



JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP

Divine Glory Ministries, Inc.

537 A Silver Slipper Lane

Tallahassee, FL 32303

Apostle Melinda J. Sutton, Founder

Chief Apostle Jesse Sutton D.D. , Overseer



MISSION

The mission of Divine Glory Ministries, Inc. is to minister the uncompromised Gospel of Jesus Christ to all of humanity and teach the people of God how to live daily in God's will; to promote a life of spiritual service and commitment to Christ; to be a vehicle of liberation to those that are bound; to empower the less fortunate to reach their fullest potential; to be a beacon of hope in this world.

VISION

Divine Glory Ministries, Inc. seeks to be a place where the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and taught with clarity and power. We will aggressively seek the salvation of all men. As a corporate body, we will continually engage the discipleship in the work of the ministry and cultivate a strong sense of commitment throughout. We will break the chains of the traditional church and promote a proactive ministry in our community that touches the lives of people in every area. Through innovative and thoughtful techniques, we will seek to engage the underserved in ways that enable them to rise above their circumstances. Finally, we will offer ourselves as a lifeline to those who have all but given up.



DEAR NEW DISCIPLE!

Welcome to Divine Glory Ministries, Inc.!

We are a community of faith that seeks to know, love, and glorify God and to be used of Him to raise up qualified laborers, in significant numbers, as fast as possible to help fulfill the Great Commission. We are a caring and loving Christian community that welcomes people from all walks of life.

It is with great joy that we offer you this powerful and exciting new member's orientation class that will make your transition into this ministry smooth and complete. This class is required for all new members and it provides teaching that will be the foundation of your Christian walk as you grow to having a stronger relationship with Christ.

We also want to encourage you by letting you know being at this church will provide you with many fellowship opportunities to establish new relationships and friendships as we grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ. As Founder and Overseer we look forward to assisting you in any way we can to help you and your family be the followers of Christ that God called you to be.

If there is anything we can do to help you please don't hesitate to contact us. Again, with great love and joy we welcome you to the Divine Glory Ministries, Inc. family.

Yours in His Service,
Apostle Melinda Jones Sutton, Founder
Chief Apostle Jesse Sutton D.D., Overseer

LESSON 1

WHY GOD LED ME HERE

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

UNDERSTAND why God led them to DGM.

ACCEPT God's expectations for fellowship and developing relationships.

Homework

- Write a letter to yourself detailing why God brought you to DGM, what you are believing God to do in your life, and areas you will overcome.
- Read Lesson 2



LESSON 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH ON SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

COMPREHEND guidelines for sexual immorality and service at DGM.

We believe God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin (Gen. 2:24-25; Ex. 20:14, 17, 22:19; Lev. 18:22-23, 20:13, 15-16; Matt. 19:4-6, 9; Rom. 1:18-31; I Cor. 6:9-10, 15-20; I Tim. 1:8-11; Jude 7).

We believe God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's birth gender is immoral and therefore sin (Gen. 1:27; Deut. 22:5). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

No member of the church can serve in any capacity if they are engaging in **immoral** sexual activity and are **unrepentant**.

We believe God wonderfully and **immutably** created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe marriage is **sanctioned** by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as **delineated** in Scripture.

We believe any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, and attempting to change one's biological sex, identity or otherwise acting upon any disagreement with one's biological sex) is sinful and offensive to God.



LESSON 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH ON SEXUAL IMMORALITY

We believe in order to preserve the function and **integrity** of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers who represent Divine Glory Ministries Inc., should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. We believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be rejected and are not in accordance with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Homework

- Read Lesson 3

LESSON 3

PREPARATION FOR HEAVEN

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

IDENTIFY and DEFINE 4 fundamental principles of Christian life as a disciple.

The bible teaches us that salvation is an ongoing process in man **wholly** of God. It is what God has done for us through Christ Jesus: Eph. 2:8,9. By His death on the cross, Christ gives all men a right to eternal life.

We must first confess our sins and need for a Savior. It is then by *faith* that we accept the atonement (payment) of Christ for our sins: Rom. 10:9,10. When we take these steps, the bible says we are saved. I am now a child of God, because I have been adopted into God's family: Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:4,5; Eph. 1:4,5.

I have been *regenerated* (born again): St. John 3:3. At this point, I am saved from the penalty of sin, which is eternal damnation. However, salvation as stated earlier is an ongoing process. I am not only saved, but I am being saved. This process is called *sanctification*. It means I am being saved from the power of sin: I Thess. 5:22-23, Phil. 1:6. During this process of sanctification, the life of the believer is being brought in line with the will of God.

The ultimate goal of salvation is to live eternally in the presence of God. When time is turned into **eternity**, the process of salvation will be made complete with our *glorification*. We will be saved from the presence of sin: I Cor. 15:50-53. Our glorified bodies will contain no **sin** or imperfections.

Homework

- Identify 1 area God is seeking to sanctify you, identify 1 scripture from the lesson, and work with teacher to create an action plan to overcome.
- Student will be prepared to share testimony about overcoming during class the following week.
- Read Lesson 4



LESSON 4

AUTHENTICATING YOUR SALVATION & SOUL WINNING

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

UNDERSTAND the significance of sharing the gospel with others.

ACCEPT God's plan to actively engage in soul winning.

RECOGNIZE consequences of sin.

Contrary to what some believe, what Christ has done in us through salvation cannot be undone. In other words, you cannot be saved then lost, lost then saved again. This process is completely of God and cannot be changed: St. John 6:37, 10:28, II Tim. 1:12. To put it plainly, once you are saved you are always saved.

However, while one cannot lose his/her salvation you can lose joy: Psalms 51:12, eternal rewards: I Cor. 3:9-15.

Those that are saved have been **assured** of the presence of God's Spirit operating in their lives: Acts 2:38-39. It is the presence of the *Holy Spirit* that verifies we are indeed the children of God: Rom. 8:16, I John 4:13.

Once we are saved, it is our Christian duty to become witnesses for the Kingdom of God: St. Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8. Our newfound faith is to be shared freely with all of mankind. We must therefore commit ourselves to regular evangelical efforts. Our desire and commitment must be to win our homes, community, and this world for Jesus!!!

Homework

- Evangelize 3 people and invite them to next week's Worship service.
- Schedule to attend Evangelism training with Minister Kemisha Williams.
- Read Lesson 5.



LESSON 5

DEFINING CHRISTIAN GROWTH ACCORDING TO THE WORD

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

DEFINE growth as a disciple.

ACCEPT God's standard for growth as a disciple.

There are two things that God desires of every human being: the first is that they become a Christian, and the second is that they grow as a Christian. Becoming a Christian is a one-time occurrence, but growing as a Christian is a continuous lifelong process. You have already made the first positive decision in giving your life to Christ. It is now time for you to be all that you can be in Christ.

You have begun this Christian journey as a spiritual baby and now you need to grow to maturity in Christ. What you will come to realize is that just as your physical body requires food, rest, and exercise, so does your spiritual life require certain things for proper growth and development. As babes, we are commanded to grow; however, to remain a babe is a shame and a tragedy: 1 Pet. 2:2, Heb. 5:12-14. Only by growing spiritually can we please God and glorify Him in our lives.

As the title of this chapter implies, Christian growth involves a changing of mindset. When we unite with the body of Christ, it is unlike any other organization of human origin. We have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives. That means we accept His Lordship in all of our activities: Phil. 2:9-11.

Contrary to popular belief the Church is not a democracy it is a **theocracy**: Ex. 24:1-7, Isa. 40:11-17. The fact is we do not have a vote on God's program. Our every direction must come from God. Hence, the way we view our position in the Church must change from that of being members to being disciples.

LESSON 5

DEFINING CHRISTIAN GROWTH ACCORDING TO THE WORD

A disciple by definition is a learner who imitates his teacher: St. John 8:31. We have been called on to first learn the ways of Christ and then to become imitators of His life through ours: St. Matt. 11:29. In fact, those who united with the early Church were referred to either as disciples or as brethren because of the way in which they patterned their lives: Acts 6:1-2, 7; 14:21-22, 28; 15:7-10; Rom. 1:13; I Thess. 1:4.

Homework

- Conduct personal evangelism with teacher.
- Complete the spiritual growth assessment, discuss results with teacher.
- Choose 1 area of focus and create a personal growth plan with teacher.
- Read Lesson 6

LESSON 6

FUNDAMENTALS FOR BEING SUCCESSFUL USING THE KEYS

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

ASSESS their current functioning in each area on a scale of 1 low- 5 high

There are at least three keys to meaningful and continued spiritual growth. Those keys are fellowship, study, and prayer. The growth believers experience in Christ will largely depend on how successful they are in maintaining consistency in these three areas.

1) Fellowship is perhaps the most overlooked area of Christian growth. It is a known fact, that each of us is greatly influenced by the people and environment around us: Acts 2:42-46. It is therefore, of vital importance that our fellowship with those who are of the household of faith be done on a regular basis: Rom. 12:10; Heb. 10:24-25. There is a saying that, “association brings on assimilation”. If this is true, we must be very careful in making sure that we are surrounded by the proper influences. Our growth in Christ depends on it.

2) The study of God’s word is imperative in developing one’s Christian character. We are commanded to study and grow in knowledge: II Tim. 2:15, II Pet. 3:18. The basis for everything we do in our Christian lives will rest entirely on how deeply we are grounded in the Word of God: St. John 15:7. Jesus points out that many of our mistakes come as a result of ignorance of the scriptures: St. Matt. 22:29.

3) Prayer is the most personal aspect of our relationship with God: Matt. 6:9-13. It gives us the opportunity to have communion with our Savior. It must be noted that prayer is not a monologue where we are the only ones speaking. Rather, prayer is a dialogue in which God speaks to us as we to Him. The scriptures point out that sin and unbelief can be major impediments to answered prayer: Psalm 66:18 Hebrews 11:6

Prayers are not for public approval: St. Matt. 6:5-8. We instructed to be persistent in our prayer lives: St. Matt. 7:7-8. Finally, we are told that our prayer lives must be **vigilant**: St. Luke 18:1.

LESSON 6

FUNDAMENTALS FOR BEING SUCCESSFUL USING THE KEYS

Homework

- Continue personal growth plan based on spiritual growth assessment.
 - Read lesson 7.
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LESSON 7

MY STEWARDSHIP

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

UNDERSTAND each of the giving categories located on contribution envelope & on the online giving page.

ASSESS their current functioning in each area on a scale of 1 low- 5 high.

CONFRONT areas of disobedience through confession.

REPENT of areas of disobedience.

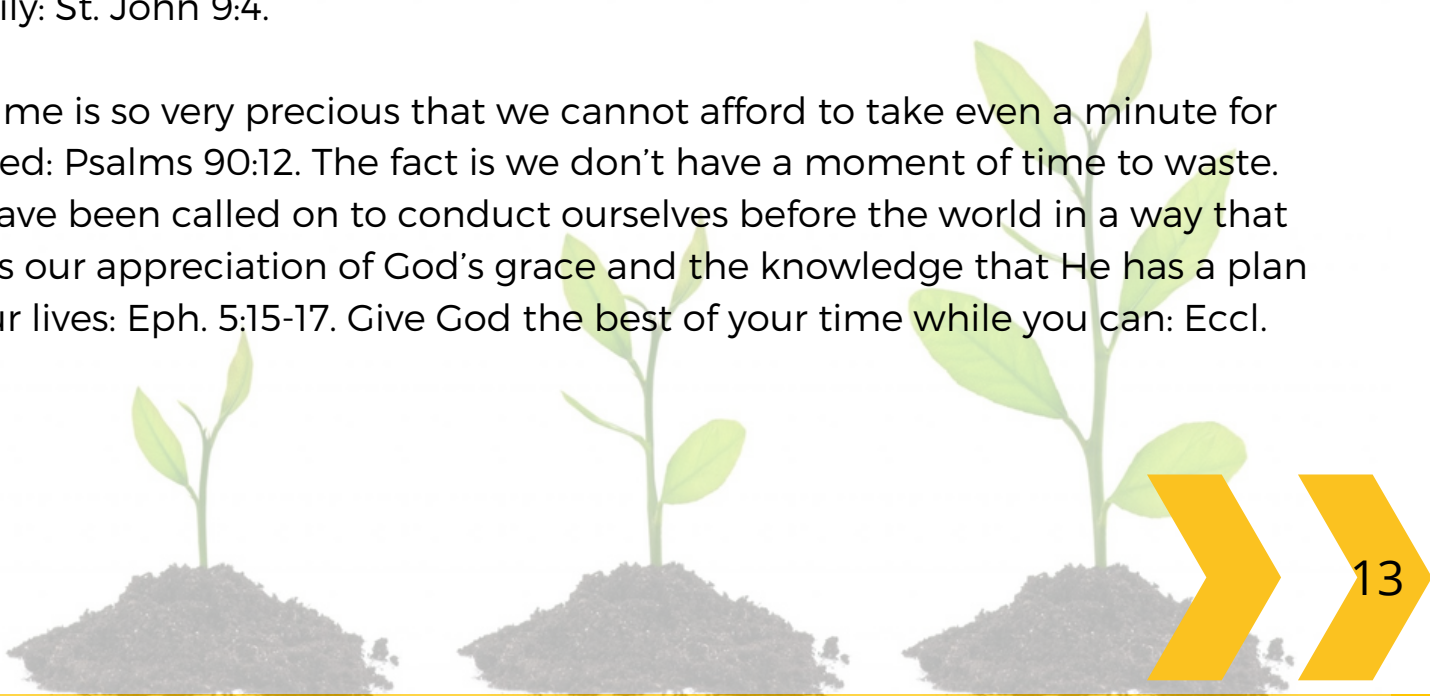
Now that you are a disciple of the Church, you will want to be the best that you can be. One of the things that you can do is to develop into a good steward for the Lord. A steward is a keeper/manager of that which rightfully belongs to another.

Christian Stewardship is the acknowledgement/acceptance of our trusteeship of life and possessions, and the administration of the same according to the will of God: I Chr. 29:13-14, Psalms 24:1.

The proper development of stewardship in our lives involves three basic areas, 1) Time, 2) Talent, and 3) Tithe. It is our Christian duty to honor God through the administration of these three areas of our life. As steward we are responsible to Him for how we make use of the same: Rom. 14:12.

Time – It is the Christians' **obligation** to schedule his day/week in such a way as to allow appropriate time for **worship** and Christian growth. Every Christian should schedule time for **devotion**, meditation, Bible Study, prayer, and service to God. Our time must be arranged so that God can get the most from us daily: St. John 9:4.

The time is so very precious that we cannot afford to take even a minute for granted: Psalms 90:12. The fact is we don't have a moment of time to waste. We have been called on to conduct ourselves before the world in a way that shows our appreciation of God's grace and the knowledge that He has a plan for our lives: Eph. 5:15-17. Give God the best of your time while you can: Eccl. 12:1.



LESSON 7

MY STEWARDSHIP

Talents – The God given abilities, powers, and gifts that we have are talents: Eph. 4:7. To hide your talent is to make life a failure. When we become timid or refuse to use our talents to build the Kingdom of God, we rob ourselves of spiritual growth and blessings. The more talents we are given the more God expects from us: St. Luke 12:48.

The scriptures **admonish** us to commit ourselves to a life of spiritual service: Rom. 12:1. The Christian should never forget the debt that has been paid for his salvation: I Cor. 6:20. While each of us may have different talents, God expects us to use them to the best of the abilities He has given: Rom. 12:4-8, I Cor. 12:18.

Tithes – It is God’s desire that each of us support the ministry of His Church through the giving of our tithes and offerings: Lev. 27:30. The tithe is the first ten percent (gross) of a believer's income: Lev. 27:32 . Offerings are those amounts given above the tithe. This is the only God-given means for financing the ministries of the Church: Mal. 3:10. Some suggest that tithing ended with the Old Testament, however, Jesus clearly endorsed its continuance: St. Matt. 23:23, Heb. 7:8.

We are considered robbers when we neglect to pay our tithes: Mal. 3:8-9. While to withhold our tithes makes us robbers under the curse of God, we are blessed when we give financial support to God’s Church: Mal. 3:11, II Cor. 9:6. Another form of giving is sacrificial offering to God's church. Sacrificial offering means giving in abundance by faith Luke. 21:4, Acts. 4:34, Pro. 11:24. It should be noted that to give with an improper attitude would also cause us to forfeit our blessings: II Cor. 9:7.

Homework

- Schedule a meeting with assigned new members teacher.
- Sit with new members teacher and create a budget by using the provided format.
- Sit with new members teacher and create a daily schedule that is holistic and includes time for study of the word, fellowship, prayer, rest, exercise, relaxation, recreation, school/ work, and temple care using the provided format.
- Read lesson 8.

LESSON 8

PREPARING FOR FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Lessons Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will:

EXPLAIN why fellowship is significant for the facilitation of spiritual gifts.

IDENTIFY personal isolation practices.

DIFFERENTIATE serving vs doing.

As was discussed previously, fellowship is a vital part of the Christian growth process. The Lord never intended for us to become isolated in our worship or service: St. John 17:11. Each interaction provides for us an opportunity to share the goodness of Christ and increase our devotion to the Christian cause: I John 1:3,4-7.

Each of us has been given different abilities and spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are those abilities given to us directly by the Holy Spirit: I Cor. 12:11. These abilities are not intended to serve selfish motives, but rather to give glory to God. The bible points out that our spiritual gifts are **interdependent** rather than independent of each other: I Cor. 12:14-26.

It must also be noted that the use of one particular spiritual gift does not make one disciple superior to another. Neither does it make him/her more important in the Body of Christ than anyone else. It is very important that we seek God's guidance in the use of the abilities that He gives us.

When we give service to God, it is never for the purpose of gaining salvation. As we have learned earlier, salvation comes to us by grace through faith: Eph. 2:8,9. Our service is given because we are saved. While giving Christian service does not add to our salvation, it does give legitimacy to our faith: James 2:20-26. It is God's expectation that our works will justify our faith.

LESSON 8

PREPARING FOR FELLOWSHIP AND SERVICE

In fact, the scriptures tell us that the giving of our full and complete abilities is considered to be our reasonable service: Rom. 12:1. When we give service to God, it is rarely a matter of going beyond the call of duty. Rather giving service is the fulfillment of our Christian duty. Isa. 6:8, Acts 9:6.

God does not force us to work for Him. He wants those that are of a willing heart and mind. We are commanded to have a joyful spirit when it comes to giving service: Psalms 100:2. After all, no one wants those who must be begged and prodded to give service. That kind of spirit has no place in the fellowship of the saints.

Finally, it must be emphasized that God's concern is not for the quantity of our service rather it is for the quality of it. St. Matt. 25:21. Whatever it is that we do for the kingdom, God wants it to be the very best.

Homework

- Complete Spiritual Gift Inventory. Share and discuss results with teacher over fellowship before graduation.



GLOSSARY

A

- **Admonish:** To instruct or direct; to inform; to notify.
- **Assured:** Firm persuasion; full confidence or trust; freedom from doubt; certain expectation; the utmost certainty.

D

- **Delineated:** To describe, portray, or set forth with accuracy or in detail
- **Devotion:** A yielding of the heart to him with reverence, faith, and piety in every act, particularly in prayer and meditation.

E

- **Eternity:** Having infinite duration; characterized by abiding fellowship with God.

I

- **Immoral:** The quality of not being in accord with standards of right or good conduct
- **Immutable:** Unchangeableness; the quality that renders change or alteration impossible; invariableness. In a manner that admits of no change.
- **Integrity:** The condition or quality of being complete; undivided or unbroken; wholeness. Moral soundness or uprightness.
- **Interdependent:** dependent upon one another : mutually dependent

O

- **Obligation:** That which obligates or constrains; the binding power of a promise, contract, oath, or vow, or of law; that which constitutes legal or moral duty

S

- **Sanctioned:** To approval; to ratify; to confirm.
- **Sin:** any immoral act against God's law and word

T

- **Theocracy:** A theocracy is a form of government that is led by God or by a person or persons who claim to rule by divine authority.



GLOSSARY

U

- **Unrepentant:** Knows that he or she has sinned and refuses to turn away from the sin. The unrepentant show no remorse for their wrongdoing and don't feel the need to change. Unrepentance is the sin of willfully remaining sinful.

V

- **Vigilant:** Attentive to discover and avoid danger, or to provide for safety; wakeful; watchful; circumspect; wary.

W

- **Wholly:** In a whole or complete manner; entirely; completely; perfectly.
- **Worship:** Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission.