

DISCIPLESHIP. LESSON 38

1	PRAYER
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Group leader. Pray for God’s guidance through his Spirit, for awareness of his presence and for listening to his voice. Dedicate this lesson about disciple making to the Lord.

2	SHARING (20 minutes) <i>[QUIET TIMES]</i> JOSHUA 5:13 – 8:35
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Take turns and share (or read) from your notes in short what you have learned from one of your quiet times out of the assigned Bible passages (Joshua 5:13 – 8:35). Listen to the person sharing, take him serious and accept him. Do not discuss what he shares.

3	MEMORISATION (20 minutes) <i>[DISCIPLESHIP]</i> (1) ROMANS 12:1-2
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The fourth series (D) of memory verses is about “Discipleship”. The five memory verses are:

- (1) Lordship. Romans 12:1-2.
- (2) Denial. Luke 9:23.
- (3) Service. Mark 10:45.
- (4) Giving. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7.
- (5) Making disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20).

A. MEDITATION

Read Romans 12:1-2. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Read Romans 6:13,19. “Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life ; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ... Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.”

(1)

Write the following memorisation verse on a white or blackboard as follows:

Lordship Romans 12:1-2.
Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

Write the Bible reference on the back of your card.

1. The basis for making sacrifices.

The passage begins with the words, “Therefore...in view of God’s mercy”. It refers to everything written before in Romans chapter 1 to 11. Christians can offer their bodies as living sacrifices to God, because God has first offered his One and Only Son for the benefit of Christians! God never asks Christians to make a commitment unless he has first enabled Christians to make such a commitment! God first sacrificed Christ for our benefit and thereafter he asks us to sacrifice ourselves for his cause.

2. Dedication our bodies.

(1) Our body.

Here our “body” is not only our physical body, but our whole being: our “spirit” with its personality and our “body” with all its members that give expression to the functions of our spirit. The members of our body are only the instruments by which *we* carry out God’s purposes. In this life, our body and our spirit (soul) form a unity and cannot be

separated. Our “soul” is the breath of life or animating principle in us. It is the immaterial and invisible element of our human nature, especially in relationship to our body and our life on earth. Our “spirit” is this same immaterial and invisible element of our human nature, especially in relationship to God.

(2) A living sacrifice.

During the Old Testament period, the sacrifices brought by man were “animals that were deliberately killed”. The animal sacrifices served as “a type” or “shadow” of the New Testament “reality”, namely, the sacrifice of atonement of Jesus Christ. This ended all animal sacrifices (Hebrews 9:11-14; Hebrews 10:1-4). During the New Testament period “the sacrifice” which Christians ought to bring is “to deliberately live for Christ with their whole body and spirit” (Colossians 1:16)!

During the Old Testament period sacrifices were brought periodically (during the temple service or temple festivals). But during the New Testament period Christians bring their living sacrifice *once and for all time*¹ and offer their members *no longer*² as instruments of unrighteousness, but make themselves available *once and for all time*³ as an instrument of righteousness (Romans 6:13,19). God wants Christians to live for him continuously.

However, sacrificing our living life to God is only possible when we possess the new life in Christ. Our old nature does not want to die. Our old nature rather wants to enjoy sin and satisfy its selfish desires. It wants to “eat, drink and be merry”, because tomorrow we die (1 Corinthians 15:32). It wants to squeeze every inch of happiness out of life. Our old nature wants to live for itself, sometimes recklessly as an addict, a maniac or a terrorist.

When Jesus Christ comes to live in our hearts and lives, our old nature is nailed to the cross and should remain nailed to the cross. The Spirit of Jesus Christ indwells us and creates in us a new nature, which we experience as being “born-again”. Our new nature has the attitude of Jesus Christ and desires to live an unselfish life in service of Jesus Christ and other people.

(3) A holy sacrifice.

The word “holy” means: “to separate from” what is wrong (evil) and “to dedicate to” what is good (God). The work of the Holy Spirit in us causes us to hate sin in all its forms and also to commit ourselves to live a blameless life before God’s eyes. “Holiness” is expressed in all the characteristics of God himself. For example, God’s love is holy - it is never immoral, impure or prejudiced. Likewise, God’s righteousness is holy - it is absolutely fair, impartial and devoid of any form of injustice. Likewise God’s truth, mercy, faithfulness and all other characteristics are completely “holy”. God desires that we Christians live “holy”. Through the Holy Spirit Christians are able to live righteous and “holy”.

(4) A sacrifice pleasing to God.

The word “well-pleasing” means that God welcomes such sacrifices. They make him joyful. Wherever Christians go, they should ask themselves, “Does this place and these people I associate with, please God?” “What would Jesus Christ do in this situation?” Christians discover this by often reading and studying the Bible and then submitting themselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

(5) A spiritual act of worship or service.

The word “spiritual” (Greek: *logiké*) means: what is right, good and proper in God’s eyes. Thus, when Christians offer their bodies and spirits as a living, holy and God-pleasing sacrifice, then Christians are genuinely “spiritual” in God’s eyes! That is the real *spiritual* life of Christians. A Christian is not spiritual, when he is emotional or ecstatic, but when he lives his life for Christ. He is not only spiritual during the Sunday services, but when he lives every day of the week for Christ.

3. Dedicating our minds.

(1) Say “no” to outward conformity to this world.

Do not allow yourself to be moulded, shaped or fashioned after the pattern of this evil age. Genuine Christians avoid the evil influence of atheistic philosophies, false religions, sexual immorality, bad friends, degenerating discussions, dirty magazines, questionable activities, tempting clothes, extremist politics, experimenting with drugs, extreme sports, etc. Genuine Christians resist every evil influence. Wise Christians do not conform to the lifestyle and behaviour of people who determine the modern fashion. They do not go crazy at the music, songs and dance of the idols in the world. They do not give in to the social pressure of their peers. They do not allow the evil attractions of the world, the spirit of the age or the peer pressure of their contemporaries to shape them. They quit speaking radical or offensive language, reading filthy books and magazines, listening to wrong kind of music and looking at immoral television or internet. They stop wearing tempting clothes or hiding behind their make-up. They give no offence by smoking in public places, throwing rubbish on the street or letting the dog out on the playfields of children. Christians stop being involved in questionable activities and stop associating on intimate terms with worldly companions.

¹ Greek: *παραστήσαι* (infinitive, aorist tense): to put/make available once for all

² Greek: *παριστάνετε* (imperative, present tense): to put/make available continuously

³ Greek: *παραστήσατε* (imperative, aorist tense) to put/make available once for all

(2) Say “yes” to inward transformation to God’s will.

Dedicate yourself again and again to the renewal of your mind. While *conformity* begins by following the *outward* fashions and behaviour of people, *transformation (change)* begins by bringing your *inward* thoughts, beliefs, convictions, motives and attitudes to conform to the will of God as revealed in the Bible. This happens when we submit ourselves to co-operating with God’s Word and God’s Spirit. The lifestyle that pleases God is when your inward transformation begins to express itself in your outward behaviour.

4. Conditions for testing (approving) God’s will.

There are five key conditions for testing and approving what God’s will is.

- John 15:5. Exert yourself to remain in a personal and intimate relationship with God.
- Luke 6:46-49. Obey God’s revealed sovereign will in the Bible.
- Romans 8:28. Surrender to God’s unrevealed sovereign will as expressed in your (difficult) circumstances.
- Romans 12:2. Be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Thus, stop questionable activities and begin good things.
- Romans 12:1. To make self-sacrificial decisions and choices. Instead of making the most of our rights, we seek the interests of others. Instead of making a successful career at the expense of your family, invest in the relationships in your family. Instead of returning favours to the religious, the powerful and the well-connected people who give favours to you, invite the poor, the handicapped and the oppressed into your life (Luke 14:12-14).

B. MEMORISATION AND REVIEW

1. Write. Write the Bible verse on a blank card or on one page of your small notebook.
2. Memorise. Memorise the Bible verse in the right way. (1) Lordship. Romans 12:1-2.
3. Review. Divide into twos and check one another’s last memorised Bible verse.

4	BIBLE STUDY (70minutes) <i>[LIVING IN THE WORLD]</i> (1) MONEY IN THE WORLD: 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-19
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In Dota manual 4 are 6 Bible studies about “living in the world”.

- (1) Money in the world.
- (2) Temptations in the world.
- (3) Spiritual warfare in the world.
- (4) Suffering in the world.
- (5) The fruit of the Spirit in the world.
- (6) Passing on the leadership of the church in the world.

Make use of the five steps method of Bible study and study 1 Timothy 6:3-19 together.

STEP 1. READ.	GOD’S WORD
Read. LET US READ 1 Timothy 6:3-19 together. Let us take turns to read one verse each until we have completed the reading.	

STEP 2. DISCOVER.	OBSERVATIONS
Consider. WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU? Or WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE TOUCHES YOUR MIND OR HEART? Record. Discover one or two truths that you understand. Think about them and write your thoughts in your notebook. Share. (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, take turns to share). Let us take turns to share with one another what each of us has discovered. (The following are examples of people sharing what they have discovered. Remember: In every small group, the group members will share different things, not necessarily these things)	

6:6

Discovery 1. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

It is sad that some people who call themselves “Christian” think that earning money and making a profit is most important in life. But the Bible teaches that “godliness” (godly faith, godly actions, godly worship and godly service) together with being content is a much greater gain. Therefore it is important how to combine genuine godliness with contentment with what you possess.

6:18-19

Discovery 2. Invest in the kingdom of God.

Whether I am rich or not, invest money in the kingdom of God. I want to learn how to make the best financial investments in the kingdom of God, so that I may truly lay up a treasure in heaven, where money cannot devalue or be stolen.

STEP 3. QUESTION.

EXPLANATIONS

Consider. WHICH QUESTION ABOUT ANYTHING IN THIS PASSAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK TO THIS GROUP?

Let us try to understand all the truths in 1 Timothy 6:3-19 and ask questions about the things we still do not understand.

Record. Formulate your question as clearly as possible. Then write your question in your notebook.

Share. (After the group members have had about two minutes to think and write, let each person first share his question.)

Discuss. (Then, choose a few of these questions and try to answer them by discussing them together in your group.)

(The following are examples of questions the students might ask and some notes about the discussion of the questions.)

6:5

Question 1. How do false teachers consider godliness as a means of financial gain?

Notes. During the first century, there were false teachers who indulged in the strange mixture of truth of the Bible with their own fancy imagination. Their hair-splitting disputes were concerned with speculations about the Jewish law and fictitious Jewish genealogical stories. They would take a name from any of the lists of pedigrees in the book of Genesis or the book of Chronicles and expand it into a nice story. This was part of the regular Jewish synagogue teaching and was later recorded in the Jewish Scriptures, called Haggadah and Talmud. The teachers made a big financial business out of their false teachings. They first made a show of their religion so that many people became aware of them. Then they conducted religious courses and charged exorbitant fees for their instructions. In this way, they misused their so-called *godliness* as a means to get rich. These false religious groups sold their religion to people.

In our day, such false teachers are still very active. Everywhere they give religious courses and expect people to pay high fees in return. They sell their religious courses, books and DVD's for much money. Other false religious groups in the world bribe people with gifts to join their religion. For example, they say to people, "If you join our religion, we will give you a television or a job". Beware of all false religious groups! Jesus Christ warns that all liars will be thrown in the fiery lake of burning sulphur (Revelation 21:8)!

6:10

Question 2. Why is the love of money called a root of all kinds of evil?

Notes. Money itself is not the root of evil, but people's *love for money* is one of the roots of all kinds of evil! *Bitterness* (not wanting to forgive) is another root of all kinds of evil (Hebrews 12:15).

In the Bible we read how the love of money has caused much evil. In Mark 10:21-22, a rich young man turned away from following Jesus Christ, because he loved his riches more than he loved Jesus. In Luke 16:19-31, a rich man neglected to be kind to the poor man, Lazarus, who lay begging at his gate. He died and went straight to hell where he suffered agony because he was selfish and not merciful. In Luke 22:1-6, Judas agreed to betray Jesus for money. He later committed suicide. In Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira told lies about land they had sold and fell down dead. In James 5:1-6, some rich people hoarded wealth for themselves, lived a luxurious and self-indulgent life-style, while they neglected to pay the wages of their employees. They even murdered innocent people in order to get rich. James warns that in the end of their lives, these people will be slaughtered in hell.

The love of money is causing some people to marry somebody for money and as a consequence they fall into many marriage problems. The love of money is causing some businessmen to cheat, to give and receive bribes and to be involved in corruption. The love of money causes some politicians and bankers to lie, to cause financial scandals and even to exploit their own country in order to get rich.

The love of money causes many people to participate in lottery and gambling schemes (casinos) and consequently accumulate huge debts. The love of money causes some people to give and take bribes in order to do business, to win a court case, to gain votes for their political party or to gain members for their religion. The love of money causes people to steal, rob and murder. Surely, the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil in the world!

6:10

Question 3. What kind of influence can money have on your life?

Notes.

(1) Money can never satisfy you.

In Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 we read, “Whoever loves money never has money enough, whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. ... Those who consume his goods, increase. ... The abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.” Money can never satisfy you and can never give you peace in life.

(2) Money can choke God’s Word out of your life.

Mark 4:18-19 teaches that the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things can choke the Word of God in your heart and make it unfruitful. Money and wealth can be the cause why the Word of God has no influence in your life at all.

(3) Money can cause you to miss the highest priority in life.

In Luke 12:13-21 we read about a rich man who produced a good crop. He decided to build large barns to store his crops and then to settle down. He said to himself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy (become a pensioner); eat, drink and be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night you will die. Then who will get what you have prepared (laid up) for yourself?” This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.” Money and wealth can cause you to miss the highest priority in life and that is to love God and your fellowmen.

(4) Money can cause you to become an idolater.

In Matthew 6:24 we read, “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon (that is, the money god).” Money and wealth (that is, materialism) can cause you to become an idolater who serves the money-god.

Summary. The love of money has a very bad influence on a Christian. Later we will see how Christians can use money to have good influence.

6:10

Question 4. What is corruption?

Notes.

(1) Various forms of corruption.

“Corruption” is acquiring money and wealth in an illegal way or using money to carry out illegal practices. For example, if you steal and rob, you are corrupt (think of the bank scandals) (Leviticus 19:11-13). If you do not return money that you have borrowed, you are corrupt (think of not paying off a mortgage) (Psalm 37:21). If you withhold the wages of your employees, you are corrupt (James 5:4). If you conduct “unfair trade” with for example “the third world”, you are corrupt (Deuteronomy 25:13-15; Proverbs 11:1). If you make money by injustice (think of casino’s, drug trade and prostitution), you are corrupt (Proverbs 16:8). Making money through the sale of lottery tickets, betting or gambling are some examples of “ill-gotten treasures or unjust gains”. Ill-gotten treasures are of no value (Proverbs 10:2) and even take away the lives of those who get it (Proverbs 1:19). If you give or accept bribes, you are corrupt (Proverbs 17:8). If you pay money to a judge or a jury member in order to settle a case in a law court in your favour or to remove an undesirable opponent, you are corrupt (Proverbs 17:23). If you give a large relational gift that accompanies a business deal, you are corrupt! If you give for example colour TV’s to simple people in order to have them change their religion and join your religion, you are corrupt! If you demand exorbitant interest on loans, you are corrupt (Proverbs 28:8). If you extort people to give you money, you are corrupt (Ecclesiastes 7:7). If you demand so-called “protection money” from restaurants, shops and businesses, you are corrupt! When they refuse to be extorted, their businesses are destroyed by the extortionists. If you smuggle cigarettes or drugs, you are corrupt. If you falsify declarations and write receipts for purchases you have not made, you are corrupt. If you falsify travel documents or diplomas, you are corrupt. If you print false money and credit cards, you are corrupt. If you launder money, you are corrupt. If you commit internet fraud, you are corrupt. If you avoid paying taxes, you are corrupt. Etc.

(2) The punishment for corruption.

God hates corruption! God will certainly punish every form of dishonesty and corruption! What will happen to people who give and receive bribes and relational gifts? The Bible warns that every corrupt person is in serious danger! By supporting criminals and increasing the suffering of innocent people, he will ruin himself, his family, his church, his community and his country! The Bible says, “Cursed (by God) is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person” (Deuteronomy 27:25). “Fire will consume the tents (dwellings) of those who love bribes” (Job 15:34) and finally God will throw him into the fire of hell, because he caused other people to sin (Matthew 18:7-9)!

6:6-12

Question 5. What should be the life-style of an ordinary Christian?

Notes.

(1) Christians should be content under all circumstances.

The desire to get rich hinders and even excludes “godliness”. But contentment with what you have promotes godliness. Christians must realise that they brought nothing into this world when they were born. They will also take nothing with them when they die. Money is therefore a very temporary possession! Christians should rather think about how to use money during their short life in order to promote the kingdom of God (1 Timothy 6:17-19)! Christians should be completely content when they have “the bare necessities of life”, namely, food, clothing and a roof above their heads.

(2) Christians should flee from the love of money.

Christians are no longer “the followers of Mammon” (the money-god), but are “followers of God”. They obey the commands of God and no longer the demands of money. Christians should flee away from such things as involvement in false doctrines, unhealthy interest in controversies, envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions, corruption, wickedness, discontentment and love for more money.

(3) Christians should pursue godliness.

Christians should “run after” (pursue, seek after) things as righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness (Matthew 6:33). Endurance is the fruit of hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Faith is the active dependence on God and his promises (Hebrews 11). Faith, love and hope are the three key characteristics of Christians (Romans 5:2-5; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:5-6; Ephesians 4:2-5; Colossians 1:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:8; Hebrews 6:10-12).

(4) Christians should fight the good fight of the faith.

Fight *continually*⁴ (verse 12). The word “fight” refers to any kind of athletic contest (1 Corinthians 9:25; Hebrews 12:1) or spiritual conflict (Philippians 1:30; 1 Thessalonians 2:2). While “faith” in verse 11 refers to subjective trust in Jesus Christ and his promises, “the faith” in verse 12 refers to the objective Christian message about Jesus Christ. Take *once for all time* hold of⁵ eternal life.” When Christ called, he took hold of you. Make the faith in the God of the Bible your permanent possession. Make sure that Jesus Christ is in you. “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realise that Christ Jesus is in you – unless, of course, you fail the test” (2 Corinthians 13:5).

(5) Christians should persevere in the task they received.

The task that Timothy received in this letter was to be an example in the Christian way of living for other Christians and to discharge his duty with respect to leading the congregation. Christians should obey these instructions in a way that no one would be able to blame them for neglect.

6:17-19

Question 6. What should be the life-style of a rich Christian?

Notes. It is not wrong for a Christian to be rich, but it is wrong for a Christian to desire to be rich! It is wrong for a Christian to chase after money! It is wrong for a Christian to get rich by any form of corruption.

It is not wrong for a Christian to be rich when God has entrusted many things to him. The rich Christian must know that God has entrusted all these riches to him, because he wants him to do something with his riches! God gives to rich Christians a special task in his kingdom.

(1) Things that rich Christians may not do.

Rich Christians may not be smug, proud or arrogant about their riches. They may not depend on their wealth instead of on God.

(2) Things that rich Christians may do.

Rich Christians may enjoy their riches.

(3) Things that rich Christians must do.

Rich Christians must be rich in doing good deeds. They must be generous and willing to share their riches. Philanthropists (meaning: lovers of people) also do this. But what is the difference between philanthropists and Christians? Christians lay up treasures with God in heaven. Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). Paul adds to this: “In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life (eternal life)” (1 Timothy 6:19). Because Christians invest their wealth in the present and future kingdom of God and in the true life that continues for ever, their objective is much more than that of philanthropists!

⁴ Greek: a command, present continuous time

⁵ Greek: a command, aorist time

This explains why the good deeds of Christians and the sharing of their wealth must be with respect to God's kingdom and not merely to philanthropic goals in the world. Christians can for example support churches in poor countries just as the congregations of Macedonia helped the congregations in Palestine during the great drought and famine. They can support missionaries and all kinds of mission projects. This already happens in many places in the world.

Question 7. What should be the life-style of a Christian in a high position?

Notes. In Daniel 6:3-4 we read, "Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the (other) administrators (who were not-believers in the God of the Bible) tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent." The life-style of Christians in high positions should be like that of Daniel.

Corruption is widespread today among businessmen, rulers of governments and some religions. These corrupters are bringing untold suffering to many people, while they themselves become rich and powerful. On the other hand, many of them are caught and fall into disgrace.

Daniel lived in such a world and he dared to be different! Daniel distinguished himself from corrupt leaders by being absolutely free from corruption! His incorruptibility brought great difficulties to his position. His fellow-officials plotted his downfall. They forbade his worship of the God of the Bible! Finally they had him thrown into a den with hungry lions. But God shut the mouths of the lions and caused Daniel to be honoured in the whole kingdom.

The Bible recorded this to exhort Christian businessmen, judges and other leaders to be different and to distinguish themselves from the other leaders in the world. Christians in high positions must be incorruptible, completely trustworthy and honest and never negligent in their duty!

Dare to be different!

STEP 4. APPLY.

APPLICATIONS

Consider. WHICH TRUTHS IN THIS PASSAGE ARE POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS FOR CHRISTIANS?

Share and record. Let us brainstorm with one another and record a list of possible applications from 1 Timothy 6:3-19.

Consider. WHICH POSSIBLE APPLICATION DOES GOD WANT YOU TO TURN INTO A PERSONAL APPLICATION?

Record. Write this personal application down in your notebook. Feel free to share your personal application.

(Remember that people in every group will apply different truths or even make different applications of the same truth. The following is a list of possible applications.)

1. Examples of possible applications from 1 Timothy 6:3-19.

- 6:3. Avoid people that teach false doctrine. Do not even welcome them into your home (2 John 10-11).
- 6:4. Avoid people that always like to fight about words and quarrel. Their goal is to put Christians and the Bible in a bad light.
- 6:5. Avoid people that try to make money through means of their religion (e.g. a religion that proclaims the prosperity gospel or a religion that bribes people to become converts). Reject their books and courses!
- 6:6-8. Be content when you have food to eat and clothes to wear.
- 6:9-11. Avoid every form of loving money! "Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle" (Proverbs 23:3-4)!
- 6:11. Run after righteousness, godliness, faith, love and hope.
- 6:12. Fight the good fight of the Christian Faith!
- 6:14. Stick faithfully to the commission, which God has given to you.
- 6:17. Christian leaders should command rich Christians not to be arrogant because they are rich or powerful.
- 6:18. Christian leaders should command rich Christians to be rich in good deeds and to share their riches with the really needy people.
- 6:19. Christian leaders should command rich Christians to invest their treasures in heaven and their money in the kingdom of God.

2. Examples of personal applications from 1 Timothy 6:3-19.

I want to be a good steward of all the possessions that God has entrusted into my care. I want to especially be content with my food, clothes and shelter. And then I want to invest my extra money into God's kingdom. I want to help support a poor Christian family and also people who proclaim the Good News, make disciples, equip labourers and build congregations everywhere in the world.

I want to distinguish myself as a Christian in my society. I want to be incorruptible with regard to money and never negligent in the doing of my duties. I will refuse to give bribes and I will refuse to accept bribes under all circumstances. I will earn my money only in an absolute honest way. I want to be rich in doing good deeds and willing

to share with needy people. I want to be different than the evil people of this world and bring glory to God by the way I live.

STEP 5. PRAY.

RESPONSE

LET US TAKE TURNS TO PRAY ABOUT ONE TRUTH THAT GOD HAS TAUGHT US in 1 Timothy 6:3-19.
 (Respond in your prayer to what you have learned during this Bible study. Practise to pray only in one or two sentences. Remember that people in every group will pray about different issues.)

5	PRAYER (8 minutes)	<i>[INTERCESSION]</i> PRAY FOR OTHERS
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Continue to pray in groups of two's or three's. Pray with one another for one another and for the people in the world (Romans 15:30; Colossians 4:12).

6	PREPARATION (2 minutes)	<i>[ASSIGNMENT]</i> FOR NEXT LESSON
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(Group leader. Give the group members this preparation for at home in writing or let them copy it down).

1. Commitment. Be committed to make disciples.
 Preach, teach or study the Bible study of 1 Timothy 6:3-19 together with another person or group of people.
2. Personal time with God. Have a quiet time from half a chapter of Ruth 1 - 4 each day.
 Make use of the favourite truth method of quiet time. Make notes.
3. Memorisation. (1) Lordship: Romans 12:1-2. Daily review the last 5 memorised Bible verses.
4. Prayer. Pray for someone or something specific this week and see what God is doing (Psalm 5:3).
5. Update your notebook on making disciples. Include the notes on your personal time with God, memorisation notes, Bible study notes and this preparation.