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**A COURSE IN PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP TO STRENGTHEN YOUR WALK WITH GOD**

# **BEARING FRUIT IN GOD'S FAMILY**



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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* and *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family*. These books are 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 *Bearing Fruit 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@navigators.org](mailto:cdm@navigators.org), or web site: [www.navigators.org/cdm](http://www.navigators.org/cdm).

In Canada, contact The Navigators of Canada Resource Centre, 490 Dutton Drive, Unit B-12, Waterloo, Ontario, N21 6H7. Phone/Fax: 1-800-839-4769, web site: [www.navigators.ca](http://www.navigators.ca).

### **LEADER'S GUIDE**

A detailed Leader's Guide for *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* can be downloaded from the Church Discipleship Ministry web site at [www.navigators.org/cdm](http://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 3.

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### **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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Testimony given with or without notes in less than 4 minutes		
Used Evangelism Prayer List for 7 consecutive days		
Gave <i>The Bridge Illustration</i> :		
Outline		
"Lecture" presentation 1		
"Lecture" presentation 2		
<b>BIBLE STUDY</b>		
Session 3— "The Call to Fruitful Living" (pages 26-33)		
Session 5— "Love in Action" (pages 40-45)		
Session 6— "Purity of Life" (pages 47-53)		
Session 8— "Integrity in Living" (pages 66-71)		
Session 11— "Character in Action" (pages 87-93)		
<b>OTHER</b>		
Meditation exercise (pages 13-17)		
Completed Matthew 6:33 study (pages 72-75)		
Completed "Priorities— Part 1" (pages 76-80)		
Studied "Priorities— Part 2" (pages 81-86)		
<b>LEADER'S CHECK</b>		
Graduated from Book 3		

# SESSION 1

## OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION:

1. Go over “Review the Goals of Book 2” (page 9).
2. Preview Book 3 by looking over the *Completion Record* (pages 7-8).
3. Survey the “Scripture Memory Instructions—Week One” (pages 10-11).
4. Read “The Topical Memory System in This Book” (pages 11-13).
5. Complete “How to Meditate on the Scriptures—Part 1” (pages 13-17).
  - a. Write out a paraphrase of 2 Timothy 3:16.
  - b. Ask yourself questions on Hebrews 10:24-25.
6. Discuss current use of the Evangelism Prayer List.
7. Read and discuss “Openly Identifying with Christ” (page 18).
8. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (page 19).
9. Close the session in prayer.

## *Review the Goals of Book 2*

The goals of Book 2 were:

1. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by . . .
  - a. combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
  - b. succeeding in having 14 consecutive quiet times during the course.
  - c. recording daily quiet time thoughts and how they impressed you on a *Bible Reading Highlights Record*.
  - d. growing in your ability to share key quiet time thoughts with others in the group.
2. To quote accurately the five Scripture memory verses of *Beginning with Christ* (the five Assurance verses).
3. To memorize at least six verses of the *Topical Memory System* successfully. (These six verses are correlated with *The Wheel Illustration*.)
4. To study and discuss the booklet *My Heart Christ's Home*.
5. To have a half day of prayer after reading and discussing the article *How to Spend a Day in Prayer*.

6. To complete and discuss five studies as a participant in a Bible study group.
7. To give a personal salvation testimony in less than four minutes, using notes from a 3 x 5 card.
8. To relate with a non-Christian friend through a nonspiritual activity.

## *Scripture Memory Instructions — Week One*

### From The Navigators' *Topical Memory System*

#### *You're Under Way . . .*

You're off to a good start, having completed at least half of the first unit of the *Topical Memory System* (A 1-12) in Book 2.

You have begun to enjoy some of the benefits Scripture memory can bring. Now keep up your momentum as you tackle six of the next 12 verses (B 1-12).

Study these instructions, then each week read the comments *About the Verses* and follow the instructions in the section *Your Weekly Plan*.

#### *Continue to Write the Verses on 3 x 5 Cards*

During this course you will continue to put your memory verses on 3 x 5 cards. Write out, type, or computer print the Scripture passage on one side. On the other side put the topic and reference.

#### *What to Expect*

Scripture memory can help us in three major areas—witnessing effectively, overcoming anxiety, and having victory over temptation. In Book 3 you will learn at least six verses which will greatly contribute to your effectiveness in witnessing.

#### *Use the Buddy System*

The Scriptures teach that “as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17), and “Two are

better than one . . . If one falls down, his friend can help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10). We all need encouragement in our Christian lives and this surely applies to memorizing Scripture.

Ask someone else in your 2:7 group to get together with you outside class to help you review your verses. You may also want to talk over any difficulties you are having, but *above all, share how God is using the verses in your lives*. This will help you succeed in Scripture memory.

#### *Knowledge and Application*

Some Christians confuse Bible knowledge with spiritual maturity, assuming that knowing more about the Bible automatically makes a person a better Christian. This is not necessarily true. The Pharisees knew the Old Testament, yet they were spiritually blind. The key to spiritual maturity is sincere application of God's Word to life.

The apostle Paul addressed the Corinthian believers as fleshly, unspiritual babes in Christ. He had to feed them milk instead of solid spiritual food. They took pride in wisdom and logic, and could have understood the deeper truths Paul wanted to impart to them. But their lives contradicted what they professed to believe. Jealousy and strife split their ranks, and they behaved like ordinary, unregenerate people. Their lives were too

much like those of the unbelievers in Corinth. What an indictment! They needed to apply the Word of God to their daily living.

### *Visualize the Verse*

We remember pictures more easily than words or concepts. If you find it difficult to connect a particular verse with its topic and reference, try forming a mental picture of the verse based on its content, context, or some other feature that will help you remember. The picture can become the mental hook you use later to draw the verse from your memory. It helps if you make the image as unusual or striking as possible.

For example, consider the verses in Book 2 on witnessing, Matthew 4:19 and Romans 1:16. Associate the first verse with Christ and the second with Paul. Picture Jesus standing on a beach

by the Sea of Galilee. Two fishermen are tending their nets when He calls out, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Fix this scene in your mind. Associate the picture with the topic of witnessing and with the reference Matthew 4:19.

Paul didn't write the book of Romans from Rome, but because it was addressed to the believers there, you might picture Paul standing in the Roman Forum or Coliseum speaking out to the pagan citizens, "I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Associate this picture with the topic of witnessing and with the reference Romans 1:16.

Visualizing a verse is especially helpful if you find it difficult to remember by ordinary means.

## *The Topical Memory System in This Book*

You have already learned at least half of the first 12 verses in the *Topical Memory System*, a series of verses called **A. Live the New Life**. The four remaining series are **B. Proclaim Christ**; **C. Be Christ's Disciple**; **D. Grow in Christlikeness**; and **E. Rely on God's Resources**.

During this course you will memorize the first six verses from **B. Proclaim Christ**. These are key verses you can use for explaining the gospel to others. It is optional as to whether you memorize more than six verses.

<b>B. Proclaim Christ</b>	<b>Required:</b>	<b>Optional:</b>
All Have Sinned	Romans 3:23	Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Romans 6:23	Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid the Penalty	Romans 5:8	1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not by Works	Ephesians 2:8-9	Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12	Romans 10:9-10
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13	John 5:24

Below are the topics and references for both the required and optional verses from Books 1 and 2. Plan to end Book 3 with the ability to skillfully quote all the

verses you have memorized during *The New 2:7 Series*. By the end of this course you will have memorized at least 17 verses! That's great! You will have those verses readily available for recall to apply to your own life or to use in helping others. Plan to keep those verses sharp for a lifetime!

From *Beginning with Christ*:

**Required:**

Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:11-12
Assurance of Answered Prayer	John 16:24
Assurance of Victory	1 Corinthians 10:13
Assurance of Forgiveness	1 John 1:9
Assurance of Guidance	Proverbs 3:5-6

A. *Live the New Life*

**Required:**

**Optional:**

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

**MEDITATION—AN AID TO APPLICATION**

One of the most beneficial reasons for memorizing Scripture verses is that it stimulates us to meditate on their contents. During this course you will be doing an exercise (pages 13-17) to increase your ability to meditate on passages of Scripture.

An important part of your Scripture memory program should be meditating on verses you have learned. Not only will this enable you to retain them in your memory with accuracy, but as you reflect on and consider their contents, you will experience challenges, encouragement, and motivation. Remember God's instruction to Joshua: "Do not let this Book of the law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" (Joshua 1:8).

**IMPORTANCE OF DAILY REVIEW**

Continual review is the key to having a grasp on the verses you already have learned. An excellent goal you could establish would be to know your memory verses so well by the end of Book 3 that you cannot only quote them accurately, but also quickly list the specific topics under Series A and Series B, as well as the *Beginning with Christ* verses. Plan not only to complete your memory assignments

each week in Book 3, but also to quote daily the topics and references of all the verses you have learned.

Scripture memory and meditation is a strategic part of the discipleship training in which you are involved. It promotes your spiritual development and lays the foundation for future spiritual growth. You will agree then with the psalmist: “Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97).

## *How to Meditate on the Scriptures—Part 1*

### A Group Exercise

*Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.*

—Psalm 1:1-3

### WHAT IS MEDITATION?

Meditation is the act of reflecting on, pondering, musing over, or contemplating. Meditation is *not* mind-wandering or indulging in “mental drifting,” but it has form and an object. Bible verses and scriptural concepts are the focus of a Christian’s meditation.

When we meditate, we spend a few moments *directing* our thoughts to a single subject. Meditation is thinking with a purpose.

Meditation is *not* a solemn, academic exercise. It requires an attitude of curiosity and expectation leading to exciting discoveries, refreshment of spirit, and transformation of character. It brings reward and benefit.

When we meditate, we purposefully sort through information for clarification, for application, for categorization, and for assimilation.

### FURTHER INSIGHT INTO MEDITATION

*This book of the Law must depart from your mouth; you must meditate on it day and night, so that you may keep living in accord with all that is written in it; for then you will make your way successful, and then you will prosper.*

—Joshua 1:8 (BERKLEY)

During this class session you will have opportunity to practice two methods of meditation on pages 14-17. As part of your homework for next week, you will practice four additional methods of meditation, pages 21-23 — a total of six methods.

### 1—Paraphrase

The first method of meditation you will practice is to write a paraphrase. As you attempt to put a verse or passage into your own words, you will come to understand it more clearly. Some exciting insights can result from writing your own paraphrase.

On the lines on page 15 write out 2 Timothy 3:16 in your own words, using the translations and paraphrases below to help you complete this part of your work. (You may want to use more words in your paraphrase than are in the original verse.)

#### VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS AND PARAPHRASES OF 2 TIMOTHY 3:16

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (NKJV).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness” (NASB).

“For all Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living” (TEV).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (RSV).

“All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people’s lives and teaching them to be holy” (JB).

“Every Scripture is God-breathed—given by His inspiration—and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, and for training in righteousness [that is, in holy living, in conformity to God’s will in thought, purpose, and action]” (AMP).



On the lines on page 17 jot down some of the questions and answers that come to mind as you meditate on Hebrews 10:24-25, using the translations and paraphrases below to help you. Begin by asking who, what, where, when, why, or how, or use random questions.

#### VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS AND PARAPHRASES OF HEBREWS 10:24-25

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (NKJV).

“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more, as you see the day drawing near” (NASB).

“Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer” (TEV).

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (RSV).

“Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. Do not stay away from the meetings of the community, as some do, but encourage each other to go; the more so as you see the Day drawing near” (JB).

“And let us consider *and* give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love *and* helpful deeds *and* noble activities; not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together (as believers), as is the habit of some people, but admonishing—warning, urging, and encouraging—one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching” (AMP).



## *Openly Identifying with Christ*

During Book 2 you had an assignment to participate in at least one “non-spiritual” activity with a pre-Christian. Since then you have probably been involved in several activities with one or more pre-Christians. As you know, spending time together is the primary way in which you develop friendship and openness with an individual.

During Book 3 you are required to openly identify with Christ when you are with a pre-Christian acquaintance. Some call this “flying the flag.” Old sailing ships flew the flag of their country so that they could be identified from a distance by another ship. They were “flying the flag” of the sovereign and country for whom they held allegiance. There is a point when a Christian needs to verbally begin “flying the flag”—not in a pushy way, but naturally and openly.

To openly identify with Christ does not mean to give your complete testimony or share the gospel. It simply means that you make a statement or comment that identifies you with Christ. It is wise to prepare what you might like to say when you have the opportunity. You could refer to something you heard in a sermon at church or something your child heard in Sunday school. You could refer to something Christ said in one of the gospels. You could make a brief statement about praying for someone or something. Be direct enough to be understood. Be confident, yet gentle. Never sound defensive.

*And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*

—2 Timothy 2:24-25

It is good to identify with Christ early in a relationship. The longer you go in the relationship without identifying with Christ, the harder it will be to share your faith with that person. Pray for wisdom and boldness, make a plan, then carry it out in a gracious manner.

You may remember the interesting conversation between God and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:6-8. Jeremiah spoke first. “‘Ah, Sovereign LORD,’ I said, ‘I do not know how to speak; I am only a child.’ But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am only a child.” You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,’ declares the LORD.” You, too, may sometimes feel fearful or uneasy, but God will give you the courage and wisdom to say what needs to be said. Later you can build on this brief spiritual conversation.

**ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2:**

1. Scripture Memory: Study and complete “Scripture Memory Instructions— Week Two” (pages 20-21). Memorize the verse on “All Have Sinned,” Romans 3:23.
2. Quiet Time: Continue your Bible reading, marking, and recording, and using your Prayer Sheets.
3. Evangelism: Come to class prepared to give your personal testimony without notes in less than four minutes.
4. Other: Complete “How to Meditate on the Scriptures — Part 2” (pages 21-23). Meditation should not be hurried; take your time and enjoy the exercises.