data contradicts what you told your brain for years was the truth. If this new data doesn't fit your prevailing profile, your own computer will try to shoot it down before it enters your space. That's why we struggle so at first. And that's why we must manually override its automatic programming tendencies until it develops this new habit. That takes a few weeks. After that, it begins to get used to it and begins to accept it as normal.

The computer has been preset for self-life for decades. Now it reasons that the new Christ-Life paradigm you're beginning to install is an outlandish, ridiculous lie. That's why it shuts down and doesn't let you understand it or feel comfortable with it.

So, for a while, your brain will whine, pout, complain, kick and scream, like a calf in a weaning pen. Don't be surprised. That's how brains are supposed to work. They try to help you out, and get you back on track, to revert back to what you said was true in the past. But the good part is that once you've done what it takes to renew your mind and rewire your brain, your computer will finally accept the new data as normal. Then it will defend it with the same persistence and faithfulness with which it once resisted it.

Your resolve and focus must remain as airtight as that of a 'bullet head Kamikaze' at the beginning. Only one thing must remain on the menu of options. There can be no mixture, no leaks, no confusion, no alternative, no excuses and no double-minded childishness.

Here's a re-worked version of the original text for you to consider and learn from. Analyze the pictures embedded within the words and see how different they are from the original in terms of the information they convey to the computer about you and Christ:

*"Lord Jesus, You have completely transformed my entire innermost being. You are love, life and light. And You gave Yourself to me. You fill me with Your light and life. You make me totally lovable, desirable and wanted. As You live in me, you are total success, the eternal overcomer and the absolute conqueror. Your life is my life. What You are, is in me at all times. You live in me and I embody and radiate You. Thanks to You, I am a brand new creation. You are strength, holiness and righteousness in me. You are infinite inner ability, abiding in me, I can do all things, handle all things, endure all things, and thrive in all things because I feed upon You and embody and reveal You at all times. I trust only in You and continually draw all I need from You. You are*

*everything to me, Lord. You are completely in me and thanks to You, I am completely complete."*



## Part 2: Leader Instructions

This guide offers essential information to help facilitators and group members to cooperate with God in the process.

### THE TRANSITION FROM PHASE 2 TO PHASE 3

Review the *Are We There Yet?* introduction for the Phase 3 book to remind you of the big picture.

### What a Facilitator Needs to Know

It is not about you! Facilitating Phase 3 is not about you teaching or accomplishing anything. It is about you trusting your Heavenly Father. He has called you to the "Watch Me, Now You" lifestyle. You are here to rest in his arms while watching and listening to him and allowing him to work and speak through you. It is not about you and what you can do. It is all about his provision for every single person in Phase 3. The work has already been finished by Christ. Now you get to sit back, relax, and watch him in action, applying his finished work to the life of every Phase 3 participant who will open themselves to him!

What You Are Not:	What You Are:
The one with all the answers. Be able to say, "I don't know." "Good question." What do you think?" "I'll look into that."	Questioner - to clarify understanding, to invite the difficult questions. A good listener.
The "spiritual" one, offering cliches, verses, or pat answers to people with deep questions who are searching for truth.	Affirming of their feelings, needs and questions they ask. You trust the Holy Spirit to lead them into truth.
The "fixer" of the problem, feeling responsible to resolve tension and make others feel comfortable.	Validator of feelings and thoughts. You are comfortable with differences of opinion and conflict.
Responsible for an individual's spiritual growth.	The Holy Spirit is responsible for a person's growth and development.
Perfect - that's God's role.	Imperfect and open to learning from the group and growing personally. Okay to share your struggles too. You can be yourself.
The Holy Spirit - all-knowing (trying to discern other's motives).	Servant/Leader - putting your motives/objectives aside.
An evangelist - pushing God on people.	Lover - sharing the love of your indwelling Lord as he continually fills you to overflowing so he is seen in you and through you.

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<b>What You Are Not:</b>	<b>What You Are:</b>
A follower of the flesh - relying on your own power, judgment, and knowledge.	A follower of the Holy Spirit - relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction.

### Expectations of Phase 3 Leaders

Phase 3 Leaders will have ordinarily completed all three phases, either in the weekly or turbo format.

Order books and study guides. Make sure your order is placed early so the appropriate number of books can be in the hands of group members 1 to 2 weeks before the first meeting. This gives the group members a chance to read the first chapter before group sessions begin.

Assign group members to a small group. Keep people who have been through Phase 1 together whenever possible. When this is not possible, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in placing people in a group.

Be responsible. Attend each meeting. Have a willing Co-Facilitator on standby to fill in for you if you have to miss a meeting. If you know of conflicts that will require you to miss more than one meeting during the 13-week term, consider changing the starting date of the session.

Set up the meeting area. Set up for the large group first, or delegate others to do it. Group members can take their chairs with them when they break into small groups. If you have enough room and chairs, small group circles can be set up in advance.

Maintain supplies. You may not have as much need for facial tissues in Phase 3, yet group members always have new raw material they are dealing with that may trigger stuffed emotional voltage. For that reason you will want to have a box of tissues available.

Make announcements, bring up 'housekeeping' issues, deal with scheduling conflicts, and open the meetings in prayer. It is up to the Leader's discretion to delegate one or several of these duties to other qualified people from time to time.

Demonstrate discipleship. Stick to the format. Stay focused on the material. You are a living demonstration of Christ-Life and the way Jesus touches one person through another. Demonstrate that this process is not about you, but about Christ being able to disciple the others through you. Future Facilitators in the group will be 'videotaping' your example for future reference. Let them see you faithfully interact with, depend on, and embody your indwelling Lord at all times. Then they will learn the right way of leading from observing you.

Stay on schedule. Adhere to the schedule as closely as possible; yet be willing to give the Holy Spirit the freedom He requires. The suggested time segments are guidelines. Always be attuned to the Lord so that He can do as He wishes during meetings. Guard against being too rigid or too lax with the schedule, and teach the small groups to do the same. It is important to keep a healthy balance between the Lord's spontaneity and good order in the meetings. Faithfulness to order and Spirit-led flexibility can coexist.

Large Group Time. Promote good class interaction on the assigned material at each meeting utilizing the Discussion Questions provided in this Guide. '

Small Group Time: Do not slack on doing the affirmations or giving opportunity for group members to share the answers to their personal reflection questions.

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Encourage corporate prayer. Just as it is important for every person to have air-time in group sharing, it is good for group members to have air-time in prayer. This encourages the Body of Christ to function together as One. This can be done simultaneously in a few moments of silent prayer. Or, you (or another group member) can open the prayer session and then allow the Spirit to spontaneously lead others to pray. Group members should not be pressured into praying or feel like they have to pray every time. Encourage them to share whatever the Lord lays on their heart, with no pressure to speak with eloquent words. Be aware of time constraints, as corporate prayer often takes more group time. If time is an issue, corporate prayer can easily be included in Small Group Time.

### **Expectations of Group Members**

Be faithful to attend all scheduled meetings.

Help make the group a safe place to share by being open and transparent yourself. That will greatly help others to be able to follow suit. And allow others to be where they are, without shaming, blaming or rejecting them. That will enhance the safety and freedom of all.

Be a responsible student. This includes doing all the reading as well as completing the assigned content and personal reflection questions. Keep Confidentiality.

Be respectful of the Group Leader. Learn from them so the Lord can groom you to take your place alongside them in the future.

### **Group Size**

This Guide will help you accommodate any size group the Lord brings together. Phase 3 can be done in groups as small as 2 and larger than 100. It depends on the space you have to work.

It is important that each person receives equal 'air time' to share and participate. Small groups help to develop interactive, contributing disciples. When groups are too large, people tend to stay in their comfort zones. Those who lack confidence and fear to speak out will tend to hide in the background. Those who like to dominate will do so if others passively allow it. Christ-Life is about wiring in new Christ-in-us patterns. Don't encourage the repetition of old, codependent self-life patterns!

Group members must learn to assume their God-given responsibility to participate equally as mature, functional members of Christ's Body. In Christ-Life there is no man-made clergy vs. laity dichotomy. Christ is our only Head, and the Holy Spirit makes us one in Christ Jesus. All are equally responsible for owning their faith and relationship with the Living God. Smaller, more intimate groups help participants get used to this new Kingdom-of-Heaven way of operating.

The ideal size for a Phase 3 Small Group is 4 to 6 people. You can ask someone in the small group to be in charge of seeing that the questions are discussed and the affirmations are shared, or you can have previously assigned facilitators that have already been through Phase 3 that you have selected.

If you have 7 to 20 people, stay together for the Large Group Time and then break into smaller groups for Small Group Time. You can facilitate great group discussion and closeness with as many as 20 in a group, but equal 'air time' and safe, balanced group dynamics are vitally important and must be maintained for the more intimate sharing exercises during Small Group Time as well.

If you have over 30 people, let the Holy Spirit guide you as to whether you need to divide the group for Large Group Time. If you have an available person who has completed Phase 3 and can serve as another Group Leader, you may want to create two groups for Large Group Time. If no one else has gone through Phase 3, you may want to stay together if you have the space.

In the interest of time, during Small Group time it is often helpful to divide the groups even further for affirmations and closing prayer at the end of each session. Groups of 3 are best, but even a group of 2 will work. This helps speed the affirmation process, and allows everyone to gain the enormous impact and benefit that they bestow. This group ministry is vital to the transmission of God's love and power in the rewiring process. Group members should not miss out on affirmations because of time constraints.

## **Scheduling Meetings**

There are 13 meeting sessions in Phase 3. It is suggested that you allow 2 hours for your weekly meeting. The first hour will be spent in large group discussion. During large group you will review the lesson by going through the Illustrations and the Content Questions. It is okay to bring in some of the Personal Reflection questions during this time if you choose to do so. The second hour will be spent in small group. During the small group time, the answer to the Personal Reflection questions will be shared and the group affirmations will be given to each other. Please make sure you allow time for the affirmations. They are a very important part of this process. If running out of time seems to be an issue, then have the affirmations read first in the group meeting. Because your group is already a small number of people or because of space issues, you may need to keep your group together the entire time.

Some groups are ready to discuss the first chapter at meeting one as the group members have previously received their books. If you are using the first meeting to distribute books and get acquainted, you will need to add a 14th meeting.

The Commissioning Ceremony is scheduled for the last meeting, or it can be scheduled at another time at the discretion of group members. The ceremony takes approximately 1 hour to complete (time will vary according to group size), and many choose to incorporate a shared meal afterwards.

Make sure the meeting area will be free from outside noise and distractions. This is a challenge if you have multiple small groups. The meeting area must be big enough to allow ample space between the small groups.

The Group Director or facilitator, or other designated person will make a printed schedule and meeting syllabus once everything is finalized. Distribute copies to everyone in the group.

Out of respect for all group members, make sure the groups begin and end on time.

## **Preparing to Facilitate a Weekly Group Meeting**

Remember that facilitating Phase 3 is not about you teaching or accomplishing anything. It is about you trusting your heavenly Father and resting in his arms while you watch him and allow him to work and speak through you. It is not about you and what you can do. It is all about him and his provision for every single person in Phase 3. The work has already been finished by him. Now you get to sit back, relax, and watch him in action applying his finished work to the life of each group member!

1. Pray for...

- God's Spirit to be present in abundance.
- God to keep you crucified to self-life so he is free to show you whatever he wants.
- Your group and the conversation that will take place there.
- The other group facilitators and small group facilitators.
- Christ to guide you in everything and to facilitate this group through you.

2. Make sure you are taking time to focus on the Lord and his Word.

3. Read the entire lesson yourself.

4. Make notes in the margins and highlight or underline as needed.

5. Complete all of the weekly Study Guide exercises.

6. In the Leader's Guide familiarize yourself with the plan for each session.

- a) The Lesson Theme and Review Points.
- b) The Key Scripture for each lesson are in the Leader's Guide only. These Scriptures are just a few select portions of God's Word that support the material. If you have another passage you would like to share, please do. Feel free to interject these Scriptures during the chapter discussion at your discretion.
  - Ask other group members to read the scripture verses whenever possible. This helps keep the attention of everyone in the group. You can also invite group discussion on how a particular Scripture supports the topic at hand. Or ask group members to share what the Scripture used to mean to them, as compared to what it means now.
  - Bring your Bible, and get group members in the habit of bringing their Bibles to Phase 3. Do not make an issue of the variety in translations. Instead, after hearing a verse in one translation you may want to say, "Does anyone else have another translation of that verse?" and allow them to read it.
- c) Illustrations and Teaching Aids are teaching helps which do not appear in the Phase 3 book, and are for explaining and clarifying lesson concepts more fully in group.
- d) The Content Questions engage the mind of the participant more fully with the material. As the familiarity between the participant and the material increases, so does the opportunity for them to address more issues and to learn more of God's truth within the group meeting time. These questionnaire completed at home by all

the group members. They become the basis of your discussion in the large group each week. **The answers for the content questions are provided in your Leader's Guide for each weekly session.**

- e) The Personal Reflection questions challenge the participant to allow the truths they are hearing and reading each week to sink into their hearts and minds, so they may be transformed into who their Creator always intended them to be. They are answered at home by the group members. Participants share their answers to these questions during the small group time.
  - f) The Group Affirmations are also shared during the small group time. You can do these at the very beginning of the meeting or at the very end. The affirmations are given by laying a hand on the person receiving them.
    - There will not be enough time to have each group member be mirrored. If someone in the group is led to say something like, "Number 5 seemed really difficult for you to say," that is okay. It is not necessary for the group to delve into what caused the reaction, as most people are aware of the reasons by this point. And it is perfectly okay to offer no comments at all. Just allow these affirmations of God's Truth to soak in.
    - Please review the introduction to the Affirmation booklet for additional information on the giving and receiving of affirmations.
    - PLEASE DO NOT OVERLOOK AFFIRMATIONS. THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT. There are also personal affirmations that are read at home to help group members take the concepts deeper into their hearts and minds.
  - f) Navigating Your Course: At various points throughout the lesson, there will be specific checklists or other assignments which will help bring about transformation in your life. Be diligent to complete them!
7. If there is one, attend the weekly facilitator meeting and bring up whatever questions or concerns you may have regarding the week's lesson or an aspect of facilitating a group. The other facilitators and the Phase 3 leader are here to help you, ally you, affirm you, and pray for you. You can't facilitate on your own. That's why you are a facilitator!
  8. Show up at the group meeting location early enough to have it set up and any illustrations prepared before it is time for your group to begin. Also, end on time. This demonstrates that you value and respect the time of the group members. If more time is needed, ask the group members if they are able to stay a little longer.
  9. Arrange the seating in a circle so that each person in the group can see every other person.
  10. Make the room as comfortable as possible. Check ventilation and lighting.
  11. With large groups it can be very difficult to remember details about more than two or three people. Have a pen/pencil and paper ready so that you can record key things that the group members share from their study guide work to help you remember

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their story from week to week. With large groups it can be very difficult to remember details about more than two or three people.

12. Prepare to sit back and watch the Lord at work.

## **The Basic Structure of the Weekly Meeting**

Below is a basic structure for you to follow as you facilitate weekly meetings. Realize that you are free and encouraged to build on this structure and to organize the main teaching time as you feel directed by God. You may find it beneficial to intermix the discussion of content questions with sharing of responses to personal reflection questions, especially if your group is small enough that it doesn't separate into smaller groups.

- Prayer
- You can do group affirmation time at the beginning or you can save it to do at the end during small group time. Experiment and see what works best for your group.
- Review prior lesson.
- Share any illustrations or teaching aids to go with the lesson to help clarify what is being taught
- Discuss content questions as well as participant's questions about this week's reading. It is okay to also discuss some of the personal reflection questions during the large group discussion as you see fit.
- Give practical examples from your own life how you walk out the concepts being taught.
- Move into small groups for discussion of personal reflections and reading of group affirmations.
- Close with prayer in small group.

## Leader Characteristics

<b>Leader Characteristics</b>	
<b>Don't</b>	<b>Do</b>
Monotone / irritating voice or laugh	Good inflection
No visual contact	Good visual contact
Doesn't know material , disorganized, unprepared	Organized and prepared
Critical	Listener, Understanding and attentive
Know-it-all	Willing to share knowledge and a willingness to say "I don't know, but I will check into that."
Apathetic (indifferent, uninterested, unconcerned)	Enthusiastic - excited about topic
Dwells on personal life / experiences	Authenticates material with experiences and practical applications
Defensive, intolerant	Receptive to questions; listens to the whole question before answering
Says things in the same way, repeatedly	Flexible; willing to stop and find a new approach
Too proper. No sense of humor.	Has a sense of humor and enjoys the class time

## Generating Healthy Discussion

**Follow Him.** Don't become rigid in the outline you create as the Holy Spirit may have a different plan. Be free to follow His lead. Someone may ask a question or bring up a topic that is coming up later in the Discussion Questions. Be free to skip over to that section. You can always go back to the next question later. If you sense the Spirit wants you to wait on this new topic, you can say something like, "That is a good question (point), and we are going to be talking about that in a few minutes. Would you hold onto that and share it when we get there?"

**Avoid answering your own questions.** A group can quickly become passive and silent if they think the leader will do most of the talking. If necessary, repeat or rephrase the question. Do not be afraid of silence. People may just be formulating their responses.

**No right answers.** Some answers from the group will be better than others. The questions are written for discussion purposes. If the group arrives at some great answers, feel free to move on to the next question without adding anything.

You do not have to have all the answers, even if you are the leader. If you are unsure of something, say so and let them know that you will find out. It is okay to let your group members think about something and to wrestle with God on certain issues.

**Meet your group members where they are.** Do not assume everyone is at the same place in their knowledge of the truths of the bible.

**Use your own words.** Encourage the group to verbalize answers in their own words before turning to the material. It can benefit others to hear answers verbalized in a different way. In addition, the practice they have in verbalizing their faith will be valuable preparation for the future as they become disciples, facilitators and leaders. If someone really wants to share something out of the book that impacted them that wasn't a question, that's okay.

**Encourage sharing from everyone.** Some in the group will be quick to share answers, and others will hold back. Without forcing, try to promote participation from everyone at some time in the hour of discussion. You can say things like:

"Let's hear from someone who hasn't answered a question yet."

"Does anyone have a different answer for this question?"

"What are some other ideas (examples, options)?"

"Does anyone else have something to share on this one?"

**Involve others in leadership.** Ask others to pray or read references from Scripture or the material. This helps keep everyone focused and involved. It also encourages group members to mature and grow into facilitators and leaders.

**Be transparent.** Let the group know when you are struggling with certain things when it is appropriate.

**Confusion or struggling.** Do not be afraid of controversy. The discussion reveals what group members are retaining and how it is impacting their life. It also exposes the current paradigms they are operating with. Sometimes they will struggle to understand or decide if they agree with the material, and that is okay. It is a good time for people to ask questions for clarification purposes. Do not shame group members for struggling or disagreeing. This means the Spirit is working and they are beginning to understand the material and how it differs from their current paradigms.

**Conflicts.** Each person has a unique background and set of paradigms. When someone speaks, each listener filters everything through their own paradigms and may misconstrue the speaker's intended message or find something in the message that conflicts with their own beliefs. This can sometimes cause misunderstanding and conflict amongst group members. These cases require gentle, patient, ongoing communication, good listening skills and a willingness to work together through various issues. Group members do not need to agree on everything, but can agree to disagree and respect the feelings and beliefs of other brothers and sisters in Christ. As growing, maturing disciples, each one of us is in a different place in our exodus journey. It is good to accept and learn from all others with this understanding. With teamwork the group can arrive at true wisdom, harmony, accurate understanding and healthy bonding as the Body of Christ.

**Use mirroring.** Discussion is a great opportunity for mirroring, especially if someone is struggling with the material and the personal application of it to their own life. Mirror to others what you hear them say—even if it conflicts with your own understanding. Feedback helps them clarify what they see, think and believe at this point.

## Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey

**No advising or fixing.** Avoid trying to force people to come to your understanding of the material. Everyone is in a different place in their exodus journey, and God Himself is responsible for all results. Don't put yourself in place of the Holy Spirit and try to force someone to 'see' something. Only the Spirit can reveal God and His Truth. Remember to use mirroring, rather than teaching, preaching, giving advice, or fixing. If you feel someone's eyes need to be opened or their paradigm needs to be changed, God will take care of it.

**Keep track of time.** Time keeping will be very important. You will have to listen to the Holy Spirit in order to know when to move on to the next question. Listen to Him for leadings like: "This discussion is vital— then allow it to continue a little longer."  
"Enough on this topic—then move on."  
"This discussion is getting off track—then refer back to the material or to scripture."

**Keep the discussion focused on the material.** Sometimes people get off of the material and topic of discussion. The group will not receive the full benefit of the chapter discussion if you allow them to continually get off track. You must set expectations from the very beginning that discussions are to stay focused on the material. The group will grow to respect those boundaries and stay on track.

**Off track.** If the group gets stuck on something in the discussion, or someone steers the group onto a personal 'bunny trail', you can interject something like:  
"In light of the time we have left, let's move on to the next question."  
"Let's look at the 3rd paragraph in the left column on page \_\_\_. Would someone please read that for us?"  
"Let's take a moment to pray for \_\_\_\_\_ before we move on."  
"This is really good discussion and I hate to interrupt, but we need to move on for the sake of time."

**Dominating.** Often you will have someone in the group who has an uncontrollable desire to be heard. They continually bring up personal issues during the Large Group Time and seem to dominate the conversation. It is a good idea in these situations to say, "*We can sense that this is an important issue for you and it deserves more time and focus than we have here. Why don't you write a letter about that for next week and share it with your small group?*" The Small Group members can then be listening for the Holy Spirit's leading in identifying unfinished business that may be causing this tendency to dominate.

**Draw the group's attention to Christ.** While it is good to share a personal experience or two, don't fall into the trap of dominating and drawing the group's attention to yourself. That would be self-life! Spur fellow group members to develop and deepen their own dependency on the true leader of the group--Christ. Don't focus on being a great teacher, focus on the 'Perfect Teacher' who lives in you. Depend on Him for everything. If you do, you will draw the attention of your group to Him too.

**Avoid getting stuck.** Don't spend too much time on one question. If the group loves to share, it's easy to spend too much time on one thing.

**Include prayer.** You may feel led to pray for someone in the group after something very painful has been shared. In that case, allow God to minister to that person through the entire group.

**Excessive criticism or arguing.** Beware of someone that continually criticizes the material or the process. It is okay to differ or ask for clarification, but consistent arguing or criticism makes the group unsafe and should not be tolerated. The Group Leader should privately meet with this person. If the person chooses not to cooperate, they should be dismissed from the group in private.

**Relax and rest in Him.** By now you know *the most important part of leading is following—following God's Holy Spirit!* This takes a willing heart, open ears, and lots of practice. We are all allowing Him to teach us this skill, but remember that this doesn't depend on our performance, it depends on Him! There will be times when we listen better than others, and some discussions will go better than others, and that is okay. He will use it all as raw material to reveal more of Himself to us, in us, and through us. We are all learning together. Just remember to ally yourself: "It's okay!" "It's okay to make mistakes. They are just opportunities to grow." "It's okay if it all doesn't go the way I planned, God is in control."

## **Group Dynamics**

This is some advice and guidance on how to work with a few particular types of people you may encounter in group. The ultimate advice is to pray and allow the Holy Spirit to live through you and work in the lives of each of these people.

### **The Dominant Member**

Affirm them, yet at the same time encourage others to share.

Do not sit across from them or make eye contact. Rather, sit next to them.

Say, "Thank you for sharing. Let's hear from others as well." Or, "What do the rest of you think?"

Look directly at and gesture toward the other group members.

If necessary, talk to them privately. Remind them that we are all here to travel this journey with God and ask them to help you give everyone a chance to share what is happening along their journey.

### **The "Head Knowledge" Christian**

This member may have lots of knowledge but may not have real spiritual connection.

Do not be satisfied with pat answers.

Always ask why.

If necessary, talk to them privately. Remind them that we are all here to travel this journey with God and that while the Bible is the source of Truth, it is important that they identify what it is they are really believing that is determining how they live and interpret reality.

### **The Quiet Member**

Take notes when this member shares. Refer back to their earlier comments to help draw them into the group.

Affirm them and their contributions.

Ask them to elaborate their question or comment further.

If necessary, remind them that this group is a completely safe place to share everything in their heart and mind.

### **The Constant Crisis Member**

This person is in perpetual crisis and dumps it all in group every week. The group is not a dumpster and the group time cannot revolve around this person.

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

Affirm this person. Be interested in what they are sharing and pray for them out-loud right at that moment as it can calm them and allow you to continue on with the meeting.

Limit the time members have to share and when that time is up, move on to the next person.

If necessary, talk with them privately. Discuss allying and find out if this person is being their own adult ally throughout the week. Possibly ask them to journal their feelings, thoughts and emotions about themselves every day. Then, have them read affirmations aloud to themselves as well. As you know, it can take awhile for affirmations to really sink in and to believe they are true. This person is often in desperate need of affirmation by him/herself. To move beyond their crises, members *must* ally themselves constantly.

### **The Quiet Group**

Do not be afraid of the silence. Someone will respond when there is silence. That someone does not need to be you.

Ask if your questions make sense.

### **The Chaotic Group**

Keep just one conversation going at once.

Address topics that are raised, but do not stay off the topic too long.

Know what topics are coming up later in Phase 3 so that you can let members know if something will be covered later on.

Do not clamp down on the group too much.

Ask yourself, "Is this discussion helping people to connect with Christ?" If it is, then let it go.

### **The Member Who Becomes a Group "Project"**

If they are not doing so, reflect this person's possible reactions: "Lisa, you must think we're all out to get you."

Affirm his/her contributions. Do not let them always be "corrected" or "straightened out".

Direct questions to other people.

Remind the group that we are not here to "teach, preach or fix" anyone. We are here to ally, affirm, and grow along this journey with our Heavenly Father.

Privately, ask the person how you, as the facilitator, might be able to help them in group.

## **Issues That May Arise**

The following sections address issues that occasionally arise within groups. It is important that you and the other group facilitators demonstrate the oneness of the body of Christ whenever you encounter any issues. On this Ultimate Journey issues and situations are never avoided or magnified. They are always dealt with in Christ's love, truth and grace. If you are in doubt about any issue, consult your group director, your overseeing pastor, or Christ-Life Ministries. Remember, they are here to help you.

### **Breaking Confidentiality**

Address the covenant with the person.

The person may need to ask for forgiveness from the other group members.

Depending on how damaging this was to the group, it may be necessary for the offender to stop participating in the group.

### **Missing Meetings**

It is helpful for the Facilitator to give them a phone call letting them know they were missed.

Group members are encouraged to let their Facilitator or Group Leader know if they are going to be gone.

They are also responsible to keep up with the reading and the life application questions for the week they missed. However, they must be prepared for the next lesson with everyone else at the next meeting.

It is not unusual if group members have a time conflict or two during Phase 3. Each group member should take his commitment to the other group members seriously and avoid missing if at all possible. If someone misses too many meetings it harms the continuity and interaction of the whole group. In that case you may want to encourage them to drop out and start over when they have more time to commit. Frequent absence gives a demeaning message to the group. 'Group trust' is not enhanced when people bounce in and out as they please. This does not apply if someone is absent due to unforeseen sickness or job requirements or family situations etc. Prior warning of an unavoidable absence is always called for.

### **Not Completing Weekly Study Guide Material**

Say something like, "Can you share with me what is preventing you from doing your study guide work?" If they are too busy, you may want to suggest that they wait until they have the time to come and participate by doing their assignments. Or, they may need further explanation of the assignments due to lack of understanding and fear to ask. Or, they may not want to face something that is coming up. Listen for the response. You may say, "I'm confused. You've invested a lot of time in this journey and yet, you aren't doing your study guide material." Journaling is key to continual gardening of truths that were learned in Phase 1.

### **Emotionally Overwhelmed**

It is important for people to be able to cry. If it happens, the Facilitator needs to prayerfully decide when it's time to break the silence and how to keep things moving.

If the person is out of control, touch them on the arm and change the subject to help get their mind out of the overwhelm cycle and onto something unrelated. 'Out of control' would be if they began to lose touch with current reality.

### **Anger and Rage**

It is okay to express it. (Be angry but do not sin.) It's what you do with the anger that can become damaging or sinful.)

Anger has words. You may ask the person, "What do you need to say to whatever or whoever you are angry with?"

You may suggest they write a letter to the person/s they are angry at, expressing those feelings. Then they can share what they wrote with the group, in safety and confidentiality.

The letter is not to be mailed. It is for the personal use of the group members— to process and discharge the emotional buildup that is still not processed and remains trapped within.

### **Preaching, Evangelizing, Teaching, Giving Advice, Trying to Fix**

There are benefits to these things in other venues. But they are not the purpose of a Christ-Life group. Group time is not the time for these activities. That makes the group unsafe, and that is a breach of the covenant. If a group member is pushy, say, "I appreciate what you are trying to say but that's not the purpose of this group, and it goes counter to the support group covenant. It's okay for people be where they are at."

Stop it before damage is done.

### **Taking too much Time**

Have such people share last in the group each week.

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

Don't give them too much eye contact. That encourages them to keep it up. Talk to them in private. Remind them there's only so much time and everyone needs an equal share.

### **Interrupting**

Say, "We need to let her finish. You'll get a turn."

If they yank the focus to their own issues when someone else is sharing, say, "We want to hear more, but let's do it when it's your turn to share."

### **Argumentative**

You might say, "We don't all have to agree or see things the same way. Let's keep it safe for people to be where they're at."

### **Monopolizing the time**

Maybe say, "I know you have a lot to share, and I hate to interrupt, but we need to move on for the sake of time."

### **Personality Clashes and In-Group Friction**

If people clash, it may be that one reminds the other of someone from the past. If that's the case, explore the root source. It is important for people to know that God has His hand in how the groups are formed and He has good reasons for placing people together. He doesn't necessarily give us what we want, He gives what we really need. If your explanation fails, then address the clash directly with the people involved. Say, "There's obviously something between you and Mary. Do you know what that's all about?" The Facilitator needs to prayerfully decide if this needs to be done inside or outside the group. Let sensitivity and time restraints guide you deciding which way and at what time to address this. Ask the group director for input.

### **Holding Back and Unwilling to Share**

We don't force or pressure people to share.

If they are quiet, say, "What can we do to make it safer for you to be able to open up and work with us as a member of the team?"

If they are belligerent, say, "I'm confused. You're investing all this time in the group but neither you, nor the others in the group will be able to benefit, unless you join the others in sharing."

### **On Psychiatric Medication**

Do not tell people to stop taking their medication. That is between them and their doctor. But explain that medication is designed to numb or dull our ability to feel what we're feeling. It may be like trying to row across a lake in a boat while dragging your anchor in the water. Such activity is self-defeating.

This also applies to any other kinds of numbing outs like drinking, etc.

### **Suicidal**

There is a difference between saying you don't want to live and saying you want to commit suicide. Some people don't want to live, but they also don't want to die. That's not suicidal.

If a group member says they don't want to live, ask them to explain what they mean. If they say they want to kill themselves, urge them to check themselves into a hospital. Ask for permission to bring it to the attention of the group director so that perhaps a phone call could be made to a relative or friend to take them to the hospital.

If there is a pastor on duty, you might refer them there. If the group member does not want you to tell the Group Leader, then you need to ask them to call someone. If they are really not serious about suicide, and you take their threat seriously and hold them to accountability, there is a good chance they will back off and stop using such threats to control or manipulate other people. But if there's a real doubt, play it safe for the good of all concerned, report suicide threats to the person's family and, if there is no time for that, report the threat and distress of the person to the police. In such cases, the rule of thumb is, 'Better safe than sorry.'

### **Criminal Behavior**

If a group member admits to being currently involved in criminal behavior regarding a minor, it is necessary for you to tell them you will have to report that to the proper authorities unless they are willing to report it themselves. The Support Group Covenant Point 6 addresses this. If group members inquire about your responsibility to report certain crimes, let them know that if they tell you something that, by law, requires you to report it, you must do it. In that way, they can decide what they will or will not divulge.

### **Seems to be Mentally Unstable**

Make sure the Participation Notification Form is signed by the appropriate person and is turned in, when applicable.

Group Leader may suggest they see a professional counselor.

The safety and effectiveness of each member of the group, including the person in question, must be protected and maintained. If a person gives good evidence of posing a threat to anyone in the group, including himself, either relocate certain people in different groups, or see that the person gets the proper help, and, when necessary, dismiss the person that presents the problem from further participation in the group.



## **PART 3: LESSON MATERIAL**

### **Lesson Theme**

This section captures the theme of the lesson you read in your book to remind you of the overall message.

### **Review Points**

This section summarizes the main points of the lesson you read.

### **Content Questions**

Be sure to answer each of these questions for the lesson. By doing this, you will have a better comprehension of the material. In addition, your group leader will be addressing these questions in your class and you will want to be prepared to discuss with the rest of your group members.

To aid you, each of the questions are worded in such a way that you will find the same or nearly the same wording of the question in a sentence in your book. For example:

Question: By his death on the cross, what was it that Jesus "finished"?

What the book says: "Before he died, the crucified Lamb of God proclaimed to his Heavenly Father in the presence of all creation: "It is finished!" God's provision for us was completed through Jesus' death on the cross.

### **Personal Affirmations**

When you get to this section you are to go to the affirmation side of this book and read the personal affirmations for the accompanying lesson. Read the affirmations out loud to yourself while you place your hand over your heart. You will be amazed at the power of the words as you speak them to yourself.

The more you read the affirmations, the more they are going to sink in to your heart and mind. So, read them frequently to yourself during the week. It may take some time for you to believe them, but they are true so keep affirming!

There are also group affirmations that will be read in class each week

### **Personal Reflection**

You need to go beyond just understanding the material. It needs to make sense in your own life and experience. So, answer each of these questions. There is no right or wrong answer. You will have an opportunity to share these with your group members and hear how they are processing what they are learning as well.

### **Navigating Your Course**

At various points throughout the lesson, there will be specific checklists or other assignments which will help bring about transformation in your life. Be diligent to complete them!

## **Lesson 1: Now What?**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

Using the introduction *Are We There Yet?* to the Phase 3 book, give an overview of what to expect in this phase.

### **LESSON THEME**

Now that we have signed over the rights to ourselves through the Title Deed, life as we knew it is gone. Life is no longer about self-improvement or fixing ourselves up. Christ now lives in and through us. And so life is no longer about “my” journey, but rather is about the plans and purposes of Christ in me. As stated in Galatians 2:20, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

### **REVIEW POINTS**

- As the Holy Spirit reveals truth to us, we must continue repenting of the radical independence that caused us to rely on ourselves rather than God.
- Revelation of your indwelling Lord is accomplished 100 percent by the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s authority in you, and 0 percent by you.
- The paradigm or mental picture you believe, accept, and identify with in your heart of hearts is utterly crucial to developing a proper understanding of Christ in you.
- Total dependence on the Holy Spirit within you enables the life of Christ to flow out from you in all his glory.

### **Illustrations and Teaching Aids**

1. Show a movie clip of something blowing up and being totally demolished.

### **CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. God created you. He doesn’t want to annihilate you. What is it in us that he does want to annihilate? (page 14, paragraph 4)
  - In the spiritual realm, the change that occurs the moment the risen Lord Jesus Christ comes into your life is even more powerful and devastating to your corrupt self-life than the damage done by an atomic bomb! And while God’s redemption through Christ doesn’t annihilate the real you—the person God created you to be—it certainly does a devastating job on your radically independent self-life!
2. What occurs when you give up ownership of your life? (page 14, paragraph 7)
  - As you allow the Holy Spirit to take up residence within your regenerated spirit, you’re in Christ-Life forever! The Holy Spirit is now infused into you as a newly created child of the Living God and a citizen of God’s Eternal Kingdom. You have become a living member of his body on earth and have entered a brand new reality.
3. What do the red wreck and the luxury limousine each represent? (page 18, paragraph 5)
  - The red wreck typifies our spiritual state when we undertake all sorts of religious self-improvement. The transformed limousine, by comparison, embodies the total newness that springs from being crucified unto death and being “born again.”
4. Describe the ways people make attempts at religious self-improvement. (page 22, paragraph 4)
  - They’ll use that self-centered perspective, which they learned as children, and will still feel and act like a beat-up old wreck, always needing to be worked on. They’ll always show up for tune-ups, adjustments, improvements, and new parts. They’ll

enter do-it-yourself ministry garages and car washes as a beat-up, dirty old clunker and come out as—you guessed it, a somewhat improved, beat-up old clunker. And they'll do this over and over until you either drop or give up altogether from sheer despair and burnout. All of this will keep bubbling up from their false, self-centered life.

5. What does it mean to chase the religious "carrot on a stick." (page 23, paragraphs 2)
  - They cannot reckon themselves as dead to doing anything more to receive God's love and approval. They still believe the gospel alone is not good enough, not finished. So instead of learning to release what is already in them, which is Christ, they keep working and working, trying to "get it" and "make it happen." And thus they end up never actually having the freedom in Christ that has belonged to them all along.
6. With regards to Romans 12:1, what is our spiritual act of worship? (page 23, paragraph 3)
  - We no longer focus on our own efforts, but rather submit to God's effort as he works through us.
7. Why is it so important to stop saying "no" to the things you used to be and start saying "yes" to Christ? (page 25, paragraphs 2-3)
  - Focus on what Christ says he is doing at all times from deep within your new spirit. He indwells you for the purpose of revealing the glorious character, disposition, and presence of the Son of God in you. This revelation can never be achieved through human might or power. It is accomplished 100% by the power of the Holy Spirit and Christ's authority. You have 0% to do with making it happen.
8. Why did God instruct Moses to build a tabernacle? (page 27, paragraphs 3-4)
  - God instructed Moses to build an earthly, physical tabernacle, or temple, where God's presence could dwell in a designated place between heaven and earth and in which the meeting, bonding, and ongoing union with man could take place. When God tells Moses to make the old covenant tabernacle for his presence to dwell, he is giving Israel a preview of the new covenant temple we would become in order for Christ to indwell us through his Spirit.
9. What does it mean for you to be the temple of the Holy Spirit? (page 28, paragraph 1)
  - God has always desired to live in intimate union and interaction with us. He created us to be his living image and likeness.
10. Why do you need to be emptied of everything corrupt in your life? (page 28, paragraph 4)
  - God's temple will be perfectly clean and pure. God is holy, holy, holy. Holy means set apart. As we are his temple, our lives must also be set apart for his use. All that pertains to the perfect life of Christ will be given to us in exchange for what we are by nature. And so whatever is not of Christ will be judged and incinerated in God's all-consuming fire of holiness and judgment.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. Do you identify with the red wreck or the luxury limousine? Why?
2. Based on what you read about Milt, write a prayer regarding a sin you have been dealing with. Keep in mind who is going to be overcoming sin from within you.

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## Lesson 2: Who Am I Really?

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### COMPLETE YOUR TIME SCHEDULE

This is a specific assignment your group members will be working on each day this week. Have them turn to page 153 of the Study Guide and read through the directions with your group for completing the time schedule. You can come prepared with extra copies printed out for them to use. The Time Schedule handout is at the end of the Part 2: Leader Instructions segment of the Leader's Guide or you can find it on the website.

### LESSON THEME

The paradigms we accept for ourselves and the characteristics we allow to define us form our "name." What name did you identify with as a child? Understand that whatever name you may have submitted to as a child, God has given you a brand new name. But have you learned to identify with your God-given name? Or do you still identify with the old one? When we listen to voices from our past and respond out of our old name, we are drawn off course from our true journey.

### REVIEW POINTS

- Recognize that the false blueprint imposed on us through the name we accepted early in life prevents us from trusting God and knowing him as he truly is.
- If we can't trust God, we will resist him. And as long as we resist God's truth, we cut ourselves off from his love and intent to save and bless us.
- We can remain mentally and emotionally stuck in the perspective of the wounded child we once were. But in Christ we are equipped and empowered to learn and grow.
- The misdirected paradigms we accepted years ago must be reprogrammed so that our thoughts, feelings, and actions line up with God's truth.
- As co-heirs with Christ we are no longer merely a creation of God, but his beloved child.

### Illustrations and Teaching Aids

1. Write your old name on a 3x5 card and then write your new name on a second card.
2. Play the song "I Will Change Your Name", by D.J. Butler. Versions of this song for purchase and download may be found on Amazon.com® and The iTunes Store®.

*I will change your name  
You shall no longer be called  
Wounded, outcast  
Lonely or afraid*

*I will change your name  
Your new name shall be  
Confidence, joyfulness  
Overcoming one  
Faithfulness, friend of God  
One who seeks my face.*

**CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. What is the definition of a paradigm? (page 36, paragraph 1)
  - A paradigm is a set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitute a way of viewing reality. Think of a paradigm as a pair of glasses through which you view the world.
2. What is contained in a person's name and how does it affect them? (page 36, paragraph 2)
  - Your life, the boundaries you establish, and ultimately your destiny are all contained within the name you allow to shape your identity. This name becomes your personal paradigm, or life pattern. It is the part you feel compelled to act out and fulfill, over and over.
3. Jabez didn't see himself as his mother did. How did he turn around what his mother pronounced over him? (page 38, paragraph 6)
  - Jabez went over his mother's head, so to speak, by acknowledging God as his true parent and authority figure. Jabez left behind the negative environment he had been born into and allowed God to transfer him over to the covenant ground of his Creator. Jabez asked God, his true Father, to give him a new name that would serve as a blessing the rest of his life.
4. What 3 things did Jabez ask God to do? (page 38, paragraph 7 & page 39, paragraph 1)
  - "Bless me!"
  - "Enlarge my territory!"
  - "Give me a new name!"
5. Why is it important to look at any data that is now obsolete, wrong or harmful, and update our "cash registers?" (page 48, paragraph 3)
  - An important part of the Christ-Life process is to look at any data that are now obsolete, wrong, and harmful so you can intentionally follow what is up-to-date and true.
6. Why do we need not worry or labor over issues and concerns or strive for worldly comfort or success? (page 56, paragraph 2)
  - The responsibility for your provision, protection, and well-being—they all belong eternally to the infinite one that does far better caring for you than you could ever do for yourself through your carnal views and desires. Because you are forever free of spiritual orphan-hood, you need not trust in selfish, low-level thinking, physical feelings and urges, or predatory devices.
7. What is the Land Of Promise? (page 57, paragraph 2)
  - The Land of Promise—Christ-Life—is the new, heavenly ground into which God has planted you.
8. Now that God has made you his own, what do you need to do? (page 58, paragraph 1)
  - God has forcefully advanced to make you his own. Now it is time for you, too, to forcefully advance, to mentally and emotionally embrace your loving Heavenly Father and be totally primed and ready for the absolute newness of life he wants to bring into your life!

**PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. What names have you been given by yourself and others? How have those names affected you?
2. What is the new name God has bestowed on you? If you are not sure, pray and ask him how he sees you. How will this new name affect your life and future?
3. Do you see yourself still on The Mountain? Or have you let go and grabbed the ladder?

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### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## Lesson 3: Structure Determines Results

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### LESSON THEME

Everything we do in life is determined by a structure. And within that structure, each of us has the same amount of raw material to work with: 168 hours per week. What we don't often recognize, however, is that underlying structures in life determine how we spend our time. For most of us, this structure was imposed upon us during childhood. Because of the fallen world we live in, most of the structures we inherited are dysfunctional, self-life patterns that are contradictory to Christ-Life. But through Christ we are now free to develop new, life-giving structures based on God's covenant pattern and eternal truths.

### REVIEW POINTS

- A paradigm is to your mind as an operating system is to a computer. As a result of negative paradigms, many people are stuck in a mental cage until they learn to change the way they think. In Christ we are free to change the way we think.
- Self-life structures have the radical independence of Adam built into them. They are poorly designed, become a set-up for failure, and have damaging results. A new mental structure that contains what you really want changes everything.
- Adults who are in Christ are free to forsake old structures and create new ones. They don't have to remain slaves to the circumstances imposed upon them as children.
- Once you've learned to create structures that will help you succeed rather than cause you to fail, your life will truly be transformed.

### Illustrations and Teaching Aids

#### GOAL WORKSHEET

Turn to page 151 in your Study Guide. We are going to review the questions together.

The following worksheet will help you in your understanding of structures. For each of the following questions, circle "Y" for yes or "N" for no as to whether or not the statement will contribute to meeting the suggested goal.

- Goal: I work full time at an office job, and this month I want to build a shed in our backyard.
  - Y or N I go to the lumber yard and purchase a plan, "How to Build a Shed."
  - Y or N I purchase the lumber and other supplies needed to build the shed.
  - Y or N I haul the supplies home and begin building the shed.
  - Y or N I decide to take part in a basketball tournament that involves every Saturday and Sunday the next four weeks.
- Goal: I really want to enjoy the freedom Christ has purchased for me.
  - Y or N I admit that I need to deal with the patterns in my life that are keeping me in bondage.
  - Y or N I call and sign up to take Phase 1 of The Ultimate Journey.
  - Y or N I believe that honoring my mother and father means I must not share the truth about what went on in our home.
  - Y or N I learn to focus on Christ, my new identity, rather than focusing on my old self-life identity.
- Goal: I want to experience the Sabbath rest Christ has made possible for me.
  - Y or N I believe I am what I do.
  - Y or N I need the affirmation and approval I get from doing things for other people.

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- Y or N I can rest because my source of strength is Christ in me, doing everything through me he wants to do.
- Y or N I pride myself in my efficiency and productivity.
4. Goal: I want to be used by God for his purposes.
- Y or N I could never facilitate a group because I don't like conflict.
- Y or N I don't have all the answers.
- Y or N I don't have my own life figured out, so how could I help anyone else?
- Y or N I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.
5. Goal: I want to have a healthy marriage with my spouse.
- Y or N I have secrets that I haven't told my spouse.
- Y or N I tell my spouse how to change so our marriage problems could be solved.
- Y or N I work more hours than I should, but that is OK because at least I am appreciated at work.
- Y or N I keep trying to get my spouse to go to church.
6. Goal: I want to be a good parent.
- Y or N I realize Father God is the perfect parent and his Spirit flows through me to my children.
- Y or N God has the solution to every situation my children face and every situation I face with my children. We are in good hands.
- Y or N God is responsible for providing everything my children need. I entrust them to him.
- Y or N I believe it is important for my children to keep up the proper family image.
7. Goal: I want to be content as a single person.
- Y or N I compare myself to others to see what they have that I don't.
- Y or N I know God loves me and always has my best interest in mind.
- Y or N I believe I am not complete without a spouse, and that being single makes me a second-class citizen.
- Y or N When I am sad, I give myself permission to grieve without feeling the need to fix my feelings.
8. Goal: I want to get over my depression.
- Y or N I tell myself that other people have it a lot worse than I do. I tell myself not to wallow in self-pity.
- Y or N I look to other people to make me feel better about myself.
- Y or N I make sure I don't share my pain. Good Christians should be able to get over things like this.
- Y or N I admit to myself and to God that I am depressed. I pour out to God all that I am feeling even if it sounds angry, sad, unspiritual, or messy. God wants me to come to him just as I am, right where I am. He is OK with me. God loves me and wants to hear everything I am feeling and thinking because I matter to him!

### WHAT IS YOUR FOCUS?

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start toward the garage I notice that there is mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first. I take my checkbook off the table and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, and I decide I should put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye. They need to be watered.

I set the Coke down on the counter and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly I spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I will be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table. So, I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers. I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

- the car isn't washed,
- the bills aren't paid,
- there is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter,
- the flowers don't have enough water,
- there is still only one check in my check book,
- I can't find the remote,
- I can't find my glasses,
- and I don't remember what I did with the car keys!

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long, and I'm really tired. I realize this is a serious problem. I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my email...

### **CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. What structure did God design from the beginning? (page 64, paragraph 6)
  - God designed a structure in which all creation would operate and that he wants us to follow. It is the structure of covenant.
2. What do mental structures dictate and determine? (page 68, paragraph 5)
  - Mental structures dictate behavior, and behavior determines results.
3. What paradigm did the Israelites accept and identify with even after God had defeated Egypt's power over them? (page 69, paragraph 4)
  - Most of the Israelites in the exodus from Egypt persisted in seeing themselves as whipped, lowly victims of slavery. That was their paradigm, or mental cattle chute, even after God defeated the Egyptians through miracle after miracle displaying his

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- awesome power and deliverance. Because even after God had delivered them, the Israelites still insisted on seeing themselves as defenseless slaves.
4. In A Bagful of Contradictions story what made that family so dysfunctional? (page 75, paragraph 1)
    - They loved each other dearly, but they weren't much of a family. Rather they were a bunch of competitive, cohabiting lone rangers.
  5. What is the difference between a self-life structure and a Christ-Life structure? (page 79, paragraph 6 & page 82, paragraph 3)
    - Self-life structures are God-less. A Christ-Life structure, by comparison, is one that is compatible with Christ-in-you. It is one where seeds of change are planted to bring positive results in your life. It is one that works with God's laws instead of putting you in a position of having them work against you.
  6. What is the first thing you need to zero-in on in order to create a Christ-Life structure? (page 85, paragraph 4)
    - To design just the right structure, you must first zero in on what you want to accomplish.

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## Lesson 4: No Longer A Victim Of Circumstances

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### LESSON THEME

Are we childish slaves living as victims or free adults making wise choices? The law of sowing and reaping shows us we need to stop spending our time and energy focusing on what we don't want in life—problems—and start sowing seeds that will produce the fruit we do want. Life is filled with choices, and many of them lead to problems. But the journey is not about figuring out how to get away from your problems. Rather it's about deciding where you want to go in life so you can form new structures to take you there.

### REVIEW POINTS

- Problems are not so much a matter of what happens to us in life, but rather are the result of how we react and respond to circumstances.
- As a mature adult in God's Kingdom, you are free to create new realities and restructure your life by stimulating yourself to learn, change, and develop new skills.
- We mentally inflict most problems upon ourselves. Once your mind becomes aligned with God's truth, however, you'll enjoy a high rate of success and satisfaction in life.
- God's children were intended to live an abundant life. So as you continue sowing good seed into your life, you will naturally reap an abundance of blessing!

### Illustrations and Teaching Aids

1. If you have seen the movie *Fireproof*, the husband chose to continue focusing on what he wanted regardless of his wife's negative reactions. He kept sowing good seed and he reaped a harvest in his marriage.

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between a childish slave still living as a victim and a free adult? (page 90, paragraph 1)
  - The child is a slave and the adult is free.
2. In your own words, explain the statement, "children are at the mercy of the way things are, but adults get to decide the way things are going to be." (page 92, paragraph 3)
  - A slave mentality predisposes you to continue following the same passive, childish way of perceiving and reacting to life. Children are at the mercy of the way things are, but adults get to decide the way things are going to be. You're destined to be an adult in the image and likeness of the Creator! He is absolutely free, wise, inventive, and spontaneous. The question is, will you allow Christ to deliver you?
3. In the allegory of *Weepy's Taxi Ride*, what character traits and habits did Weepy develop? (page 92, paragraphs 5-6)
  - Weepy was always forlorn—the picture of hopelessness and helplessness. Weepy was a full-blown slave to circumstances, which always created problems for him. So Weepy learned to be a problem solver, and problem solvers play the part of victim on the stage of life. They're forever conforming to or reacting against whatever confronts them or appears to stand in their way of progress.
4. What do you think was Weepy's real problem? (page 94, paragraphs 4-5)
  - The real problem was inside of Weepy, and he took this problem with him wherever he went. The problem was the way he had learned to think and react as a weak, helpless child. Weepy obsessed over what scared and hurt him and what he didn't

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want in his life. And so the things that hurt and scared Weepy prevented him from ever developing the skills needed to get in touch with his true feelings and create what he did want.

5. Why is it so important to focus on what you do want rather than focusing on what you don't want? (page 95, paragraph 8)
  - Because he's a slave, Weepy can only think in terms of what he doesn't want. He can't think in terms of outgrowing his difficulties and changing his circumstances. He knows nothing of operating in God's Kingdom as a mature adult, free to create new realities by restructuring his life. Slaves don't think that way because to them it would be selfish, immoral, and rebellious to have a choice—in fact it would be out of the question. So the most that poor Weepy can do is to try to find new ways to make what he doesn't want go away. Lots of people live this way, always wrestling with what they don't want rather than pursuing what they do want. It's important to recognize that what you don't want isn't the same as what you do want. If you spend most of your time and energy finding ways to make what you don't want go away, you will have no time or energy left to focus on causing what you do want come into being!
6. How does the law of sowing and reaping apply to the field of your soul? (page 99, paragraph 6)
  - Whatever you focus on, believe, and accept—the way you think and behave in terms of your belief system and perspective—becomes a pattern your brain is compelled to follow.
7. Instead of changing our thinking patterns, we typically try to feel better about ourselves or solve our problems by doing what? (page 101, paragraph 1)
  - Instead of changing our thinking patterns, we typically try to feel better about ourselves or solve our problems by trying to change other people.
8. *The Ultimate Journey* is about learning to recognize, accept, and reveal your true, Christ-in-you self. (page 110, paragraph 1)

### PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Are there any ways you relate to Weepy? Do you allow circumstances and other people to determine how you live?
2. Since your brain only listens to you, what are some things you need to tell your brain? Write them to yourself in the format of an Ally Letter. Then let yourself write a response letter back regarding what you said.

### Small Groups Meet

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear. Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people. Close in prayer.

## Lesson 5: Picturing Your New Structure

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### LESSON THEME

In order to stay on course with the true journey, you need a new mental structure. But before you can have that new structure, you need to know what it will look like. At this point in your journey, it's time to put a new picture in your brain that aligns with the reality of who God created us to be and reflects Christ living in us.

### REVIEW POINTS

- You can send your computer self-life pictures or Christ-Life pictures. Your computer doesn't care. It will just go to work to make either one happen.
- As a mature adult in God's Kingdom, you are free to create new realities and restructure your life by stimulating yourself to learn, change, and develop new skills.
- We mentally inflict most problems upon ourselves. Once your mind becomes aligned with God's truth, however, you'll enjoy a high rate of success and satisfaction in life.
- God's children were intended to live an abundant life. So as you continue sowing good seed into your life, you will naturally reap an abundance of blessing!

### Illustrations and Teaching Aids

Insert any illustrations that you have prepared for this meeting.

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Our brains respond to pictures. Pictures are like blueprints. What happens once our mind gets a picture? (page 117, paragraph 3)
  - Once your mind gets this picture, it is then interpreted as the blueprint you want it to follow and begin reproducing in your physical reality. Whether it's a dark, negative, sinful picture or whether a light- and life-filled picture of Christ-Life, your computer doesn't care. It just waits to see what that image will be, and then goes to work making it happen in your life.
2. What were the steps Janice took once she saw the picture in the magazine? (page 117, paragraph 6)
  - Once Janice got the picture, she was able to take over and do her job. Her job was to figure out how to make it happen, and she was equipped for that. Janice didn't need any input or interference from her customer.
3. What does it look like to be a gardener in everyday life? According to *The Beautiful Oasis* allegory, where does the seed come from? (page 120, paragraph 7)
  - "We never carry seeds with us. God provides all the seed we will ever need, no matter where we go! And wherever you go, you can always find the seeds for a beautiful oasis in the desert—right under your feet!"
4. What are some of the characteristics of a critic? (page 122, paragraph 3)
  - A critic is also a predator. He judges things to be good or bad according to what they do for him and whether they meet his subjective criteria. If people, circumstances, and events are what he thinks they ought to be, the critic shows love and acceptance. But if they do not perform up to his expectations and interests, he rejects, punishes, and abandons them.
5. What happens if the picture we give our mind is a negative picture? (page 123, paragraph 1)

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- If you picture current and future events in a negative, fearful, hopeless light, you will actually be programming your brain to sabotage your life and force you to fail miserably when the time comes for you to step up to the plate.
6. What were the pictures Payton was downloading into his brain? (page 123, paragraph 3)
    - “Oh, no! Why did I do such a dumb thing? Why did I volunteer to teach a 13-week Sunday school class to these teenagers? I’m no good at this! I’m stupid, ugly, unlovable and prone to failure. How will I keep their interest and attention? I’m going to screw this up—I can feel it! I can just see those kids sitting there, fidgeting, exchanging smirks, rolling their eyes, slouching, and fooling around behind my back. They’ll be bored stiff, and I won’t know how to handle it. I can just hear them talking about me and making fun of the way I’m teaching their class. How will I ever get through this?”
  7. Why can disciples afford to be different in the way they view problems? (page 127, paragraph 1)
    - Disciples are different than most people. Like their Heavenly Father they are creative, innovative, and proactive. They live in and out from God’s wisdom and power rather than bowing to the demands of negative circumstances.
  8. What is the greatest level of performance your mind can achieve? (page 133, paragraph 1)
    - The greatest level of performance your mind can achieve is to get back in touch with the original blueprint and purposes of your Creator, and begin to align with them.

### PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. What does the quote “you are free to choose what and who you will become,” mean to you?

### Small Groups Meet

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one’s to have them share)

Go over the Navigating Your Course assignment for this lesson, found on page 158 of the Study Guide.

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear. Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people. Close in prayer.

## **Lesson 6: Renewing Your Mind**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

### **LESSON THEME**

God commands us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. This transformation takes place when we align our minds with God's truth. When we do this, we become aligned with the true course of direction along our journey.

### **REVIEW POINTS**

- We can replace unconscious, automatic thinking patterns and habits that cause problems by intentionally changing our focus and the commands we give ourselves.
- By controlling the words and pictures we allow into our heads, we can learn to control ourselves in obedience to God rather than letting people or circumstances control us.
- Despite how we feel, God doesn't see any of us as being "not good enough." He sees us as we are, but he also sees the awesome destiny he has for each of us.
- Acknowledge that your old self-life way of doing things is no longer an option. Instead identify with Christ and everything he wants to be and do as he abides within you.

### **Illustrations and Teaching Aids**

#### **ARM DEMONSTRATION**

(You can experiment with this on someone outside of your group for practice. Everyone is amazed and it seems to work every time it is done)

1. Ask for a volunteer or pick a person from the group that appears strong.
2. Have them come forward and ask them to stand next to you, side by side.
3. Then ask them to lift their right arm up, parallel to the floor. Tell them that you are going to count to three and on the count of three you will try to push their arm down and they are to try to resist you. (What you will find is that it is hard to push down their arm). Then they can rest their arm at their side.
4. Then ask them to say three times with great belief and confidence, "I am a worthless individual. I am a worthless individual. I am a worthless individual."
5. Have them put their arm back up parallel to the floor and then say you are going to count to three and on the count of three, ask them to try to resist you while you push their arm down. (their arm should be able to be pushed down very easily).
6. Then ask them to say three times with great belief and confidence, "I am a valuable individual. I am a valuable individual. I am a valuable individual."
7. Have them put their arm back up parallel to the floor and then say you are going to count to three and on the count of three, ask them to try to resist you while you push their arm down. (their arm should be able to be pushed down very easily).

This demonstration shows how powerfully our words even affect us physically. This is why much of human disease is said to be rooted in emotional issues. We need to be careful what we tell ourselves. Our life depends on it.

### **CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. What does it mean to transform? (page 138, paragraph 1)
  - To undergo a complete change in character and conduct through the power of God.
2. What did Frank's parents have to believe before they could help him? (page 150, paragraph 6)

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- We had to believe and accept Frank's new paradigm as true before we could convince Frank it was true.
3. How do we talk ourselves out of what we were and into who we really are? (page 153, paragraph 4)
    - This is how you generate desire for anything—by running good pictures in the projection room of your mind. At the same time, negative pictures cause dissatisfaction and revulsion toward your old self-life. So it's important that when you find yourself desiring something of self-life, that you begin reminding yourself of how it contradicts or conflicts with Christ's presence and revelation within you. Remind your brain of the negative results you get when you hold onto toxic shame, engage in sinful behaviors, make fear-based decisions, or allow yourself to remain in dysfunctional relationships.
  4. What is the message other people get if we are trying to change them rather than garden them? (page 155, paragraph 1)
    - As you were trying to change these people, recall the paradigm you entertained of them your head. Notice how negative, degrading, and filled with rejection your efforts must have appeared. The message you were sending them was, "You're not good enough." It is the message of a critic. Did it make them love you and want to cooperate? Of course not! Because when you operate from such a negative pattern, it only makes things worse, causing people to become angry and defensive.
  5. How does change in our own lives affect the people around us? (page 155, paragraph 2)
    - As you change what goes into you, however, you also change what comes out of you. And what comes out of you is automatically planted into other people's hearts and lives through a form of spiritual osmosis.
  6. What is the difference between automatic and deliberate choices? (page 156, paragraph 2)
    - There are automatic, preset choices that flow from your current, prevailing paradigms. And then there are deliberate, conscious choices that flow from the realization that you were created to live at a higher level than you might now be operating from.

### PERSONAL REFLECTION

1. Does your paradigm agree with your Creator's, or are you using one you picked up from this fallen world?
2. Make a list of some new orders you will be giving your "ship".
3. Are these new orders going to be useful for steering your "ship" straight and true, along the path God has mapped out for you?

### Small Groups Meet

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Have each person share one example of Gardening Yourself and Others from page 161 of the Study Guide.

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear. Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people. Close in prayer.

## **LESSON 7: PUTTING ON THE NEW SELF**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

### **LESSON THEME**

Ephesians chapter 4 tells us to put off the old, corrupted self and instead “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” But how do we do this? The key is to identify our thinking patterns that prevent us from putting on the new self. Like migratory birds focused on their destination, the new self in Christ will naturally be aligned with our Creator as he continues to lead us along right paths throughout our journey.

### **REVIEW POINTS**

- You put off the old self by leaving your former ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving and put on the new self by aligning your mind with the reality of Christ living in you.
- Each of us has only one life to live: our own. Rather than wishing for what might have been or longing for what was, accept the right here, right now reality you find yourself in.
- While anyone can witness to others regarding Christ, only a true, believing, covenant mirror of Christ can actually be a living witness of the indwelling Lord Jesus Christ.
- Where you are in life right now is exactly where you have chosen to be. You can reveal the glory of the risen Christ right where you are through whatever raw material you have to work with.

### **Illustrations and Teaching Aids**

1. Play the song, “In the Light of Your Glory,” by Tommy Walker. Versions of this song for purchase and download may be found on Amazon.com® and The iTunes Store®.

*All the things that seemed so big now look so small  
The selfish dreams I held so high, I let them fall.  
Now that I have tasted, and I've seen who You are,  
I let go now, I give you my all.*

*In the light of Your glory and love,  
In the light of Your beauty and grace from above.*

*I consider all things of this earth only loss  
in the light of Your glory and love.*

*So many are the fears that were controlling me,  
So many voices calling me away from Thee,  
Just give me Your presence, and Your grace from the cross.  
It's You I cling, Lord I give you my all.*

*I give my love, I give my life to You forever  
No one compares to You, my precious Lord, My Savior.*

*In the light of Your glory and love,  
In the light of Your beauty and grace from above.*

*I consider all things of this earth only loss (in the light of your glory)*

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*In the light of Your glory and love,  
In the light of Your beauty and grace from above,  
I consider all things of this earth only loss*

*in the light of Your glory, Light of Your glory,  
Light of Your glory and love*

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2. Bring a clear mug or glass of hot water and drop a tea bag in it. Show that the tea and the water become one. The one can no longer be separated from the other. That is the reality of Christ living in you!

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Because the monkey went from one window to another, he lived in “unreality” all his life. What does it mean to live in “unreality”? (page 164, paragraph 3)
  - “Unreality” had absolutely nothing to do with the right here, right now reality of his life as it was—the only life available to him.
2. What did the pain and emptiness of never having a life of his own drive the monkey to do? (page 165, paragraph 3)
  - The pain of never having a life of his own—or so he thought—drove the monkey to focus even harder on the lives of others and on vain imaginations. His lack of fruitful results increased and perpetuated his emptiness. And his emptiness compelled him to look out the windows with even more frenzy and desperation.
3. Can you get a life of your own by trying to draw it from others? What happens to your own life when you do? (page 165, paragraph 5)
  - You can never get a life for yourself by trying to draw upon the lives of others. Their lives will always be theirs, not yours, and vice versa. You can only live your life. As long as you try to get your life through others, your own life will never develop.
4. What can you miss by staying busy and distracted in a futile search for a “carrot on a stick” experience? (page 166, paragraph 4)
  - We can never begin to explore the infinite, divine gold mine that is already ours, abiding within us, because we are much too busy and distracted, looking here and there to strike it rich. Our futile search prevents us from realizing we’ve already received everything possible and have reached the end of our quest.
5. You face and attack the old fears by deliberately changing their meaning and significance. (page 171, paragraph 6)
6. God has the infinite power to change you. Everything necessary has already been given to you. What must you do in order for his power to be applied in your personal life? (page 174, paragraph 1)
  - God will only apply his power to your life when you agree with him by faith and trust in him more than you trust worldly common sense or your own habits, opinions, and feelings.
7. Describe the difference between “doing” witnessing and “being” a witness. (page 175, paragraph 5)
  - Christ’s indwelling presence that radiates out to others is entirely different from the activity we commonly refer to as “witnessing,” that is, making a conscious effort of telling others about Christ rather actually being examples of their indwelling Lord. Even those who merely give mental assent to theological propositions can witness for Christ. They may even hold some of the same doctrinal beliefs about God, but

- they cannot really know God unless he lives inside them and they submit to his Lordship.
8. Christianity is NOT a method for improving your old life. Christianity IS a fusion between your spirit and the Holy Spirit. (page 176, paragraph 3)
  9. God's covenant blessings are all there for you, pre-given and pre-paid in your name. You are a coheir with Christ. What are you challenged to do in every problem, lack, or circumstance you face? Give an example of how this could be applied to your own life? (page 177, paragraph 2)
    - Your challenge is to believe and adjust your mind to begin drawing from Christ and his awesome inheritance.
  10. What is the one reality you are to live in? (page 181, paragraph 7)
    - There is only one reality you have to live in: your moment-by-moment existence.
  11. Christ is the fullness and fulfillment of everything within you! (page 182, paragraph 1)
  12. What does putting off the old self and putting on the new include? (page 182, paragraph 2)
    - Putting off the old and putting on the new includes your old identity, labels, belief system, attitudes, attachments, and lifestyle.
  13. To focus on the old way of renewing your mind is to continue trying to improve yourself. The new way is to forget all that and embrace, feed upon, and identify with your indwelling Lord. What does that new way look like? (page 182, paragraph 3)
    - Acknowledge that God is Lord of your life. Come to grips with the fact that he has come into your innermost parts to take over! Allow him to take over on his terms. Christ in you is everything. Talk yourself into embracing his indwelling presence. Feed on him. Identify with him—his characteristics and what he wants to do in you and through you.
  14. You can begin immediately planting your way out of anything you or somebody else might have done to you in the past. (page 182, paragraph 4)

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. What do you think about this statement, "You are where you have chosen to be"?
2. How are you going to respond in the future when you find yourself looking out a window instead of focusing on the here and now?
3. What has been, or is, an old fear that you've experienced? How are you going to change its meaning and significance in your life now?

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear. Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people. Close in prayer.

## **Lesson 8: Abiding in Him**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

#### **LESSON THEME**

Now that you've been on *The Ultimate Journey* for some time, you may have wondered what it looks like for a believer to abide in Christ 24 hours a day, seven days a week. What does one *do* with the indwelling presence of Christ? As you'll discover through this lesson, abiding in Christ isn't about what we do because of his presence in us, but rather it's about what Christ *does in and through us!*

#### **REVIEW POINTS**

- True disciples have only one agenda, which is God's eternal purpose of revealing Christ in the midst of hurting humanity. And to fulfill his plans, God needs our total, sold-out trust, not our help!
- Jesus said we can do nothing apart from him. He put 100% trust in the Father and Holy Spirit and trusted 0% in his own humanity. With Jesus as our example and our strength, we can confidently trust our Father God with every detail of our lives.
- By abiding in Christ and allowing his perfect life in us to obey the Father's commands, we are empowered to live as Jesus did and bear spiritual fruit for the Kingdom of God.
- The spiritual fruit produced in our lives gives evidence of our obedience to Christ and is a sign to others that we truly love and abide in him.

#### **Illustrations and Teaching Aids**

##### **THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES**

Read John 15:1-4. Many versions of the Bible translate verse two similar to this: "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." The Gospel of John was originally written in Greek, which was the common tongue in the world within which early Christianity existed. The Greek word that is translated as "cuts off" is actually a form of the Greek verb *ai[rw*, which means: to raise up, elevate, lift up, to raise from the ground. A more accurate translation of this verse might be "He [Christ] *raises up* 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."

Those branches that do not produce fruit are "raised up", not "cut off". In this passage, Jesus seems to be referring to a vineyard tending process which is still in use today in the fertile hill country of Israel.

As grape vines grow larger and older their branches begin to bury themselves and put down their own roots in the soil. The branch then begins to feed off of the sustenance drawn from its roots rather than feeding from the vine which gave it life in the first place.

These new roots are unable to provide the amount of food the branch needs to support itself and produce fruit. So, in order to survive, the branch no longer produces fruit but uses the small amount of nourishment drawn in by its roots to simply hold on to its own life.

The vine was not created to simply take up space. The farmer is not raising and tending its branches so that they may not produce fruit. The whole point of having a grape vine is to harvest fruit from its branches. So, what will the farmer do to this wayward branch? Cut it off? No. Despite this branch forsaking the provision of the vine, the vine has not abandoned the

branch. It is possible for the branch to once again live through the vine. However, the roots it has put down on its own must first be torn up and then the branch must be trained to once again look to the vine as its source. The farmer accomplishes this by uprooting the branch and then placing a large rock beneath it so that it can no longer reach the dirt and attempt to live on its own. Beginning to draw strength from the vine is a slow process for the branch. In most cases it takes up to two years. But, after that time, this branch will once again produce fruit.

If you are not bearing fruit at this time, know that God has not “cut you off”. No matter how you have tried to be your own provider, you have not been able to sever yourself from the true vine which is Jesus Christ. He still wants to be your source for all things. He understands there will be a weaning period while you begin to place 100% trust in him, and he is okay with that. He is a good, kind farmer, and he is going to nurture and care for you because you are His beloved and He wants to see you thrive!

### **DANCE WITH ME**

Show the *Dance With Me* DVD. This may be purchased from Christ-Life Ministries. It is approximately five minutes long and is an amazing picture of what it means to be one with Christ.

### **CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. What is a blessing/benefit of “living crucified”? (page 188, paragraph 1)
  - The seeds of new Christ-Life patterns will bring about the fruit he desires.
2. What does God want in return for his 100% covenant *hesed* love, protection, and provision? (page 190, paragraph 3)
  - To enjoy God’s 100% love, covenant *hesed*, provision, and protection, however, he’s going to need 100% corresponding dependence, hope, trust, expectation, and acceptance in return.
3. In *Preparing for the Guest*, what does the city represent? What does the emperor represent? What does the home represent? (page 196, paragraph 1 & 5)
  - We’re talking about the uncreated, eternal, living, Almighty Lord God of creation who now lives in you! It is time for you to faithfully, lovingly extend permanent hospitality to Christ so that your entire house—your spirit, soul, and body along with your past, present and future—remain his exclusive personal residence and strategic base of operations on earth.
4. Who is responsible to do whatever it takes to make this covenant between you and God work? (page 199, paragraph 1)
  - God is talking about an eternal union in which he pledges to do whatever is necessary to make the covenant relationship work.
5. What is the consequence of forsaking God? (page 200, paragraph 4)
  - The sad reality is that if you forsake your covenant God and the bond you have with him, you are also pulling away from his covenant blessings.
6. “To have Christ in you is to have God’s presence and favor within you. Therefore, Christ’s desires abide within you as well.” What does Christ require from you in order for you to embody his desires? Do you find this easy or difficult to believe and accept? (page 205, paragraph 6)
  - We can embody his desires if he can have 100% of our heart.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. What do you think of the statement, “God wants our trust, not our help,” in light of the well-known sentiment, “God helps those who help themselves.”?

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

2. How have you been able to experience sowing “Christ-Life reality” in your life or those around you this week?
3. The seeds of Christ-life patterns will bring about the fruit he desires. What is a fruit you are focusing on right now? What are seeds of the Christ-life patterns you need to plant?
4. Be honest with yourself: Can you think of anything in your life that you are unwilling to surrender to the Lordship of Christ? If so, what is holding you back?

### **ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

Explain the Self-Life Identity Checklist on pages 169-172 of the Study Guide.

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## **Lesson 9: Your Christ-In-Me Identity**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

### **LESSON THEME**

The Christ-In-Me identity paradigm is a new mental picture in which we see ourselves doing everything as one with Christ. We need to examine our old beliefs and behaviors that have affected us negatively and replace them with the new Christ-In-Me identity.

### **REVIEW POINTS**

- Your self-life identity has gone to the cross and Christ is now your only life. Because Christ is your life, you are the living embodiment of his indwelling presence to everyone around you.
- When you truly know and believe Christ is your life, you'll recognize the tremendous difference between trying to be like Jesus compared to Christ living through you.
- As you abide in Christ, you are coming to realize that the bondage you've been under all these years is more about facing yourself than addressing the issues you've encountered.
- If you are ready to accept your new covenant birthright in Christ, it's time to move from who you are in Christ to who he is in you according to a new mental picture: your Christ-In-Me identity paradigm.

### **CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. What does it mean for you to have Christ's life as your new spiritual identity? Spiritual position? Spiritual birthright? Spiritual source? Spiritual destiny? (page 220, paragraph 1)
  - Christ is really real, risen, right here within you and ready and able to do all the work and get all the results necessary, in you and through you. You never become Christ, but are his living embodiment and expression.
2. What are you excluding if you give God religious sounding "lip service"? (page 221, paragraph 1)
  - Such activities exclude the Holy Spirit and God's Christ-centered covenant rescue mission from the equation.
3. God not only chose you but appointed you to bear eternal fruit. (John 15:16)
4. What mental structure will not produce Godly results? (page 225, paragraph 2)
  - Someone is trying to improve himself instead of seeing himself as crucified and Christ's life exalted in himself.
5. In order to produce good fruit in every area of life, you must center 100% on Christ. (page 226, paragraph 4)
6. Instead of focusing on sin, problems, what's wrong, or what you don't want, your total focus is now on what? (page 228, paragraph 8)
  - You will begin to focus on what's right and what you really do want.
7. What do you tell yourself in order for the switchover in your brain to take place? (page 229, paragraph 2)
  - You tell Christ and yourself, over and over, that he is now the eternal Lord and owner of your spirit, soul, and body. You tell yourself that he reigns and is going to be doing all those new things, getting all those new results that will begin to flow out of you.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. What opportunity have you had to experience the fruit of the Spirit in our life recently?
2. What impacted you regarding the paradigm shift the Holy Spirit is calling you to undertake?

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

### **PREPARE TO WRITE CHRIST-IN-ME IDENTITY STATEMENTS**

Have group members turn to page 173 in the Study Guide and read all the instructions.

#### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## Lesson 10: Your Christ-Through-Me Identity

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### LESSON THEME

If Christ is truly in us, what does that look like coming out of us? Our journey is no longer about our actions or reactions to the circumstances of life. It is about the thoughts, feelings, and actions of Christ flowing through us to others.

### REVIEW POINTS

- If you show love and acceptance at all times, you will ultimately receive back love and acceptance regardless of what anyone around you thinks or does.
- Everything in your life is raw material for loving, serving, and revealing Christ. So why would you obsess over problems when you have the solution living inside you?
- We can't really love and obey God if we do not accept, love, and care for his fallen people just as they are. Thus our reactions to people need to be God's reactions.
- Accept the reality of your life just the way it is today. Plant good seed and garden your reality to bring about the growth and fruitfulness you were destined for.

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What does God commission his covenant friends to join him in? (page 234, paragraph 3)
  - God commissions his covenant friends to join him in mind and purpose as he tends to the needs of fallen reality. As his priest, you carry his presence within you to minister and wait upon him. At his bidding you bring to him all that is wrong, not good enough, and mortally damaged by sin and the fall. Then the Holy Spirit within you applies the benefits of Christ's massive, infinite redemption to each situation.
2. In the allegory *The Mysterious Lagoon* what does the lagoon represent? (page 243, paragraph 3)
  - What was the lagoon anyway? And why was it affected so dramatically by Explorer's reactions? You've probably already surmised that the lagoon was Explorer's mind—his heart of hearts.
3. You can't control what is going on around you, but what can you control? (page 244, paragraph 1)
  - You can't control what goes on around you. No, what will make or break you is this: How will you react and respond to what's happening to you? What will that cause to happen within you? This is what you can and must control.
4. In the allegory *Straddling Two Canoes* what does the Canoe of Reality contain? What does the Canoe of Expectations of Others contain? What is wrong with having a Canoe of Expectations of Others? (page 245, paragraph 8; page 246, paragraph 2; page 246, paragraph 7)
  - That canoe contains the real people, facts, events, and situations of life just as they are.
  - The Expectations canoe has a perfectly controlled environment, tailor-made to suit and please Bolivar's dogmatic opinions and desires. He stocks and arranges it just the way he wants, filled with blueprints and pictures of how he thinks everyone and everything ought to be.
  - The trouble is that reality ignores Bolivar's private expectations. In fact there is no record in human history of anyone successfully controlling or manipulating reality.

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

5. What must you do if you are going to embody Christ to operate in and through you? (page 252, paragraph 2)
  - If you are going to embody and release Christ to operate in and through you, you must first put on his “eyeglasses” to see reality as he sees it. You must operate out of the mind of Christ, which is the mind of the Father. You must clothe those who are naked with dignity and respect. You must cover the wicked with his loving-kindness. You must adorn those who are condemned by their own wickedness and trespasses with the redemption and atoning blood of the Lamb of God. You must be able to see them as complete in Christ. In this way you worship and affirm God, magnify his greatness, and exalt the finished work of Christ. You caress his face.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. Do you straddle two canoes like Bolivar? Are you filled with mental pictures of the way you think people and things ought to be? If so, how do you react to whatever you cannot and will not accept that is in the Canoe of Reality?

### **PREPARE TO WRITE CHRIST-THROUGH-ME IDENTITY STATEMENTS**

Have group members turn to page 173 in the Study Guide and read all the instructions.

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one’s to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## **Lesson 11: The Power of Massive Repetition**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

#### **LESSON THEME**

Developing new habit patterns requires repetition. As we take every thought captive to Christ and sow truth into the fields of our minds, the power of sowing and reaping will begin to work for us and propel us forward in our journey. We are only one planting season away from a new harvest.

#### **REVIEW POINTS**

- You become good at whatever you practice in life. The same principle holds true for conforming to the image of Christ. Massive repetition brings mastery and skill.
- Setbacks and the behavior of other people need not distract or deter you from continuing your journey. Use setbacks to your advantage as you refocus and continue planting Christ-life seed.
- Remember that growing from one stage to another is a gradual process that results from sowing and reaping. So take heart: New fruit-bearing results are just a growing season away.
- Your mind follows one pattern at a time—either the old self-life pattern or your new Christ-life pattern. Make sure you have mentally changed lives with Christ and are following his pattern!

#### **Illustrations and Teaching Aids**

##### **DON'T LISTEN TO FRED**

“Since then, you have been raised with Christ,” Paul says, “set your hearts on things above” (Colossians 3:1). You have the power to set the prevailing affections of your heart. You can choose the things that you will love the most.

In the past, you were pushed around by the impulses in your mind and your heart that were beyond your control. But now you are a new person. God has given you the ability to control your heart and mind. This can take some getting used to.

Imagine that you've been working for the same boss for thirty years. Let's call him Fred. Every morning when you go to work, you check in with Fred, and he tells you what he wants you to do.

Then one day the chairman of the company asks to see you. He says he has big plans for you. On Monday you will have a new office, and you will serve the company in a new management position.

As you arrive for the first day in your new position, you realize that you no longer have to take orders from Fred. Then it dawns on you that from now on, Fred will have to take orders from you. After thirty years that will take some getting used to!

Two things are very likely to happen in the coming months. First, Fred will go on telling you what to do. He will always think of himself as your boss, even though that is no longer the case. Second, you will have a distinct tendency to do what Fred tells you, even though you are no longer required to do so. You have thought of Fred as the boss for so long that it's hard to break the habit.

## Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey

After six weeks in your new position, the chairman asks to see you again. “There is a problem we need to talk about,” he begins. “You are listening too much to Fred. If we had wanted him in charge, we would have given him the job. But we gave it to you.”

“You have to adjust to the new situation,” he continues. “Fred will always make suggestions, but you are under no obligation to pursue them. We have given you authority. Learn to use it. From now on, Fred does what you tell him.”

God has put you in a new position of authority over the impulses of your heart and mind. In the past, they pushed you around and told you what to do. But now you are in a new position.

You have a new identity. The person you were before has ceased to exist. You are a new creation in Jesus Christ. God has placed you in a position of authority. Sin is no longer your master (Romans 6:14).

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. Why do self improvement programs often fail? (page 258, paragraph 2)
  - They fail to change and disengage people from the pattern they’ve believed and accepted for decades! They fail to sever the rubber band of their original pattern or role. The computer that runs them is still programmed to follow that original pattern. So their own inner computer will fight against their new resolution by following the prevailing pattern.
2. What are some things that describe your New Covenant reality? (page 259, paragraph 3)
  - You are always focusing on him. It’s always a personal dialogue between you and Christ. And it is always corporate. Never again can your inner heart-talk be a mere monologue—you talking to yourself, as though you were all alone.
3. Repetition is the mother of mastery and skill. Dabbling is the motherhood of failure and frustration. (page 262, paragraph 2)
4. Your true status and identity is being dead to self-life and sin and alive to Christ-Life in you. (page 263, paragraph 2)
5. What does it mean to mentally exchange lives with Christ? (page 268, paragraph 6)
  - Once you really accept a new paradigm of who and what you are, your mind becomes like a guided missile that begins to relentlessly hunt down its designated target. And once you truly give your mind the task of switching over, it won’t let you stop halfway. If something doesn’t match your new Christ-In-Me Identity Paradigm, your mind will feel uneasy, frustrated, and full of tension. The tension will force you to keep going and won’t let you rest until everything is reconfigured and consistent with the new pattern you chose. Only then will the tension resolve itself and allow you to experience peace and a sense of well-being.
6. Your mind can only follow one pattern at a time. Why is this good news? (page 269, paragraph 6)
  - It’s always one or the other, but it can never be both because that’s how brains and nervous systems work. They always tend to follow the prevailing pattern. It’s the easiest thing in the world for them to do.
7. How can you use negatives, former enemies, and old sin patterns to keep you on course and keep you going? (page 270, paragraph 4)
  - You learn to use negatives as trigger mechanisms to remind yourself to plant even more of the good seed so the coming harvest will be even greater and more rewarding. Now your former enemies and sin patterns become your servants and benefactors. They remind you to do even more of the right things.

8. How does dwelling on Christ affect the dark negative things, old sinful patterns, and even things you used to hate and fear? (page 271, paragraph 2)
  - If you're busy cooperating with Christ, it won't occur to you to walk out in old, sinful patterns. Dark, negative things will cease to exist in your soul because there is no room for them. The light of Christ overwhelms and blots them out. The good seed you continually plant will keep choking out the darkness.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. Is there a "curtain time" coming in your near future? If so, what part do you need to be rehearsing now so you are ready when show time comes?

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share)

Share your plan for how you are going to wire in your Christ-In-Me and Christ-Through-Me Identity Statements.

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear. Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people. Close in prayer.

## **Lesson 12: Being a Disciple**

### **OPEN IN PRAYER**

#### **DONATION FOR CHRIST-LIFE MINISTRIES** (Only do this if you feel it is appropriate)

Tell the group members that if they have benefited from their Phase 3 experience to consider giving a donation to Christ-Life ministries to “pay it forward” for others to be able to experience the healing and growth that they have. The Ultimate Journey books they purchase cover less than 50% of the necessary funds to operate. At next week’s meeting we will be giving you the opportunity to contribute to this ministry by making a financial donation.

### **PHASE 3 EVALUATION**

Remind them to log on to the Christ-Life Ministries website to fill out an evaluation for Phase 3. Let them know how much you appreciate their feedback. (Note: Christ-Life Ministries will forward the evaluations to your Group Director and they will pass on the information to you, the Phase 3 facilitator). There is a copy of a Phase 3 Evaluation Form at the end of the Leader’s Guide at the end of Part 2: Leader Instructions or on the website if you need to make hard copies for people in your group that do not have online access.

### **ENCOURAGE FACILITATING**

Ask group members to pray about becoming a Phase 1, Phase 2 or Phase 3 Facilitator.

### **LESSON THEME**

The journey of a disciple is easily recognizable. Disciples are those who are crucified to their own lives and are alive only to the life of Christ in them. They do only what their master tells them as they draw everything they need from him—even their ability to obey him.

### **REVIEW POINTS**

- Disciples minister to God in the throne room of their heart where the Spirit abides. God then ministers to others through them.
- Through a life of obedience to God’s commands, disciples become a witness to the risen Christ living within them.
- Disciples don’t instruct others on how to become disciples of themselves, but rather they point others to their Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- When calling his disciples, Jesus didn’t choose those who were qualified according to the world’s standards. Rather Jesus qualified those whom he called to be his disciples.

### **Illustrations and Teaching Aids**

#### **MANAGERIAL CANDIDATES**

To: Jesus, Son of Joseph, The Woodcrafter’s Carpenter Shop

CC: All Mankind

From: Jordan Management Consultants

Re: Managerial Candidates

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our battery of tests. We have not only run the results through our computers, but have also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocation aptitude consultant.

It is the opinion of the staff that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We recommend that you continue your search for persons of proven capacity in managerial ability.

We have summarized the findings of our study below:

- Simon Peter is emotional, unstable and given to fits of temper.
- Andrew has absolutely no quality of leadership.
- The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty.
- Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale.
- We believe it is our duty to tell you that the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau has blacklisted Matthew.
- James, the son of Alphaeus, and thaddeus definitely have radical leanings. Additionally, they both registered high scores on the manic-depressive scale.
- However, one of the candidates shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness; he is a great networker; has a keen business mind; and has strong contacts in influential circles. He is highly motivated, very ambitious and adept with financial matters. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your Controller and Chief Operating Officer. All the other profiles are self-explanatory.

We wish you the utmost success in your new venture.

### **CONTENT QUESTIONS**

1. What is true of a qualified witness of Jesus Christ? (page 277, paragraph 2)
  - A qualified witness actually knows the truth and lives it out in the power of the Holy Spirit. It has to be someone who lives with Jesus day and night. And disciples do that. They testify in many ways to the reality of the risen, indwelling Christ and his finished work. They know him. How could they not? They abide forever in his living presence and feed on the blessings of his finished work.
2. What are the three duties of a Levite? (page 283, paragraph 3)
  - Carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord.
  - Stand before the Lord to minister.
  - Pronounce blessings in his name.
3. Who is your inheritance? (page 283, paragraph 3)
  - The Lord
4. What are you called to focus on, sympathize with, and identify with? (page 291, paragraph 3)
  - You are called to focus on, sympathize with, and identify with the heart of God.
5. What is God's love language? (page 295, paragraph 2)
  - God's love language is obedience.
6. Do you obey God to be saved? Why do you obey God? (page 295, paragraph 2)
  - We obey God because we are saved and we love him.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. What new insight do you have regarding God's Kingdom being in your midst?
2. What is something you are going through right now, or have in the past, that you would describe as a "dry and thirsty land" experience?
3. How is Christ flowing through you to pour out his Living Water into that experience?

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

4. What are some people or situations that you need to begin to give to God rather than obsess over or try to fix?
5. What is it that those people or situations really need?
6. What does it mean for you to disciple others?

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one's to have them share).

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear.

Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people.

Close in prayer.

## Lesson 13: The Promised Land

**NOTE:** Before this session you will need to prepare for the Commissioning Ceremony that is laid out at the end of this lesson. You will spend the first part of your group time discussing the lesson and the second part having the Commissioning Ceremony. Or, you can schedule a meeting on a separate night to do the Ceremony.

### OPEN IN PRAYER

### DONATION FOR CHRIST-LIFE MINISTRIES

If you have decided to receive a donation for Christ-Life Ministries, this would be a good time to do that. If they want to write a check make it payable to Christ-Life Ministries. They can also go online and use a credit card for a one time gift or an automatic monthly donation.

### LESSON THEME

We each create our own mental atmosphere. And regardless of whether we like that atmosphere, we take it with us on our journey wherever we go. We can know we've entered the Promised Land when we are at peace and rest regardless of our circumstances; our attention will be focused on the One living *in* us!

### REVIEW POINTS

- Your reaction to anyone or anything in life says much more about you and the condition of your soul than it says about your circumstances.
- You create your own habitual mental atmosphere. And if you don't like the atmosphere, you can deliberately transform it by changing your focus!
- The Promised Land is not about the circumstances surrounding us. It is about the Living God who abides within us. Christ in us is the Promised Land.
- God is freeing you to be who you truly are: weak, helpless, dependent, and completely filled and fueled by the eternal, indwelling presence of Christ!

### CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. The paradigms of the 10 spies were totally God-less. The paradigm of Joshua and Caleb was totally God-centered. (page 302, paragraph 2)
2. What enabled Stephen to respond the way he did when he was being stoned to death? (page 305, paragraph 2)
  - Was he abiding in the same sanctuary, the same eye of the hurricane that Christ had remained in? Had Stephen found the secret of being content in any and all situations?
3. What happens if you allow negative circumstances you encounter to determine your view of God? (page 307, paragraph 3)
  - If we allow negative circumstances to determine our view of God, we will push God away.
4. According to Isaiah 26:3, what is yours as long as you trust in God? (page 307, paragraph 4)
  - perfect peace
5. What does it mean to think along with God in all things? (page 313, paragraph 1)
  - That's right—you can think along with him. That's how close you are to each other! This is a total, eternal union of spirits, hearts, and minds. Now you sense, hold, absorb, and love God as he counsels, explains, illuminates, and directs you. He is

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

your “inside information.” He teaches you at all times and guides you into all truth. You and the Living God have become one. He reveals himself to you personally, intimately, and eternally.

6. How long does *The Ultimate Journey* last? (page 316, paragraph 3 & 4)
  - *The Ultimate Journey* is not a cut-and-dried routine such as participating in a seminar, class, program, or support-group cycle. It is a life-long journey; an abiding, ongoing lifestyle and experience with the Holy Spirit and your brothers and sisters in Christ. “How long do you plan on being the Lord’s disciple?” Christ-Life is Royal Priesthood Life, Disciple-Life, and New Covenant Life with God.

### **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

1. How has your thinking about yourself, your relationships, and your circumstances changed since beginning Phase 1 of *The Ultimate Journey*?

### **NAVIGATING YOUR COURSE**

Go over these instructions with your group before closing this meeting.

Continue writing letters back and forth to yourself. This is ongoing gardening. This is soul hygiene. Just as you brush your teeth and shower regularly, you need to take care of your soul and keep it clean.

### **Small Groups Meet**

Personal Reflection Questions: (pick select one’s to have them share)

Group Affirmations: Have a small group leader or other member pray aloud that God would open the hearts and minds of all participants to receive the affirmations they are about to hear. Read the group affirmations out loud to one another. Do this in smaller groups of 3 people. Close in prayer.

## COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

### THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE CEREMONY:

Acquire a room in which to have the ceremony.

For each participant print off a copy of the following from the Christ-Life website

[www.christlifesolution.org](http://www.christlifesolution.org). Or, a hard copy can be found at the end of the Part 2: Leader's Instructions section of this Leader's Guide.

- a) The ABC's of A Disciple
  - b) Commissioning Prayer
  - c) Commissioning Certificate (personalize name for each one)
  - d) Lyrics to "Go Light Your World" (optional)
3. Obtain the song "Go Light Your World" sung by either Chris Rice or Kathy Triccoli.
  4. Obtain an audio player to play the song.
  5. Obtain a candle or tea light for each person and a lighter or matches.
  6. Obtain paper products, utensils, food and whatever is needed for the refreshment time afterward.
  7. Put chairs in a circle and place a copy of "The ABC's of a Disciple" and "Commissioning Prayer" on each chair.

### CEREMONY:

#### OPEN IN PRAYER.

#### SHARE THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY:

We are gathered to celebrate the tremendous change and growth that has taken place in the life of each of you these past months and to commission each one of you to fulfill God's calling to be His disciple.

#### LEADER READS MATTHEW 28:18–20

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**USING THE "ABC'S OF A DISCIPLE" HANDOUT, BEGINNING WITH THE LEADER, GO AROUND THE CIRCLE CLOCKWISE AND HAVE EACH PERSON READ ONE LINE UNTIL COMPLETED.**

#### SUMMARIZE THE THREE PHASES OF CHRIST-LIFE

- a) For many months you have been faithfully attending God's Gardener Academy on being a disciple.
- b) Phase 1 enabled you to deal with much of your past. Many soul wounds were healed and trapped emotions released. You learned how to garden yourself and others.
- c) Phase 2 revealed God's Eternal Covenant and the absolute need, on the part of every one of us, to experience Christ's Rescue Mission. You signed the Title Deed of Your Life over to Him, so that now He is your new and eternal life.
- d) Phase 3 equipped you to live out the reality of Christ-In-You. You are one with Him and He is one with you. You have learned what it means to renew your mind and to put on the new self.

Read: *Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

## **Unpacking Self-Deception: The Ultimate Journey**

Read: *Ephesians 4:22-24*, "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desire; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."

### **6. EACH PERSON READS THEIR CHRIST-IN-ME PARADIGM.**

#### **7. COMMISSIONING CHARGE**

- a) You are being commissioned to never again be a passive spectator; but from now on, to serve as an active warrior in God's army.
- b) You are being commissioned to no longer just go to church, but to BE the church.
- c) You are being commissioned to accept your place in the arena of testimony to follow the "Watch Me, Now You" pattern of discipleship.
- d) You are being commissioned to allow Christ who has been revealed to you, and who came to live in you, to now impact the world through you.

### **8. THE ENTIRE GROUP STANDS AND RECITES ALOUD IN UNISON "THE COMMISSIONING PRAYER".**

#### **9. LEADER RECITES THE FOLLOWING:**

*Father God has filled you to overflowing. You embody His joy and confidence and peace. You possess the wonders of His endless provision. The Lord has come for you. Now that you have no other life He receives you with open arms. He is the absolute Lord of your every outcome. He takes you wherever He wants to go. Then, in spirit and in Truth, you experience "this mystery which is CHRIST-IN-YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY." (Colossians 1:27)*

### **10. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES**

#### **11. LEADER READS JOHN 17:20–23, 29.**

Jesus final prayer recorded was his desire that his people would be one. He said, "My prayer is not for them (the 12) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are IN me and I am IN you. May they also be IN us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I IN them and you IN me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

#### **12. CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY WITH THE SONG "GO LIGHT YOUR WORLD".**

Leader lights first candle and then each one lights the next person's. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse when it says, "let's raise our candles" everyone holds up high their candle.

#### **13. LEADER PRAYS SCRIPTURE OVER THE GROUP:**

*"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19)*

*"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)*

14. **CANDLES ARE EXTINGUISHED.**

15. **PROMISED LAND MEAL** – Jewish Challah bread or some other bread with milk and honey. Or a pot luck, appetizers, desserts or whatever type of fellowship celebration/meal you desire.