

WEEK ONE: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

DAY ONE: GOD IS YOUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER

1. The purpose of this study course is to help you live the Christian life. We begin the study by thinking about our relationship with God. You may wonder what kind of relationship you can have with a God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and eternal. However, you must also remember that God is loving.

1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning [paying the penalty] sacrifice for our sins.

How did God show that he loves us? _____
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2. God showed that he loves us by sending his one and only Son, Jesus, among us to be the sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates [shows] his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What thing did Christ do to make a sacrifice for our sins? _____
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3. Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. God loved us so much that he was willing to let his one and only Son die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

John 1:12-13

Yet to all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Christians have the right to become _____
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4. We have the right to become the children of God because we believe in Jesus.

Galatians 4:6-7

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

A Christian is not a slave to God, a Christian is a _____ to God.
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5. We are God's sons and daughters. The word *Abba* means *papa* in the Hebrew or Aramaic language.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord.

Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

What thing will God be to us if we follow him? _____
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6. God will be a Father to us if we separate ourselves from the world and live a holy life. When we do this, we become his children and he becomes our Father. Notice what Jesus told us to call God when we pray.

Matthew 6:9

"This is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed [holy] be your name, ..."

What name should we call God when we pray? _____

7. When we pray, we should call God our Heavenly Father. God cares for us in the same way that a loving father cares for his sons and daughters. In fact, God loves us more than our earthly father loves us.

Matthew 7:9-11

"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

God loves us like a father because he gives us _____.

8. God loves us like a Father because he gives good gifts to us. The Heavenly Father will never disappoint us. He always gives us the good things we need. This world is very big, but our Heavenly Father knows every part of it. He knows everyone who follows him.

Psalms 147:4-6

*He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.
Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.
The Lord sustains [provides for] the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.*

Does the Heavenly Father know you? (yes or no) _____

9. Yes, the Heavenly Father knows you. He knows how many stars are in the sky. He calls each star by its own name. He knows the people who have humbled themselves before him and he knows those who continue to follow wickedness. Those who follow him are his children.

Matthew 10:29-31

"When birds are sold, two small birds cost only a penny. But not even one of those little birds can die without your Father knowing it. God even knows how many hairs are on your head. So don't be afraid. You are worth much more than many birds." [NCV]

What does the Heavenly Father know about your hair? _____

10. The Heavenly Father knows the number of hairs that are on your head. He keeps close watch over you because you are his child. He is your Father in heaven.

Do you think the Heavenly Father knows your name? (yes or no) _____

11. Yes, The heavenly Father knows your name. He knows the stars by name. He knows when a small bird dies. He knows the number of hairs on your head. He is your loving Heavenly Father. However, he is not a Father to everyone.

John 8:42-44

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Who is the father of people who lie and people who do not follow Jesus? _____

12. The devil is the father of people who lie and refuse to follow Jesus. God will only be a Father to people who listen to Jesus and follow his teachings.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

This is what the Lord says:

"Let not the wise man boast [be proud] of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast [be proud] about this: that he understands and knows me [God], that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, Justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the Lord.

A Christian should be proud that he _____

13. We should be proud that we know and understand God.

God is like a _____ to us.

WEEK ONE: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

DAY TWO: JESUS IS OUR LORD

1. Yesterday you learned that God is your loving Heavenly Father. He loves you more than your earthly father loves you. He knows the number of hairs on your head and he gives good gifts to you. We know that Jesus is the Son of God. Since Jesus is the Son of God, we need to think about our relationship with Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-2

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. He spoke to them many times and in many different ways. And now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son. [NCV]

According to this scripture, what has God done to us through his Son? _____

2. God has spoken to us through his Son.

John 7:16

Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me."

From what person do the teachings of Jesus come? _____

3. The teachings of Jesus come from God, our Heavenly Father. The Heavenly Father sent his Son to the earth to teach us the way of righteousness. The Heavenly Father gave his Son an important place in his kingdom.

Ephesians 1:21-22

God made Christ more important than all rulers, authorities, powers, and kings. Christ is more important than anything in this world or in the next world. God put everything under his power. And God made him the head over everything for the church. [NCV]

What position in the church did God give to his Son? _____

4. God made his Son, Jesus, to be the head of the church.

Colossians 1:18-19

He [Christ] is the head of the body. (The body is the church.) Everything comes from him. And he is the first one who was raised from death. So in all things Jesus is most important.[NCV]

Who is most important in all things? _____

5. Jesus is most important in all things.

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What is everyone required to confess about Jesus? _____

6. Everyone should confess that Jesus is Lord. God has spoken to us through Jesus. God has appointed Jesus to be the head of the church. God has said that everyone should accept Jesus as their Lord. Read these words of Jesus:

Matthew 11:27

"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

The only way to know the Heavenly Father is through _____.

7. The only way to know the Heavenly Father is through his Son, Jesus. God has put all things under his authority.

Matthew 28:18

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

In what places does Jesus have authority? _____

8. Jesus has authority in heaven and on earth. Read these words of Jesus again.

Matthew 28:18

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Jesus said that all _____ had been given to him.

9. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. Read these words of Jesus:

John 13:13

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am."

What did Jesus say his disciples should call him? _____

10. Jesus said his disciples should call him Teacher and Lord. In fact, Jesus is called Lord about 500 times in the New Testament. Jesus is our Lord. We should think of him as the Lord of our life. Listen to these words of Jesus:

Luke 6:46

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say [teach]?"

If Jesus is our Lord, what should we do about his teachings? _____

11. We will follow the teachings of Jesus if he is our Lord. Look closely at this warning of Jesus:

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

If you try to serve both God and money, you will _____ one and _____ the other.

12. You will not be happy if you try to serve both God and money. You may hate Jesus if you do not let Jesus be the Lord of every part of your life. It may be that you follow the teachings of Jesus until it comes to your business. In your business you want to cheat the customers so that you can make more money. It may be that you follow the teachings of Jesus until it comes to your marriage. You want to cheat on your wife and visit other women so you can enjoy the pleasure of sex more often. Christians who want to live this kind of life will hate Jesus because Jesus has told them they are doing a wrong thing.

We must let Jesus be the _____ of every part of our life.

13. We will be happy when we let Jesus be the Lord of every part of our life. Read this promise of Jesus:

Matthew 11:28-29

"Come to me, all you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest. Accept my work and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will find rest for your souls. The work that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is not heavy." [NCV]

What does Jesus promise to give us if we accept his work and learn from him?

14. Jesus promises to give us rest and a load that is not heavy.

John 16:33

"I [Jesus] have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus promises that in him we may have _____.

15. Jesus has promised us peace.

A Christian will let Jesus be the _____ of every part of his life.

WEEK ONE: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

DAY THREE: OBEDIENCE SHOWS LOVE

1. Jesus is the Lord of every true Christian. As our Lord, Jesus is not harsh or rough with us. Our relationship with Jesus is one of love.

John 15:14-15

"You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."

Jesus said we are his _____ if we do what he commands.

=====

2. You are the friend of Jesus if you do what he commands. Jesus is your Lord, but he does not consider you to be his servant. Servants are given orders to carry out. Servants do not have a right to know their master's business. The servant is expected to carry out orders because the master is his lord.

John 14:23

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

We will obey the teachings of Jesus if we _____ him.

=====

3. We will obey Jesus if we love him.

John 15:10

"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love."

What does Jesus promise us if we obey him? _____

=====

4. Jesus promises us that we will remain in his love if we obey him.

John 14:23

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

What does Jesus promise that our Heavenly Father will do if we obey Jesus' teachings? _____

=====

5. Jesus promises that the Heavenly Father will love us and make his home in us. The relationship between us and Jesus our Lord is one of love.

1 John 3:16

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

How did Jesus show his love for us? _____

=====

6. Jesus showed his love for us by dying on the cross for our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:15

And he [Jesus] died for all, that those who live [Christians] should no longer live for themselves but for him [Jesus] who died for them and was raised again.

We can show our love for Jesus by _____ for him.

=====

7. We can show our love for Jesus Christ by living for him and by obeying his teachings. One day Jesus asked the Jews an important question.

Matthew 15:3

Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? "

The Jews broke the commands of God so they could keep their _____.

8. The Jews broke the command of God so they could follow their tradition. We must be careful that we do not follow the traditions of our culture instead of the teachings of Jesus.

Matthew 15:9

"Their worship of me is worthless. The things they teach are nothing but human rules they have memorized." [NCV]

For what reason did Jesus say their worship was worthless? _____

9. The worship of the Jews was worthless because they taught rules made by men instead of the teachings of God.

2 John 9

Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teachings of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teachings has both the Father and the Son.

The person who follows the rules of men instead of the teachings of Christ does not have _____.

10. That person does not have God.

1 John 2:3-4

We know that we have come to know him [Jesus] if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

How can we be sure that we know Jesus? _____

11. We can be sure we know Jesus by obeying his commands. Some people claim they know Jesus, but they are telling lies because they do not follow his teachings. Listen to this warning of Jesus:

John 12:48

"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day."

The person who does not keep the commands of Jesus will be _____ by the words of Jesus at the last day.

12. The person will be condemned for not accepting the words of Jesus. Read this promise of Jesus about our prayers:

John 15:7

"Remain in me and follow my teachings. If you do this, then you can ask for anything you want, and it will be given to you." [NCV]

What did Jesus promise about our prayers if we follow his teachings? _____

13. Jesus promises to answer the prayers of those who follow his teachings.

John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to [obey] my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Jesus said we would know the _____ if we obey his teachings.

14. Jesus said we would know the truth. Jesus said that the truth would set us free. The teachings of Jesus will set us free from sin and the punishment of sin. However, Jesus' teachings will not set us free unless we obey them. One day Jesus explained it with this story:

Matthew 7:24-27

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

According to this story, the person who does not put the words of Jesus into practice is a _____ person.

15. A foolish person will not put Jesus' words into practice. His life will fail just like the house built on sand.

How do we show our love for Jesus? _____

WEEK ONE: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

DAY FOUR: GOD IS TALKING TO YOU

1. The Bible is the most dependable book in all the world. Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament about 1,400 years before Jesus was born. The Apostle John wrote the last book of the Bible, Revelation, about 100 years after Jesus was born. About 40 men wrote the 66 books we find in the Bible. The amazing thing is that the Bible tells only one story. It tells about the salvation of man through Jesus Christ.

What is the one story that the Bible tells? _____

2. The Bible tells about the salvation of man through Jesus Christ. Men have tried to say that the Bible is not true. However, nothing in the Bible has been proven to be wrong.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy [teaching] of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin [beginning] in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Who guided the men who wrote the Bible? _____

3. The Holy Spirit guided the men who wrote the Bible. Read what the Apostle Paul said about the letter he wrote to the Corinthian church. It is the book that we call First Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 14:37

If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

What did Paul say he was writing to the Corinthians? _____
=====

4. Paul said he was writing the Lord's command. Paul was not writing his own ideas or the teachings of men. Read these words of Paul:

1 Corinthians 2:13

This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the [Holy] Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

From what person did Paul learn the things he taught and wrote? _____
=====

5. Paul learned from the Holy Spirit the things he taught and the things he wrote. That is the reason the Apostle Paul wrote the following words about all Scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:16

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

Paul said that all Scripture is _____-_____.

6. All Scripture is God-breathed. **The Bible is God talking to you.** You must pay careful attention to what it teaches because it is God's message for you.

2 Timothy 3:16

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

List the four things that the Bible is useful for. (1) _____ (2) _____
(3) _____ (4) _____
=====

7. The Bible is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Through the Bible, God teaches what is right and wrong. Through the Bible, God shows us the sin in our life (rebuking). Through the Bible, God shows us how to stop sinning (correcting). Through the Bible, God shows us how to live a holy life (instruction in righteousness).

2 Timothy 3:17

Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be ready and will have everything he needs to do every good work. [NCV]

Do we need any other book in addition to the Bible to know how to do every good work? (yes or no) _____
=====

8. No. The Bible is God-breathed. Through the Bible God has given us everything we need to know. We must be careful when men claim they have a new teaching or a new book from God. Read this warning of the Apostle Paul:

Galatians 1:8

But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!

What should we do to the person who preaches something that is different from what we find in the Bible?

9. We should condemn the person who preaches something different from the Bible. We must also watch for people who falsely explain the Bible.

2 Peter 3:16

Sometimes there are things in Paul's letters that are hard to understand. And some people explain these things falsely. They are ignorant and weak in faith. They also falsely explain the other Scriptures. But they are destroying themselves by doing that. [NCV]

What happens to people who falsely explain the Bible? _____

10. People who falsely explain the Bible will destroy themselves. These people change the meaning of scripture and add their own ideas to scripture. They will follow the wrong way. They will be lost.

Acts 17:11

Now the Bereans were of more noble [honorable] character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness [happiness] and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

What did the Christians at Berea do to be sure that Paul was teaching the truth?

11. The Christians at Berea searched the scriptures to be sure Paul was teaching the truth. The only way to be sure someone is teaching the truth is to look in the Bible and see if what they teach agrees with the word of God. Read this advice of Paul to Timothy:

2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Paul told Timothy to _____ handle the word of truth.

12. Every Christian must correctly handle the word of truth. We must be careful that we do not change its meaning or add to its meaning. The Bible was written by holy men who were guided by the Holy Spirit. **The Bible is God talking to you.** God has miraculously protected it throughout history so that we can read and study it today.

1 Peter 1:23-25

*You have been born again. This new life did not come from something that dies, but from something that cannot die. You were born again through God's living message that continues forever. The Scripture says,
"All people are like the grass. And all their strength is like the flowers of the field.
The grass dies and the flowers fall. But the word of the Lord will live forever." [NCV]*

How long will the Bible last? _____

13. The word of God will last forever. Men have tried to destroy it, but they have failed. The Bible can not be destroyed because it is the word of God. It is God talking to you.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish [encourage] one another with all wisdom,

We should let the _____ of Christ dwell in us richly.

14. We should let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. The words of Christ are the teachings of God. We should read the Bible daily because it is God talking to us.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Who guided the men who wrote the Bible? _____

=====

15. How does God talk to us? _____

WEEK ONE: FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

DAY FIVE: TALKING TO GOD

1. We have said that the Bible is God talking to you. We want you to know that you can also talk to God. God, your Heavenly Father, will listen to what you wish to say to him.

Hebrews 4:14 and 16

We have a great high priest who has gone into heaven. He is Jesus the Son of God.

Let us, then, feel free to come before God's throne. Here there is grace [forgiveness]. And we can receive mercy and grace to help us when we need it. [NCV]

Who makes it possible for us to go freely before God's throne? _____

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2. Jesus Christ, who is our high priest, makes it possible for us to freely come before God's throne.

Ephesians 3:12

In him [Jesus] and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Through Jesus we can approach God with _____ and _____.

=====

3. We can approach God with freedom and confidence. We can approach God freely because Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins. We can approach God with confidence because our sins are forgiven.

1 John 2:1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning [saving] sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Who will defend us before God? _____

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4. Jesus Christ will defend us before God.

Who paid the penalty for our sins? _____

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5. Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins. When we sin, Jesus makes it possible for us to approach God and receive forgiveness because he gave his life on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God and one mediator [peacemaker] between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom [payment] for all men-

Who is the only person who can make peace between us and God? _____
=====

6. Jesus is the only one who can make peace between us and God. Jesus is the only one who has paid the penalty for our sins. This is the reason we must always pray in the name of Jesus. We must not pray in the name of the apostles, or the saints, or anyone else.

John 15:16

"You did not choose me, but I [Jesus] chose you to go and bear fruit- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

In whose name should we pray? _____
=====

7. We should pray in the name of Jesus. He is the only one who can take our prayers before the throne of God.

Philippians 4:5-6

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious [worried] about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition [asking], with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

What thing should we do if we are worried? _____
=====

8. If something troubles us and causes us to worry, we should pray to God about it. Ask God to solve your problems.

1 Peter 5:7

*Give all your worries to him, because **he cares for you.** [NCV]*

We should give all our worries to God because God _____
=====

9. God is our loving Heavenly Father. He cares for us. He wants to bring joy and peace into our life.

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Does God expect us to ask help from him? (yes or no) _____
=====

10. Yes, the Heavenly Father expects his children to make requests from him.

Philippians 4:5-6

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious[worry] about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition [asking], with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

We should present our requests to God by prayer and petition with _____.(answer with one word)
=====

11. We should pray with thanksgiving. Even when we have problems, we still have many good things that God has given to us. We should let God know that we are thankful for all the good things he has already given to us.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

How often should we pray? _____

12. We should pray continually. We should not talk to God only when we have a problem or a request. We should talk to God when we are happy. We should be thankful to God all the time. Every day we should pray to our Heavenly Father and thank him for his blessings.

Colossians 4:2

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

How often do **you** pray? _____

13. A Christian should pray at least once a day. It is a good habit to set a special time every day to read your Bible and pray. Every day you should let God talk to you through the Bible. Every day you should talk to God through prayer.

1 John 1:3

And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We have fellowship with God and with his Son, Jesus Christ, when we study the Bible and _____.

14. You can have fellowship with God and with his Son through Bible study and prayer.

In whose name should we pray? _____

15. We are talking to God when we _____.

PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION:

Each week you will be given some questions to think about or some work to do to prepare for the weekly discussion. You may also have some things that you would like to bring up for discussion. Always be sure that the thing you bring for discussion is directly related to the main topic of study for the week. The purpose of the discussion time is to understand the application of God's word to our life and our ministry in God's Kingdom.

1. In what ways is God like a father to you?
2. How do you make Jesus your Lord?
3. Should we do away with all tradition and customs? How can we know if a tradition or a custom is offending God? What traditions in your culture offend God?
4. How can we know if someone is falsely explaining the Bible? What should our attitude be toward them?
5. What should be our attitude toward:
 1. the Koran,
 2. the Book of Mormon,
 3. the writings of Martin Luther and other Bible scholars?
6. How often do you pray and read your Bible?
7. How can the leaders of the church help the members have a better fellowship with God?