



Discovery Series



Knowing Jesus as Lord!



Growing in my relationship with God, and learning how the Lordship of Christ makes a difference in my every day world.

Pastor Stan Lubeck

2008

Spiritual Growth Track

Our desire is that our church will be a warm healthy spiritual environment where everyone is actively seeking to grow to spiritual maturity in Christ. We take the command of Jesus very seriously that instructs us to make disciples (students) of Christ to the ends of the earth. The following materials are the tools we use to help people to begin this lifelong process of obediently following our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no homework in this series of four sessions. It is designed to be covered in four separate one hour time segments in a personal one on one setting.

Base Camp #1: 1 on 1 Discovery Series Topics:

- 1) **Knowing Jesus as Lord**
- 2) **Experiencing God's Forgiveness**
- 3) **Experiencing God's Power**
- 4) **Experiencing God's Love**

The Lord Jesus Christ wants to be our closest friend. He is a friend who sticks closer than a brother, and changes us into people who please our God and Father. Congratulations on taking the first step in this life transformational process of obeying Jesus as Lord of all.

Pastor Stan Lubeck

Knowing Jesus As Lord

There is nothing more important in life than having a personal relationship with the God of this universe. God made us to live in relationship with Him. However, our sin has separated us from Him and cut us off from God's best. Jesus came to restore our relationship with God.

Many people are confused about what it means to have a personal relationship with Christ. A person begins this wonderful relationship by confessing Jesus as Lord.

I. Confessing Jesus as Lord

The Bible says, in Romans 10:9-10 "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

Lord means master, boss or ruler in charge of everything. Salvation involves more than just believing in God. After all, Satan himself believes in God, but he refuses to serve Him as Lord.

A communist wrote, "Communism is my sweetheart. I am willing to die for it. I am willing to give every cent, give up my girlfriend, give all that I have to see Communism cover the whole world." Communism was clearly his lord because he was willing to make Communism first in his life.

Have you prayed and asked Jesus to be your personal **Lord** and **Savior**? Have you expressed your desire to live for Him and serve Him?

The Bible uses the word "Savior" 37 times. It uses the word "Lord" 7,750 times. This is important because some say, "I will receive Jesus to be my savior from Hell, but I am not ready to make Him my Lord". Somehow this person thinks that Jesus can be "Savior" without being "Lord", as if Jesus can be "used"



for insurance from Hell. Obviously this is not a Biblical idea. Having received Jesus Christ through prayer, you can know with certainty that you are saved! How do we know that?



Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by **grace** you have been **saved**, through **faith**—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Let's consider the **three words** that we highlighted in bold letters above:

Grace: God's unmerited favor – something that you do not deserve, and cannot work for.

Which response represents the concept of grace?

- Every day I live hoping that I have done enough to get into heaven
- I know that I deserve to get into heaven because I am better than everyone I know.
- My mother has been praying for me, and I will get into heaven because of her prayers.
- I have been a faithful member in the church for years, and I have served in many ways.
- I received God's free gift of salvation by grace when Jesus came into my life.

Saved: Rescued from the coming judgment, and the snare of sin.

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, NIV

- According to this verse when does a person face judgment?
- What do you know about the judgement of God?

Read Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is _____, but the free _____ of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Are we saved from:

- Physical death?
- Spiritual death?
- Eternal separation from God?

Reread Romans 6:23. What does eternal life cost us? Can we earn it?

Faith: Trusting God that what He says is true and choosing to live accordingly.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

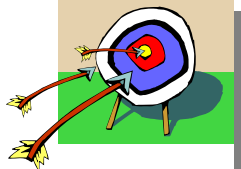
Faith by itself does not save anyone. We are not talking “faith in faith!” Our faith must be placed in Christ. It is Christ who saves us as we submit to His rule and authority. We must believe that He exists and wants a personal relationship.

Have you come to a place in your life where you know for certain that you belong to God and if you were to die today you would go to heaven?

II. Sin: Missing the Mark

Read Romans 3:23

for _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, NIV



Literally, sin means to miss the mark of God's perfection. No one is perfect. Everyone has come short of being perfect and without sin.

A person argued with D.L. Moody, the great evangelist of the nineteenth century, that "I have only one or two little sins. How can God reject me?" Moody replied, "If you are trying to pull yourself up on a roof by holding on to a chain, it only takes one weak link to cause you to fall to the ground. The other links may be in perfect condition. And it only takes one sin to cause us to spend eternity separated from God."

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. NIV



III. Confidence of Salvation in Christ

Suppose you were to stand before God and He asked you, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” what would you say?

Read John 1:12 “Yet to all who received him, to those who _____ in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...”

Read Titus 3:5 “he saved us, not because of _____ things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit”

You can be confident that you have a secure relationship with God because you received Him into your life through prayer and have become a child of God. God's Holy Spirit has entered your life and cleaned you up from the inside out.

If you have never asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, you can do it right now through prayer. You can pray something like this, “Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. Please come into my life, forgive my sins, and make me into the person you want me to be. In Jesus name, amen.”

IV. Promises to Claim (Put your name in the following blanks)

- Christ forgave _____'s sin.
Hebrews 10:12-14 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.
- Christ vastly removed _____'s sin.
Psalms 103:12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions (sins) from us.
- Christ is in _____'s life.
Read Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer _____, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



- Christ died to give _____ new life.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

When you trusted Christ to come into your life, you began a new spiritual life in Christ. All things have become new!

- Christ died to give _____ eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may _____ that you have eternal life.



What represents your confidence of experiencing life in heaven with God?

- A. I try to live right before God every day, and won't know for sure until I die.
- B. I think I will make it, since I have done more good things than bad.
- C. I am better than most people I know.
- D. I have always tried to be good.
- E. I know beyond a doubt because I trust the promises of God.

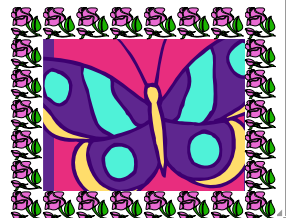
John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. NIV

What is eternal life? It is a relationship with God that begins at the moment that we confess Jesus as Lord and believe it in our heart! The incredible thing is that it is a relationship that continues on into eternity, world without end!

When did eternal life begin?

Personal Testimony:

- When and how did you receive Christ?
- What changes did you experience after receiving Christ?
- Are there family members or friends whom you would like to tell about what God has done in your life?



V. Why Am I Plagued with Doubts about My Salvation?

A. *I may not be trusting God completely.*

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the LORD with _____ your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in _____ your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

B. *I may be refusing to obey God’s revealed will.*

Read John 14:21 “Whoever has my commands and _____ t h e m , he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

C. *I may be harboring willful, continual sin.*

This will prevent me from experiencing assurance of salvation, and can be a sign that I am not a Christian at all

Read 1 John 3:5-6, 9 “But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who _____ to sin has either seen him or known him.”

D. *I may not be a Christian yet.*

John 1:12 “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”

We come to Christ by faith, and His desire is that we continue to walk by faith in Him every day.

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; _____ yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

God desires that your faith will grow from simply childlike trust in Him, into that of a fully devoted follower of Christ. It is a lifelong process of choosing daily to live for God and trust Him by faith.

Next week: Experiencing God’s forgiveness. What do we do when we sin?

