

DISCIPLESHIP LESSON 20

1	PRAYER
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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) [QUIET TIMES] ACTS 18:18 – 21:40
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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 (Acts 18:18 – 21:40). Listen to the person sharing, take him serious and accept him. Do not discuss what he shares.

3	MEMORISATION (20 minutes) [NEW LIFE IN CHRIST] (4) 1 JOHN 1:7
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A. MEDITATION

(4)

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

Fellowship 1 John 1:7
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

1 John 1:7

1. What is light?

“Light” is a term that summarizes the attributes or characteristics of God, like his love, righteousness, holiness, kindness, etc. Jesus Christ made God’s attributes or characteristics visible. Followers of Jesus Christ are called to walk in the light, that is, to behave themselves according to the characteristics of God.

2. Why are God, Christ and Christians called ‘light’?

(1) God is called light (1 John 1:5).

God is the Source of all physical life and spiritual life. He created all the physical life that we know in the universe. He gave us new spiritual life through the death and resurrection of Christ.

(2) Jesus Christ is called the light of the world (John 8:12).

Jesus Christ reveals to us who God is, especially God’s attributes or characteristics. God’s glorious characteristics shine most brilliantly through Jesus Christ in the midst of the world. Jesus proclaims knowledge to ignorant people; he proclaims truth to the erring and he proclaims wisdom to the foolish. He reveals holiness to the impure; he reveals righteousness to the wicked and he reveals love to those filled with hatred. He shows gladness to those who are sad; he gives encouragement to those who are fearful and he shows God’s presence and nearness to those who are lonely and abandoned.

(3) Jesus calls the Christians the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

Christians are never the light by themselves, but they reflect God’s characteristics to the world, especially his holiness, righteousness and love (Ephesians 5:8).

3. What is the meaning of “Christian fellowship”?

(1) Christian fellowship means a close relationship, association and partnership.

Christian fellowship means a close relationship, association and partnership with God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (1 John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14) and with other Christians in the world (1 John 1:7).

Christian fellowship with Christ is indissolubly connected to fellowship with Christ’s Body, which is the Christian Community or Church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Christians devote themselves to the teachings of the Bible and prayer, meeting together to fellowship and helping one another in areas of need, and to eat together and to share the good news with others (Acts 2:42-47). Christian fellowship involves not only a close relationship, but also participation and

sharing in the same blessings on the one hand (Galatians 6:9-10) and in the same sufferings on the other hand (Philippians 3:10). Christian fellowship includes a strong feeling of belonging together and of contributing good things to one another (2 Corinthians 8:4).

(2) Christian fellowship or partnership begins when you hear and believe the good news.

Christian fellowship or partnership begins when a person hears and accepts the preaching. “That which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life” (1 John 1:1) Christians do not form binding relationships with unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christians are called to always walk in the light, because without it fellowship is impossible (1 John 1:7)! Membership in a secret organisation does not go together with membership in the Body of Christ, because secret organisations force their members to walk in darkness (John 3:19-21).

4. What is the meaning of the words “the blood of Jesus Christ”?

‘The blood of Jesus Christ’ is not a magical substance that has a special kind of power. The Christian faith renounces sorcery (Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Revelation 21:8). The blood of Jesus refers to the blood that was shed on the cross. It is a symbolical phrase referring to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross as a *substitution* sacrifice as well as the resulting blessings of his death for the believer. Christians who live in the light confess their sins and receive forgiveness, because Jesus Christ already made atonement for their sins two thousand years ago.

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. (4) Fellowship. 1 John 1:7.
3. **Review.** Divide into twos and check one another’s last memorised Bible verse.

4	BIBLE STUDY (70 minutes) [RELATIONSHIPS] (4) THE CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIP TO HIS MARRIAGE PARTNER: EPHESIANS 5:22-33
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Make use of the five steps method of Bible study and study Ephesians 5:22-33 together.

STEP 1. READ.	GOD’S WORD
<i>Read.</i> LET US READ Ephesians 5:22-33 together. Let us take turns to read one verse each until we have completed the reading.	

STEP 2. DISCOVER.	OBSERVATIONS
<i>Consider.</i> WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU? Or WHICH TRUTH IN THIS PASSAGE TOUCHES YOUR MIND OR HEART? <i>Record.</i> Discover one or two truths that you understand. Think about them and write your thoughts in your notebook. <i>Share.</i> (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)	

5:22,25

Discovery 1. The Christian marriage is a constant witness to the reality of Jesus Christ.

“Husbands, love your wives, *just as Christ* loved the Church...” and: “Wives, submit to your husbands *as to the Lord*”. Marriage must be very important to God, because he compares the relationship of a husband and wife in the Christian marriage with the relationship between Christ and the Christian Church. Christ and the Church are the example for every Christian marriage. Every Christian marriage is an expression of Christ and his relationship to the Christian Church. The Christian marriage is constantly a visible testimony about Jesus Christ to the world! Christian marriages should bring glory to Jesus Christ!

5:31

Discovery 2. The Christian marriage changes the relationship with your parents.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” Marriage in every society is a very important social event because that is the time two young people leave their parents and begin a new family together! Marriage closes the stage of having a special relationship with your parents and begins the stage of having a special relationship with your marriage partner.

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 Ephesians 5:22-33 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.)

Question 1. What are the specific characteristics of a Christian marriage?

Notes.

(1) Marriage is God's idea and institution (Ephesians 5:31).

At creation, God saw man's need for a life partner and he took the initiative to create a woman for man (Genesis 2:18-24). God also took the initiative to institute the marriage relationship. Already *before* the man and the woman fell into sin, God established the marriage relationship as a very special relationship with the following characteristics. At marriage, the man and the woman definitely leave their parents. At marriage, *one* man and *one* woman become a unity and cleave to one another for the rest of their lives. From the time of their marriage, sex is a privilege only inside their own marriage relationship (Genesis 2:24).

God not only instituted the marriage relationship, but also maintained the marriage institution after the man and woman fell into sin. Both the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:1-6) and the apostle Paul (Ephesians 5:31) repeated that marriage remains God's institution and that people should obey God's rules for that institution.

During the Old Testament period, marriage served as a picture of the very close relationship between God and his people, Israel (Jeremiah 3). Also during the New Testament period, marriage serves as a picture of the very close relationship between Jesus Christ and his people, the Christian Church (Ephesians 5). Although the cultures in the world have changed God's original marriage institution, God still calls all people and all cultures to return to his original marriage institution!

(2) Marriage may be arranged or may be by choice (Genesis 24:3-4,67; Genesis 29:17-20).

In a Western culture people tend to marry by a free choice, while in an Eastern or Middle Eastern culture people tend to arrange marriages. In Western culture, men tend to marry the woman they love. In Eastern and Middle Eastern culture men learn to love the woman they marry. In the West they start with a burst of emotion, which is hopefully followed by a commitment of the will. In the East they start with a commitment of the will followed by a blooming of the emotions. Either way of marriage will work out well *if God is central to each*. But because the Eastern and Middle Eastern model comes about and is maintained by the effort of a greater number of people, these marriages tend to be more lasting.

(3) Marriage is monogamous (Ephesians 5:33).

The history in the Old Testament records that some important people in Israel had more than one wife. Polygamy in the Old Testament only caused problems like jealousy, discrimination and gross idolatry (cf. king Solomon, 1 Kings 11:1-11).

The clear commands and teachings in the Old and New Testaments teach that polygamy is against God's intention, command and institution. God never changed his original plan of Genesis 2:24, that "a man should be united to *his wife*". God never said that man should be united to *his wives* in the plural, but to *his wife* in the singular!

Jesus repeated this command and said in Matthew 19:5. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to *his wife*, and *the two* will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let man not separate." Jesus Christ does not allow a man to unite himself to more than one woman! He excludes all other people out of this unity of the marriage bond. A sexual relationship outside marriage is strictly forbidden (Hebrews 13:4).

Also the apostle Paul repeated God's marriage institution in Ephesians 5:31 and commanded that each husband must *continually* love his own wife (Ephesians 5:33). The verb "must *continuously* love" is an imperative in the present continuous tense. This leaves no room for exceptions! The Bible forbids polygamy. He forbids having a concubine. He forbids adultery. And he forbids flirting with any other woman that is not your wife.

(4) Marriage is for the whole life (Matthew 19:5-6).

During the Old Testament period, Moses permitted men to write a letter of divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1), "because of the hardness of their hearts" (Matthew 19:1-9). But Moses *did not approve of divorce*, as the Jews thought. He *only regulated an evil practice* in Israel that already existed in the surrounding nations and had penetrated Israel. Jesus clearly teaches that divorce was not God's way in the beginning. He commands, "What God has joined together, let man not separate"! God hates divorce (Malachi 2:14-16).

The Bible allows divorce only in two cases:

- in the case of marital unfaithfulness, like sexual immorality or extreme violence (Matthew 19:8-9).
- in the case of irreconcilable partners. They married when they were non-Christian; thereafter one partner became a believer; and the other partner refuses to live together with the believer (1 Corinthians 7:12-16).

But because the relationship between God and his people is a life-long covenant relationship, the Christian marriage relationship should also be a life-long faithful relationship.

(5) Marriage is temporal, only for this life on earth (Matthew 22:30).

Jesus says that at the resurrection at his second coming, people will neither marry nor be given in marriage. Then the resurrected Christians will be like the angels in heaven (Matthew 22:30). Therefore, marriage is God's institution only on the present earth, not in heaven or on the new earth. The eternal value of marriage on earth may be sought in its value:

- to reflect and proclaim Christ
- to train Christian character and skills
- and to fill the earth with people in God's image.

(6) Marriage is normal for most people, but not the best for everyone (Matthew 19:10-12).

In the Bible marriage is regarded as normal for most people, also for Christians and Christian leaders (1 Corinthians 9:5; 1 Timothy 3:2). But both the Lord Jesus (Matthew 19:10-12) and the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 7:32-35) have special words for those who remain unmarried. God calls some people to remain unmarried, either for a certain period in their life or even for their whole life in order to do a special work for God with undivided devotion! God gives a very special promise for people who remain unmarried. "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labour; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband. 'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your curtains wide, do not hold back....; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities. Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband - the LORD Almighty is his name - the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth'" (Isaiah 54:1-5)!

Celibacy is a spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit that enables one to remain unmarried (1 Corinthians 7:7,32-35; Matthew 19:10-12), but this spiritual gift may never be institutionalised (enforced on others in the Church) in the so-called "celibate"!

(7) Marriage is a relationship that should be established publicly (Matthew 22:9-11).

God instituted three indispensable elements for marriage (Genesis 2:24).

- The husband and wife must leave their parents. They should no longer be *emotionally* attached to their parents, but to one another. They should no longer be *financially* dependent on their parents, but be responsible for their own income. They should no longer remain *under the authority* of their parents, but submit to the authorities, which God has instituted. If possible, they should no longer *live together* with their parents, but rather live separately and build up their own family.
- The husband and wife must cleave to one another. They promise one another to be faithful to one another for their whole lives.
- They become one flesh (body). Their physical unity is the climax of their spiritual, emotional and social unity.

A couple prepares to leave their parents by announcing their plan to get married and by preparing their forthcoming marriage and the marriage ceremony. Their marriage begins at the wedding ceremony. Then they definitely leave their parents. At the marriage ceremony, the families of the groom and the bride as well as all the Christian brothers and sisters and other friends witness that these two people promise to be married to one another for their whole life, to love one another, to be faithful to one another and to help one another through all the circumstances of life.

In the Bible, marriage was never an individual or secret affair! Marriage was always an event in which the families of the groom and the bride played a part. In ancient times, "the pledge" or "promise to marry" (Matthew 1:18; Luke 2:5) included the following: the parents chose a marriage partner (Genesis 21:21), sometimes, a compensation gift was given to the family of the bride (Genesis 29:18, 34:12) and gifts were given to the bride and the groom (Genesis 24:59,61; 1 Kings 9:16). However such traditions are not a biblical requirement.

The wedding ceremony was a public affair. It included some of the following elements:

- The bride and groom wore wedding garments (Psalm 45:13-14)
- They were accompanied by bridesmaids and friends of the groom (Psalm 45:14, John 3:29)
- They went in a marriage procession to fetch the bride and accompany her to the house of the groom (Matthew 25:1-13)
- The most solemn part of the wedding ceremony was establishing a marriage covenant of which God himself was a witness (Malachi 2:14; Proverbs 2:17; Ezekiel 16:8)!
- There was a marriage feast, sometimes for a whole week (Matthew 22:1-14; John 2:1-10; Judges 14:17).
- Only after the wedding ceremony, the marriage was consummated (Genesis 29:21-23; Deuteronomy 22:13-21).

(8) The Christian marriage is determined by the relationship between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

The Bible commands a husband *to serve his wife* by providing leadership to his wife and children (just as Christ leads his Church) and to love his wife (as Christ loves the Church). The Bible also commands a wife *to serve her husband* by submitting to (acknowledging) his leadership (as the Church accepts the leadership of Christ) and to respect her husband. The Christian marriage is a visible demonstration and an audible proclamation of the relationship between Christ and the Christian Church (Ephesians 5:22-33).

The Christian marriage thus becomes a proclamation of Jesus Christ to the world. By observing a good Christian marriage, the people of the world learn more and more about Christ and Christians. They not only hear about God's love for them, they see it illustrated in the Christian marriage relationship. They not only hear of the joy of a growing relationship with the Living God, they see an example of such joy in the Christian marriage relationship, etc. The Christian marriage relationship is a powerful witness to the reality and attraction of a relationship with Jesus Christ! Every Christian marriage can become a missionary endeavour, especially when the Christian home is open and people can "come and see" how that Christian family functions.

5:22-25

Question 2. What are the God-given responsibilities of a Christian husband and a Christian wife?

Notes. God created every man and every woman. God instituted the marriage relationship at the time he created the woman (Genesis 2:18-24). Therefore, God also has the right to determine the responsibilities of every husband and every wife towards one another. He knows how his creatures ought to function best. Only when a husband and a wife obey these God-given responsibilities, can they have a wonderful marriage.

God gives to both the husband and the wife authority and responsibility, namely, to serve one another (and not to rule over one another). But God has created the husband and the wife differently and has commanded them that they express their God-given authority and responsibility in serving one another in different ways. He desires that the husband expresses his service by especially *taking the initiative* in the marriage relationship. And he desires that the wife expresses her service by especially *inviting* her husband into a warm and strong relationship.

(1) The God-given responsibilities of the husband towards his wife are to love her and to lead her.

The husband must serve his wife by loving her. He must love his wife as Jesus Christ loves his people, the Church. To love her is to show unselfish interest in her, to wholeheartedly accept her and to help her to become her best. Love is the greatest unselfishness and the greatest not self-centredness thinkable. Love is self-sacrificial service. Love is to treat her with care and respect. Love is to faithfully live together with her for better or for worse and in health or in sickness.

Love is beautifully expressed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

- (1) Love that is patient can wait to express love and never enforces itself on the other.
- (2) Love that is kind seeks opportunities to help and do good.
- (3) Love that is not jealous is generous, giving appreciation, credit and honour where the other deserves it.
- (4) Love that does not boast is modest about its own merits and accomplishments. It does not try to impress.
- (5) Love that is not proud is humble about its own strengths and weaknesses in the relationship to her.
- (6) Love that does not behave rudely is courteous. It shows good manners and tact.
- (7) Love that is not self-seeking is unselfish. Especially in exercising rights.
- (8) Love that is not easily angered is meek. It submits to the injury and hurts which the other causes.
- (9) Love that does not keep a record of wrongs is forgiving, especially when relating fails.
- (10) Love that does not delight in evil is upright, especially amidst weaknesses and failures.

The husband must serve his wife by leading her. To lead his wife is to lead her like Christ leads the Church. The husband should lead her like a shepherd leads his sheep: he should feed her, care for her, protect her and carry her through difficulties. The husband should lead her like a steward manages a great house or estate: he should take good care of her possessions, activities and interests, and guide her in God's ways. A husband should lead her like a servant: he should serve her especially in the areas where she needs him most.

(2) The God-given responsibilities of the Christian wife towards the husband are: to love him and to help him.

The Christian wife must serve her husband by loving him. The Bible teaches that the Christian wife should dedicate herself to love her husband and her children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God (Titus 2:4-5). Love is to faithfully live together with him for better or for worse and in health or in sickness.

The Christian wife must serve her husband by helping him. The Bible teaches the Christian wife to submit to her husband (Ephesians 5:22-24; 1 Peter 3:1-6) and to respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33). She serves her husband by submitting to his leadership and by respecting his leadership. 'To submit' does not mean to submit to him like a slave,

but to submit to him like a helper (Genesis 2:18). It is to voluntarily follow him by being the best possible team member of her husband's team. As a member of his team, she gives him every possible input, suggestions, ideas, advice, help, support, etc. that she can possibly give. She discusses all important matters concerning their personal lives, their marriage, their family and their society with him. She makes good decisions and choices together with him and discusses the consequences of their decisions. Only in the last resort, if there cannot be reasonable agreement between them, she should allow him to make the final decision and to be responsible for the consequences of his decision. Her submission is limited to what God requires of her and when a husband demands submission to what is wrong, she may gently resist him (Acts 5:29).

To respect her husband is to state her point of view in a gentle way and then allow God to work it out in his own way. It is to carefully consider the husband's advice. It is to involve him in the making of her plans and to communicate the progress she is making. It is to voluntarily take the initiative to serve him without waiting for him to ask her. It is to patiently listen to him and to try to understand his problems and points of view. Her love remains faithful to him in good and in evil circumstances, in health and in sickness.

When a man loves and leads his wife as Christ loves and leads his Church, it will not be difficult for his wife to respect him or to submit to his leadership in the family. The best place where children learn what love and respect and what leadership and submission really means is to observe the relationship of their Christian parents every day.

5:26-27

Question 3. What is meant by: "making her holy, cleansing her by washing with water through the word?"

Notes. Christ once for all made the Church holy, cleansing her once for all by means of the washing with water with the spoken word. This is a reference to baptism with water, which is the visible sign and seal given by God of the invisible baptism with the Spirit (regeneration by the Holy Spirit)(John 3:5; Titus 3:5) in conjunction with the spoken Word (the proclamation of the gospel) (Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

Christ continues to sanctify Christians by his spoken words that are applied to hearts and lives by his Spirit throughout life (Ephesians 6:17). His goal is to present all Christians as his blameless and radiant Church. In this way Christ prepares the Church as his Bride for the wedding of the Lamb at his second coming. But also the Church is preparing herself for the wedding of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-8). At the wedding of the Lamb Christ and his Bride (the Church) will forever be united in fellowship of love and perfection on the new earth (Revelation 21:9-10).

5:32

Question 4. What is the profound mystery?

Notes. The "mystery" does not refer to the relationship between a husband and a wife – marriage is not a sacrament. It is not "a sacred action that may only be performed by an officer of the church by which a special grace is referred or conferred"! Marriage is an institution of God to which God gives his blessing.

The "mystery" refers to comparing the union of the Christian husband and wife to the union of Christ and the Church. Christ's work of salvation applied to such undeserving people that become his Church in which he dwells through his Spirit is so intimate that no other metaphor on earth can be used to describe it. Because the relationship between Christ and his Church is so deep and strong, the Christian marriage relationship is able to function in a glorious way and can bring much joy to the married couple. The Christian marriage also brings blessing to other people and glory to God.

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 Ephesians 5:22-33.

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 Ephesians 5:22-33.

- 5:22. For both. Wives should submit to their husbands. But there are situations in which the husband should also submit to his wife (Ephesians 5:21). Make a study how the Christian Church submits to Jesus Christ. Apply this to your marriage partner.
- 5:23. For husbands. Make a study how Jesus Christ is the head of the Christian Church and how he leads the Christian Church. Apply this to your wife.
- 5:25. For husbands. Make a study how Jesus Christ loves the Christian Church and how he gives himself up for the Christian Church. Apply this to your wife.
- 5:26-27. For husbands. Make a study how Jesus Christ cleanses the Christian Church and makes her radiant (glorious)

- with his words. This means to make her look more and more like Jesus Christ. Apply this to your wife.
- 5:29. For husbands. Make a study how Jesus Christ feeds and cares for the Christian Church. Apply this to your wife.
- 5:31. For both. Examine yourselves and see whether you still are dependent on your parents in one or another way. Help one another to really leave your parents and cleave to one another.
- 5:33. For wives. Make a study how the Christian Church in the Bible shows respect to Jesus Christ. Apply this to your husband.

2. Examples of personal applications from Ephesians 5:22-33.

For husbands. I make a new commitment to be a leader like Jesus Christ. I want to serve my wife where she needs me most. I want to care for her health and her spiritual well being. I want to protect her and carry her through the difficulties she faces. I want to renounce all selfishness and serve her with complete unselfishness.

For wives. I have gained a new understanding in the meaning of submission. Submission is when a wife actively helps her husband with suggestions, plans and practical service, without threatening her husband's leadership and responsibility in the family. Husbands must remember that their wives can only help them with complete unselfishness when the husbands love them with complete unselfishness!

STEP 5. PRAY.

RESPONSE

LET US TAKE TURNS TO PRAY ABOUT ONE TRUTH THAT GOD HAS TAUGHT US in Ephesians 5:22-33. (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)

**[INTERCESSION]
PRAY FOR OTHERS**

Continue to pray in groups of two's or three's. Pray for one another and for the people in the world (Romans 15:30; Colossians 4:12).

6

PREPARATION (2 minutes)

**[ASSIGNMENT]
FOR NEXT LESSON**

(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 Ephesians 5:22-33 together with another person or group of people.
2. **Personal time with God.** Have a quiet time from half a chapter of **Romans 1 - 4** each day.
Make use of the favourite truth method. Make notes.
3. **Memorisation.** (4) Fellowship. **1 John 1:7.** 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.