

Introduction

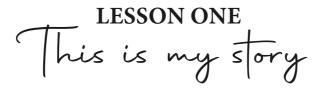
Welcome to the Journey for New Believers. Christianity is about relationships! It is journeying with Christ-for life!

- 1. Relationship with God "Love the Lord your God." Luke 10:27a
- 2. Relationship with God's family "Love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12
- 3. Relationship with others who have yet to know God. "Love your neighbour as yourself." Luke 10:27b

Enjoy your adventure with God.

# Desson

- 1. This is my story
- 2. This is my God
- 3. This is my new life
- 4. This is my new family
- 5. This is my testimony
- 6. The living power in me





- 1. You are included in God's big plan.
  - Share God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ using John 3:16 presentation.
- 2. You will experience the abundant life in Christ.
- 3. You will have clarity in your life as you follow Christ who is the light of the world.



Getting to know you.



- Describe yourself using the initials of your name or share any story behind your name.
- How did you come to know about Jesus and accept Him as your personal Lord?

Facilitator:

Share the story behind your name and your conversion testimony.

- God created you. He knows you and calls you by your name before the foundation of the world. You are special. You are born with a great purpose for your life.
- What a blessing now that you have come into a personal relationship with your Creator.



When you choose to follow Jesus, you have a new starting point and embark on an exciting and rewarding journey with Him.

What happens when you travel with someone on a journey for the first time? You will get to know the person more as you communicate with each other and spend time together. Similarly, in your journey with God, you'll get to know Him more and have a personal and growing relationship with Him as you spend time and communicate regularly with Him. This relationship is the best thing you can enjoy on earth. He knows all about you (Psalm 139:1) and walks with you through the mountains and valleys in life. Jesus said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." (Hebrews 13:5)

You may feel a little overwhelmed or unsure where to start. However, the wonderful thing is that God wants to journey with you! He has already taken the initiative to introduce Himself to you. God has you in mind in His big story.

TRUTH 1

You are included in God's big story.

John 3:16

For this is how God loved the world:

He gave His one and only Son,

so that everyone

who believes in Him will not perish
but have eternal life.

# **JOHN 3:16 PRESENTATION**

**GOD** 

### Step 1:

Everything begins with God. God created the heavens and the earth. God is not only powerful but personal. He is a loving God.

GOD / MAN

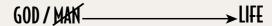
### Step 2:

God created man (you and I) to be with Him forever.



### Step 3:

God intended for us to have a permanent relationship with Him. This is called eternal or everlasting life.



## MAN

### Step 4:

When He created us, He breathed His Spirit into us. He also created us to have a free will – to make our own choices. Man chose to disobey God. By his choice, man is separated from God!



SIN

MAN

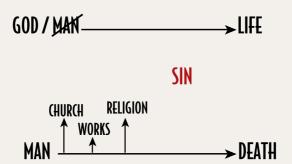
### Step 5:

This results in SIN. SIN means choosing our own way, instead of God's way. Sin is not just doing wrong things like lying, cheating and killing. Sin is a nature within us - we want to do our own thing; we do not want to do what God wants us to do.



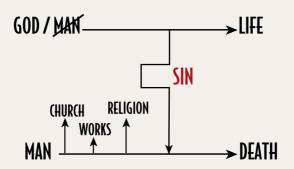
### Step 6:

The opposite of LIFE is death – physical and spiritual separation from God. Yet, man has a spirit that longs to go back to God.



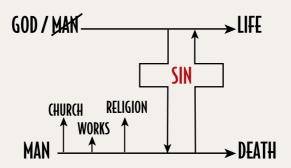
### **Step 7:**

Man tried his own ways to reach God - like going to church; doing good works; trying other religions etc. All these ways failed to reach God. We cannot reach God through our own efforts.



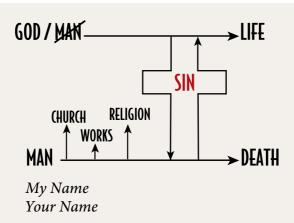
### Step 8:

Because God loves us so much, He is willing to provide the only solution for man's sin. God in His true love for mankind, sent His only son, Jesus, to earth to reach down to us.



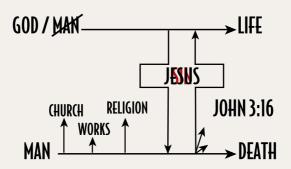
## Step 9:

Jesus died on the cross for your sin and mine! He took all of our sin, suffering in our place. He did not just die. He resurrected from the dead. This shows that He has power to overcome sin and death. He spent time with His disciples and many others before He ascended to heaven.



### **Step 10:**

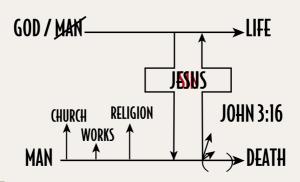
What Jesus has done is summarised in John 3:16. Have you heard of John 3:16? "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not die, but have everlasting life." Let me write my own name instead of man. Let's also write down your name below mine.



### **Step 11:**

(OVERWRITE 'JESUS" ON TOP OF THE WORD 'SIN' IN THE CROSS).

Jesus took away our sins when He died on the cross. Therefore, we can go back to God. There is a 'fork in the road' that leads away from death to LIFE. When we choose to follow Christ, we need to be willing to live for Him, obey Him and follow His will for our life.



## **Step 12:**

Right now, you can decide. Instead of living in your present condition, away from God, you can go back to Him. Do you want to go back to God through Jesus Christ? Do you want to receive Jesus Christ into your life?

### **Step 13:**

### SINNER'S PRAYER

You can receive Jesus into your life by faith. Faith can be expressed through prayer. Here is a suggested prayer: "Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my heart and receive You as my personal Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. In Jesus'name I pray. AMEN.

 Adapted from "Knocking on Doors, Opening Hearts" by Dr Ralph W Neighbour, Jr.

God loves you and demonstrates His love in action. He changes the final destiny of your life - from eternal death to eternal life.

### Read John 3:16

For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

What are the action words you can find in this verse?

loved/ gave / believes/ perish/ have

• What are the action words done by God?

loved/ gave

God's love resulted in giving His one and only Son

• What are the action words done by us?

believes/ have

We believe and have eternal life instead of eternal death.

This is God's great story and you have a part in it.

Now personalise John 3:16, by inserting your name.

For this is how God loved (your name): He gave His one and only Son, so that (your name) believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

Write it here

How do you feel when you read this verse with your name written on it?

Facilitator:

God takes the initiative in showing and demonstrating His love for us. Optional: Share Romans 5:8

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

## TRUTH 2

Jesus came to give you abundant life

### John 10:10

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

- Recognise that there is an enemy who wants to steal, kill and destroy us. But Jesus is the One who does the opposite He wants to give us life and to make it fuller, more purposeful and more meaningful.
- You have decided to follow Jesus, so He is your new leader in life and you are no longer travelling alone. He journeys with you to show you how to live your life meaningfully.

What change(s) have you noticed in yourself after accepting Christ?

## TRUTH 3

You now walk in the light.

### John 8:12

"I am the light of the world.

If you follow Me,
you won't have to walk in darkness,
because you will have the light
that leads to life."

- When we follow Jesus, we walk in the light because He is the light that shines in our life.
- When we are walking in the light, we can see better, and feel safe because we know where we are going instead of finding our way in the darkness.
- There will be clarity, direction and hope as we walk in the light.
- We have to make choices to walk away from our past which is filled with darkness.

Is there an area of struggle you face which makes you feel like you are walking in the darkness?

Facilitator:

Give space for them to share any stronghold or sin.

- Encourage them that they are on a journey with God who knows all about their past. He accepts them and wants to lead them in His wonderful plan.
- In this discipleship journey, we will also be helping them to deal with this issue of sin and repentance.

### 1 John 1:9

But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. Ask yourself

What is one truth from this lesson which you can apply in your life?

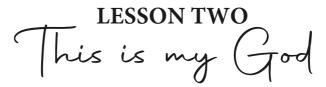
# Jet's pray

Lord Jesus, I thank You for giving me a new beginning in my life. I am thankful to You that I am included in God's big plan. Because of Your death and resurrection, I can have an abundant life and I can walk in the light.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

# My commitment

- Read John 3:16 during the week. Ask God to show you new truths that you can learn from this verse.
- Memorize John 3:16





- 1. God wants to communicate with you.
- 2. God wants to share His heart with you as you read His word.
- 3. Make it your priority to grow in this relationship. (Use SOAP method for personal Bible reading.)



Review "My Commitment"



### TRUE OR FALSE?

Facilitator and student(s) will take turns to share three statements about themselves. Try to guess which two are true and which one is false.

- We live in a world of confusion and fake news. Sometimes we can be deceived when people seem so convincing.
- The Bible is God's Truth for us. We do not need to second-guess it.

# Dig into God's word

When you accept Christ, you also accept His leadership in your life. He is now the Leader in your life and He promises to guide you and lead you.

You need to learn how to hear Him for yourself and follow His guidance in your life. This is what He has promised to do for you as in Psalm 32:8.

The LORD says,

"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life.

I will advise you and watch over you."

## TRUTH 1

Prayer is simply talking to God.

What are some of the thoughts that come to mind when you think of prayer?

Although God already knows what you are going to say (Psalm 139:4), He desires to hear you speak to Him. He loves to hear what is on your heart, your fears, your thoughts, your struggles, your worries and your concerns for others, even the needs that you do not speak out loud. Psalm 139:4 - You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

### See how God responds to you as you pray!

## Philippians 4:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

• Share the words/phrases that are meaningful for you.

- Instead of anxiety, you can approach God with whatever is on your mind. You can speak directly with God who is the Maker of heaven and earth and is in total control of the situation.
- You can give thanks to God because He is with you and you are not alone.
- Christians do not live a worry-free life but we can address the problems in our lives with prayer.

Facilitator:

Additional verses on prayer (optional)

#### Psalm 17:6

I am praying to You because I know You will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray.

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Always be joyful.
 Never stop praying.
 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

### Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Is there anything that you are anxious about right now? Let's pray using Philippians 4:6-7.

### This is a sample prayer for you.

Lord, I bring to You my situation (tell God about your situation) - I am worried about my job situation. I know You are in control. Thank you for the peace that You will give to me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Prayer is not just a one-way conversation although it often feels that way. Allow time and space in your prayers to listen to God. He will respond to your prayers, so wait and listen expectantly.

You may not hear a response every time and those responses may take a variety of forms, but the more you pray and the more you listen, the more you'll recognize His responses.

Facilitator:

Share your experience in hearing from God when you pray.

# TRUTH 2

When you read God's word.

you will get to know Him more.

We can hear God through His love letter (The Bible) that He has given to us. When we read God's word, we get to know His nature, His heart, His thoughts and His plans for us more and more!

### Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and powerful.

It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow.

It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

• Share the words/phrases that are meaningful for you.

- The word of God is active and powerful as the Holy Spirit helps you to understand the truths and apply them in your life so that you will grow to be more like Christ.
- The word of God is able to judge the deepest thoughts and intentions of the heart of every man. When it exposes one's deceitfulness, it is always God's grace to do a deeper work in the person's life.

## TRUTH 3

Personal bible reading is important for your growth.

We want to share with you how to spend time with God and read His Word using the **SOAP** method.

**SOAP** is a method of Bible reading and journaling which includes **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, **P**rayer. It's a great way to get more out of your Bible reading and allows you to record your thoughts, emotions and the revelation you receive from God's Word.

#### **GETTING STARTED**

- 1. Time and place: Find a quiet time and space to read your Bible, preferably at the same time each day. Many people find that reading the Bible in the morning helps to get their day off to a focused start.
- 2. What to read: You can follow a reading plan. (Find a reading plan in "The Bible" app or at YouVersion.com). If you don't know where to start, pick a Gospel for a start.
- 3. Use a journal: Record your daily entries.



# Scripture

Read slowly and thoughtfully through a portion of Scripture. Pick a verse or two that stand up to you and write it down in your journal.

# Observation

What strikes you and catches your attention in what you read? What do you think God is saying to you in this Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

# Application

Personalise what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now.

Perhaps it is an instruction, encouragement, a promise or correction for a particular area of your life.

Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

# Prayer

Now write a prayer to God in response to this Scripture.

It can be as simple as asking God to help you apply His word in your life. Be honest and express your heart to Him.

God always listens and He delights in your prayer (Psalm 34:15)

"The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right: his ears are open to their cries for help."

## Let's do it together

### John 10:1-4

<sup>1</sup> I tell you the truth,
anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold,
rather than going through the gate,
must surely be a thief and a robber!

<sup>2</sup> But the One who enters through the gate
is the Shepherd of the sheep.

<sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for Him,
and the sheep recognize His voice and come to Him.
He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.

<sup>4</sup> After He has gathered His own flock,
He walks ahead of them,
and they follow Him because they know His voice.

SOAP

Scripture

He calls his sheep by name.

He walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.

Observation

He will make himself known by calling me by name, he knows all about me uniquely and calls me by name that I will know he is calling me.

He makes the first move.

I have the ability to recognize his voice and want to come to Him- attracted to Him.

Application

I need to learn to recognize his voice amidst the noisy environment. I need to start the day by hearing Him before I become busy with many things.

Prayer

Jesus, I am always rushing in the morning, help me to slow down and make time for you. I want to practice hearing your voice. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen. Ask yourself

What is one truth from this lesson which you can apply in your life?

# Jet's pray

Lord Jesus, I thank You for giving me Your word that is useful in cultivating my relationship with You. Praying and reading the Bible are new habits for me so please help me to grow in these areas. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

My commitment

Read and reflect on John 10:6-10 using **SOAP** method (**S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, **P**rayer).

### John 10:6-10

<sup>6</sup> Those who heard Jesus use this illustration didn't understand what He meant,

<sup>7</sup> so He explained it to them:

"I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.

<sup>8</sup> All who came before Me were thieves and robbers.

But the true sheep did not listen to them.

<sup>9</sup> Yes, I am the gate.

Those who come in through Me will be saved.

They will come and go freely and will find good pastures.

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.

My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

SOAP

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer

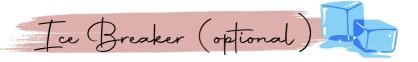
# This is my new life

# Focus for the lesson o

- 1. You have a new priority in life which is to please God.
- 2. You have a new nature and a new lifestyle.
- 3. The work of the Spirit in your life will transform you.



Review SOAP homework - John 10:6-10 from last lesson.



### Try this quick 3-minute test!

- 1. Read everything first.
- 2. Put your name in the upper right hand corner of this page.
- 3. Circle the word 'name' in sentence two.
- 4. Draw five small squares in the top right-hand corner.
- 5. Put an X in each square you have just drawn.
- 6. Put a circle around each square.
- 7. Sign your name under the title of this page.
- 8. After the title write 'yes yes yes'.
- 9. Underline sentences number seven and eight.
- 10. Put an X in the lower left-hand corner of this page.
- 11. Draw a triangle around the X you have just made.
- 12. On the back of this page multiply seventy by thirty.
- 13. Draw a circle around the word 'top' on sentence four.
- 14. Loudly call out your first name when you reach this point in the test.
- 15. If you think you have carefully followed these directions, call out 'I have carefully followed the directions'.
- 16. On the reverse side of this paper add 107 and 278.
- 17. Count out in your normal speaking voice from one to ten.
- 18. If you are the first person to get this far, shout out loudly 'I am the first person to get this far following these instructions'.
- 19. Punch three small holes in your paper with your pencil here . . .
- 20. Now that you have finished reading carefully, do only sentences one and two.

- We live in a world that is mainly impatient and we do not do very well in following instructions.
- In our walk with God, we need to give Him the right to lead and we learn to trust and obey.



#### TRUTH 1

You have a new priority in life.

Because of what Jesus had done for you on the Cross, He redeemed your life and you belong to Him. When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you are telling God that He is the Lord of your life. In other words, you are saying "You are the Boss of my life, I want to do things Your way".

#### Ephesians 5:8-10

For once you were full of darkness,
 but now you have light from the Lord.
 So live as people of light!
 For this light within you
 produces only what is good and right and true.
 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.

- A life of darkness is marked by total blindness and ignorance. It does not give light and also leads others into darkness.
- Now that you are people of light with the light that comes from Christ, you will produce fruits in your life that can be seen by the goodness, righteousness and truth in your speech and actions.
- You need to make up your mind that you want to live the life that pleases God and let Him be your leader in life. Your life will change and you will be transformed for the better.

### TRUTH 2

You have a new nature and a new lifestyle.

Let us compare the differences between the old sinful self and the new way of following Christ.

Look at Galatians 5:19-23 and list out the characteristics in the boxes.

#### **Galatians 5:19-23**

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature,
the results are very clear:
sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures,
20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy,
outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division,
21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.
Let me tell you again, as I have before,
that anyone living that sort of life
will not inherit the Kingdom of God.
22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, and self-control.
There is no law against these things!

• Old Way of Living (Gal 5:19-21)

sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties

• New Way of Life (Gal 5:22-23)

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

• Which aspect (s) of your old way of life do you identify with?

#### TRUTH 3

The work of the Holy Spirit in your life will transform you.

The Bible says that as you walk close with God and follow His ways, you will bear fruit. A Christian is expected to bear good fruit, just as healthy trees do. This is called the Fruit of the Spirit, because it is God's Spirit that lives within you and controls your life, and eventually produces this fruit in you. This is spiritual fruit that is seen in the change in your character. Galatians 5:22-23 lists 9 attributes of the Fruit of the Spirit.

#### **Galatians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:
 love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
 <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.
 There is no law against these things!

Read Galatians 5:22–23 and match each attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit with its definition.

Outworking of the fruit in one's life		Attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit
1.	The serenity of knowing that God is in control, that you are in His hands and He will work out everything for the highest good	
2.	The ability to control your actions rather than being controlled by your emotions or desires	
3.	Graciousness, being helpful and considerate, not expecting any thing in return	
4.	That kind of compassion that only wants the best for another person, regardless of his/her actions toward you	
5.	Reliable, can be trusted	
6.	Teachable, tamed, submissive, controlled by the will of the Master	
7.	The kind of gladness whose foundation is in God and not in the circumstances found in our daily lives	

	3.	Long-suffering or forbearance with other people, even when they don't deserve it	
	9.	Moral virtue which is willing to act for the good of other people	
An	ısw	vers:	
<ol> <li>Peace 2. Self-Control 3. Kindness 4. Love 5. Faithfulness</li> <li>Gentleness 7. Joy 8. Patience 9. Goodness</li> </ol>			
•	Which attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit do you relate with most at the moment? Why? Share and discuss.		
•		Which attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit do you want to cultivate nore in your life today?	

The best person that you can learn from is Jesus. He lived a blameless and obedient life unto God even though He faced the struggles of earthly life. You need His help all the time. When you follow God and sometimes fail, He is forgiving and able to take you through your times of failures and human weaknesses. As Jesus lives in you, you will become more and more like Him!

Ask yourself

What is one truth from this lesson which you can apply in your life?

Jet's pray

#### This is a sample prayer for you.

Dear Jesus, I want to have more of <u>God's love</u> (attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit) in my life. Help me to deal with <u>people who are demanding and unkind to me at work</u> (any struggle/ challenge).

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

# My commitment

Read and reflect on Galatians 5:24-26 using SOAP method (Scripture, Observation, Spplication, Prayer).

#### Galatians 5:24-26

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there.
 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.
 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

SOAP

Scripture

Observation

Application

I need to learn to recognize his voice amidst the noisy environment. I need to start the day by hearing Him before I become busy with many things.

Prayer

#### **LESSON FOUR**

This is my new family



- 1. You have a spiritual family who cares for you and helps you to grow.
- 2. You have a role to play in this community of faith.
- 3. You are a member of LSBC family.



Review SOAP homework - Galatians 5:24-26



Share a memorable moment that you have with your family.

• God gives us families because we have a need to belong.

Facilitator:

Take note that some may not have good memories of their families. Encourage them that they now have a new spiritual family that is different from the earthly one.

Dig into God's word

When you decide to follow Jesus, you become part of God's family. God's family consists of all of us who believe in Him and follow Him. This means that even though Christians may attend different churches, they all belong to this same family of God. LSBC is the local church that you belong to.

#### TRUTH 1

You belong to a spiritual family who cares for you.

You have a spiritual family who cares for you and they help you to grow in your walk with God. Let's learn from the early church how to grow in the community of faith.

In the book of Acts, the new believers started to form a community and lived differently from the society. You are living in a different era but God's values are important for you to follow.

#### Acts 2:42-47

#### The Believers Form a Community

<sup>42</sup> All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship,

and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

43 A deep sense of awe came over them all,

and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.

<sup>44</sup> And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.

<sup>45</sup> They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

<sup>46</sup> They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper,

and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—
<sup>47</sup> all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

What do you observe about the characteristics of this community?

#### **Answer:**

- Set aside time to listen to teachings on God
- Fellowship
- · Sharing in meals
- Prayer
- Met together in homes
- Sharing and caring in practical ways
- Worship
- Joy and generosity
- Praising God
- Enjoyed the goodwill of all people
- More people were saved and added to their fellowship

The Early Church demonstrated what it meant to live as a family of believers. They spent time meeting regularly, loving God together and caring and loving one another just as God loves us. All of these formed the foundation to build a community of believers. As it turned out, people wanted to be a part of such a community. There was an atmosphere of acceptance, transparency and accountability. Their lives were transformed and they in turn touched lives - many became Christians because of the lives of the believers.

Facilitator:

Share how you have experienced the joy of belonging to this spiritual family.

#### TRUTH 2

You are an important part in the body of Christ.

The Bible sometimes refers to God's family as the Body of Christ. It says that all of us are a part of His Body and each of us has a part to play! Every person matters and we need one another as we journey with God.

#### Romans 12:4-5

<sup>4</sup> Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, <sup>5</sup> so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

#### 1 Corinthians 12:21

The eye can never say to the hand,
"I don't need you."

The head can't say to the feet,
"I don't need you."

God's family has different kinds of people, and they can be very different from one another. They each bring something unique to contribute to the richness of this community.

- As part of God's family, each believer is given spiritual gifts that can be used to grow and strengthen the family, which is the body of Christ. (Read 1 Corinthians 12)
- Just as the body has different parts, each of us has a role to play, partnering with one another to keep the whole body well and healthy.
- There are many ways in which you can play your part in God's
  family, such as serving in the church, serving in your small group,
  teaching, doing good deeds unto others, showing acts of love,
  encouraging one another, making others feel welcomed etc.

#### **TRUTH 3**

You have a place in God's family in ISBC

- In LSBC, we encourage members to be in a DJ (Discipleship Journey) Cell. A DJ Cell is a small group of believers who meet regularly and share life together.
- As members of God's family, we have the duty and privilege to extend the invitation to others who have yet to believe in Christ to become members of His family. (Matthew 28:19-20)

#### Hebrews 10:24-25

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.
 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

As a family, we are committed to do these:

- Acts of love
- Good works
- Meeting together (worship/ cell/ prayer/ study God's word)
- Encourage one another

Facilitator:



- Share your experience in being part of the church or DJ Cell.
- Encourage participants to join a DJ Cell and link them up with the church office if they are interested to.

Blessing game: a practical experience of caring for one another

- Think of a fellow believer whom you can bless for these 2 weeks.
- Intentionally pray or bless the person with a card/gift for the next 2 weeks.

Ask yourself

What is one truth from this lesson which you can apply in your life?

### Jet's pray

Dear Jesus, thank you for this new spiritual family that You have given to me. Help me to get to know my LSBC family more and more. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

# My commitment

- Read Hebrews 10:24-25 during the week. Ask God to show you new truths you can learn from this verse.
- Memorize Hebrews 10:24-25

#### Hebrews 10:24-25

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.
 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

# This is my testimony

## Focus for the lesson o

- You will be a witness for Christ, which is to share Christ with others.
- You will reach out to others and bring them into God's family.
- You will learn to testify about Christ and share the gospel with others.



Review Memory Verse (Hebrews 10:24-25) Follow up on the Blessing Game



#### Logistics

- 2 bowls (Perhaps 1 black and 1 white bowl)
- A pair of chopsticks
- M&Ms
- a. Place all the M&Ms in the black bowl.
- b. Using the chopsticks, transfer as many M&Ms from the black bowl to the white bowl within 1 min.
- c. Only those M&Ms that are successfully transferred into the white bowl can be eaten. The rest must be discarded.
- The M&Ms represent all people on earth.
- Before we knew the Lord, we were in this black bowl of darkness. We did not know the way to God and His goodness.
- When someone (the chopsticks) reaches out to us or shares with us about God, we have the chance to believe in Him and move from darkness to light (the white bowl).
- We do not want to be in this black bowl of darkness and sin, and we also do not want our loved ones to be stuck in this dark place.
- Hence, like the chopsticks, we have the call and the role to reach out to others and bring them into God's family!

# Dig into God's word

The Bible often uses the word "witness" to refer to someone who testifies to what he or she has seen and experienced personally.

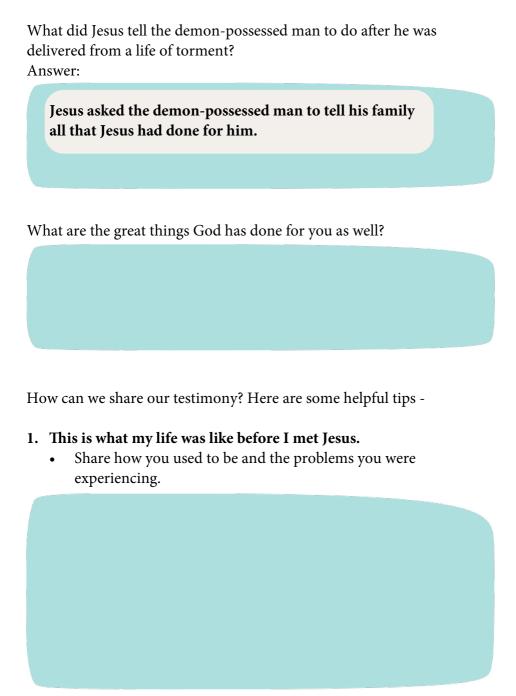
If you were a witness in a court of law, you would be asked to describe what you had seen and experienced. When you met Jesus, perhaps many things changed in your life or some things have changed in your heart. Perhaps you have experienced an answered prayer, the ability to forgive someone or even a positive change of heart towards God. Every believer has a testimony to share about what Jesus has done for him or her.

#### TRUTH 1

You have a testimony to share.

Mark 5:19

But Jesus said,
"No, go home to your family,
and tell them everything
the Lord has done for you
and how merciful He has been."



2. This is how I met Jesus.		
	- These are the circumstances	т

- These are the circumstances. This is how I came to the place of saying "yes" to Him.
- Explain what happened.

#### 3. These are the differences in my life since I met Jesus.

- Do not be afraid to admit that God is still working on you and that you are not perfect.
- Share some of the clear changes you have seen so far.

#### TRUTH 2

### You can share the gospel.

The Bible tells us that it is important that we share the Good News, also known as the Gospel, with others. If people do not hear about Jesus, they wouldn't know who to turn to for help and that there is a loving God who has sent His Son to pay the price for their sins.

#### Romans 10:13-14 & 17

of the LORD will be saved."

14 But how can they call on Him
to save them unless they believe in Him?
And how can they believe in Him
if they have never heard about Him?
And how can they hear about Him
unless someone tells them?

17 So faith comes from hearing,
that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Your **Testimony** is what Christ has done for you.

The **Gospel** is explaining what Christ has done for us to be saved.

Remember that in Lesson 1 we talked about how God has made the way for us to be with Him for eternity by dying on the cross for our sin? This is the Good News or Gospel that the Bible talks about.

Are you willing to try sharing the Gospel with someone this week? As you step out to share with others the Gospel, do note:

#### Don't be afraid of not knowing all the answers.

No one expects you to. Just say, "I'll find out about that and then get back to you." Then ask a more mature Christian to help you answer the question.

#### Don't be ashamed.

Sometimes we are very aware that people may look down on us as Christians. That is to be expected. Some looked down on Jesus and persecuted Him. But that did not stop Him from His mission.

(Refer to the John 3:16 gospel presentation in Lesson 1)

#### John 3:16

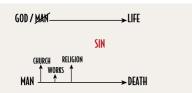
For this is how God loved the world:

He gave His one and only Son,
so that everyone
who believes in Him will not perish
but have eternal life.

#### **JOHN 3:16 PRESENTATION**

GOD GOD / MAN Step 2: Step 1: Everything begins with God. God created the heavens and God created man (you and I) to be with Him forever. the earth. God is not only powerful but personal. He is a loving God. GOD / MAN-→ LIFE GOD / MAN-→LIFE MΔN Step 3: Step 4: God intended for us to have a permanent relationship with When He created us, He breathed His Spirit into us. He also Him. This is called eternal or everlasting life. created us to have a free will - to make our own choices. Man chose to disobey God. By His choice, man is separated from God! GOD / MAN-→IIIF GOD / MAN-→LIFE SIN SIN MAN MAN — → DEATH Step 5: Step 6: The opposite of LIFE is death – physical and spiritual separation from God. Yet, man has a spirit that longs to go

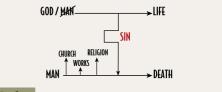
This results in SIN. SIN means choosing our own way, instead of God's way. Sin is not just doing wrong things like lying, cheating and killing. Sin is a nature within us - we want to do our own thing; we do not want to do what God wants us to do



#### Step 7:

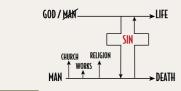
Man tried his own ways to reach God - like going to church; doing good works; trying other religions etc. All these ways failed to reach God. We cannot reach God through our own efforts.

back to God.



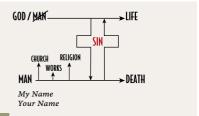
#### Step 8:

Because God loves us so much, He is willing to provide the only solution for man's sin. God in His true love for mankind, sent His only son, Jesus, to earth to reach down to us



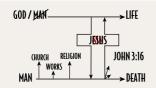
#### Step 9:

Jesus died on the cross for your sin and mine! He took all of our sin, suffering in our place. He did not just die. He resurrected from the dead. This shows that He has power to overcome sin and death. He spent time with His disciples and many others before He ascended to heaven.



#### Step 10:

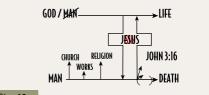
What Jesus has done is summarised in John 3:16. Have you heard of John 3:16? "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not die, but have everlasting life." Let me write my own name instead of man. Let's also write down your name below mine.



#### Step 11:

(OVERWRITE 'JESUS" ON TOP OF THE WORD 'SIN' IN THE CROSS).

Jesus took away our sins when He died on the cross. Therefore, we can go back to God. There is a 'fork in the road' that leads away from death to LIFE. When we choose to follow Christ, we need to be willing to live for Him, obey Him and follow His will for our life.



#### Step 12:

Right now, you can decide. Instead of living in your present condition, away from God, you can go back to Him. Do you want to go back to God through Jesus Christ? Do you want to receive Jesus Christ into your life?

#### Step 13:

#### SINNER'S PRAYER

You can receive Jesus into your life by faith. Faith can be expressed through prayer. Here is a suggested prayer: "Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my heart and receive You as my personal Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. In Jesus'name I pray. AMEN.

 Adapted from "Knocking on Doors, Opening Hearts" by Dr Ralph W Neighbour, Jr.

God loves you and demonstrates His love in action. He changes the final destiny of your life - from eternal death to eternal life.

#### **TRUTH 3**

God has a promise for the salvation of your family.

Who are the people whom God has put around you to love, to pray for, and perhaps to be a witness to? Fill in two or three names of people whom you know in each category:

Family	
Friends	
Work or school mates	
Neighbours and Community	

#### **Others**

Spend some time to pray for those you have listed in the table. Ask God to give you an opportunity to talk with each of them.

Sometimes we wonder if our family members will come to know the Lord, but the Bible assures us that He cares for our families too. So we do not give up being a witness to them.

#### Acts 16:31 (Amplified Bible)

And they answered,
"Believe in the Lord Jesus
[as your personal Savior and
entrust yourself to Him] and you will be saved,
you and your household [if they also believe]."

In LSBC, we witness to those in our community. As a church, we believe in pastoring the community, so we knock on doors, befriend our residents in the neighbourhood and be a blessing to them. We pray that one day, we will lead many to know the Lord and receive Him into their lives.

## Ask yourself

What is one truth from this lesson which you can apply in your life?

### Jet's pray

Dear Jesus, thank you for Your grace in my life that I can know You and experience Your reality in my life. Help me to share this blessing with my loved ones (their names) \_\_\_\_\_\_.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

## My commitment

- Prepare your testimony (Before, During, After knowing Christ). Share it at the next session.
- Look for opportunities to share your testimony.
  - o Be sensitive to God's prompting as you pray, who He leads you to talk to and how you can be a blessing to them.

# The living power in me



- You have God the Holy Spirit living in you.
- The Holy Spirit is your Counsellor, Comforter and Helper.
- You can grow in your relationship with the Holy Spirit.



- Share your testimony.
- Did you have the opportunity to share your testimony with someone?



#### Logistics

- 1 Torch
- Batteries (for the torch)

#### Object lesson:

Bring a torch without batteries and switch on the torch. Then put the batteries into the torch and switch it on.

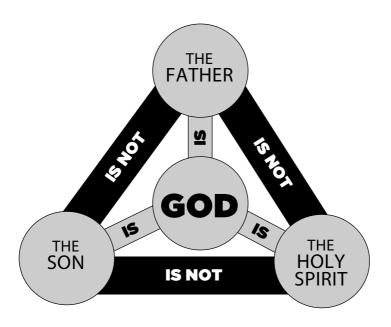
- Without batteries, the torch cannot light up.
- When the torch is loaded with batteries and connected to the power source (batteries), then it can beam with light.
- Similarly, when our lives are connected to the Spirit, we are empowered to live and do greater things for the Lord.



#### TRUTH 1

Holy Spirit is one with the Father and the Son in the Trinity.

Holy Spirit is fully God, just as God the Father is God and so is Jesus Christ. They are three and yet ONE as the diagram shows.



- United In the midst of their distinctions, they are perfectly united. Any teaching on the Trinity which separates one from the other has added division within the Trinity, and thereby created three gods, not a Tri-Unity. There is ONE God, not three. As it is made clear in the diagram, each Person "IS" God.
- **Distinct** The Persons of the Godhead are distinct from one another. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. Their names reflect their particular roles, not their level of importance.
- Equal The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all equally God, equally eternal, and equal in holiness. Again, in the diagram, notice how each of the Persons is equally God. The Father is not larger, as if He is "more" God than the Holy Spirit.

### GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

GOD THE FATHER	GOD THE SON: JESUS	GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
The One through whom the Son and Holy Spirit are sent.  • Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.  1 John 4:14  • But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.  John 14:26	<ul> <li>Eternally with God from the beginning.</li> <li>The Word made flesh.</li> <li>Born of a virgin.</li> <li>Lived a perfect, sinless life.</li> <li>Died on the cross for the sins of the world, to redeem the world back to God.</li> <li>Was raised to life three days later, over coming sins and the grave.</li> <li>For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.  John 3:16</li> <li>Sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The third member of the trinity</li> <li>Was present from the beginning</li> <li>Is a Person, not a force or an energy - He has relationship with us and also with the Father and the Son.</li> <li>Is eternal and holy - He lives in us. John 14:16-17</li> <li>Prays for us. Romans 8:27</li> <li>Has emotions, can be grieved, and releases joy</li> </ul>

One God, three distinct persons,

living in eternal and dynamic community of loving relationships fulfilling the divine mysteries of the Godhead that we are recipients of.

(This is a MYSTERY that will take us a lifetime to understand.)

## TRUTH 2

Holy Spirit is your Advocate.

#### John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father,
 and He will give you another Advocate,
 who will never leave you.
 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.
 The world cannot receive Him,
 because it isn't looking for Him
 and doesn't recognize Him.
 But you know Him, because He lives with you now
 and later will be in you.

### John 14:26

But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—
that is, the Holy Spirit—
He will teach you everything and will remind you of everything
I have told you.

#### John 15:26

But I will send you the Advocate the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we can live our Christian life with Jesus beside us each step of the way? Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would fulfill just that role for us, being sent to empower and help the believers. The Holy Spirit, your advocate will help alongside you and be your Comforter, Counsellor and Helper.

What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do for you?

- He will never <u>leave</u> you.
- He will lead you into all **truths**.
- He <u>lives</u> in you.
- He is Jesus' **Representative**.
- He will **teach** you and **remind** you of what you have learnt.
- He is the **Advocate** the Spirit of truth.
- He is sent by the <u>Father</u>.
- He will testify about **Jesus**.

## TRUTH 3

## You can live a Spirit-filled life.

As a Christian, you can live a Spirit-filled life which gives you strength, power, joy, peace and freedom by inviting the Holy Spirit into your daily routine.

## A. **Communicate** with the Holy Spirit.

- When you fellowship with the Holy Spirit, start with the awareness that He is with you, then consciously turn your attention to Him and lift your heart with affection towards Him.
- Talk to Him throughout the day, acknowledge His presence with you, thank Him and worship Him. Remember, Holy Spirit desires to have a relationship with you, not rules to follow.

## B. **Obey** the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is grieved when you are disobedient to His word and His leading.
- When you read the Bible, the Holy Spirit can prompt you to respond to God's Word by making a change to your mindset and behaviour because He wants to lead you to live a life that is pleasing to God.

## C. Come back to Him when you make a **mistake**.

- We often make mistakes and fall into our old patterns of life. When that happens, we can run to God.
- Holy Spirit is your Helper and He knows all about your tendencies, weaknesses and struggles and He is committed to help you through.

- D. **Feed** yourself with messages about the Holy Spirit.
- You are what you feed yourself with and your spiritual diet can transform your destiny.
- Increase the awareness of Holy Spirit in your life by reading more on the Person and the Work of the Holy Spirit. (Ask your Facilitator to recommend books related to this topic.)
- E. Invest your life into the **salvation** of souls.
- The Holy Spirit desires to make you a witness.

#### **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
And you will be My witnesses,
telling people about Me everywhere—
in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.

• The Holy Spirit wants to teach you and work with you to be effective in bringing people to know Jesus. In John 15:26, it reads that the Holy Spirit will testify about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will speak about who Jesus is and what He has done for them so that they can believe in Him.

Ask yourself

What is one truth from this lesson which you can apply in your life?

Jet's pray

Dear Jesus, thank you for Holy Spirit who helps me in all situations of my life. I want to communicate with Him more and experience His Presence each day. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

My commitment

Congrats! You have completed 6 lessons of "Journey for New Believers". The journey has barely begun and there is so much more out there to discover and learn in this wonderful journey with God.

# Prayer Ministry Tools

#### 1. LORDSHIP PRAYER

Lord Jesus I acknowledge my need for You and accept You as my Saviour, my Deliverer and my Lord.

I invite You now to be the Lord, that is the authority, over the whole of my life.

Lord of my human spirit and all my spiritual awareness and worship.

Lord of my mind, my attitudes, my thinking, my beliefs, and my imagination.

Lord of my emotions and my expression of my feelings.

Lord of my will and all my decisions.

Lord of my body, my physical health, my exercise, my diet, my rest and my appearance.

Lord of my sexuality and its expression.

Lord of my family and all my relationships.

Lord of my vocation and my ministry in church.

Lord of my material goods and my perceived needs.

Lord of my finances.

Lord of my plans, my ambitions and my future.

Lord of the manner and the time of my death.

Thank You that Your blood was shed that I might be free from the consequences of sin and that my name can be written in the book of life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### 2. FORGIVENESS PRAYERS

## A. Forgiveness of those who have hurt and wounded us

Thank You Jesus for dying so that I might be forgiven. By an act of my will I now choose to forgive those who have hurt me (at this point ministry recipient should name them out loud). I release each and every one of these people into the freedom of my forgiveness.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## B. Repentance for ungodly responses to wounding

Father, I confess that as a result of being hurt I have allowed bitterness, resentment, anger, hatred, revenge and judgment to come into my life. (Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what is in their heart so that they can make specific confession for what they are holding against different individuals.) I acknowledge my sin and repent and turn from it, asking that You will forgive and cleanse me.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## C. "Forgiveness" of God

Please forgive me for blaming You for what others have done to me. I know that You hate what Satan has done in my life. Thank You for loving me and promising to set me free.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

### D. Forgiveness of self

Father, I thank You for forgiving me. I now choose to forgive myself for the things that I know You have already forgiven me for.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### 3. BREAKING OF GENERATIONAL CURSE

#### **CONFESS** -

Acknowledge and agree with God about the sins of our ancestors (Nehemiah 1:6-7).

#### **FORGIVE** -

Forgive our ancestors for the impact their sins have had on our lives.

#### **REPENT** -

Turn from our own sins, even as we identify with the sins of our ancestors and confess them to God (1 John 1:9).

#### ASK -

Ask Jesus to set us free from any bondage passed down from our ancestors and help us walk in the freedom He gives.

#### **REMEMBER** -

"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)

## **Prayer:**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for rescuing me from the kingdom of darkness and for bringing me into the Kingdom of Light.

Thank You that through Your precious blood, I now belong to the family of God.

I thank You for my human family, but recognize that my heritage has not been perfect.

I identify myself with them and confess that we have sinned and broken Your laws. We have done this in thoughts, words and deeds and in particular by our involvement in \_\_\_\_\_ (name specific involvement).

I forgive my ancestors for the consequences of their sins that have affected me.

I take responsibility for the ways in which I have repeated their sins and repent of my sins. Please forgive me.

I choose today to come in line with the will of God, and appropriate the finished work of Jesus on the Cross.

In the name of Jesus, I sever all generational links and any demonic outworking that have been passed on to me from my ancestors.

In Jesus' name, I renounce all satanic assignments that have been directed towards me, and I cancel every curse that Satan and his workers have put on me.

By the authority I now have in Jesus Christ, I command every familiar spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave me.

I ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### 4. PRAYER FOR RENUNCIATION OF IDOLS

Lord, You are my only deliverance. I believe that Jesus Christ is my Saviour, my God, my King and my Lord.

Please forgive me for worshipping (List out: e.g gods you used to worship, ancestral worship), for giving glory to false gods.

Please forgive me for my past association with the spiritual power of darkness (List out: e.g. fortune telling, drinking holy water, charms, involvement in geomancy) and did what was displeasing in the sight of God.

I plead on the blood of Jesus to cleanse and redeem me. By the blood of Jesus Christ, I command false worship, spiritual darkness, superstitious doings and curses to leave me. I declare that I am a free person in Christ.

I take back my life, spirit, energy, will and bring them under the authority of Lord Jesus Christ.

I will follow Jesus all the days of my life and not walk in darkness and will always have the light of life in me.

Lord, I present my body to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. I ask the Holy Spirit to fill me and give me peace and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

#### 5. CUTTING OF SOUL TIES

## Most common ungodly soul ties:

- A. Fornication and adultery (1 Cor 6:15-16)
- B. Unhealthy emotional soul ties:
- Girlfriend/boyfriend, first love even if there is no sexual relationship (if I'd only married so and so)
- Child/parents (child becomes surrogate mate or parent continues to control child in adulthood)
- Any friendship where there is impure motivation in the relationship (element of control/ emotional dependency, manipulation and confusion)
- Unhealthy soul ties concerning alignment with false teaching (Cult, Masonic order, vows made, legalistic church teaching causing religious strongholds).
- Soul ties with the dead (parent, spouse or close friend) must be broken even if previously it was a godly soul tie in a healthy relationship.

## How to break ungodly soul ties:

- Repent (confess) and forgive self and the person who bound us.
- Break ties and renounce any sexual soul tie.
- Rebuke and bind any demonic spirits (tormenting spirits, guilt, shame, divination, witchcraft).
- Break any vows made.
- Call back every part that was given away (every emotion, will and thought that was part of the bond) through the blood of Jesus, so that it can come back sanctified.
- Release the person by sending back all that was taken from them (every emotion, will and thought that was part of the bond) through the blood of Jesus, so that it can go back sanctified.
- Pray healing over mind, will and emotions and ask for memories to be cleansed and healed.
- Thank the Lord for wholeness, holiness and grace.

## Prayer to cut ungodly soul ties

in the name of the Father, the Son an	a the Holy Spirit, I break all
ungodly soul ties between me and	
(name of the other person).	
I sever the linking in spirit, soul and b	oody and place the cross of Christ
between me and	(name of the other person).
Father, I ask You to remove from me	all ungodly influence of the other
person and restore every part of me tl	nat has been wrongly tied in bond-
age through that relationship.	
In Jesus' name. Amen.	

## Deliverance prayer after the breaking of ungodly soul ties

In the name of Jesus, I break every ungodly soul tie and renounce any influence the enemy has gained through it. I take authority, by the blood of Jesus, over every unclean spirit connected to this bond and command it to leave now.

I belong to Jesus. I ask for the Holy Spirit to fill every part of me with His presence, peace and power.

## 6. BREAKING OF PRONOUNCEMENTS AND CURSES

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that ungodly pronouncements have been made against me.

I renounce the curses that have been placed on my life through these words which have hurt and damaged me.

I forgive those who have spoken these words, and ask You Lord, to release me from the consequences.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### 7. BREAKING OF INNER VOWS

In the name of Jesus, m	y deliverer, I renounce all vows which I have	
made, knowingly or un	knowingly, against myself. Specifically I re-	
nounce,	(name those which are known one by one)	
I ask You to cleanse me and set me free from the consequences of these vows.		
In Jesus' name. Amen.		

#### 8. CONSECRATION AND CLEANSING

Lord Jesus I give my entire being to You - body, soul and spirit. I invite You now to fill me with Your Holy Spirit, that I may be totally Yours.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

#### 9. DIVINE EXCHANGE

- A. Imagine a box in front of you.
- B. Put into the box those things that you do not want to keep in your life (negative words, memories, emotions and experiences)
- C. Raise your hands and bring the box to Jesus.
- D. "Thank You Jesus for taking this box away from me. I know You have prepared good gifts for me. I am ready to receive them."
- E. Wait to hear from God what His good gifts for you are. It can be a thought that comes to your mind, a picture or an impression on your mind or a feeling.
- F. Place your hands on your heart and say, "Thank You, Jesus for giving to me \_\_\_\_\_\_ (the good gifts He has shown you). By faith, I receive them into my spirit. Cause them to multiply in my life so that I can be a blessing to people around me.
- G. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

<sup>\*</sup> The divine exchange is a tool to renew our mind by surrendering to Jesus our negative thoughts and receiving from Him His thoughts for us.

