

Discovering CHRIS-TI-AN-I-TY

[A Study through John and Romans – Manual Edition]

Reading Programme

• Week One	Read John 1-5	Who is Jesus?
• Week Two	Read Romans 1-3:20	What is Sin?
• Week Three	Read John 6-8 and Romans 3:21-5:21	What is the Gospel?
• Week Four	Read John 9 and Romans 6-7	What is Holiness?
• Week Five	Read John 10 and Romans 8	What is Eternal Security?
• Week Six	Read John 11-12 and Romans 9-11	What is the Old Testament?
• Week Seven	Read John 13-17	What is My Purpose?
• Week Eight	Read Romans 12-13	What about Daily Living?
• Week Nine	Read Romans 14-16	What is Liberty?
• Week Ten	Read John 18-21	What a Saviour!

By the end of **Discovering Christianity** the student will:

1. Have read through John and Romans and grasped a basic understanding of them
2. Have understood the basic principles of Christianity

- Try to achieve **one lesson a week**.
- Invite someone to do the lessons with you and **set a date** a week from them accepting your invitation.
- During that week they are to **read** the chapters allocated for that week. They can read a chapter a day or read all the chapters each day until you see them [it's up to you and them].
- Encourage them to take a **note** of things they don't understand when they are reading.
- After each lesson set a date for the week ahead and get them to read the chapters allocated for that week and to **look over the lesson** you have just done during the week
- As you go through each lesson get them to **read the verses aloud, pause** after each section and **ask if they have understood** it and go over the parts that they have not.
- After you have gone through the lesson with them and they have understood it, deal with the **questions** and **difficulties** they took note of during the week.

The first three lessons are the very basics of Christianity. Essentially they deal with the questions – 'why should I become a Christian?' and 'how do I become a Christian?' Great emphasis needs to be laid on the person of Christ, the sinfulness of man, and the truth of the gospel.

The remaining lessons deal with themes after someone becomes a Christian such as eternal security, how to deal with sin, how to serve God, how to live daily etc.

Study 1

Who is Jesus?

The goal of this study is to understand who Jesus Christ is. This is essential as no-one can become a Christian without believing that Jesus is the Son of God [Acts 8:37, Romans 10:9].

The person of Christ is the focus of this lesson, but this theme should be continually emphasized through the rest of the studies.

The Word – this section is aimed at showing that Jesus Christ is God and that He became a man. When He became a man He was still 100% God. Touch here on the idea of Christ being the Creator of the Universe. Make it personal - He is their Creator. Try not to go into too much detail about the Trinity here, it is enough to state that God is one God in three persons.

The Son and Messiah – when Jesus Christ described Himself as the Son of God it angered the Pharisees as they knew He was claiming to be equal with God [John 5:18]. Naturally as they read the verses about the Sonship of Christ they will also be reading the gospel message. As the Messiah, He is the Promised One; the King of the Jews.

The Light and The Lamb – As the Lamb He is our sacrifice for sin. This section will begin to point out why men and women deny God - their love of sin.

Equal – not only does this section show that Christ is equal with the Father but it also introduces important themes such as resurrection, judgment, eternal life and salvation.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. After going through any questions they have about the lesson ask them if they had any questions about what they read in John 1-5 over the week that has gone by.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading Romans 1-3:20.

Study 1

Who is Jesus?

The Word

[John 1:1-14]

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God.

All Things were made by Him [1:1-3]. The world was made by Him [1:10]

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us [1:14]

The Son and The Messiah

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God [1:18, 34, 2:16, 3:13-18, 35-36]

What did Jesus claim to be? Messiah [4:25-26, 29]

The people also called Him the Saviour of the World [4:42]

The Light and The Lamb

The life of Jesus Christ is the Light of men [1:4]. The darkness could not comprehend the light [1:5].

Why do men love darkness instead of light? Their deeds are evil /they love sin [3:19-21]

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God and He takes away the sin of the world [1:29, 36]

Equal

[John 5:17-30]

Jesus explains how He is equal with God.

1. Equal in Works [v19] Christ can do whatever God can do
2. Equal in Knowledge [v20] Christ knows all that God knows
3. Equal in Resurrection Power [v21, 25] Christ can raise whoever He wants
4. Equal in Judgment [v22, 27] Christ will be the Judge of Earth
5. Equal in Honour [v23] Christ deserves the same honour as God
6. Equal in Salvation [v24] Christ gives salvation
7. Equal in Self Existence [v26] Christ exists in Himself

Study 2

What is Sin?

The goal of this study is for the person to come to an understanding of what sin is and what makes them a sinner. They need to understand that God is angry at sin and that sin will be punished by an eternity in hell. They need to understand how serious sin is and how serious it is that they are sinners without an excuse.

No Excuse – this section is aimed at showing that God has revealed Himself to man in a number of ways. This revelation leaves man without any excuse for denying the existence of God and sinning against Him. It also shows why men deny the existence of God – they love their sin.

Wrath – this section highlights God's anger at sin and the fact that we deserve death because we are sinful. It also touches on the idea that God has not yet punished us because He is a loving God who longs to save man from their sin. They must also understand that they are storing up wrath everyday which will be given at the judgment.

Humanity – this section shows the digression of mankind into sin and concludes that all men are sinful. We began by neither glorifying God nor being thankful for what He gave us. Then we became empty and corrupt people who worshipped creation instead of the Creator. Consider what it means to worship an idol, self, money, sex, power etc. – anything that is not God - instead of the Creator. This moved on to sinful deeds with our bodies as our hearts became more and more wicked.

The Law – this section briefly explains that the point of the law is to reveal to us how sinful we are. The law cannot save us, it only leaves us condemned. It cannot help us, it only reveals that we are helpless. It may be good to go through each of the 10 commandments here and deal with the principles that Christ taught regarding murder and adultery in Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that they have sinned against a holy God who is angry at sin and that they are worthy of death and judgment. After going through any questions they have about the lesson ask them if they had any questions about what they read in Romans 1-3:20 over the week that has gone by.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading John 6-8 and Romans 3:21-5:21.

Study 2

What is Sin?

No Excuse

There are 3 things in Romans 1-3 that prove God's existence and His anger toward sin:

_____ Creation _____ [1:18-20]

_____ Conscience _____ [2:13-15]

_____ Scripture _____ [2:17-23]

Why do men deny God? _____ We love our sin and fear His wrath _____ [1:18]

Wrath

What is God's wrath against? _____ The sinfulness of man _____ [1:18]

What are we worthy of because of sin? _____ Death _____ [1:32]

Why has man not been punished yet? _____ We are storing up wrath/God wants us to repent _____ [2:1-8]

Humanity

We did not give God the _____ glory _____ He deserves and we were not _____ grateful _____ [1:21]

Our thoughts became _____ empty _____ and our hearts became _____ dark _____ [1:21]

We began to worship _____ creation _____ instead of the Creator [1:23, 25]

We dishonored our _____ bodies _____ as our hearts were filled with _____ evil _____ [1:24, 26]

How many humans are good? _____ none _____ [3:9-18]

The Law

[Romans 3:19-20]

The law of God (the 10 commandments) were given by God to man for a very important reason:

What does the law do? _____ Show us we are guilty _____

What does the law not do? _____ Make us right with God _____

Study 3

What is the Gospel?

The goal of this study is for the person to come to an understanding of what salvation is and how they can receive it. It's important that they have understood that they are sinners in danger of judgment before they can ever fully comprehend the beauty of the gospel. They need to understand that it is only through Jesus Christ that they can be saved, and that salvation is a gift of grace that can only be received by faith.

The gospel has been a minor theme in the previous two lessons, here it is the emphasis.

The Bread, The Light and Freedom – as the Bread of Life Jesus Christ satisfies our hunger for the righteousness we need and as the Light of the World He can remove the darkness of our hearts that we saw in the previous lesson. The person needs to understand that they are slaves to sin who will die in their sin but that Christ can set them free from this. This is important as many people think Christianity is bondage – they don't realize that it is freedom from the bondage they are already in.

The Gospel – these big words are used throughout scripture, in hymns and in many church services. Therefore, it is good to explain these words and for them to understand what each of those words can mean to them if they become Christians. Go into detail with each of these words explaining their condition without Christ and how that changes when they become a Christian.

The Cost – it is important for the person to see that Christ paid a high price for them and yet He offers salvation as a free gift. This is important because they need to understand that salvation is not cheap – it was very expensive – but it is a gift of grace offered to them if they put their trust in Jesus Christ. They need to understand that they cannot earn this gift but can only receive it by confessing their sinful helplessness to God and trusting in the blood of Christ to save them.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that the only way they can be saved is through faith in what Jesus Christ has done for them. After going through any questions they have about the lesson ask them if they had any questions about what they read in John 6-8 and Romans 3:21-5:21 over the week that has gone by.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading John 9 and Romans 6-7.

Study 3

What is the Gospel?

The Bread, The Light and Freedom

[John 6-8]

How does Jesus picture Himself in 6:48 and 8:12?

The Bread of Life and Light of the World

What does He promise in 6:47? He will give everlasting life to those who believe

What does He promise in 8:12? He will give life to those who follow Him

If I sin what am I? a slave of sin [8:34]

What happens when we become a disciple? We are set free from sin [8:31-36]

What will happen if we do not believe? We will die in our sins [8:21, 24]

The Gospel

[Romans 3:21-5:21]

Redemption [to buy back] – Christ bought us back from slavery with His blood [3:24]

Justification [to declare righteous] – God pardons us because Christ took our guilt [3:24, 26, 28]

Propitiation [to appease wrath] – God's wrath against our sin has been dealt with [3:25]

Imputation [to settle debt] – Christ has taken our sin debt making us rich in holiness [4:6, 8, 22-24]

Reconciliation [to make peace] – Christ has made peace between God and sinful man [5:1, 10]

The Cost

What were we like when Christ died for us?

Weak, ungodly, sinners, enemies of God [5:6, 8, 10]

What did it cost Christ to save us? His life and blood [3:25, 5:6-10]

What does it cost us? It is a free gift [3:24, 5:15-18]

What can we not do to be saved? Works, keeping the law [3:28, 4:1-6]

How do we receive this gift? Faith in Christ [3:28, 4:1-8, 5:1]

Study 4

What is Holiness?

The goal of this study is to explain the process of sanctification. One of the struggles of a newborn Christian is the concept of sin in his or her life. After only a few days the new believer can become discouraged and feel defeated as they realize they still sin. This lesson, then, is focused on explaining sin in the life of a believer.

Sanctification – this is another big word that the individual will hear, but perhaps not understand, as he spends time in church. It is good to give them a definition of what it means to be sanctified and holy. It simply means to be like Jesus Christ and less like this sinful world. The 3 steps of sanctification or holiness will help them see that as a believer they don't automatically become sinless, but they grow in Christ and sin less.

Dead and Free 1 – this section deals with our death and freedom from sin. The goal is to show that the person has not been set free to sin, but set free from sin. They need to understand that as a human being the only freedom they have is to choose their master – and they only have two choices – sin or God. We need to know the truth, believe the truth in our own lives and then give ourselves over to God instead of our old master who was full of empty promises of life and pleasure, when in reality he only ever paid out death.

Although it isn't in the lesson content, it is important for you to stress that when a believer does sin, they can confess this to Christ and continue to grow in Him. The next lesson will deal with the Eternal Security of the believer, however, it is good to touch on this principle now.

Dead and Free 2 – this section deals with our death and freedom from the law. The goal is to show that the person does not have to try and rigidly stick to the law of God in a bid to please Him. Instead, their focus must be on walking in the Spirit by drawing nearer to Christ. Being free from the law does not free us to sin, instead it frees us so that we can serve God by the Holy Spirit's power, not our own. There is more of this principle in the next lesson.

The last paragraph is important to show them that it is Christ who changes them by the Holy Spirit. It is as we draw near to Christ that He changes us. This is a beautiful truth that sadly many believers have either never been taught or have forgotten. Ensure that the person you are discipling will not miss it!

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that sanctification is also a work of grace, just like salvation and that it is as they draw closer to Christ that they will become more like Him. After going through any questions they have about the lesson ask them if they had any questions about what they read in John 9 and Romans 6-7 over the week that has gone by.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading John 10 and Romans 8 a number of times.

Study 4

What is Holiness?

Sanctification

The word sanctification means 'to be set apart'. The idea is that we are set apart **from** sin and set apart **for** Christ. There are actually three steps:

- Positional Holiness - set apart from the sinful world to become part of the family of God
- Progressive Holiness - continues to grow in holiness in partnership with the Holy Spirit
- Perfect Holiness - the believer enters heaven and his sin nature is eradicated

Dead and Free 1 [Romans 6]

When someone becomes a Christian what happens to them? They die in Christ [v2-3, 6, 11]

What does this death free them from? Sin [v7, 18, 22]

What does this death set them free to? Serve God [v4, 13, 18, 22]

There is a 3 step process here to defeating sin in our lives:

1. Know [v3, 6, 16]
 - a. That we are dead in Christ [v3]
 - b. That the body of sin is destroyed [v6]
 - c. That we are servants of either sin or obedience [v16]
2. Reckon [v11] this means to accept as fact in your own life, to count it to be true
 - a. That we are dead to sin [v11]
 - b. That we are alive to Christ [v11]
3. Yield [v13, 16, 19] this means to surrender or give yourself
 - a. Your body as an instrument to God unto righteousness [v13]
 - b. Your body as a servant to righteousness and holiness [v16, 19]

Dead and Free 2 [Romans 7]

What else has the believer died to and become free from? The law [v4, 6]

This freedom allows us to serve in the newness of the Spirit [v6]

As we do this we can bring forth fruit unto God [v4]

The key to becoming more like Jesus Christ is to discover Him as gloriously beautiful, to desire Him above all else, to draw nearer to Him daily. As we do this – He changes us into His image.

Study 5

What is Eternal Security?

This important principle follows on from the previous lesson. A new believer often goes through doubts about his or her salvation. What happens if I sin? What happens if I doubt? The goal of this lesson is to explain to them that, regardless of how they feel, they are now children of God, with a home in heaven reserved for them.

The Shepherd's Hands – the important thing to emphasize here is that no one can pluck the sheep from the hand of Jesus Christ or the Father. Once they are in the hands of the Shepherd they are secure forever.

Explain to them the difference between relationship and fellowship with God. Our relationship with God never changes; we are safe in His hands. Our fellowship, however, is conditional upon our obedience to Him.

His Forever – a believer can no longer be condemned because the law of righteousness has been fulfilled in them. The Son and the Spirit dwell in every child of God as we are moulded into the image of Christ. The only person who can charge us is the very One who justified us! The only one who can condemn us is the very One who died and rose again for us to be justified! Therefore we cannot be condemned. Nothing can separate us from His love. This does not mean that we are to continue in sin, knowing that we will go to heaven anyway, instead we are to grow and become more like Christ. This will be the desire of every true child of God.

Suffering – it is important to consider suffering in this theme of eternal security as some believers think that because they are suffering, God does not love them anymore or that He is punishing them for their sin, or worse, that they aren't actually His children after all! Suffering is part of this world because of sin and because the world hates God, sometimes Christians will experience that hatred.

These truths about suffering show them that God has a plan and purpose even in their suffering and that they do not need to doubt His love for them in difficult times. When we suffer we need to draw even closer to Christ, yet some of the errors mentioned above actually draw us away from the only source of help and strength we have in those times. Make sure that the person you are discipling knows that suffering is not a sign of displeasure from God.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that, if they are saved, no matter what happens in their life, whether sin or suffering, they are secure in the hand of Christ. After going through any questions they have about the lesson ask them if they had any questions about what they read in John 10 and Romans 8 over the week that has gone by.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading John 11-12 and Romans 9-11.

Study 5

What is Eternal Security?

The Shepherd's Hands

In John 10 Jesus Christ is the Door by which we enter into eternal life and our Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.

Who are the sheep of Jesus? Those who are saved [v9]

What does Jesus give His sheep? Eternal life [v28]

What can no man do to His sheep? Pluck them out of His hand [v28]

What else can no man do? Pluck them out of His Father's hand [v29]

His Forever

[Romans 8]

What will Christians experience no more of? Condemnation [v1]

What has been fulfilled in us? The righteousness of the law [v4]

Who dwells in us? Jesus and the Holy Spirit [v9-11]

What are Christians? Children of God [v14-17]

What is the Holy Spirit doing for us right now? Praying [v27]

What is God conforming us into? The image of Jesus [v29]

Who is the only person that can charge us? God who justified us [v33]

Who is the only person that can condemn us? Christ who died and rose for us [v34]

What is Christ doing for us right now? Praying [v34]

What can separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing [v35-39]

Suffering

Christians are not promised an easy life, but there are some truths to consider here in Romans 8 regarding suffering:

As a child of God what two things do we share with Christ? Suffering and glory [v17]

What is greater than any suffering we may go through? The glory to come [v18]

What is creation experiencing right now? Pain and groaning [v22]

How are we helped in our suffering? The Spirit prays for us when we don't know how [v26]

What works for good to the child of God? All things [v28]

What may happen to some Christians? Persecution [v36]

What are we in all things we face? More than conquerors [v37]

Study 6

What is the Old Testament?

This study is aimed at explaining to the individual what the Old Testament is and what God has done with the nation of Israel, who were once His people. The Old Testament is the religious history of the nation of Israel as God unfolds His redemption plan to them and for them.

Be careful, during this study, not to get stuck in themes that will only lead the new convert or interested unbeliever into confusion. Themes such as replacement theology and election are not the emphasis of study 6, we are simply attempting to help them understand what was taking place in the Old Testament and what God is doing with the Jewish people.

The Jews and Jesus – Jesus Christ is the Messiah; the promised King of Israel from the throne of David. Old Testament prophecy is full of promises of His coming. The Jews, however, rejected Him as the Messiah, as the Old Testament prophesied, and sought to kill Him.

The Nation of Israel – The Old Testament is essentially the unfolding of the seven things given here:

- The Adoption – God chose the nation of Israel as His child to be the nation He would bless
- The Glory – God chose to dwell amongst the people in the tabernacle and the temple
- The Covenants – God gave Israel covenants of blessing that cannot be broken
- The Law – God revealed Himself to man through the Old Testament which came through Israel
- The Services – God gave Israel the privilege to be the nation to worship and serve Him
- The Promises – God gave them great promises of blessing and Himself
- The Fathers – The men at the beginning of the Old Testament were of Israel
- The Christ – Jesus Christ became a man through the nation of Israel

Although God gave all these things to the nation of Israel, not everyone in the nation believed. Perhaps take them back to John 8:37-45 to evidence this. “Not all are Israel who are of Israel” simply means that it wasn't enough to be physically Jewish in the Old Testament, you needed to have a relationship with God, just like today.

The Stumbling of Israel – this section explains that the nation of Israel rejected Christ and seek to be made righteous through the law. God has always had a faithful group of spiritual Jewish people in every age and He still does today – those who become Christians. One day Christ will return and the remaining Jewish people on earth will realize He is the Messiah and they will be saved. For now, however, God is dealing, largely, with the Gentiles. This is all part of God's wise and sovereign plan [Romans 11:33-36].

After finishing the lesson the person should have a basic grasp of the Old Testament. After going through any questions they have about the lesson ask them if they had any questions about what they read in John 11-12 and Romans 9-11 over the week that has gone by.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading John 13-17.

Study 6

What is the Old Testament?

The Jews and Jesus

[John 11-12]

What did the Jews seek to do to Jesus? Kill Him [11:8, 46-47, 53]

What did the Jews call Jesus? King of Israel [12:12-15]

What did Jesus do to fulfill prophecy here? Ride on a donkey and foal [12:14-15]

How did they respond to His claims? Unbelief [12:37]

The Nation of Israel

[Romans 9:1-5]

What did God give Israel?

Adoption - _____

Glory - _____

Covenants - _____

Law - _____

Services - _____

Promises - _____

Fathers - _____

Christ - _____

Were all Jews born again in the Old Testament? No, still needed faith [9:6-8]

The Stumbling of Israel

[Romans 9-11]

How did the Jews seek righteousness? Through the Law [9:30-33]

What did the Jews stumble over? The Claims of Jesus as Messiah [9:30-33]

What did the Jews have? Zeal without knowledge [10:1-2]

What were they ignorant of? True righteousness [10:3-4]

What did God always have in the Old Testament? A faithful remnant of Jews [11:3-4]

What does God have now in this age? A faithful remnant of Jewish Christians [11:5]

Why has God allowed Israel as a nation to be blind? To save the Gentiles by faith [11:25]

What will God do in the future? Save and cleanse Israel [11:26]

Study 7

What is My Purpose?

Of course we can only scratch the surface of the purpose of a Christian as we go through John 13-17, but here we will note what Jesus Christ says about our ministry here on earth while He is gone. This study will also focus on the source of our strength to serve Christ; by abiding in Him, while also focusing on the person of the Holy Spirit and His ministry here on earth.

Servant King – here we touch on the idea of serving one another. Jesus Christ, Creator of the universe, not only humbled Himself to the position of a human; He also became a servant by washing the feet of His disciples. He calls us to follow this example of true greatness. Of course, this does not mean we are to literally wash each other's feet – rather we are to take on humble servanthood.

Love and Hate – it is a beautiful truth that God the Father loves us the same way He loves the Son. This is the same depth of love we are to have for one another. This is what shows the world around us that we are followers of Christ. True love for Christ will lead to obedience to Him. The world hated Christ and if we are truly following Him they will hate us too. We must be prepared to accept that and count it joy that we are worthy to share in His suffering.

The Holy Spirit – the Spirit/Comforter is the third person of the Godhead/Trinity. He dwells within every believer, leading them and equipping them. Notice that He doesn't point us to Himself, rather, His focus is on glorifying Jesus Christ and convicting the world of their sin and need of righteousness before the judgment.

A Branch – the believer cannot obey any of the Christian commands in his or her own strength, but must depend on the daily strength of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We are to be fruitful here on earth – loving and serving one another while declaring Christ. We are not yet taken to heaven because we have the privilege and responsibility of making Christ known to our generation of the world.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that the duty of a Christian is to love the brethren, obey Christ and declare the gospel to the world. They must also understand that this can only be done as we maintain a daily relationship with Christ as it is impossible to obey Christ in our own strength – He knows this – which is why He promises to indwell us.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading Romans 12-13.

Study 7

What is My Purpose?

The Servant King

[John 13]

- What did Jesus know? _____ That He had everything and was of God _____ [v3]
What did Jesus do? _____ Washed the disciples' feet _____ [v4-5]
Why did He do this? _____ To give us an example of servanthood _____ [v13-17]

Love and Hate

- How does God love us? _____ As He loves the Son _____ [17:23]
How does Jesus love us? _____ As the Father loves Him _____ [15:9]
How are we to love each other? _____ The same measure _____ [13:34, 15:12]
Why should we love each other this way? _____ Marks us as disciples _____ [13:35]
What will this love look like? _____ Sacrificial _____ [15:13]
What does true love of Christ lead to? _____ Obedience _____ [14:15, 21-24]
How did the world treat Christ? _____ Hatred _____ [15:18-25]
How will they treat us? _____ The Same _____ [15:18-25, 16:2, 33, 17:14]

The Holy Spirit

- What will the Comforter do?
_____ Dwell in us _____ [14:16-17]
_____ Teach, Remind and Guide _____ [14:26, 16:13]
_____ Testify of and Glorify Christ _____ [15:26, 16:13-14]
_____ Reprove the World _____ [16:7-11]

A Branch

- Where does our strength to serve come from? _____ Christ, the Vine _____ [15:1-6]
Who dwells in us? _____ Father, Son and Spirit _____ [14:16-17, 23]
What are we to be doing? _____ Bearing Fruit _____ [15:1-8, 16]
What do we do with the Spirit? _____ Testify of Jesus _____ [15:26-27]
Why do we stay here on earth? _____ To go into the world with the gospel _____ [17:15-18]

Study 8

What about Daily Living?

Among other things this study will deal with themes such as Bible reading, praying, church life and living in society. This study will only scratch the surface of these spiritual disciplines. As with every study so far, it is for you to discern how much detail you feel the person needs regarding these themes.

Scripture – it is the word of God that transforms our minds from thinking like the world. The world is constantly pressing its ideals and values upon us through the media - we need to read scripture in order to know God's will and His values and ideals. Scripture instructs us how to live and gives us hope and comfort.

We need to read the word of God daily. This is what the individual should be doing as they go through this study of John and Romans – that is why it is so important to have the reading programme and for them to follow it. After the study is finished, they should continue to read the word of God, and you could read it with them and share thoughts together or answer questions they have.

Church – the local church is the body of Christ. Every member is like a different body part and has a different gift for the benefit of the church – the church is not the building but the people. The church is to be a community where we learn and serve God together, a place full of love, prayer and caring for one another. Encourage the individual to actively attend church meetings.

Society – the Christian ought to live a life of honesty and love outside of the church also. We are to bless those who wrong us, even to the point of feeding our enemies in an attempt to live at peace with them. We are to be honest citizens, obeying the laws of the land and paying tax, knowing that God has placed the government in power.

Expectancy – we are to live our lives in daily expectancy of the return of Christ. The day of His return draws nearer always and we are to live lives of holiness in light of this truth.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that they are called to live with holiness and honesty in every avenue of life – from church, home, society, school or the workplace.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading Romans 14-16.

Study 8

What about Daily Living?

Scripture

[Romans 12:1-2]

- What are we to do with our bodies? Present them to God as living sacrifice [v1]
What are we not to do? Conform to this world [v2]
How are we transformed? As we renew our minds [v2]
What does Paul call scripture? Oracles (words) [3:2]
What does scripture do? Instructs us, gives us hope [15:4]
As we read scripture, what will we know? The perfect will of God [12:2]

Church

[Romans 12:4-13]

- How does Paul describe the church? A body of many body parts [v4-5]
What does each Christian have? A gift [v6-8]
Why do we have these? To help the church
How are we to treat each other? With sacrificial love [v9-10]
What are we to continue in? Constant prayer [v12]
What two things does v13 ask of us? Giving and hospitality

Society

[Romans 12-13]

- How are we to treat those who wrong us? Bless them, don't get own back [12:14, 17]
What are we to give to those who wrong us? Food and drink [12:20]
What are we to strive for? To live at peace with all men [12:18]
Who places people in power? God [13:1]
How should we view the government? The ordinance and minister of God [13:2-4]
How should we behave toward the government? Obey [13:5]
What about tax? We should pay what is due [13:6-7]
How are we to treat our neighbours? As we love ourselves [13:8-10]

Expectancy

[Romans 13:11-14]

- What is near? Our full salvation from this earth [v11]
What is at hand? The day of Christ's appearing [v12]
What should we do? Live honest and holy lives [v12-14]

Study 9

What is Liberty?

This study touches on the theme of our liberty in Jesus Christ. As Christians we have been set free from the law of the Old Testament and we are free from sin. However, we are not supposed to use our liberty to serve ourselves – instead we are to serve God and others. Legalism is when a person or group demands strict adherence to certain rules that are not actually laid down for us in scripture. License is when a person or group abandons many scriptural principles of holiness and obedience to God and live in sin, declaring that they are free in Christ. Liberty, however, is different; liberty means we have been set free from both legalism and license and we can now live by the Spirit of God.

You may want to read 1 Corinthians 8 and Galatians 5 before you take the individual through this lesson as similar principles are taught in these passages.

The Weak and the Strong – sadly, because this theme is so often ignored in Christianity, it has become quite a complicated issue. However, if we follow the principles laid down in Romans, things should become clear. There are believers who think that certain things are sinful – even though they are not. Such people judge those who don't think it is sinful while the person who doesn't think it is sinful doesn't consider that his brother or sister in Christ stumbles through them. Both of these attitudes are wrong. The weak believer is not to judge the strong believer's liberty, remembering that Christ is the Judge. Meanwhile, the strong believer is encouraged to not exercise his liberty in such a way that will cause his brother or sister to stumble. We are commanded to please each other more than ourselves.

Paul's Liberty – Paul and the people he mentions in this passage used their liberty for the furtherance of the gospel and the encouragement of the brethren. They didn't use their liberty to serve themselves, but rather to serve God and others.

False Teaching – false teaching is different from the strong believer walking in liberty. False teaching, whether it is a demand in legalism or a push toward license is dangerous and anyone who teaches such must be marked and avoided. Such people don't always appear as false teachers, with their bright smiles and soft words, however, when we study their message and see their manner of living, we may note that they do not teach the truth.

After finishing the lesson the person should understand that they have been set free and that they can now use their freedom to serve God and others – not self – the service of self is slavery to sin. They should understand that as well as exercising their liberty they must be careful not to judge another believer's freedom, nor to cause another brother or sister to stumble through their own.

Encourage them to read over the lesson again in the week to come while also reading John 18-21.

Study 9

What is Liberty?

The Weak and the Strong

[Romans 14:1-15:7]

- What are the two types of believer here? Strong and Weak [14:1-2, 15:1]
- What were the two thoughts about eating meat? It's okay/It's not okay [14:2]
- What were the two thoughts about special days? Should have one/Don't need one [14:5]
- What was the strong believer to do? Receive without arguing and endure them [14:1, 15:1]
- What was every man to do? Be fully persuaded themselves [14:5]
- What is the weak believer not to do? Judge his brothers liberty [14:3-4, 10-13]
- What was Paul convinced of? There is nothing unclean [14:14]
- What did he ask the strong to do? Nothing that would make his brother stumble [14:13, 15, 21]
- What are we all to do? Follow peace, edify each other, please his neighbour [14:19, 15:2-3]
- Who is our Judge? Jesus Christ [14:4-12]
- What will each of us do one day? Give an account to God of our own lives [14:12]

Paul's Liberty

[Romans 15-16]

- What did Paul do with his freedom? Spread the gospel, helped the saints [15:19-20, 25]
- What did the Greeks do with their freedom? Gave to the saints in need [15:26-27]
- What did he urge the Romans to do with their freedom? Strive in prayer for him [15:30]
- What did Paul's friends do with their freedom?
- Servant of the church [16:1-2]
- Helped and laid down their lives [16:3-4]
- Bestowed much labour on Paul and others [16:6]
- Went to prison for the faith [16:7]
- Laboured hard for the Lord [16:9, 12, 21]

False Teaching

[Romans 16:17-18]

- What two things are we to do with those who don't teach the truth? Mark and Avoid [16:17]
- What/Who do these people serve? Themselves/their bellies [16:18]
- How do they deceive people? Good words and fair speeches [16:18]

Study 10

What a Saviour!

This final study of Discovering Christianity serves as a review of the major themes touched on throughout the studies. This allows you to go over truths that you think the individual may not have grasped, or simply to reaffirm the important themes of Christianity.

Christ's Trial – the emphasis here is that Christ was innocent of all charges laid against Him. Remind the person you are taking through this study that this is God the Son being treated in such a way (as taught in study 1).

Christ's Death – the death of Christ was no accident or chance, this was planned from before the ages of time. This is highlighted by the fact that Christ continues to fulfill prophecy even as He is dying. The last words of Christ “it is finished” – means “done” or “paid for” or “complete”. This means He paid the full price for sin and completed the work of taking the wrath of sinners (as taught in study 2 and 3).

Christ's Resurrection – Christ Jesus rose again. This truth is fundamental to the faith. If we do not believe this, we are not saved and if Christ did not rise, our faith is empty (Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 15:14). Christ's resurrection was proof that God was satisfied with the payment for sin and also enables Christ to empower us, intercede for us and indwell us (as taught in study 4-7).

Christ's Commission – a person who loves Christ will focus on going into the world with the gospel and building up his brothers and sisters in Christ (as taught in study 8-9). He will be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ, following his Master wherever He leads.

After finishing the lesson and the series the individual should have a basic understanding of the core principles of Christianity. They have not been “discipled” but have simply begun the discipleship process and you will need to continue encouraging them, praying for them and investing into them.

Perhaps the person has come to faith in Jesus Christ as you have gone through this study; begin to nurture them, share devotions with them and make sure they are coming to church.

Perhaps the person has gone through the whole study and has not yet come to faith in Christ but is still interested; keep praying for them, sharing the gospel with them and inviting them to church.

Study 10

What a Saviour!

Christ's Arrest and Trial

[John 18:1-19:16]

What did the Jewish people accuse Christ of? Claiming to be the Son of God [18:28-40, 19:7]

What did Pilate find wrong with Him? Nothing [18:38, 19:4, 6]

What did Pilate do to Him anyway? Had Him Tortured [19:1-3]

Believing Christ to be innocent, what did Pilate do? Ordered Him to be Crucified [19:12-16]

Christ's Death

[John 19:17-42]

What kept being fulfilled here? Old Testament Scripture [19:24, 28, 36-37]

What were the last words of Christ on the cross? "It is Finished" [19:30]

Christ's Resurrection and Commission

[John 20-21]

After the resurrection what did Christ tell His disciples? I send you [20:21]

Where did the Father send Christ? To Earth

Where does Christ send us? To all the World

What did the Father send Christ to do? To save sinners

What does Christ send us to do? To share the message of salvation

Who did He give them? The Holy Spirit [20:22]

Why? To empower us

What did Christ tell Thomas once he believed? Blessed are believers without seeing [20:29]

Why did John, who wrote the gospel, write these things? That readers might have life [20:31]

How was Peter to demonstrate his love for Christ? Feeding the Sheep [21:15-17]

What did Christ promise Peter? A painful death [21:18-19]

After explaining this what did Christ command from Peter? Follow Me [21:19]