

Sample from *Deepening Your Roots* / ISBN 1576831906
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A COURSE IN PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP TO STRENGTHEN YOUR WALK WITH GOD

DEEPENING YOUR ROOTS IN GOD'S FAMILY



NAVPRESS 
BRINGING TRUTH TO LIFE

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NavPress is the publishing ministry of The Navigators. NavPress publications are tools to help Christians grow. Although publications alone cannot make disciples or change lives, they can help believers learn biblical discipleship, and apply what they learn to their lives and ministries.

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Important

PARTICIPANTS

This course is designed to be used *only* by those who have successfully completed *Growing Strong in God's Family*. *Growing Strong in God's Family* is available from your Christian Bookstore, NavPress, or a local Navigator staff person.

GROUP LEADERSHIP

It is important for one person to act as the leader during each group meeting. This may be the same person each time, or the responsibility may be shared by two or three group members.

LEADER TRAINING

Excellent leader training seminars are available once or twice a year in many areas of the United States, Canada, and several other countries. Those who attend a leader training seminar learn how to maximize the effectiveness of *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family* and the other two books in *The New 2:7 Series*.

Information about training seminars may be obtained from: Church Discipleship Ministry, The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. Phone: 719-594-2446, E-mail: cdm@navigator.org, or web site: www.navigators.org/cdm.

You may contact The Navigators of Canada at 490 Dutton Drive, Unit B-12, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6H7. Phone/Fax: 1-800-839-4769, or web site: www.navigators.ca.

LEADER'S GUIDE

A detailed Leader's Guide for *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family* can be found on the Church Discipleship Ministry web site at www.navigators.org/cdm. Suggestions in the Leader's Guide are clear, specific, and practical. You will want a copy of the Leader's Guide before you lead others through Book 2.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of Ron Oertli, who originated the concept of *The 2:7 Series* and is its principal author.

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Completion Record

Ask others in your study group to check you on your completion of the requirements in this course and have them initial and date each section.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Initial Date

Live the New Life, Topical Memory System, Section A, memory verses:

Required verses:

“Christ the Center”—2 Corinthians 5:17		
“Obedience to Christ”—Romans 12:1		
“The Word”—2 Timothy 3:16		
“Prayer”—John 15:7		
“Fellowship”—1 John 1:3		
“Witnessing”—Matthew 4:19		

Optional verses:

“Christ the Center”—Galatians 2:20		
“Obedience to Christ”—John 14:21		
“The Word”—Joshua 1:8		
“Prayer”—Philippians 4:6-7		
“Fellowship”—Hebrews 10:24-25		
“Witnessing”—Romans 1:16		
Quoted the six required verses, <i>Live the New Life</i> , A—1,3,5,7,9,11		
Quoted all of <i>Beginning with Christ</i>		
Reviewed <i>Beginning with Christ</i> for 14 consecutive days		
Completed Scripture Memory Principles Quiz on page 16		
Completed the Self-checking Quiz on pages 40-41		

QUIET TIME

Completed <i>Bible Reading Highlights Record</i> for 14 consecutive days		
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WITNESS

Relating activity, page 50		
Testimony given from a 3 x 5 card • under four minutes		

BIBLE STUDY	Initial	Date
Session 2—“Maturing in Christ” (pages 16-21)		
Session 3—“Spiritual Warfare” (pages 28-32)		
Session 4—“Faith and the Truths of God” (pages 34-38)		
Session 5—“Knowing God’s Will” (pages 42-48)		
Session 6—“Walking as a Servant” (pages 51-55)		
Relationship Evangelism (pages 23-28)		
<i>My Heart Christ’s Home</i> (pages 78-83)		
<i>How to Spend a Day in Prayer</i> (pages 87-93)		
GROUP EXERCISE		
Spent a half day in prayer		
OTHER		
Completed pages 84-86		
LEADER’S CHECK		
Graduated from Deepening Your Roots		

SESSION 1

OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION:

1. Go over “Review the Goals of *Growing Strong in God’s Family*” (page 7).
2. Preview *Deepening Your Roots* by looking over the *Completion Record* (pages 5-6).
3. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One” (page 8).
4. Read aloud “Bible Study in This Course” (pages 9-10).
5. Read and discuss “Principles for Memorizing Scripture” (pages 10-11).
6. Discuss “Practical Suggestions on Prayer” (pages 11-12). Locate Prayer sheets at the end of this book.
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (page 13).
8. Close the session in prayer.

Review the Goals of Growing Strong in God’s Family

The goals of *Growing Strong in God’s Family* were:

1. To enjoy Bible reading by . . .
 - a. using a contemporary translation or paraphrase.
 - b. using a method of Bible marking.
2. To successfully memorize the five key Scripture memory verses contained in *Beginning with Christ*.
3. To experience more consistent and meaningful quiet times by . . .
 - a. combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
 - b. succeeding in having seven consecutive quiet times during the course.
 - c. recording daily quiet time thoughts on a *Bible Reading Highlights Record*.
4. To complete and discuss *The Wheel* Bible Study as a participant in a study group.
5. To study and discuss *Tyranny of the Urgent*.
6. To become familiar with *The Wheel* Illustration.
7. To come to a deeper conviction about reasons for memorizing Scripture and to identify possible hindrances to doing well in Scripture memory.
8. To establish an Evangelism Prayer List.

Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One From *The Navigators Topical Memory System*

You Can Memorize Scripture!

Your Memory Is Good. Do you think you have a poor memory? Wait a minute. What's your address and phone number? How about all that information you know by heart about your job? How about all the people you call by name? Or the facts and figures you can recite about your favorite sport or hobby? You see, your memory is really pretty good after all. Anything is easy to memorize when you are really interested in it, or use it often.

Attitude Makes the Difference. A good memory is not something you either have or don't have. It is a skill, and like other skills it can be improved. Attitude is what makes the difference. Adopt an attitude of confidence in Scripture memory and you will develop skill in memorizing.

Count on God's Help. Here's some additional encouragement: You can count on God to help you memorize Scripture, for He wants His Word to be in the hearts of His children. "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:6); "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16).

Why the Topics?

In the TMS you will learn Bible verses according to topics—two verses for each

topic. Two important reasons for knowing the topics of verses you memorize are:

1. The topics help you understand the verses, and make them easier to memorize and review.
2. The topics give you mental hooks with which to draw a particular verse from memory when you need it. They help you call the right verse to mind when witnessing, counseling, doing Bible study, or preparing a talk.

The topical outline of the course gives you the course's overall perspective and shows you where you are going. In learning anything, it helps if you first get "the big picture." Once you have the outline in mind, the topics become pegs on which to hang the verses as you learn them.

So familiarize yourself with the topical outline on page 9 and learn the topics as you learn the verses.

A Look at the Topical Memory System

The *Topical Memory System* (TMS) is designed to help you learn four things:

1. How to *memorize* Scripture verses most easily.
2. How to *apply* the verses to your life.
3. How to *review* them so you will always have them at your fingertips.
4. How to *continue* memorizing Scripture after you finish this course.

The Topical Memory System in This Book

As you may know, NavPress publishes a Scripture memory course called the *Topical Memory System* (TMS). The complete course contains 60 verses grouped into five major topics:

SESSION 1

9

A. <i>Live the New Life</i>	12 verses
B. <i>Proclaim Christ</i>	12 verses
C. <i>Be Christ's Disciple</i>	12 verses
D. <i>Grow in Christlikeness</i>	12 verses
E. <i>Rely on God's Resources</i>	12 verses

Each topic (A through E) has six subtopics. In the TMS, a person memorizes two verses on each subtopic. All the verses deal with important areas of the Christian life.

During this course you will memorize the first six verses from “Live the New Life.” It is optional as to whether you memorize some of the additional six verses. Only the first six are required for this course.

A. <i>Live the New Life</i>	Required for this course:	Optional for this course:
Christ the Center	2 Corinthians 5:17	Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Romans 12:1	John 14:21
The Word	2 Timothy 3:16	Joshua 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7	Philippians 4:6-7
Fellowship	1 John 1:3	Hebrews 10:24-25
Witnessing	Matthew 4:19	Romans 1:16

Bible Study in This Book

The Bible is a book of life, a treasure chest of truth . . .

. . . reviving the soul,
. . . making wise the simple,
. . . giving joy to the heart,
. . . giving light to the eyes,
. . . more precious than gold,
. . . sweeter than honey . . .

and in obeying its teachings there is great reward.

—from Psalm 19:7-11

The abundant wisdom and riches God has provided in His Word are available to every Christian, but they are possessed only by those who diligently dig for them. Meditation and prayer are two keys which unlock this storehouse of God's wisdom as you study. Prayerfully meditating on each verse you look up will help you understand its meaning and its application for your life.

As you continue to walk with Christ, you may wonder what God's plan and purpose is for your life, how you should walk by faith, and what He desires to see

in your life. During this course you will be doing Bible study on five important subjects concerning your walk with Christ:

Maturing in Christ
Spiritual Warfare
Faith and the Truths of God
Knowing God's Will
Walking as a Servant

Principles for Memorizing Scripture

AS YOU START TO MEMORIZE THE VERSE

1. Study the Scripture Memory Instructions each week. This material is extremely helpful and should be reviewed each week.
2. Read the context of the verses in your Bible. This will help you understand the setting of the verse.
3. It is helpful to write out the verse. This deepens the impression in your mind.
4. Get a clear understanding of what each verse actually means. You may want to read the verse in one or two translations or paraphrase to get a better grasp of the meaning.
5. Read the verse through several times thoughtfully, aloud, or in a whisper. This will help you grasp the verse as a whole. Each time you read it, say the topic, reference, verse, and reference.
6. Discuss the verse with God in prayer, and continue to seek His help for being successful in Scripture memory.

WHILE YOU ARE MEMORIZING THE VERSE

6. Work on the verse aloud as often as possible.
7. Learn the topic, reference, and first phrase as one unit.
8. After learning the topic, reference, and first phrase, continue to memorize by adding an additional phrase after you feel comfortable in quoting correctly what you have already learned.
9. Choose a time when your mind is free from outside distractions. Just before retiring at night or when you first get up in the morning are excellent times for memorizing. Keep in mind whether you are a “night” or a “morning person.”
10. As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life and daily circumstances.
11. Always include the topic and reference as part of the verse.
12. One excellent habit to form is to use spare moments during the day, such as while waiting, walking, or driving to review or mediate on verses.

AFTER YOU CAN SAY THE TOPIC, REFERENCE, VERSE, AND REFERENCE CORRECTLY

13. Review the verse immediately and frequently in the first few days after learning the verse. This is crucial for getting the verse firmly fixed in mind.
14. REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW! Repetition is the best method to deepen your impressions of verses and to maintain an ability to quote them accurately.

Practical Suggestions on Prayer

A SUGGESTED PRAYER FORMAT: A-C-T-S

The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1-4). Jesus gave them a pattern that began with praise and adoration and ended with supplication.

One helpful way to follow this pattern is to use the acrostic *A-C-T-S*, (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication).

Look up the following verses and write a summary thought for each:

Adoration: Acknowledging God's character and attributes

1 Chronicles 29:11 _____

Psalms 145:1-3 _____

Confession: Confessing your sins to God (some prefer to do this first)

Psalms 32:5 _____

Job 42:5-6 _____

Thanksgiving: Expressing thanks for things for which you are grateful

Ephesians 5:20 _____

Psalms 100:4 _____

Supplication: Asking God for things

Matthew 7:7-8 _____

James 4:2 _____

This prayer format is an approach you may use for a week or two and then change to another pattern. A few weeks later you may choose to return to it. It is to use as much or as little as you choose.

USE OF PRAYER SHEETS

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

—COLOSSIANS 4:2

It is a great encouragement to see answers to prayer. Recording how God has answered them alerts us to His working and reminds us to be thankful. We can expect answers as our prayers are in line with His will (1 John 5:14,15). Not every prayer request we pray should be written down here, but only selected ones—particularly those that have special meaning.

You can record requests that you want to bring to the Lord repeatedly. These are prayers that are important to your life, family, ministry, or job. Be specific in your prayer. Be bold. Follow the counsel in Hebrews 4:16: “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Your request should be stated so that you can tell when God has answered. It is quite difficult to write a specific answer for a vague request. You should also record the date of your requests and their answers. Recording your prayer answers regularly can be a stimulus to faith and more consistent prayer.

Blank Prayer Sheets are included in the back of this book for your use.

A sample sheet of answers to prayer:

2/4—Floor covering for basement floor at reasonable price.	5/20—\$14. Carpet and pad for only \$1.95/sq. yard.
2/10—Membership in the right church for us.	3/16—Confirmed that Westside Church is for us.
2/13—Someone to start discipling by March 15.	5/12—George seems to be the one!
3/10—Christian friend for 10-year-old Mark.	6/20—Adams family moved next door. Their son John is 12.
3/28—That Bill Alden would finish the TMS.	
4/17—To be close friends with George and Mary.	
5/4—Extra money to attend July conference.	6/8—Garage sale brought in \$302.
5/10—Jerry Cole would get a job in the Middle East.	
5/11—Safe delivery and a healthy baby for Al and Nancy.	6/8—Seth Allen arrived in good health.
5/31—Close friendship with Don S.	

ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2:

1. Scripture Memory: Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week Two” (pages 14-15). Memorize the verse on “Christ the Center,” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

You will take a Scripture Memory Principles Quiz during Session 2, so you will want to review the “Principles for Memorizing Scripture” (pages 10-11). In the quiz you will list at least six principles of Scripture memory. (Passing this quiz is one of the requirements for graduation from Book 2.)

2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading and marking as you learned in *Growing Strong in God’s Family*. Continue to use your *Bible Reading Highlights Record* and *My Personal Reading Record*.
3. Bible Study: Complete the Bible study “Maturing in Christ” (pages 16-21).
4. Other:
 - a. Begin using a Prayer Sheet to record your requests and God’s answers. You will report on this assignment in Session 4.
 - b. Bring your Evangelism Prayer List to class.
 - c. Finish several requirements and be ready to have them initialed on your *Completion Record*.