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## BAPTISM

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests
- ❖ To get better acquainted, briefly share what you think is the most beautiful body of water you have ever seen. (A lake, river, beach, etc.)

### WITNESS

- ❖ Share experiences that people in the group have had in the last week of sharing God's love.
- ❖ Encourage each other to invite someone to the next Ohana meeting.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List, sharing what's happening in the lives of the people on the list and adding any new names the group may wish to add.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Repeat together David's prayer:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion blot out my transgression.  
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ---Psalm 51:1,2,7

- ❖ Continue in prayer (for those who are comfortable doing so) giving praise and thanks to God for His blessings and asking a blessing upon the people on the Blessing List.
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four** and delve together into the scriptures.

### WORD

- ❖ **What did Jesus say about baptism?** Read the following texts, making notes about what you discover:  
John 3:5

Mark 16:16

Matthew 28:19

From what you just read in these scripture passages, how important would you say baptism is?

- ❖ **What did Jesus *do* about baptism?** Read the next two texts and write down the *actions* Jesus took about baptism.  
Matthew 3:13-17

John 4:1,2

- ❖ **What is the Bible method of baptism?**  
Re-read Matthew 3:16 and notice that Jesus “went up out of the water.”

Read Acts 8:36-39 and fill in the following blanks:

The NIV version says that “Philip and the eunuch went \_\_\_\_\_ the water and Philip baptized him. When they came \_\_\_\_\_ of the water the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away.”

- Notice that Bible baptism is by *immersion* – not sprinkling or pouring.
- ❖ **Bible baptism is a symbol of something very special.** Read Romans 6:3 and 4 and find the three meanings of baptism:
  1. (vs. 3) When we are baptized, we are baptized into Christ’s d\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. (vs. 4) We are also b\_\_\_\_\_ with him through baptism.
  3. (vs. 4, last part) And just like Christ was r\_\_\_\_\_ from the dead, we too, come up out of the water into a new l\_\_\_\_\_.

- ❖ Read Romans 6:6-14 from the New International version for a fuller explanation of the symbolism of baptism:

For we know that our old self was c\_\_\_\_\_ with him so that the body of s\_\_\_\_\_ might be rendered p\_\_\_\_\_, that we should no longer be s\_\_\_\_\_ to sin—because anyone who has d\_\_\_\_\_ has been freed from s\_\_\_\_\_. Now if we d\_\_\_\_\_ with C\_\_\_\_\_, we believe that we will also l\_\_\_\_\_ with him. . . In the same way, count yourselves d\_\_\_\_\_ to s\_\_\_\_\_ but a\_\_\_\_\_ to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let s\_\_\_\_\_ reign in your mortal body so that you o\_\_\_\_\_ its evil desires.

- ❖ **When should a person be baptized?** Read the following biblical accounts and write down what you find concerning the prerequisites for baptism.
  - Acts 2:36-38

- Acts 16:29-33 (For background information on the story, scan verses 22-28)
- Review the words of Jesus in John 3:3 and 5 and jot down what Jesus considered as prerequisites for baptism:
- Review the words of Jesus in Mark 16:16 and jot down what He said a person must do before being baptized:
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and ask a few people who have been baptized to share what that experience was like for them.
- ❖ The Ohana leader will ask the group to take a few minutes for quiet, personal reflection.
  - If you have never experienced Bible baptism, ask yourself the question that the Ethiopian eunuch asked: “Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” Then take the following brief spiritual inventory:
    - I believe that Jesus is the Divine Son of God who came to earth to save me from my sins.
    - I am sorry for my sins.
    - I have confessed and repented of my sins and asked Jesus to forgive me.
    - I have prayed and asked Jesus to be my personal Savior and Lord.
    - I want to be part of His family in a local body of believers.
  - If you can check all of the above, you need to be baptized soon! Speak to the Ohana leader or one of the assistants about your desire to experience Bible baptism. They will be happy to help you prepare for your baptism.
  - If you have questions about the subject of Bible baptism or if you’re not sure that you are “ready,” ask the Ohana leader or one of the assistants for more information and guidance.
- ❖ The Ohana leader will have a closing prayer.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray for your Ohana friends and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.
  - Look for opportunities to share God’s love by performing acts of kindness.

## THE BIBLE

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Share with each other by going around the circle and each person naming a book, other than the Bible, which he/she has recently read and enjoyed.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite songs of praise. Conclude by singing (or learning) "Thy Word" (p. 234 Maranatha! Music Praise #3)
- ❖ Invite one or two long-time Ohana members to pray.

### WORD

- ❖ **Jesus said the Bible is:**

1. *Truth* – John 17:17 – "Your word is truth."
2. *Enduring* - John 10:35 – "the Scripture cannot be broken."  
Matthew 5:18 – "I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the *Law* until everything is accomplished."  
*Note:* In Jesus' time, the scriptures consisted of the Old Testament which the Jews divided into three parts which they called *The Law*, *The Prophets* and *The Psalms*.
3. *Important for life* - Matthew 4:4 – "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next five sections:

- ❖ **Jesus quoted the Bible:**

Reading through the gospels, you will find Jesus continually quoting from the Bible. Here are a few:

- Luke 7:27 - "I will send my messenger ahead of you." (From Malachi 3:1)
- Luke 8:10 – "though seeing, they may not see." (From Isaiah 6:9)
- Luke 19:46 - "It is written, he said to them, 'My house will be a house of prayer (From Isaiah 56:7) but you have made it a den of robbers.'" (From Jeremiah 7:11)

- ❖ Read Matthew 4:4, 7, 10 which illustrate how Jesus used the scriptures to answer each one of the temptations of the devil. Most Bibles have cross-referencing. These are indicated by small, raised letters of the alphabet (a, b, c) or numbers (1,2,3) within the text which also occur at the bottom of the page or in a center column. These letters direct you to other parts of the Bible where this statement is made. See if you can find the Old Testament verse Jesus quoted:

- Vs. 4 is from \_\_\_\_\_

- Vs. 7 is from \_\_\_\_\_
- Vs. 10 is from \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **Jesus preached from the Bible**

- Mark 2:2 “(Jesus) . . . preached the word to them.”
- Read Luke 4:16 and write down the Old Testament scripture portion Jesus read and preached from at the Nazareth synagogue. For a complete answer, you will have to look at the cross-referencing in your Bible.

❖ **Jesus defeated Satan with the Bible**

As we’ve already noticed, Jesus met each temptation of Satan with scripture. (Matthew 4:1-11)

- Read Psalm 119:11 and discover that scripture is *still* a powerful weapon against the enemy. Write down the formula you find in this verse for defeating sin:

❖ **Jesus fulfilled Bible prophecies**

- Matthew 5:17 - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
- Luke 24:44,45 – “He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.’ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”

❖ **Jesus said that knowing the Bible and obeying it is vital**

- What happens to people who do not know the Bible? Read Matthew 22:29 and jot down your answer:
- Read Mark 7:13 and jot down the thing that nullifies the power of the word of God:
- Read Luke 11:38 to find the benefit of obeying the Bible: “B \_\_\_\_\_ rather are those who h \_\_\_\_\_ the word of God and o \_\_\_\_\_ it.”
- Other parts of the Bible agree with Jesus’ words about the blessing of obeying the Bible. Read James 1:22-25. What is the illustration James uses to explain what it is like to be a “non-doer” or a “doer” of the word:

- Take a brief, personal inventory of your level of obedience to God’s Word by putting an “X” somewhere along the line between a complete “non-doer” to a complete “doer.”

Non-doer

Doer

---

- Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and write down all the ways the Bible can help us:

❖ Briefly review what you have covered so far in your group: (Jesus *quoted* the Bible, *preached* from it, *defeated* Satan with it, *fulfilled prophecy*, said that *knowing* and *obeying* the Bible is vital. Then do the last two sections:)

❖ **Jesus is the subject of the Bible**

- Luke 24:27 – “And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning *himself*.”
- John 5:39, 40 – “You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are *the Scriptures that testify about me*, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”
- Have you ever met anyone who knew the Bible well, but didn’t know Jesus?
- Discuss together: How is it possible to read the Bible and miss Jesus?
- A suggestion: Whenever you read a passage from the Bible, ask the Holy Spirit to open your spiritual eyes to see Jesus in what you read.

❖ **Jesus is the Word of God!**

- Revelation 19:13, last part – “His name is the Word of God.”
- John 1:1, 2, 14 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us.”

**Getting into the Bible, means getting in touch with God!**

❖ **Return to the larger group**

- ❖ Conclude your time in the Word by singing again, “Thy Word” (p. 234 Maranatha! Music Praise #3)

**WITNESS**

- ❖ Review The Blessing List. As you look at the names, ask how the Bible could be brought to the attention of these people.

- ❖ Pray for the people on The Blessing List that God will open their eyes to His Word and show you how you can join Him in His work of reaching people.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Read the extra reading material about the Bible on the next two pages.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray for your Ohana friends and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.
  - Look for ways to share God's love by performing acts of kindness.



## **Extra Reading Material About The Bible**

### **What is the Bible?**

The Bible is the world's oldest book in common use. It is the world's foremost book of religion, recognized in whole or in part by three of the world's principal faiths, Christianity, Judaism and Mohammedanism.

The Bible is not a single book, but a collection of 66 books written by several writers, over a period of 1,600 years. Most of the writers did not know each other, yet their writings harmonize.

The Bible has two great divisions, the Old and the New Testaments. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.

### **Is the Bible accurate?**

There are no original manuscripts of the Bible, but it has been carefully copied and preserved for centuries. One group of Jewish scholars, the Masoretes, were so careful in copying the Old Testament that they counted verses, words and even letters. If these counts didn't tally with the newly made copies, the work was discarded.

The accuracy of the copyists of the Hebrew Bible was affirmed when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. These scrolls, containing portions of every book of the Old Testament except the book of Esther, were 1,000 years older than any of the manuscripts previously available. Yet the language was almost identical. Scholars around the world were amazed to learn that the Old Testament has come down to us through so many centuries practically unchanged.

The New Testament was copied by hand by the early Christians and there are 24,633 of these manuscripts in existence today. Some of them date back to the third century, or only a little over 100 years after they were originally penned. This makes the Bible the number one book in all history for manuscript authority. The number two book is Homer's Iliad with only 643 manuscripts available to scholars. By comparing early manuscripts, it is possible to discover the original message of the writers. This method is employed to check the accuracy of many ancient books and in this case, the Bible leads the way in volume of manuscripts to study.

### **What does all this mean?**

It means that the Bible of today is accurate. It contains the same message as when it was originally written thousands of years ago.

### **Is the Bible true?**

The words of the Bible might have been accurately preserved, but were they true when they were written? There are several ways to prove the truthfulness of the Bible messages. Let's look at a few of them:

### Proof One: History

Archaeological discoveries continually verify the truth of the Bible. There are many examples, but here is just one: In Isaiah 20:1 we read of King Sargon of Assyria. For many years skeptics declared that no such king ever existed. Then Paul Botta, of the French consulate in Mossul, dug up the king's palace, proving the Bible spoke the truth.

### Proof Two: Science

3,500 years before William Harvey discovered the circulation of blood through the body, God told Moses about it. (Leviticus 17:14) 2,000 years before Columbus set forth to prove the world is round, the Lord talked to Isaiah about the circle of the earth. (Isaiah 40:21,22) Today we know that the earth is suspended in space, but for centuries men theorized that the earth rested on the back of a huge elephant or on the shoulders of Atlas. Yet God told Job that "He spreads out the northern skies over empty space; he suspends the earth over nothing." (Job 26:7)

### Proof Three: Prophecy

The Bible made many predictions. If you could disprove any of them, you could disprove its truthfulness. But no one has been able to do that. Here are just a few:

Bible prophecy declared that two great nations, Syria of that day and Babylon, would be completely destroyed. (Isaiah 13:9,22; Jeremiah 50:13; Nahum 3:7) These kingdoms have vanished from the earth. For over 2,500 years history has validated the truth of the Bible.

The Bible also foretold that the mighty nation of Egypt would not be destroyed as was Babylon, nor its people scattered as were the Jews, but that it would become a weak kingdom. (Ezekiel 29:15; 30:6,12,13; Isaiah 19) When the prophets wrote these things, Egypt had been a powerful nation for about 1,500 years, but this has not been true of her for the past two thousand years.

Seven hundred years before Jesus Christ was born, Bible prophecy predicted the very town in which his birth would take place. In fact, the Old Testament gave 300 predictions about Christ, all of which were fulfilled.

### Proof Four: Experience

The New Testament was written by people who wrote what they saw and heard. They presented their message to nonbelievers and hostile skeptics who would have immediately corrected them had they departed from the truth. The first Christians did not lie. They held to the truth and many of them died for it. Their lives were changed by believing in the God of the Bible who came to earth to conquer the world through love. The message of the Bible has continued to change lives through the centuries. Wherever you find people living by Biblical principles, you find a civilization that cares about human rights and dignity.

**Try the Bible** - If you really want to find out if the Bible is true, try it. It certainly isn't intellectually honest to disclaim a book you haven't read.

## DEATH

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and get better acquainted by each person briefly describing a favorite grandparent, aunt or uncle.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite two people to pray for God's blessing on the group meeting.

### WORD

- ❖ Read together John 11:1-14.
- ❖ What did Jesus call death? (John 11:11-14)
- ❖ This is not the only time that Jesus called death a "sleep." Have someone read Luke 8:49-53.
- ❖ The Old Testament also uses the word "sleep" to describe death. Have two people read Psalm 13:3 and Daniel 12:2.

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four to do the next section.**

- ❖ What does the Bible mean by calling death a sleep? Read Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10 "The dead know \_\_\_\_\_." (vs. 5) What about their emotions? (Vs.6) \_\_\_\_\_

Read Psalm 146:4. When a person dies, his spirit \_\_\_\_\_ and he returns to \_\_\_\_\_. All his plans \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Read Genesis 3:19 and Ecclesiastes 12:7. When a person dies, the body goes \_\_\_\_\_ and the spirit goes \_\_\_\_\_

**What is the spirit?** Read the following scriptures which are written out here in two versions of the Bible so that you can compare the wording. Notice particularly the words that have been underlined.

Genesis 2:7 (King James Version) "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Genesis 2:7 (New King James Version) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Job 27:3 (King James Version) All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils . . .

Job 27:3 (New King James Version) As long as my breath is in me, and the breath of God in my nostrils . . . ”

Job 33:4 (King James Version) The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Job 33:4 (New King James Version) The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

From reading these scriptures, what would you say the “spirit” is?

Note: In the Old Testament the word for Spirit is *ruach* which means air, wind, or spirit. In the New Testament the word for Spirit is *pneuma* from which we get our modern words pneumonia and pneumatic and which also means air, wind or spirit.

### **The spirit that returns to God at death is the breath of life.**

Does the spirit have any life, wisdom or feeling after a person dies? Re-read Ecclesiastes 9:5.

**What about the soul?** What is it and does it live on in some form after death?

Re-read Genesis 2:7 and notice the words that are circled:

Genesis 2:7 (King James Version) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Genesis 2:7 (New King James Version) And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

The soul is simply the Bible word for a living being. A soul is a combination of two things: body plus breath. A soul, or living being, cannot exist unless body and breath are combined. We could write the formula for life like this:

Body  
+ Spirit (breath of life)  
= Soul (living being)

What would the formula look like if we subtracted one part?

Body  
- Spirit (breath of life)  
= \_\_\_\_\_

Do souls die? Read Ezekiel 18:20.

Read John 11:17-44 together and discuss together:

- ❖ What does the story of Lazarus tell us about Jesus?

**Notice that Jesus doesn't just talk about death,  
He does something about it!**

Read John 11:24, 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and find out *when* Jesus will raise His people from the dead and give them immortal life:

Note: The word *immortal* means never dying. The Bible never uses the word immortal when it refers to people. It only uses the word in connection with God. (1 Timothy 6:15,16)

The great promise of the Bible, however, is that people can receive immortality, or life forever, when Jesus comes again. (1 Corinthians 15:52,53)

Go back to John 11:11 and notice that Jesus called Lazarus a *friend*. Lazarus believed in Jesus as His Savior and Lord. He had the promise of eternal life. His sisters knew that. Look at John 11:24.

Today, we can have the same assurance. If we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we can be assured of having eternal life. We can trust that Jesus will raise us up when He comes again, just like He raised up His friend, Lazarus!! Put your name in the following familiar Bible verse:

God so loved \_\_\_\_\_  
That He gave His only begotten Son, that  
\_\_\_\_\_, who believes in Him  
should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and briefly share with each other:

How does what Jesus said and did about death affect you today? Does it make any difference in your life?

### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Think of the names of people you are praying for, realizing that they need the assurance of eternal life. Review these names on your Blessing List and end your time together by each taking two or three names to pray for this week.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the middle of your circle and pray that God will fill it with someone from your prayer list.

**Have questions?  
Need more information on this topic?  
Ask your Ohana leaders.  
They will be happy to help you  
in your search for Bible truth.**

## WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT . . .

### DEVIL POSSESSION AND HARASSMENT

#### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Share with each other by each one naming one historical or contemporary person whom you consider very powerful. Tell why you think so.

#### WORSHIP

- ❖ The most powerful person in the universe is God. Have you experienced His power in any ways this week? For those who feel comfortable doing so, share briefly with the group what evidences you have seen of God's power in your life in the last week.
- ❖ Sing together some songs of praise that extol the power of God, such as: "Awesome God," "Great Is the Lord," "What A Mighty God We Serve," "How Majestic is Your Name" (pp. 161, 11, 248, 217 in Maranatha! Music Praise book 3)
- ❖ Pray together by each one completing the sentence: "Thank You, God, for your power to . . ." If there are those who wish to make this a silent prayer rather than an audible one, that is all right.

#### WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about devil possession and harassment? More importantly, what did He *do* about it?
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to read the following scripture passages and answer the questions:
  - Luke 4:40,41  
Why would Jesus not let the demons speak?
  - Mark 1:38,39  
Why do you think demon-possession was so widespread in Jesus' day?
  - Matthew 4:24  
Why does the Bible list demon possession along with physical ailments?
  - Mark 1:21-28

How does it strike you that a man with an evil spirit would be in *church*?  
Check one or more that expresses your thoughts:

\_\_\_ Is there no place, not even church, where there is safety from evil spirits?

\_\_\_ It's a good thing the man came to church because he got healed by Jesus.

\_\_\_ It's disturbing that God would allow people like this to get into church.

\_\_\_ Why would a demon-possessed man come to church? It seems like church would be the last place Satan would want him to go.

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Can “church people” be affected by Satanic forces?
  - Read Luke 22:3,4 and John 13:2, 27 and jot down what you find:
  
  - Read Matthew 16:21-23 and Luke 22:31 and jot down what you find:
  
- ❖ Did the above scriptures suggest solutions to the problem of Satan trying to control Christians? If so, jot them down:
  
- ❖ Jesus gives solutions and safeguards for the problem of Satanic possession and harassment.  
Read the following texts and write down what solutions and safeguards you find:
  - Mark 9:17-29
  
  - Luke 11:24,25
  
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**
  
- ❖ Discuss together:
  - Do demonic possession and harassment happen in our society today?
  
  - Are Christians at risk?
  
  - What can we do to protect ourselves and others?



- Jesus met demons who were very powerful. **Yet, He was, and is, more powerful!** And He shares His power! Quickly read Mark 3:14, 15 and Mark 16:15-17.

For more information on the authority Jesus gives His people over evil, please go to Session 9 of “Praying For The Journey.” This session contains powerful and inspiring information from God’s Word on how to use the power Jesus gives you to defeat Satan.

- Conclude this time in the Word by repeating together this powerful promise:

“The One who is in you is greater  
than the one who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4, last part

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List, getting updates on any current answers to prayers for the various people on the list. Also, write down any new names.
- ❖ Have prayer partners get together and pray for each other and the names on the Blessing List.
- ❖ **This next week**
  - Pray for your Ohana friends.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Ask God to show you some way you can share His love with someone this week.

## FAITH

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Take *one minute* each to tell the group of some person (other than God or Jesus) whom you could trust implicitly when you were a child or a young person.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Read together:

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” –Psalm 20:7
- ❖ Sing together some of your group’s favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Form into groups of two and pray together.

### WORD

- ❖ Invite several people in the group to each read one of the following paragraphs:
  - Jesus talked a lot about faith. He observed that His own disciples often had **no** faith or **little** faith. “He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have *no* faith?” (Mark 4:40) To Peter, He said “You of *little* faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31) On another occasion, He addressed His disciples by saying “You of *little* faith.” (Matthew 16:8)
  - Jesus knew that faith is important, and His disciples recognized their need of it. Luke 17:5 says “The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith!” That is a request that many of us probably have on our hearts.
  - On two occasions, Jesus commended people for their **great** faith; and in both instances, they were people who were not of Jewish origin or religion. Matthew 8:5-10 tells about a centurion who requested Jesus to heal a sick servant. This Roman commander displayed such strong faith in Jesus that Jesus said of him: “I have not found anyone in Israel with such *great* faith.” (Matthew 8:10)
  - Matthew 15:21-28 tells of a Canaanite woman who asked Jesus to heal her daughter of demon-possession. Because of her persistent faith, Jesus said to her: “Woman, you have *great* faith! Your request is granted.” (Matthew 15:28)
  - Jesus said that faith accomplishes many things. Invite persons in the group to each read one of the following verses while everyone jots down what faith in Jesus can accomplish. Don’t spend a lot of time discussing these verses as we need more time for discussion a little later. Simply write

down what the verses say that faith accomplishes. The first one is done as an example.

Faith accomplishes:

Matthew 9:2:                   *forgiveness of sins*                  

Matthew 9:22                   

Luke 18:42                   

Luke 7:48-50                   

Matthew 17:20                   

Matthew 21:21,22                   

- Jesus said people will always need faith and especially in the period of time just before He comes again. He asked “when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8)
  
- Years later, when Jesus appeared to the apostle John in vision, He again emphasized that it is only by faith that any of His followers can make it through to the end of time. Revelation 14:12 describes three characteristics of end-time Christians:
  - Here is the 1patience of the saints;
  - here are those who 2keep the commandments of God
  - and 3(who keep) the faith of Jesus.

Underline the phrase *faith of Jesus*.

### **What is faith and how do we get it?**

- ❖ **In small groups of three or four**, read the following passages, discuss them and write down a definition of faith and how to get it:

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6-13

James 2:17-26

Romans 10:17 and 12:3

- ❖ From what we read in the scriptures, this is our group’s definition of faith:
  
- ❖ From what we read in the scriptures, this is what we discovered on how we can get faith:
  
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**
  
- ❖ The Ohana leader will read:
 

“For by grace you have been saved  
through faith, and that not of yourselves;  
it is the gift of God, not of works,  
lest anyone should boast. –Ephesians 2:8,9 NKJV
  
- ❖ The Ohana leader will ask:  
How many of us have placed our faith in Jesus to save us from our sins and give us eternal life? If you have made this decision, write a big *Yes!* in the space below:
  
- ❖ If you are unsure, or have questions on what it means to have faith in Jesus, simply put a question mark below and ask your Ohana leader for more information on what it means to have faith in Jesus.
  
- ❖ The Ohana leader will read:
 

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.  
And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.  
--1 John 5:4 NKJV
  
- ❖ The Ohana leader will ask:  
How many of us are overcoming and being victorious in our Christian experience? Do we need improvement? Do we need more faith? If you feel like you need more faith, please write out the prayer of the disciples (“Lord, increase *my* faith!) in the space below:

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review and update the Blessing List.
- ❖ Discuss any plans your group may be making for a group outreach into the community; i.e., a prayer-walk, visiting patients in a nursing home, feeding the homeless, conducting a health seminar, presenting a Revelation seminar, etc. Set

some dates, make job assignments according to the gifts and abilities of your group.

❖ Set an empty chair in the middle of the group, then gather around it and pray that God will fill it with someone next week. Pray also for your outreach plans and the names of people on your Blessing List.

❖ **This next week**

- Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## FORGIVENESS

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests. Be sure to get the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all new members onto your Ohana Member List so you can pray for people as well as have a way of contacting them.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by briefly sharing what is your favorite time of year.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sings songs that focus on the love of God for us. Suggestions: “Thy Loving Kindness,” “Behold, What Manner of Love,” “Oh, How He Loves You and Me,” “He Is Our Peace.” (pp. 232, 45, 238, 102 of Maranatha! Praise book 3)
- ❖ The Ohana leader will pray and ask God to open our hearts to His love.

### WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about forgiveness? This is a subject that He talked about a great deal.
- ❖ **Form into three smaller groups of three or four** and have each group examine a different group of texts where Jesus spoke of forgiveness. Make brief notes by each text and ask someone in your small group to make a report to the larger group. (Be sure to note the context of the verses—under what circumstances and to whom were the words spoken, etc.)
- ❖ **Group 1:**
  - Matthew 6:12, 14, 15
  - Matthew 9:2-8
  - Matthew 18:21-35
  - Make a note about which of the above texts contain Christ’s “teaching” about forgiveness and which contain His “actions” about forgiveness.

❖ **Group 2:**

- Mark 2:5-10
- Mark 11:25
- Luke 5:20-24
- Luke 6:37
- Make a note about which of the above texts contain Christ's "teaching" about forgiveness and which contain His "actions" about forgiveness.

❖ **Group 3:**

- Luke 7:36-50
- Luke 17:3,4
- Luke 23:33,34
- Make a note about which of the above texts contain Christ's "teaching" about forgiveness and which contain His "actions" about forgiveness.

❖ **Return to the larger group and share your discoveries.**

❖ Discuss together:

- After reading these verses, what are your thoughts and feelings about the way Jesus forgives people?
- On what basis can humans forgive each other? You may wish to look at Ephesians 4:32.

❖ The entire Bible paints a picture of a forgiving God. Have someone read the following verses:

- "The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion." Numbers 14:18
- "The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him." Daniel 9:9
- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

- Personalize the verse by putting your name in it:

“If I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
confess *my* sins,  
he is faithful and just and will forgive *me* of my sins  
and purify *me* from all unrighteousness.”

- Take a moment in silent prayer to thank God for His forgiveness.

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Share with each other experiences of the past week where you have had an opportunity to share God’s love in some way.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List.
- ❖ Gather prayer requests that persons in the group may have. Write each prayer request on a separate slip of paper. Or jot down names from the Blessing List onto individual slips of paper.
- ❖ Have prayer partners get together, take one or two of the slips of paper with prayer requests, and pray together for these requests. (If anyone feels uncomfortable praying aloud, they can take a prayer request and pray for it silently)
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray for your Ohana friends and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.
  - Look for ways to share God’s love by mingling with people, meeting their needs, doing acts of kindness.



## THE GOSPEL

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests. Update your Ohana Member List.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by briefly sharing some time when you got some good news and how you felt about it. It might have been making the top grade in the class, winning a sport event, getting a job you wanted, finding out you were going to have a baby, etc.

### WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List
- ❖ Give opportunity for people in the group to share any experiences they might have had in sharing the love of God this past week.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing two or three favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Spend some time in prayer-- praising and thanking God for His blessings, praying for each other and praying for the people on the Blessing List.

### WORD

- ❖ The word *gospel* means *good news*. Matthew wrote that Jesus traveled around Palestine preaching “the good news of the kingdom.” (Matthew 4:23; 9:35) Jesus, Himself said that he was preaching “the good news.” (Matthew 11:5) “‘The time has come,’ he said, ‘the kingdom of God is near, Repent and believe the good news.’” (Mark 1:15)

- ❖ **What is the good news?**

- ❖ Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 to find Paul’s definition of the gospel or good news. Verses 3 through 5 mention three parts of the good news. They are:
  1. Christ d\_\_\_\_\_ for our sins, according to the S\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. He was b\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. He was r\_\_\_\_\_, according to the S\_\_\_\_\_; and He appeared to the apostles and more than 500 believers.

In verse 2, Paul says that it is “by this gospel you are s\_\_\_\_\_.”

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to look more closely at what the *gospel* or *good news* is.

- ❖ **“Christ died for our sins.”** What does the Bible say about sin? (This is the bad news that makes the good news so good)
- ❖ Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23 and write down what you find out about sin:
- ❖ What is sin? Read 1 John 3:4 and jot down the Bible definition of sin:
  
- ❖ On their own, can people change their sinful natures? Read Jeremiah 13:23, making notes on what you discover:
  
- ❖ What did Jesus do about sin?
  - John 1:29 - Jesus is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
  - Isaiah 53:6 - “We all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way: and the Lord has **laid on him** the iniquity of us all.
- ❖ Why did the Father and the Son do this? Read John 3:16 and John 15:9,13,14:
  
- ❖ **“was buried”** How is the burial of Jesus “good news”?
  - Romans 6:6,7 and 11 tells us “that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. . . In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin.”
- ❖ What do these verses mean?
  
- ❖ **“was raised”** How is the resurrection of Jesus *good news*?
  - Romans 6:4 says “just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
- ❖ What do you think this “new life” is?
  
- ❖ Jesus, Himself, said “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.” (John 11:25)
  - How do you feel about this promise of Jesus?

- ❖ How do you get this new life? 1 John 5:11,12 gives the answer:

The good news is more than a headline.  
It is a *person* –  
the person of Jesus Christ!

If you have Jesus, you have life!  
And that's good news!

- ❖ Please do the next section privately:
- ❖ Do you have Jesus? Have you received Him as your personal Savior and Lord?  
 Yes     No, but I want to.
  - If you would like to receive Jesus into your life, pray the following prayer. You may do this right now in a silent prayer or later in the privacy of your own home.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to take care of all my sins and give me new life now and forever. I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them and ask for forgiveness. I invite Jesus into my life to be my Savior and Lord. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**
- ❖ Sing together the chorus: “Thank You, Lord, for saving my soul.”
- ❖ Conclude with short sentence prayers of thanks to God for sending Jesus to save you.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Share God's love in some way with somebody.
  - If you haven't done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## HIMSELF

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by telling the group what is one of your favorite songs. It could be secular or religious.

### WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List
- ❖ Give time for people to share any experiences they may have had in sharing God's love with someone this past week (This could include all kinds of things such as writing an encouraging note, making a phone call to a discouraged friend, doing a kind deed for someone, etc.)
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the **WORD** section:

### WORD

- ❖ **Who did Jesus say He was?**  
Read at least two of the following verses and write down what you find:  
**John 8:58**

John 10:30

John 14:9

- ❖ **How did the religious leaders respond to His claim?**  
John 5:18

John 8:59

- ❖ **How did others respond?**  
Read at least two of the following verses and jot down *who* responded to Jesus and *how*.  
Matthew 16:13-17

John 9:32-38

John 11:27

❖ **How important did Jesus say it is to believe in who he is?**

John 8:24

❖ **What do other Bible writers say about who Jesus is?**

Read at least two of the following verses and write down your findings.

(Suggestion: pick one passage from the Old Testament and one from the New)

Isaiah 9:6

Philippians 2:6

Colossians 1:15-20

Colossians 2:9

Hebrews 1:2-4

❖ **Why did Jesus say He came to earth?**

Read at least two of the following scriptures and write down your findings:

Luke 19:10

John 6:38-40

John 12:32

John 14:6

❖ The next three items are for you to do individually and privately:

1. Does it make sense to you what Jesus said about Himself?

Yes    No    It's not too clear to me    I have questions that need answers

(Please feel free to speak privately with your Ohana leader or assistant if there are things about this topic that are not clear to you or if you have questions.)

2. Have you felt drawn to Jesus?

Yes    I'm not sure    Not yet, but I'd like to feel drawn to Him.

If you sense any longing to know Jesus, it is because God has been working in your life! Jesus said that “no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.” (John 6:44) Praise God for seeking you!

3. How will you respond to Jesus? Think about Who He is and what He has done for you and respond with love and thankfulness as we worship Him together.

❖ **Return to the larger group** for WORSHIP.

## WORSHIP

❖ Sing together “Thou Art Worthy,” “He Is Lord,” “Jesus, Name Above All Names” (pp. 208,126,47 of Maranatha! Music Praise Book #3)

❖ Pick the confession of either Peter, the healed blind man or Martha as your confession of belief in Jesus. As we go around the circle, speak your confession aloud as a prayer. (If this is not comfortable for you, simply say “Pass” when it is your turn, and you can pray silently)

- Peter: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**
- Healed blind man: **“Lord, I believe.”**
- Martha: **“I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”**

❖ Conclude your prayer time by singing softly, “I Love You, Lord.” (p. 21 of Maranatha! Music Praise Book #3)

❖ **This next week:**

- Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Share God's love in some way with somebody.
- If you haven't done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and get an update on what's happening in each other's lives.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together a song of praise to Jesus such as "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High." (#199, Maranatha! Music Praise #3). Conclude with a song about the Holy Spirit: "Spirit of the Living God." (#277, Maranatha! Music Praise #3)
- ❖ Ask those who feel comfortable praying aloud to pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### WORD

- ❖ Who did Jesus say the Holy Spirit is?

- ❖ Read John 3:5-8. Jesus compared the Spirit to w\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: The Greek word for *Spirit* is *pneuma*, which means *air* or *breath*. From this Greek word we get the words *pneumonia*, *pneumatic*, etc. The Old Testament word for *Spirit* is the Hebrew word, *ruach*, which also means to *blow*, or to *breathe*.

- ❖ Read John 14:15-18; 25,26 and John 15:26. Jesus gives the Spirit the name of C\_\_\_\_\_. He also called him the S\_\_\_\_\_ of t\_\_\_\_\_.

Also notice in this passage that Jesus uses the pronouns, *he* and *him*, which means that Jesus considered the Holy Spirit a person.

- ❖ Read Matthew 28:18,19. These are some of Jesus' last words to His disciples before He returned to heaven. He instructed them to tell the world about Him and to baptize people in the name of the F\_\_\_\_\_, and the S\_\_\_\_\_ and the H\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_.

In this passage, Jesus puts the Holy Spirit on a par with Himself and the Father. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Being and the third member of the Godhead.

- ❖ Read Matthew 3:16,17 and notice that the three persons of the Godhead were present at the baptism of Jesus:
  - Jesus*, who is called "my S\_\_\_\_\_,"
  - The voice of the *Father* which said "This is my Son."
  - The *Spirit* in the form of a d\_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Genesis 1:1 says “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth . . . and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

This shows us that the Spirit had a part in creation, making him a Creator. The Bible makes it clear that there was more than one in the Godhead that created our world:

- ❖ Genesis 1:26 says “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.’”

Note: The Hebrew word for *God* used in Genesis is *elohim* and it is a *plural* form of a word meaning the Deity.

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next two sections:

- ❖ **What did Jesus say is the work of the Holy Spirit?**

Read the following texts and write down the various works of the Holy Spirit that you find:

John 14:15-18

John 14:25,26

John 15:26

John 16:8-15

Luke 12:10-12

- ❖ **Ask yourself:** Have I experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in my life in any of these ways? Take time to jot down how and what the Holy Spirit has done and is doing in your life:
- ❖ If you feel comfortable doing so, share with your small group what the Holy Spirit has done in your life.



❖ **What did Jesus say about how to get the Holy Spirit?**

Read the following texts and write down what you find about how to get the Holy Spirit:

Luke 11:13

John 14:16, 26; John 15:26

Acts 1:4,5

What did Peter say about how to get the Holy Spirit? Acts 5:32

❖ **Return to the larger group**

**WITNESS**

- ❖ Give time for group members to briefly tell of any experiences they may have had of sharing God's love with someone in the past week.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List. Pick four or five names from the list and discuss what works of the Holy Spirit need to be done in these individual's lives.
- ❖ Pray for the four or five persons whom you just identified and ask the Holy Spirit to do a specific work in their lives.

❖ **This next week:**

- Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
- Contact your prayer partner.
- Share God's love in some way with somebody.
- If you haven't done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## HOW TO CONQUER SIN

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Briefly share an experience when you enjoyed a special victory; perhaps it was a sports event, an educational or professional achievement or some other kind of a “win” that was important to you. Describe your feelings at the time and how you feel about it now.

### WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List, adding any new names the group may have.
- ❖ Share with each other any experience you may have had of sharing God’s love during the past week.
- ❖ Let prayer partners get together to pray for each other. Should anyone feel uncomfortable doing this, they can simply visit quietly for a few minutes with their prayer partner and pledge to pray for each other privately during the week.

### WORD

- ❖ **What did Jesus say about how to conquer sin?**
- ❖ Read Matthew 26:41 and write down what Jesus said is the first line of defense against sin:
  
- ❖ Jesus taught His disciples to pray a prayer that includes the request “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:13)

**Note:** God doesn’t lead people into temptation. Read James 1:13 and notice the steps from temptation to destruction:

1. People are tempted by their own evil d\_\_\_\_\_.
2. If the desire is allowed to take root (be conceived) in the mind, it gives birth to s\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Full-grown sin gives birth to d\_\_\_\_\_.

**Always remember, prayer is the first line of defense  
against temptation and sin!**

**Also be aware that temptation is not sin.**

**It is when we give in to temptation that it becomes sin.**

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to discover and discuss the following:

- ❖ Read 1 Peter 5:8,9 and notice the actions Peter admonishes us to take to conquer sin. Jot them down:
  
- ❖ Discuss the following questions in your small group:
  - What does it mean to “be sober” or “self-controlled” in regard to temptation?
  
  - What does it mean to be “vigilant” or “alert”?
  
  - What are some ways you can “resist” the devil?
  
  - What does it mean to be “steadfast” or “standing firm in the faith”?
  
- ❖ Take a personal, private inventory by checking the sentence or sentences where you need the most help in withstanding temptation:
  - Certain temptations come to me and I have no backbone. I need more self-control.
  - Some temptations simply sneak up on me and before I know it, I’ve given in. I need help in being alert and vigilant.
  - There are temptations for which I have absolutely no resistance. They are so enticing that I cave into them as soon as they come along. I need help to “resist the devil.”
  - I’m pretty wobbly at standing firm in my faith. I give in to peer pressure, financial crunches, etc. I need help to “stand firm.”

❖ **Help is available in Jesus!**

- ❖ Read Hebrews 2:18 and 4:14-16 and discuss together what you find in these verses that tell *why* and *how* Jesus helps us conquer temptation and sin.

Why Jesus can help with temptation and sin:

How Jesus helps with temptation and sin:

- ❖ Here is a promise that would be good to write out on a 3x5 card, carry with you and memorize:

*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.  
And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.  
But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out  
so that you can stand up under it.*  
---1 Corinthians 10:13

❖ **Return to the larger group**

**WORSHIP**

- ❖ Ask different people to read one each of the following texts:
- ❖ Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. (Psalm 51:5, 1-4)
- ❖ Sing “Change My Heart, O God.” (Maranatha! Music Praise #3, p. 50)
- ❖ He (Jesus) was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5, 6)
- ❖ “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18)
- ❖ I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25)
- ❖ I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. (Isaiah 44:22)
- ❖ Psalm 103:11,12 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:11, 12)
- ❖ Sing “There Is A Redeemer” and “Thou Art Worthy.” (Maranatha! Music Praise #3, pp. 244, 208)
- ❖ The Ohana leader will pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the saving power of Jesus and will give time for silent prayer for each person to confess any sins that need to be confessed.
- ❖ Conclude the prayer-time by singing “I Love You, Lord.” .” (Maranatha! Music Praise #3, p. 21)
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.

- Contact your prayer partner.
- Share God's love in some way with somebody.
- If you haven't done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## JUDGMENT

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Share with each other by going around the circle and each person speaking just one word to describe how they felt when they arrived at the meeting. (*Exhausted, eager, sad, etc.*)

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together three or four of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Give everyone in the group a small piece of paper on which they are to write a short prayer of blessing for the person seated on their left. Then, give the paper to that person. After everyone has read their blessings, invite one or two to pray aloud for the group.

### WORD

- ❖ Read the following passages that tell us what Jesus said about judgment and write down the answers to the questions. The first passage is done for you as an example of how to do the others.
- ❖ **Matthew 12:36,37**--*But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.*  
Who is the judge? *It doesn't say.*  
Who are judged? *Men*  
What is the standard of judgment? (law, actions, words, etc.)  
*Every careless word. By their words.*  
When does judgment take place? *On the day of judgment*  
Why a judgment? *It doesn't say.*
- ❖ **Matthew 25:31-46**  
Who is the judge?  
Who are judged?  
What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)  
When does judgment take place?  
Why a judgment?
- ❖ **John 5:22-30**  
Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

**Form into smaller groups of three or four to do the next section:**

**The Rest of The Bible** -- What Jesus said about the judgment agrees with what the rest of the Bible says about it. Read the following passages and answer the questions.

❖ **Daniel 7:9,11, 25-27**

Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

❖ **Acts 17:31**

Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

❖ **2 Corinthians 5:10**

Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

❖ **James 2:10-12**

Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

❖ **Jude 14,15**

Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

❖ **Revelation 14:7**

Who is the judge?

Who are judged?

What is the standard of judgment? (a law, actions, words, etc.)

When does judgment take place?

Why a judgment?

Going to court is a scary prospect! Especially, if it is God's court! Yet, there is hope and help for all of us, and it is found in the following promise:

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God lives in him and he in God.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.  
God is love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.  
In this way, love is made complete among us  
so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment,  
because in this world we are like him.

There is no fear in love.

But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.

The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. --1 John 4:15-21

Underline the very first sentence in the above passage. Also underline the phrase "*we will have confidence on the day of judgment.*" Circle the words *love* and *lives*.

Take a few minutes to discuss together what else impresses you about this passage and how this promise gives hope and confidence to face God's Day of Judgment.

**Return to the larger group.**



## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List, noting any answers to prayer and adding any new names.
- ❖ Discuss and plan some way your Ohana group can share God's love within the community. (Suggestions: a prayer-walk around a neighborhood, a service project such as doing free yard work for an elderly person, child care/tutoring/mentoring, etc. for a single parent)
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for the Ohana members and the people on the Blessing List.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

**WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT . . .**

# MARRIAGE

## WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any new guests.
- ❖ Share with each other by briefly answering: “Who is the longest married couple you know and how long have they been married?”

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Read in unison the last sentence of Isaiah 65:5:  
“As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
so will your God rejoice over you.”
- ❖ How does this scripture make you feel about God? Take turns briefly sharing your answer to the question.
- ❖ Sing together songs about God’s love and our love to Him. Suggestions: “Thy Loving Kindness,” “Behold, What Manner of Love,” “Oh, How He Loves You and Me,” “As The Deer,” “In Moments Like These” (pp. 232, 45, 238, 28, 113 of Maranatha! Music Praise Bk. 3)
- ❖ Go around the circle letting each person say a prayer that completes the sentence, “I love you, God, because . . . .” If anyone is not comfortable doing this, they do not need to participate verbally, but can pray silently.

## WORD

- ❖ **What did Jesus say about marriage?**
- ❖ Read Matthew 19:4-6. Jesus said six important things about marriage in this passage. Let’s look at these six things closely.
- ❖ **Jesus said marriage is God’s idea.** Notice the phrase, “at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female.’”
  - Jesus quoted from Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:24. Please go to these passages and read them.
  - Read Genesis 2:18-22, particularly noticing the following phrases:  
  
Vs. 18: The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. *I will make* a helper suitable for him.”  
  
Vs. 20, last part: But for Adam no suitable helper was found.  
  
Vs. 22: Then *the Lord God made a woman . . . and he brought her to the man.*
- As you read the above statements, who would you say took the initiative in getting the first couple together?
- What was God’s plan for this couple? Read Genesis 1:28 and write down what you find:

- How does it make you feel about marriage to know that it is God’s idea?  
Check as many of the following as apply to you:
  - Serious because marriage must be pretty important, since God invented it.
  - Concerned because I don’t see many marriages that look like they are God’s idea.
  - Scared because I don’t think I can live up to God’s ideal for marriage.
  - Thrilled that God came up with the wonderful plan of marriage.
  - Doubtful that God really knew what He was doing, since so many marriages are so unhappy.
  - Worried because my marriage doesn’t seem very godly.
  - Prayerful because I don’t want to mess up in marriage.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to investigate and discuss the next five things Jesus said about marriage.
- ❖ **Jesus said marriage is for mature people.** Notice Jesus’ words in Matthew 19:5 where Jesus quoted from Genesis 2:24: “For this reason a man will *leave* his father and mother.”
  - This biblical phrase implies that people need to be more than physically mature to marry. They need to be emotionally, financially and spiritually mature enough to *leave* their parental home and establish a home of their own. People who are mature, are no longer dependent on their parents in any of these areas. The rest of the Bible brings this out:
    - **Emotional maturity** -- Ephesians 5:33 -- “However, each one of you also must love his wife *as he loves himself*, and the wife must *respect* her husband.”
    - What do the phrases “*as he loves himself*” and “*respect*” tell you about emotional maturity?
  - Proverbs 31:10-12 -- “A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.”
  - What do these verses tell you about emotional maturity?
- **Financial maturity** --1 Timothy 5:8 -- “If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”
- Proverbs 31:15-18 and 27 “She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family . . . She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for

her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable. . . She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

- Jot down what your group believes are indicators that a person is *not* financially mature and responsible enough to get married.
  
- **Spiritual maturity**
  - a. Ephesians 5:25 -- “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
  - b. Proverbs 31:30 -- “Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”
  - c. Ephesians 5:21 -- “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Verse 22 – “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.”  
Submission is definitely a spiritual quality that is not found in the unconverted heart. Jesus told his disciples in Mark 10:42-44 that “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
  - d. Jesus set a very high ideal. How can we reach it?
  
  - e. What do you think would be the minimum level of spiritual maturity that a man or woman should possess before they marry?

❖ **Jesus said marriage is for committed people.**

- ❖ Read Matthew 19:5 again and underline the phrase “be united to his wife.” In the old King James version of the Bible it uses the word “cleave.” God said that people who marry should “leave” and “cleave.” What do these words say to you about commitment?

- ❖ **Jesus said marriage is a physical union.** Notice that the rest of verse 5 says, “and the two will become one flesh.” The physical aspect of marriage, however, is a reflection of the total commitment and the emotional, financial and spiritual maturity of both partners.

❖ **Jesus said marriage needs a spiritual foundation.**

- ❖ Read Matthew 19:6 and underline the phrase “*God has joined together.*”
- ❖ How do you think God could be involved in bringing a couple together?

- ❖ What advice would you give a couple if they entered a marriage without God’s blessing and now their relationship is about to come apart? Is there any way to put God into a marriage that never had Him to begin with?
- ❖ **Jesus said marriage is permanent.**
- ❖ Read Matthew 19:6 and notice the last phrase, “*let man not separate.*”
- ❖ Look back over the first five things Jesus said about marriage and see how these items could help a marriage stick together:
  
- ❖ Obviously, none of us is completely mature in all areas. As you examine your personal life, in what areas would you say you are weak and need growth?

**The good news is that  
 “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion  
 until the day of Christ Jesus.” ---Philippians 1:6**

- ❖ End your time together as a small group by praying for each other if you feel comfortable doing so. If this is not comfortable for you, covenant to pray for each other during the week.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List, getting an update on what’s happening and adding any new names.
- ❖ This next week invite someone to come with you to the Ohana group.
- ❖ The Ohana leader and assistant will conclude the meeting by taking turns praying, by name, for a blessing on each of the married couples in the group.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Share God’s love in some way with somebody.
  - If you haven’t done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

**WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT . . .**

#### **THE SABBATH**

## **WELCOME**

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and hook into the session topic by describing an outdoor place that makes you feel spiritual or worshipful.

## **WORSHIP**

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite songs, concluding with one or two that speak of God's creative power.
- ❖ Pray together by joining hands in a circle and each one thanking God for one thing in the natural world which you have recently observed. Example: "Thank you, God, for the rainbow I saw yesterday." If you feel uncomfortable participating in this prayer, simply squeeze the hand of the person next to you and they will continue the group prayer.

❖ **Form into small groups of three or four to do the next parts:**

## **WORD**

- ❖ What did Jesus say about the Sabbath? Read Mark 2:27,28. What do you think He meant by this statement?
  
- ❖ Read the following texts and jot down what Jesus did on the Sabbath:  
Luke 4:16  
  
Luke 4:31  
  
Luke 14:1  
  
Mark 1:21  
  
Matthew 12:9-13  
  
John 5:8,9  
  
Mark 15:37, 42-47
- ❖ Read Genesis 2:1,2 and answer the following:  
When and where was the Sabbath created?

(continued, next page)

Why do you think God made the Sabbath?

- ❖ Apparently the Sabbath is important to God because He included it in the Ten Commandments. Read Exodus 20:8-11 and jot down what these verses tell you about the Sabbath:

Which day is the Sabbath? (Also read Luke 23:54-56)

What does God expect us to do about the Sabbath He made?

Notice the connection between the Sabbath and creation. Go to Revelation 4:11,12 and Revelation 5:12,13. What two reasons are given for worship?

a.

b.

- ❖ Consider these parallels:
  - a. God finished His work of creation on the sixth day.
  - b. Creation was God's work, not our work. It is a gift to us.
  - c. God rested the seventh day.
  
- a. Jesus finished His work of redemption on the sixth day when He cried from the cross, "It is finished!"
  - b. Salvation is God's work, not our work. It is a gift to us.
  - c. Jesus rested the seventh day in the tomb.
  
- ❖ In your small group, see how many benefits you can think of to keeping the Sabbath holy. Jot them down so you can share them with the larger group:
  
- ❖ **Return to the larger group and share the list of benefits for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy.**

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the group prayer list. Have any prayers been answered?
- ❖ Encourage each other to have a prayer list of at least three people who are not believers. Take a few minutes to each write your names on cards, along with the names of three people you are praying for or some other prayer request. Then swap cards with someone in the group and pray for the needs listed on the card during the week.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the middle of the group and praying that God will fill it next week.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**  
Pray for Ohana members and their prayer requests.  
Contact your prayer partner.  
Pray for people whom you would like to have come to Ohana with you; and invite someone if the opportunity presents itself.

**Is the concept of worshipping God  
on the seventh day of the week  
a new idea to you?  
If so, you might like to have more information.  
Talk with your Ohana leader.  
He/she will be glad to furnish you with extra reading material  
or schedule a time to talk about it.**

**WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT . . .**

**SALVATION**



## WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Share briefly some time in your life when someone saved you from a disaster. It could be a physical, emotional, financial, spiritual or other kind of disaster.

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Have someone read:

**Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name under heaven  
given to men by which we must be saved.**

--Acts 4:12 NIV

- ❖ Sing together songs about the power of the name of Jesus. Suggestions: “Jesus, Name Above All Names,” “There’s Something About That Name,” “His Name Is Wonderful,” “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High,” “The Sweetest Name of All,” “Glorify Thy Name,” (p. 47, 233, 108, 199, 246, 123 of Maranatha! Music Praise book 3)
- ❖ Invite two or three of the group to pray.

## WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about salvation?
- ❖ He only used the word *salvation* twice:
  1. In a conversation with the woman at the well: “You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for *salvation* is from the Jews.” (John 4:22)
  2. When He visited the home of Zacchaeus: “Jesus said to him, ‘Today *salvation* has come to this house . . . For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.’” (Luke 19:9,10)
- ❖ Jesus, however, talked a lot about what it means to be saved and how people could enter the kingdom of God and receive eternal life.
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to find what Jesus said about how to be saved.
- ❖ Read John 12:47, last part, and fill in the blanks: Jesus said He did not come to earth the first time to j\_\_\_\_\_ the world, but to s\_\_\_\_\_ it.
- ❖ From what do people need to be saved? Read Matthew 1:21 which tells us that Jesus came to earth to “save his people from their s\_\_\_\_\_.”
- ❖ Why do we need someone to save us from sin?
  - Read Isaiah 59:2 where it says that our “iniquities have s\_\_\_\_\_ you from your God; your s\_\_\_\_\_ have hidden his face from you.”

- When Adam and Eve sinned, their act of disobedience separated the human race from God. The result? Read Romans 5:12: “Therefore, just as s\_\_\_\_\_ entered the world through one man, and d\_\_\_\_\_ through sin, and in this way d\_\_\_\_\_ came to all men, because all s\_\_\_\_\_.”
  
- ❖ God took the initiative to heal the broken relationship between Himself and His people. Read Romans 5:8: “But God demonstrates his own l\_\_\_\_\_ for us in this: While we were still s\_\_\_\_\_, Christ d\_\_\_\_\_, for us.”
  
- ❖ **Jesus died for us.** He saved us by taking the death penalty for our sins upon Himself. He did more than that, however.
  
- ❖ **Jesus lived for us.** Read Hebrews 4:15: “We have one who has been t\_\_\_\_\_ in every way, just as we are—yet was *without* s\_\_\_\_\_.” Jesus lived the sinless life that we find so impossible to live.
  
- ❖ **Jesus gives us both His life and His death.** His death took care of the death penalty for sin and His sinless life met God’s standard of holiness. Read John 5:24: “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has e\_\_\_\_\_ l\_\_\_\_\_ and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from d\_\_\_\_\_ to l\_\_\_\_\_.”
  
- ❖ How can we be saved from sin and receive the benefits of Jesus’ life and death? Read the following texts and jot down what you find:
  - Mark 16:16
  
  - John 1:12,13
  
  - Acts 16:31
  
- ❖ Discuss together what you think it means to “believe” and “receive” Jesus?
  
- ❖ Read 1 John 5:11-13 to close your time together. Personalize the verses by putting your name into the text:  
 And this is the testimony: God has given \_\_\_\_\_ eternal life, this life is in his Son. (If) \_\_\_\_\_ has the Son, (he/she) has life! I write these things to you, \_\_\_\_\_, who

believes in the name of the Son of God so that you,  
\_\_\_\_\_ may *know* that you have eternal life.

❖ **Return to the larger group.**

**WITNESS**

- ❖ **Review the Blessing List.**
- ❖ **Think of the one person** you would put on the top of your list as someone who needs to believe and receive Jesus. Write the name on a small slip of paper. Put all the papers in a container and then let each person in the group draw one name to pray for in a closing group prayer. Take this name home with you to pray for during the week.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray each day for the person on the top of your list who needs to believe and receive Jesus. Also pray for the name you received on the slip of paper during the Ohana meeting.
  - Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Share God's love in some way with somebody.
  - If you haven't done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT . . .

**SATAN**

## WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by briefly describing your “pet peeve.”

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Pass out slips of paper and have each person in the group write down his/her name and one prayer request they would like someone else in the group to pray for during the prayer time. Collect the slips and put them in a container.
- ❖ Sing together some of your groups’ favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pass around the container and let each person draw one name and prayer request. Go around the circle and let each person pray for the person whose name they drew and the written prayer request. If anyone feels uncomfortable praying aloud when it is their turn, they can say, “I have drawn \_\_\_\_\_’s name and I will pray for him/her during this next week.”

## WORD

### ❖ **What did Jesus say about Satan?**

- One thing Jesus said was “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” (Luke 10:18)
- Other parts of the Bible also talk about Satan’s fall from heaven. Read Revelation 12:7-9 and fill in the blanks:
  - There was w\_\_\_\_\_ in heaven between M\_\_\_\_\_ (another name for Christ) and his angels and the dr\_\_\_\_\_ and his angels. The dragon is S\_\_\_\_\_. He lost this battle and was hurled to the e\_\_\_\_\_ along with his angels.
- Read Revelation 12:4 to find out how many angels went with Satan. It says his tail swept a t\_\_\_\_\_ of the s\_\_\_\_\_. Stars = angels. (See Revelation 1:20)

### ❖ **Why did Satan rebel against Jesus?**

- Read Isaiah 14:12-14 and notice the “I’s” in these verses: “*I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned . . . I will ascend above . . . I will make myself like the Most High.*”
- From these verses, what would you say Satan’s problem was?
  
- Read Ezekiel 28:12-19 for more information about Satan. Check off each of the following items as you find them in the scripture passage:
  - Before his fall, Satan was perfect. (vs. 12) *You were the model of perfection. Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

- Before his fall, Satan was a guardian angel. (vs. 14) *You were anointed as a guardian cherub.*
  - Before his fall, Satan was an angel next to God. (vs. 14, last part) *You were on the holy mount of God.*
  - Before his fall, Satan was a blameless angel created by God. (vs. 15) *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created.*
  - Satan began harboring wickedness in his mind. (vs. 15) *till wickedness was found in you.*
  - Satan's sin was pride. (vs. 17) *Your heart became proud on account of your beauty.*
  - Satan became violent. (vs. 16) *You were filled with violence, and you sinned.*
  - Again, notice what happened to Satan: (vs. 16) *So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of god, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub,* (vs. 17) *so I threw you to the earth.*
- 1 John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next sections.

❖ **What did Jesus say about Satan's character?**

- Read John 8:44-46 and fill in the blanks: "He was a m\_\_\_\_\_ from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is n\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a l\_\_\_\_\_ and the father of l\_\_\_\_\_." (John 8:44-46)

❖ **What did Jesus do about Satan?**

- 1 John 3:8 tells us "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

❖ **How did Jesus destroy Satan's work?**

- Read the following two scripture passages and write down what you find about how Jesus destroyed Satan's work.
- John 8:34,35:
- Luke 13:10-13; 16
- Colossians 2:15 sums up Christ's work by saying "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."
- How do you think the cross of Jesus could be a victory over Satan?

❖ **What did Jesus say would become of Satan?**

- Matthew 25:41 - “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal *fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*”
- Compare Christ’s words with Ezekiel 28:18: “So I made a *fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.*”

Satan is not only going out of business,  
he’s going out of existence!

❖ **Even though Satan is a fearful enemy, we don’t need to fear him because Jesus is victorious over him.**

- Jesus won the first battle when Satan rebelled in heaven. (Revelation 12:7-9)
- Jesus won when Satan tried to deceive Him through three powerful temptations. (*Encounters With Jesus* session #2 based on Matthew 4:1-11)
- Jesus won over Satan at the cross by defeating sin and its penalty of death. (*Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned . . . But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!* Romans 5:12, 15)
- Jesus will finally destroy Satan, sin and death! (Revelation 20:9,10; Ezekiel 28:18)

❖ **Anyone who is on Jesus’ side, will also win the war with Satan!**

- Read Revelation 12:10 and 11 and find the three ways in which Christians defeat Satan:
  1. by the b\_\_\_\_\_ of the Lamb
  2. by the word of their t\_\_\_\_\_
  3. by total commitment to Jesus - *they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*
- Let’s say these three things represent three levels of love for Jesus. Take a few minutes, personally and privately, to reflect on where you are in your spiritual journey with Jesus. Check one or more of the following that best describe you at this time:
  - Level 1 – I have confessed my sins and accepted Jesus as my Savior and entered into a personal relationship with Him. “By the blood of the Lamb” I have been freed from Satan’s kingdom of sin and death.

- Level 2 – I am growing in my love for Jesus to the point that I want to share my “testimony” of what Jesus can do, so others can be freed from Satan’s bondage and become “overcomers.”
- Level 3 – My love for Jesus has grown so much that I am totally dedicated to Him. I am willing to stand up for Him in the face of opposition and even death itself.
- Take a few more minutes to reflect and jot down areas where you sense you need help to grow in your love for Jesus:
- Share your thoughts with your small group, if you wish. Even if you don’t want to talk to anyone in the group about your questions or concerns, you can know that the members of the group are praying for you just as you are praying for them!
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## WITNESS

- ❖ Discuss together what it means to have a “testimony” about Jesus.
  - Are there people on the Blessing List who need to hear a testimony about Jesus? Take note of who they are.
  - End your session by praying specifically for those people that God will open their hearts to be receptive to Jesus.
  - Also pray that if God wants you to share your testimony, He will show you when and where and to whom you should share it.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Pray for courage and opportunities to share your “testimony” of what Jesus has done for you.
  - Pray for your Ohana members and the names on the Blessing List.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Share God’s love in some way with somebody.
  - If you haven’t done so already, invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## HIS SECOND COMING

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and hook into the session topic by each one describing one of the happiest “homecomings” you ever experienced. This could be some time when you had been away from home for a long time and then returned or when a loved one was away and then returned. What feelings did you have? Did you celebrate the event in any way?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of the group’s favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Invite someone to have prayer.
  
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four to do the next section.**

### WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about His Second Coming and why did He say He would come again? John 14:1-3
  
- ❖ Read Matthew 24:1-14. Notice that the disciples thought that the end of the world, the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem and the coming of Jesus would all happen at the same time. (verse 3) Jesus did not try to explain to them that His coming would not take place at the same time Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD. Why do you think He did not explain this?
  
- ❖ How can we know when Jesus is talking solely of the destruction of Jerusalem or when He is talking of world conditions prior to His coming? (Read Matthew 24:15-20)
  
- ❖ Jot down some of the world conditions Jesus mentioned in verses 4-14:
  
  
- ❖ How many of these have we observed in our lifetimes?



❖ What is the deception that Jesus said would take place before He comes? Matthew 24:23-26:

❖ What did Jesus say His coming would be like? Matthew 24:27, 30,31

❖ Read the following passages to get a feel for how the rest of the Bible agrees with Jesus' words. Jot down what you find in these verses:  
Psalm 50:3

1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

Revelation 1:7

❖ The Bible describes Christ's coming as a visible and loud event which everyone on earth will witness. However, there are many people today who teach a "secret rapture," a time when God's people will be snatched from earth without anyone's knowledge. What do you think of this discrepancy in teachings?

❖ What clues did Jesus give about *when* He is coming? (Matthew 24:32,33, 36)

❖ What was Jesus' biggest concern for His people? Matthew 24:42; Matthew 25:13

Personally and privately, take some time this next week to read all of Matthew 24 and 25. You will find that Jesus told several parables about how people will or will not be ready for His coming and how we should live as we wait for His return. Clearly, He is far more interested in how we live each day, rather than whether we know exactly when He will come.

❖ Discuss together what it takes to live each day in readiness for Christ's return.

❖ **Return to the larger group.**

**WITNESS**

- ❖ Have someone read Matthew 24:14 and answer the question: what did Jesus say would be the last thing to be accomplished on earth before He comes?
- ❖ Invite someone else to read Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss together how we can join God in His final work on earth. What can our Ohana group do to “preach the gospel” and “make disciples”? List some things: (the first two are suggestions)
  - a. Pray for unbelievers.
  - b. Invite people to the Ohana group.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- ❖ Pick one thing that your group can do and circle it. Talk about how and when to implement what you have chosen.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by singing the following hymn together. (Hymn #573 in the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal) OR if you do not know the tune, invite three people to each read one stanza and the group read the *refrain* together in unison.

I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go

Reader 1: It may not be on the mountain's height, Or over the stormy sea;  
It may not be at the battles' front My Lord will have need of me;  
But if by a still, small voice He calls to paths I do not know,  
I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine,  
I'll go where You want me to go.

Group: **I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,  
O'er mountain, or plain, or sea;  
I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,  
I'll be what You want me to be.**

Reader 2: Perhaps today there are loving words which Jesus would have me speak;  
There may be now, in the paths of sin,  
Some wand'rer whom I should seek.  
O Savior, if Thou wilt be my Guide, tho' dark and rugged the way,  
My voice shall echo the message sweet, I'll say what You want me to say.

Group: **I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,  
O'er mountain, or plain, or sea;**

**I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,  
I'll be what You want me to be.**

Reader 3: There's surely somewhere a lowly place in earth's harvest-fields so wide,  
Where I may labor thro' life's short day for Jesus, the Crucified.  
So, trusting my all unto Thy care, I know Thou lovest me!  
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere, I'll be what You want me to be.

Group: **I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,  
O'er mountain, or plain, or sea;  
I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,  
I'll be what You want me to be.**

❖ **This next week:**

- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray for Ohana members and the people on their prayer lists.
- Pray that God will show you how you can “preach the gospel” and “make disciples” among your family members, friends, neighbors, work associates, etc.
- Invite someone to come to the next Ohana session.

If you have questions or would like more information  
about the topic of Christ's second coming,  
please speak with your Ohana leader.  
He/She will be happy to visit with you  
and help you in your search for Bible truth.

## SIN

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted by describing your favorite room of the house when you were eight years old.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray for each other by going around the circle and praying for the person on your right. Thank God for one specific thing about the person on your right.
  
- ❖ **Form into small groups of three or four** to do the next few sections:

### WORD

- ❖ **What did Jesus say about sin?**
- ❖ **He said that sin is a heart condition.** In Matthew 12:34, (NKJ) Jesus said “For out of the abundance of the *heart* the mouth speaks.”
  - Read Matthew 15:17-19 and jot down the sins Jesus said come from the heart:
    - Other parts of the Bible concur with Jesus. Jeremiah 17:9 says “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”
- ❖ **Jesus said that God’s law defines sin.** Read Matthew 5:19, 21,22,27,28 and jot down what you discover about Jesus’ attitude toward keeping the law of God.
  - Other parts of the Bible agree with Jesus about this. 1 John 3:4 says “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”
- ❖ **Jesus said that sin is slavery.** In John 8:34 He said “everyone who sins is a *slave* to sin.”
  - Other parts of the Bible teach the same thing about the slavery of sin. Romans 6:1-14 describes people as “slaves to sin” who can only be “freed” by Jesus. In Psalm 19:13 David prayed “May they (sins) not rule over me.”

❖ **Jesus said that everyone is a sinner.** In John 8:7 he challenged the accusers of an adulterous woman by saying “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” They all walked away because they were all sinners!

- Other parts of the Bible agree with Jesus. Romans 3:23 says that “*all* have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Notice that this verse also defines sin as more than deeds. It is a heart condition that causes people to “fall short of the glory of God.”

❖ **Jesus loves sinners.**

- His enemies accused Him of being a “friend of sinners” (Matt.11:19; Luke 7:34) and of “eating and drinking” with them. (Luke 15:1,2; Luke 19:7)
- Read Mark 2:15-17 and write down Jesus’ answer to His accusers: (last part of verse 17)

❖ **Jesus said His Father loves sinners, too.**

- Read John 3:16 and fill in the blanks: “God so \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Jesus told three parables that illustrate how much God loves sinners and how excited He gets when sinners come to Him. Read Luke 15:7 and 10 and write down the reaction of heaven to sinners who repent:

❖ **Jesus came to earth to take care of our sin problem.**

- Matthew 1:21 says He was born to “save his people from their sins.”
- John the Baptist announced that Jesus was “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)
- On the night before He died, Jesus used the Passover wine as a symbol of His blood “which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” (Matthew 26:28)
- Jesus forgave people of their sins when He was on earth (Mark 2:5-7,10; Luke 7:47-50) and He still forgives people of their sins!

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.*

- --Ephesians 1:7,8

❖ **Return to the larger group**

❖ The leader of the Ohana group will guide the group through the next section:

- Does anyone know how people at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting introduce themselves?
- They say, “Hello, My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m an alcoholic.”
- You know, we are all addicted to something worse than alcohol. We’re addicted to sin! That’s what Jesus said. He said we are slaves to it.

- Just like alcoholics, our first step to recovery comes when we acknowledge our sinfulness.
- 1 John 1:8 says “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”
- “I’d like us to take a minute or two to go around our circle and introduce ourselves by saying, ‘Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m a sinner.’ I’ll start by introducing myself in that way.”
- The good news is that Jesus can forgive us and save us from sin! Continuing to read in I John 1:9 we find this promise “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- Let’s take a few minutes and personalize that verse by filling in our names in the blanks: “If I, \_\_\_\_\_, confess my sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive me, \_\_\_\_\_, of my sins and purify me from all unrighteousness.”
- Let’s praise Jesus for His forgiveness of our sins by singing:

“Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul.  
 Thank you, Lord, for making me whole.  
 Thank you, Lord, for giving to me,  
 Thy great salvation so rich and free.”

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ **Review the Blessing List**, getting updates on any current answers to prayers for the various people on the list. Also, write down any new names.
- ❖ **This next week**
  - Pray for your Ohana friends.
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Ask God to show you some way you can share His love with someone this week.
  - Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana meeting.

## GOD, THE FATHER

### WELCOME

- ❖ Take a few minutes to visit and find out how each person's week has been.
- ❖ *Hook* into the session topic by sharing with the group one of your earliest memories of your father.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Read this verse in unison:

**As a Father pities his children,  
So the Lord pities those who fear Him,  
For He knows our frame;  
He remembers that we are dust.**

(Psalm 103:13,14)

- ❖ Sing together
- ❖ Invite two people to pray for the group, praising God that He is like a loving Father to us.

### WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about God and his relationship with Him? Read the following verses and jot down what you discover:
  - John 5:18.
  - John 10:30
- ❖ Read John 1:1-4 and 14 for further information about the oneness of the Father and the Son. What power did they have? What did they do in the beginning?

Note: This is one of the passages that indicates that there is more than one person in the Godhead and that they created the world together. Genesis 1:2 adds that the "Spirit of God" was also present at creation. So that makes three who were involved in creating our world.

The baptism of Jesus also gives us a glimpse of all three in the Godhead. It talks of Jesus, the Son, who was baptized, plus "the Spirit of God descending like a dove," and finally the Father's voice from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son."

- ❖ John 1:1-4 compares with other parts of the Bible and what they have to say about God's creative power. Read Psalm 33:6 & 9 and Psalm 90:2.
- ❖ Jesus talked a lot about what God, the Father, is like. Look at the following passages and write down at least one characteristic of the Father for each passage:
  - Matthew 6:8
  - Matthew 7:11

- Matthew 10:29-31
- Luke 6:36
- John 3:16
- John 10:27-29
- John 16:27

❖ How did Jesus say we can relate to the Father? Matthew 22:37

❖ Take a moment to reflect about what God, the Father is like. Then write down three reasons why you can love Him with all your heart:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

❖ How did Jesus say we can come to the Father? John 14:6

❖ Also read John 1:12 and fill in the blanks:

Coming to the Father through Jesus means to r\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and  
b\_\_\_\_\_ in His name.

❖ Take the following spiritual inventory:

- \_\_\_ I have come to the Father by receiving Jesus and believing in His name.  
 \_\_\_ I'm not sure if I've done what it takes to come to the Father through Jesus.  
 \_\_\_ I have never made any commitment to Jesus, but I would like to.  
 \_\_\_ I need more information before I can make a decision for Jesus.

(feel free to talk with your Ohana leader about what it means to come to Jesus)

#### **WITNESS**

- ❖ Discuss together: What obligation do we as individuals and as a group have to give people around us an accurate picture of what God is like? How can we do that?
- ❖ Review the Blessing List, adding any new names. Discuss which names on the list are in need of special prayer at this time.
- ❖ Close your session by praying for the names of people you just talked about.

❖ **This next week:**

- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray that God will help you represent Him well to people around you. Also pray that He will give you an opportunity to share His love with someone this week.

Invite someone to come with you to the next Ohana group



HEAVEN

WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and take a few minutes to find out what’s been happening in people’s lives.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by answering: “If money were no problem, what kind of a home would you build? Where would it be located?”

WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of the group’s favorite praise songs, concluding with a quiet, prayerful song.
- ❖ Invite two people to pray and praise God for His blessings and invite His presence on the group.

WORD

- ❖ Jesus didn’t say much about what heaven was going to be like. However, He made one very important promise.
- ❖ Read John 14:1-3 and share what is the one thing you like most about this promise:
  
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four** to do the next section:
  
- ❖ Several years after He left the earth, Jesus gave His disciple, John, a vision in which He described heaven and the New Earth. Read Revelation 21:1-27 and 22:1-5.
  
- ❖ Working together as a small group and reviewing the scriptures you just read, make a list of what will be in heaven and what will not:

What will be in heaven:

What will not be in heaven:

- ❖ Of the various things you listed, which one is most important to you?

- ❖ Though He didn't say much about what heaven would be like, Jesus talked a lot about how to get to heaven and receive eternal life. Read John 6:40 and 47.
- ❖ Discuss together what it means to "believe" in Jesus.
- ❖ Personally and privately, ask yourself, "Am I believing in Jesus? Am I sure I have received the gift of eternal life?" If you are not sure, talk to your Ohana leader about how to believe and receive Jesus.
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Ask yourselves, "Who do I want to be with me in heaven?" "Who would I especially miss if they were not there?" The answer to these questions should comprise your personal prayer list as well as the group's prayer list or Blessing List.
- ❖ Make sure each person has a small piece of paper to write down the top three names of people they know who need to receive Jesus so they can be in heaven.
- ❖ Form into groups of two and exchange the lists you just made and pray for each other's names.
- ❖ To conclude the session, place an empty chair in the middle of the group to represent all the people we want to be in heaven with us. Invite one person to have a closing prayer asking God to fill the chair and bring people to the next Ohana.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner and pray together.
  - Pray for your personal prayer list and for the names on the group Blessing List.
  - Ask God to show you how and when to witness to the people you want to be in heaven with.

## THE LAW

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by describing how you felt the first time you got caught breaking some law, such as a traffic violation, a school rule, etc.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together several favorite praise songs, ending with “Thy Word.” (#234 Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ Let each person share a one-sentence about what God’s Word has meant in their lives.
- ❖ Invite one or two persons to have prayer for the group.

### WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about the law? Read Matthew 5:17-20 and answer the questions:
- ❖ When and under what circumstances did Jesus say these words? See Matthew 5:1,2
- ❖ How important were the commandments to Jesus?
- ❖ Do you have any idea what is meant by the term “the Law and the Prophets”?
- ❖ What do you think Jesus meant when He said He “came not to destroy but to fulfill”? (Matthew 5:17)
- ❖ Read Matthew 22:34-40 and answer the following questions:
- ❖ When and under what circumstances did Jesus say these words? See also Matthew 21:23,45,45.
- ❖ Why do you think Jesus summarized the ten commandments into just two? (Matthew 22:37-39)

- ❖ How can love be the basis for all of God’s commandments? Also read John 14:15 and 15:10 to answer this question.
  
- ❖ Read Revelation 12:17 and Revelation 14:12. What are the characteristics of God’s people living in end times?
  
- ❖ Some people say that the law was done away with at the cross. How would you respond to that statement? See also Romans 3:31.
  
- ❖ If you were to take a “love test” on how your love for God and people is reflected in your actions, how would you do? Check one of the following that applies to your situation right now.
  - \_\_\_ I must be low on love because I find it very hard to keep God’s commandments.
  - \_\_\_ Sometimes I do pretty well at loving people, but other times I don’t do well at all.
  - \_\_\_ I’m growing in my love toward God and toward others, but I’ve got a long way to go.
  - \_\_\_ I don’t see any connection between love and God’s law, so I just try real hard to obey the commandments and hope I’ll make it to heaven.
  - \_\_\_ On my own, I’m very deficient in love that results in obedience, but I’m trusting in Jesus to save me from my sins and deficiencies and to “grow” me up to be more like Him.
  - \_\_\_ Other:

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**WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the group’s Blessing List (Prayer List) adding any new names. Divide the names on the list among the group and ask each person to pray for those specific names this week.
- ❖ Encourage each other to invite someone to come to the next Ohana meeting.
- ❖ Set an empty chair in the middle of the group. Then stand in a circle around it, joining hands and praying for God to fill the empty chair with someone new next week.
  
- ❖ **This next week**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray for the names from group prayer list that you received this week.
  - Ask God to show you someone you can invite to an Ohana meeting.

## MONEY

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other introduce any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and **hook** into the session topic by briefly describing a time when you ran out of money and didn't know how you'd manage. What happened? How did you feel about the situation?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Pray together by forming into groups of two or three and praying for each other.

### WORD

- ❖ What did Jesus say about money? Though He didn't use the word *money* very often, He told a lot of stories about financial matters. You will find two of these stories in other Ohana materials. (The Foolish Farmer of Luke 12:13-21, *Stories Jesus Told*, p. 16.) (The Talents of Matthew 25:14-30, *Stories Jesus Told*, p. 36) Other stories you might like to read are the stories of the poor widow and her generous offering found in Mark 12:41-44, and the story of the lost coin found in Luke 15:8-10.
- ❖ **Form into groups of three or four** to do the following:
- ❖ Read Matthew 6:25-34 where you find some of Jesus' principles about life, including financial affairs. What principles do you find? Jot them down in your own words and put a star beside the one that is most important to you:
- ❖ From another part of the Bible, we find a philosophy similar to what Jesus taught:  
"And you shall remember the Lord your God,  
for it is He who gives you power to get wealth."  
Deuteronomy 8:18.
- ❖ On the negative side, Jesus warned about certain attitudes concerning wealth. Read Mark 4:19. What do you think Jesus meant by the phrase "the deceitfulness of riches"?

- ❖ Read Mark 10:23,24 and discuss why Jesus said it is hard for rich people to enter the kingdom:
  
- ❖ From another part of the Bible, we read similar words:  
     “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil,  
     for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness,  
     and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” 1 Timothy 6:10
  
- ❖ Though Jesus’ teachings about wealth and money go against worldly standards, still He was practical. Read Luke 14:28-30 to find out what He said about planning:
  
- ❖ What did Jesus say about paying taxes? Read Matthew 22:17-21.
  
- ❖ Read Luke 6:38. What did Jesus say about sharing what we have?
  
- ❖ From another part of the Bible, we find similar advice:  
     “The generous soul will be made rich,  
     and he who waters will also be watered himself.”  
     Proverbs 11:25
  
- ❖ Jesus believed in tithing, for He said “These you ought to have done.” At the same time, He condemned the Pharisees for neglecting justice, mercy and love while they boasted about being careful in tithe-paying. (Matthew 23:23)
  
- ❖ Read from another part of the Bible, Malachi 3:8-11, to find out what God has to say about tithing:
  
  
- Note: Leviticus 27:32 tells us that a tithe equals a tenth.
  
- ❖ Read Mark 12:41-44. Why did Jesus commend this woman for her giving?
  
- ❖ Talk with each other about how you would summarize what Jesus taught about money. Jot down your thoughts:

- ❖ Personally and privately, review the list your small group just made and check the items that you need to give attention to in your financial affairs. (You do not need to share this unless you want to)
- ❖ **Return to the larger group** and take a few minutes for each group to share what it discovered about Jesus' teaching concerning money.

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List, (prayer list) adding any new names.
- ❖ Discuss together how your group might give a special offering. Is there a charitable organization or a person your group could help financially? Make specific plans on how the group can contribute.
- ❖ Conclude your time together by placing an empty chair in the middle of the group. Then pray that God will fill the chair with someone new next week.
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner and pray with each other.
  - Pray for the names on the prayer list.
  - Pray about how you can bring your personal finances into line better with Jesus' teachings.
  - Think and pray about who you could invite to the Ohana group.

## PRAYER

### WELCOME

- ❖ As each person arrives, take time to find out how their week has been. Introduce and welcome any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by each person briefly sharing who was their best friend in elementary or high school.

### WITNESS

- ❖ Invite people to share any experiences they may have had during the past week of sharing God's love.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List (Prayer List), adding any new names.
- ❖ Discuss any outreach plans your group may have, such as a social event, literature distribution, prayer-walk in a neighborhood, etc. Plan to do something together as a group to reach the community with God's love.
- ❖ Form into groups of two or three and pray for the names on the Blessing List.

### WORD

- ❖ Jesus did more than talk about prayer. He actually did it. Ask six people in the group to each read one of the following passages that describe Christ's prayer habits.
  - Luke 6:12 - Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
  - Mark 1:35 - Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.
  - Luke 5:16 - So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.
  - Luke 9:28 - And it came to pass about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.
  - Matthew 14:23 - And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray. And when evening had come, He was alone there.
  - Matthew 26:36 & 39 – Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”
- ❖ **Form into smaller groups of three or four people** to do the next sections:



- ❖ Jesus shared with His disciples several things about prayer. Read the following texts and quickly fill in the blanks or answer the questions:
- ❖ Matthew 21:22 B\_\_\_\_\_ is very important when you pray.
- ❖ Matthew 23:14 L\_\_\_\_\_ prayers are not necessarily a sign of piety.
- ❖ Matthew 6:5-8 What attitude should we avoid when we pray?

What should be our attitude and how should we pray?

- ❖ Jesus also mentioned some things to pray about. Read the following texts and jot down what you discover:
  - Matthew 5:44 says we should pray for
  - Luke 10:2 says we should pray for
  - Luke 21:36 says we should pray about
  - Luke 22:40 says we should pray
- ❖ It was Jesus' life of prayer, more than His words about it, that impressed His disciples so much that they asked "Lord, teach us to pray." Jesus gave them a sample prayer which we call "The Lord's Prayer." Invite someone in the group to read it in Matthew 6:9-13. Then after each of the phrases in this prayer, write down some thoughts about what these phrases mean to you:
  - *Our Father in heaven*
  - *Hallowed be Your name*
  - *Your kingdom come*
  - *Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

- *Give us this day our daily bread*
  - *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*
  - *And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one*
  - *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*
- ❖ What part of the Lord's Prayer do you most need to pray about in your own personal life?
- ❖ **Return to the larger group.**

## **WORSHIP**

- ❖ Invite each person to briefly share one thing from the Lord's Prayer that means the most to them.
- ❖ As a group, pray the Lord's Prayer in unison.
- ❖ Conclude your time of worship by singing some songs of worship, such as #123 "Glorify Thy Name," #113 "In Moments Like These," #81 "Oh, The Glory Of Your Presence." (All from Maranatha Praise book 3)
- ❖ The Ohana leader will have a closing prayer.

## REPENTANCE

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and take a few minutes to find out how each person's week has been going.
- ❖ Be sure to welcome any guests and introduce them to everyone in the group.
- ❖ Briefly share with each other what is the biggest mistake you ever made with some daily living activity such as cooking, cleaning, maintaining the car or house, etc. How did you feel about it and how did you fix the situation?

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs.
- ❖ Form into groups of two or three and pray together for each other.

### WORD

- ❖ **Read Matthew 4:17** and jot down the first word Jesus used as He began preaching. R\_\_\_\_\_
- ❖ **Read Matthew 9:13.** What was Jesus' mission on earth?
- ❖ Jesus preached that people should repent and He said He came to call sinners to repentance, but what does the word "repentance" mean? The following passages give some clues as to what repentance means. Please read them and jot down what you find:

Text	Repent(ance) means:
• Luke 3:8	
• Acts 20:20	
• 2 Corinthians 7:9,10	
- ❖ According to Jesus and the apostles, repentance is the beginning point for a relationship with God. What brings us to this point?

2 Peter 3:9 says:

Romans 2:4 says:

**This is good news! It is God who nudges and calls us to repentance!  
It's not some feeling we have to "work up" in ourselves.  
It is God's work in us!**

- ❖ Read Romans 2:4 one more time. What keeps people from repenting?
  
- ❖ Again, if we do not "despise" or turn away from God's call to repentance, we will repent. What will be the next step in our walk with God? Acts 2:38
  
- ❖ Take a few minutes for a private, personal spiritual inventory. Check what applies to you:
  - ❑ I have a growing realization that I am a sinner.
  - ❑ I'm sorry for my sins and I want to turn away from them.
  - ❑ I have repented of my sins and asked God to forgive me, and I want to be baptized.
  - ❑ Pray for me that I will listen to God's call to repent.

If you wish, you may share your responses to this inventory with the Ohana leader or someone else in the group and ask them to pray with and for you to take whatever steps you need to take in your spiritual journey.

## **WITNESS**

- ❖ Review the Blessing List (prayer list) adding any new names or prayer requests that people may have.
- ❖ Pick one name from the list of someone the group feels most needs Jesus. Conclude your time together by getting into groups of two and praying for this person.
  
- ❖ **This next week**
  - Contact your prayer partner.
  - Pray that God will guide you to people whom you can invite to the Ohana group.

## TEMPTATION

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and introduce any guests.
- ❖ Take a few minutes and let each person share one joy they experienced in the last week and one thing they struggled with or are still struggling with.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Form into groups of two and pray for each other, thanking God for the joys each person has experienced and asking God to help with the struggles.
- ❖ Sing together some of your group's favorite praise songs, concluding with a quiet prayer song such as "I Love You, Lord."
- ❖ The Ohana leader will pray a short prayer of thanks and praise to God.

### WORD

- ❖ **Read Matthew 6:13.** What did Jesus say about temptation in the prayer He taught His disciples?
  
- ❖ Where do temptations come from? **Read James 1:12-15**
  
- ❖ What did Jesus say was the first line of defense against temptation? **Matthew 26:41**
  
- ❖ Jesus not only talked about temptation, He experienced it. (Matthew 4:1-11) What did Paul write about Jesus and temptation? **Read Hebrews 4:15.**
  
- ❖ Since Jesus Himself was tempted and yet never sinned, it lets us know that temptation is not the same thing as committing sin! Sometimes people feel guilty because they are tempted. Have you ever felt guilty about being tempted? If you feel comfortable about sharing this, feel free to do so.
  
- ❖ Remember, temptation is not sin. It's like the old saying "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair."

- ❖ Have you ever felt like your temptations were too much for you? **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13** and underline the most meaningful words and phrases. Then discuss together what this verse means to each of you.

Note: This promise would be a good one to write out on a card and memorize.

- ❖ **Re-read Hebrews 4:15, and go on to read verse 16.** Where can we go when we need help? And how are we to come?

- ❖ Ask yourself, have I been coming “boldly” to God for help with the temptations that come to me?

- ❖ Though the Father and Son have unlimited power to help us when we are tempted, what measures can we take to escape temptation? **Read James 4:7,8 and Philippians 4:7,8.**

- ❖ To do personally and privately: Personalize 1 Corinthians 10:13 by putting your name in the text and writing in one recurring temptation you struggle with:

God is faithful, who will not allow me, \_\_\_\_\_,  
To be tempted by \_\_\_\_\_  
beyond what I am able, but with the temptation will also make the  
way of escape, that I, \_\_\_\_\_, may be able to  
bear it.

## WITNESS

- ❖ Review the Blessing List (Prayer List), adding any new names and requests.
- ❖ Praying for specific people with specific needs is one of the best ways to witness. So form into groups of two or three and let each person share the name of one person he/she knows who is struggling with a particular temptation. Each person can then pray for the person on their right and the name and temptation he/she mentioned.

- ❖ **This next week:**

- Contact your prayer partner.
- Pray for the people on the Blessing List.
- Pray that God will show you someone to invite to the next Ohana meeting.

## WITNESSING

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and *hook* into the session topic by answering this question: Suppose you got to have a personal audience with the president of the country. Who is the first person with whom you would share your experience?
- ❖ Having an audience with an important person on earth is nothing like having an audience with the King of the universe. And that's exactly what we can do as we worship God together. We are coming into His Presence to honor and glorify Him, so let's sing some songs to praise Him.

### WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing together songs such as #15 "Come Into His Presence," #148 "Holy Ground," #281 "Great and Mighty Is The Lord Our God," #163 "Awesome God."
- ❖ Continue worshipping by letting each person in the group share in one sentence what God means to him/her. If some are uncomfortable doing this, they can simply say "Pass."
- ❖ Invite one or two in the group to pray a prayer of praise and honor to God.

### WORD

- ❖ When people meet God, they want to share their experience with others. Quickly read the following passages to discover some Bible characters' responses to meeting Jesus:
- ❖ **Luke 5:27-32.**
  - What was Levi Matthew's first act after becoming a follower of Jesus? Do you think throwing a party is a good way to witness about Jesus?
  - Would having a party be a good way to witness in today's world? If so, who would be invited? And how could they be invited so they would want to come? What activities would you plan for such a party?
- ❖ John 4 tells the story of a woman who met Jesus at a well and through His conversation with her, she became a believer in Him. **Read John 4:28-30, 39-42** and discuss:
  - What did the woman at the well do as soon as she became a believer in Jesus, and what was her message? (vs. 28-30)

- What do you think of her testimony? (vs. 29) Would you feel comfortable sharing what she shared?
- What was the result of the woman's witness about Jesus? (vs.39-42)
- ❖ Jesus healed a demon-possessed man. **Read Mark 5:18-20** and discuss:
  - What did the man who had been freed from demons want to do as soon as He had been healed? (vs. 18)
  - What did Jesus tell him to do? (vs.19) And what did the man do? (vs. 20)
  - How much training or experience did this man have in the Bible, in preaching or in talking to people about Jesus?
  - Imagine what it must have been like as this man went to his friends with his story. How do you think they felt when they saw him coming? Who do you think he spoke to first? What words might he have used?

From these experiences we discover that sharing Jesus is a natural result of meeting Him. Yet, sometimes it seems that the longer people are Christians the less they share Him. So what did Jesus say about witnessing?

**Read Matthew 5:13-16 and Matthew 28:19,20** and discuss:

- ❖ In what ways can Christians lose their “saltiness” or hide their lamp under a basket?
- ❖ How should Christians witness?
- ❖ What significance, if any, do you see in Jesus' words “All authority has been given to Me”? What does this have to do with His commission to His disciples to go and make disciples?
- ❖ How do you feel about His promise “I am with you always, even to the end of the age”? How might this help you in your attempts to witness?



## **WITNESS**

- ❖ One powerful way we can witness as an Ohana group is to invite people to come to our weekly gatherings. And this begins with prayer. We need to put people's names on our prayer list and begin praying that they will come.
- ❖ Review the Blessing List or group prayer list. Add any new names the group may have.
- ❖ From into groups of two and pray for each other that God will give you opportunities this next week to invite someone to the Ohana group. Also pray for the names that each of you has put on the prayer list.
- ❖ Conclude the time together by returning to the large group and forming a big circle around an empty chair. The Ohana leader will pray for God to fill the chair with someone new this next week.
  
- ❖ **This next week:**
  - Contact your prayer partner and pray for each other.
  - Pray that God will give you a chance to invite someone to the Ohana group.
  - When God impresses you to invite someone, pray and thank Him for giving you the words to speak.

## THE CHURCH

### WELCOME

- ❖ Greet each other and welcome any guests.
- ❖ Get better acquainted and hook into the session topic by describing the most beautiful or interesting church building or cathedral you ever saw.
- ❖ Invite one person to have prayer.

### WORD

- ❖ Jesus used the word “church” in only two places. Please read these two passages and discuss them:
- ❖ **Matthew 16:13-20**
  - Do you have any idea what Jesus meant when He said “on this rock I will build My church”?

Note: Some people interpret this passage to mean that Jesus would build His church on Peter. However, please **read Ephesians 5:23-27**.

- Who does this passage say is the head of the church?
- Write down the things you find in this passage that tell us what Jesus does for His church:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If Christ is the Head and Savior of the church, it doesn't seem like Peter would be in that position. So, we come back to wondering what Jesus meant in Matthew 16. Please re-read Matthew 16:13-20 again and notice that the topic of this passage is “Who is Jesus?” The passage begins with Jesus asking that question of His disciples and it ends in verse 20 with His admonition not to tell anyone that He is Jesus, the Christ. The conclusion, then, is that the rock or foundation upon which Jesus builds the church is the rock-solid truth that Jesus is the Christ. So when Peter spoke his statement of faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord, Jesus went on to explain that it is this belief in Him that is the foundation

of the church. When people believe on Jesus and receive Him, they become part of the church. (See Acts 2, especially verse 47)

- ❖ The other passage where Jesus uses the word “church” is **Matthew 18:15-20**. Read this scripture and discuss what Jesus is saying in these verses.
  
- ❖ Though Jesus didn’t use the word “church” much, He did give guidelines about the church. That is what Matthew 18:15-20 is about – it is a guideline on how to deal with people in the church who do not wish to leave their sins.
- ❖ Another guideline Jesus gave us is found in **Matthew 21:12-14**. Please read it and discuss:
- ❖ What was Jesus’ attitude toward the church building? What do you think of His act of replacing money changing with healing? What guidelines does this passage give us for today?
  
- ❖ The New Testament is full of references to the church. The very last book of the Bible, Revelation, is a message for seven churches. (Revelation 2 and 3) **Read Revelation 22:16 and 17**. These are some of the last words in the Bible and they talk about the messages to the seven churches and end with an invitation.
- ❖ What is the invitation?
  
- ❖ How many invitation are there to “come”? \_\_\_\_\_
  
- ❖ Who gives these invitations?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  
- ❖ What is your response to the invitation?
  
- ❖ If you are not part of a church body, but would like to be; or if you have questions about it, talk to your Ohana leader.

## WORSHIP

- ❖ Sing some songs about God’s kingdom of believers such as #243 “Seek Ye First,” #43 “Bind Us Together,” #116 “Father, Make Us One,” #176 “Lord, Be Glorified.”
- ❖ Form a circle and invite each one to pray a short prayer for the person on his/her right.

## WITNESS

- ❖ One of the blessings of the church body is that together we can do more than we can alone. Take a few minutes to discuss how your Ohana group could do something together to show God's love in the community. Be specific and come to a concensus on one idea. Then plan for it and set a date to do it.

- ❖ **This next week**

- Contact your prayer partner

Pray for whatever witnessing activity your group has chosen and do whatever you can to help with it.