SERIES

STUDENT

Student Copy

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Purpose of the Love Story Series (Moving From Believer to Disciple!)

The purpose of the **Love Story Series** is to provide tools for those seeking to know God more deeply. Along with daily Bible study and prayer, **Love Story** helps provide a foundation for having a dynamic relationship with God. The studies are just a tool and must be applied differently for every individual. So it is wise to seek much advice and prayer when you are studying the love Story.

Another tool to use along with the written studies
Is the video version of the studies that can be found at...

http://www.you2church.com/you2church-series

Sincerely,

Frank Barton Davis (Pastor/Lead Evangelist of Haven Rock)

Formal Introductions

Lesson#1: Love Story Study Series

WHO IS JESUS? What does it mean that he is the Son of God? Why is the Bible Important?

I. Genesis 1: 26

- A. Genesis let's us know that there is one God and He created everything.
- B. Since this is so, who is the us in Genesis1:26?
- C. Let's turn to John 1 to find out

II. Iohn 1:1-18

- A. 1:1 Jesus is the Word. The Word is a living thing. The revealed word that we have in the Bible is a piece of Jesus; it is living and active (always relevant). Do you think it's something that we should read? Yes!!!
- B. 1:1-5 Jesus is the Word. The Word is God and the Word was with God. He is God and yet is separate. He is both God and the son. 1: 9-14 He came down in the form of man and lived among us. God Himself came down in the form of a man, lived among us, and died for us. How is this possible? He is God! He is not under the laws of nature He created them. He is everywhere, not limited to what our minds can imagine. {The Water analogy can help explain this...God is the ocean, Holy Spirit is steam from the ocean, and Jesus is an ice cube from the ocean}

III. John 7:14-17

- A. How can we know the Bible is really true?
- B. Test it for yourself
- C. Key Challenge: Accept the Jesus Challenge/start studying the Bible everyday and put what you read into practice. See for yourself if it is a book of man or God. If it is a book of God, reading and obeying will change your life. A good place to start is the gospel of John

IV. John 8: 31-32

- A. John 8:31 Intellectual belief is not enough. Just being religious is not enough (share). We must hold to His teachings if we truly want to follow Him.
- B. What is the driving force for most people when it comes to their behavior? Feelings? Opinions? Traditions?
- C. What about you?
- The Bible calls us to hold to the Bible above our feelings, opinions, traditions, etc.

V. John 12:47-48

- A. Why study the Bible? The word will judge us
- B. If the Bible is the standard that is going to judge us, shouldn't we make the Bible the standard for our lives?
- C. {Key Challenge} Are you willing to make the Bible the standard for your life?

Additional Scriptures: Exodus 3:13-14, John 8:54-59, Revelation 1:8 & 12-18, II Peter 1:20-21, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 7:1-13, Revelation 22:18-20, Mark 7:1-8

The Love Letter

Lesson#2: Love Story Study Series

The Purpose: The goal is to begin to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Acts 2: 36-37

- 1. These people were totally moved by the fact that Jesus died for them on the cross.
- 2. Why don't we respond that way?
- 3. They understood some things about the cross that we don't.
- Let's study the cross.

Jesus Suffered Emotionally

Mathew 26:36-46, 47-56, 57-68, 69-74

- (36-46) Describe in detail how Jesus suffered emotionally. Even though he is God in the flesh, he was also a man and felt what we would have felt. Below are some examples.
 - A. He was sorrowful, knowing He was going to die, even to the point of death. How would you feel if you knew in advance you were going to die?
 - B. He prayed to God to take it from Him.
 - C. In the end He was willing to obey God's will but this was tough.
 - D. Not even His best friends understood (fell asleep).
- II. (47-56) Jesus was betrayed
 - A. He was betrayed by Judas and Judas was one of his close friends. How would that make you feel?
 - B. The rest of his friends ran off ((56).
- III. (57-68) Jesus was lied on and accused of blasphemy. Afterwards, he began to suffer physically when he was spat on, punched and slapped. We are told by Jesus (52-54) that he cold call twelve legions of angels to stop all this. Why didn't he? That's a question we'll answer as we go.
- IV. (69-74, Luke 22:60-61) Peter denies Jesus three times.
- Question: Jesus still had the power to stop all of this. So, why didn't He?

He Suffered Physically

Matthew 27: 11-26, 27-31, 32-44

- I. (11-26)
 - A. Even though Jesus was accused, he made no threats to anyone.
 - B. Pilate had the authority to release or execute Jesus or Barabbas, a murderer. He "took himself out of the picture" by symbolically washing his hands. By the desires of the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers to be beaten and crucified. Do you think that was a legitimate way to deny responsibility? How would you feel if you were in Jesus' position?

II. (26-31)

- A. Jesus was flogged (describe flogging)
- B. A purple robe was placed on him
- C. He was given a crown of thoms, and stuck in the head with a rod again and again (Beaten so badly that his face was marred beyond human likeness (Isaiah 52:14)
- D. The robe was ripped off of him then he was taken to be crucified

III. (32-44)

- A. As if Jesus wasn't already suffering enough, He was mocked by the chief priests, teachers of the law, the elders, and even by the two thieves who were crucified alongside Him.
- B. Discuss briefly how someone suffers and dies via crucifixion.

He Suffered Spiritually

Matthew 27:45-50, Isaiah 59: 1-2, II Corinthians 5:21

- I. Why did Jesus say God had forsaken Him?
- II. (Isaiah 59: 1-2, I Corinthians 5:21) Jesus took on our sin on the cross. When he did, he and God became separate for the first time in history. It was like God cutting off His right arm.
- III. Despite Jesus' emotional suffering and his physical pain, this caused Jesus His greatest pain.

Why Did Jesus Go Through All of This?

- I. This was caused by you; this was caused by me.
 - A. If you'd been the only person who ever sinned, Jesus would have had to die for you to be forgiven.
 - B. Your sin caused Jesus to die. (Share personally)
 - C. You are guilty. I am guilty. We are guilty.
 - D. How do you feel?

II. This was done for you

- A. In spite of who we are, what we've done, Jesus did all this to give us the chance to be saved.
- B. It was done for you. He was thinking about you. You are the reason that He didn't call down twelve legions of angels and stop the suffering.
- C. His love for you kept Him on the cross.
- D. This is God's love. This is God's grace in action.
- E. Do you understand how much God loves you, how special you are in his eyes?
- F. How does this make you feel?

Homework

Look over your notes from this study

Answer the Questions:

- A. How have you seen God's love for you in your life?
- B. How have you hurt Him?
- C. How has God been reaching out to you?

Read: I Peter 2:21-25

Jesus died to give us an example of how we should live. We have the opportunity to live for something greater and become a better version of ourselves.

Answer the Question:

- A. How does Jesus expect you to respond to the cross?
- B. What does he want from you?

Let's discuss this next time we get together.

Additional Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1-12

Medical Account of the Crucifixion

For more information on the medical accounts of the crucifiction visit the following websites:

http://www1.cbn.com/medical-view-of-the-crucifixion-of-jesus-christ

http://www.ethoughts.org/crucifixion_description.htm



Crazy In Love

Lesson#3: Love Story Study Series

In God's eyes, what is the acceptable response to His love letter?

I Peter 2:21-25

- 1. Jesus died for us, the ultimate act of love. How does that make you feel?
- 2. How does he expect us to respond?

Luke 10: 25-28 or Mathew 22:37-40

- I. The cross is God's love letter to us. It is what makes salvation possible but to be saved we have to respond? What does God consider an acceptable response? This passage is the response that God requires.
- II. What God wants from us most is total love, total devotion (all your heart, mind, soul, and strength).
- III. Jesus calls this the greatest command. Loving God with total devotion is the only acceptable response to the love He has for us. This is called Lordship and it leads to total surrender to His will.
- IV. For the rest of the study we'll learn what this means practically...

Luke 9:23-26

- I. This passage breaks down the greatest command practically. To follow Jesus we must love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength. Practically, what this means is that we must deny ourselves
 - A. What do you think it means to deny yourself? Give examples from everyday life.
 - B. We must say no to sin
 - C. We must say no to some things that aren't evil necessarily, but hinder our commitment with Jesus
 - D. We push ourselves to be less of us and more of Jesus
 - E. Do you think that Jesus would say that you consistently deny yourself for him?
 - F. What are you going to have to deny in order to be a totally devoted to Jesus?

- II. For Jesus to be Lord we must carry the cross daily
 - A. What does it mean?
 - 1. To die to yourself and say yes to Jesus daily
 - 2. To be willing to die for Jesus
 - 3. To have 100% devotion to Jesus (99% won't do)
 - A true Christian is willing to go anywhere, change anything, and do anything for Jesus. When we start putting limits on our obedience, we cease to be true Christians and become merely religious.
 - 5. This isn't about being perfect. It's not about performance or ability. Flawed as we are we can be fully devoted to something (give an example).
 - 6. Jesus is simply asking for our best every day. The cross, God's grace, makes up the difference between my best and perfection.
 - B. Do you think that Jesus considers someone a Christian if he/she doesn't love Him this way?
 - C. How do you feel about this?
 - D. What is the most challenging part of making Jesus lord?

Luke 14:25-33

- I. Why do you think Jesus tells us to hate father, mother, sister, brother, etc? What does this mean?
- II. To have a relationship with God we must love Jesus more than father, mother, sister, brother, even ourselves. He must be our first, our unrivaled love.
- III. We must count the cost of becoming a disciple (I.e. a true follower of Jesus)
 - A. When someone truly makes Jesus Lord they become a disciple of Jesus.
 - B. We must be willing to be totally...100% devoted
 - C. We must be willing to commit for the rest of our lives
- IV. We must count the cost of not becoming a disciple
 - A. We are either Jesus' disciples or we're opposed to Him
 - B. We must make peace while He is a long way off.

Question: If you're honest with yourself, have you ever truly made Jesus lord? If not, how do you think Jesus feels about it? Would He say that you are a Christian...that you're saved?

Do you want to make Him Lord?

Additional Scriptures: Luke 9: 57-62, Mathew 10: 32-39, Luke 13: 22-25

Being Exclusive

Lesson#4: Love Story Study Series

Study

Acts 11:25-26

- This is the first place where disciples were called Christians. (About eleven years after Christianity was started)
- II. To study out what it means to be a true Christian one must study out discipleship.
 - A. The word Christian is only used in the bible 3 times.
 - B. The word disciple is in the New Testament alone over 240 times.
 - C. The only way to understand what it means to be a true Christian is to understand what it means to be a disciple?

What are the characteristics of a disciple?

Mark 1: 16-20 (Disciples Make Jesus Lord)

- A good place to learn about discipleship is where Jesus calls his first disciples.
- II. What are some things we learn from this passage about being a disciple of Jesus?
 - D. A disciple is someone who truly makes Jesus lord. To be a disciple you must follow Jesus.
 - E. We must be imitators of Jesus.
 - F. Like James and John, if we are disciples, once we understand the truth, we must be urgent to obey.
 - G. The heart we see displayed is one that is willing to totally surrender to Jesus and to go anywhere, change anything, do anything in order to follow in His steps. Lordship is the heart of being a disciple.

Mark 1: 16-20 (Disciples Are Fishers of Men)

- H. To be a disciple you must become a fisher of men
 - 1. This is a disciple's purpose
 - 2. It's impossible to say that we're disciples if we are not busy bringing people to Jesus.
 - 3. Why do you think this is important?

John 13: 34-35 (Disciples Love one Another)

- A. 34-35 what's new about this command is that the standard for our love for one another is Jesus. How does Jesus love?
- B. Unconditionally (not based on how we treat him, what we have in common, how good we are, are performance, etc.)
- C. Selflessly (serves us, gives to us)
- D. Unceasingly (won't quit on us, forgives us)
- E. This is how we must love one another
- F. This kind of love will change the world

I John 4:9-11, 19-20 (Disciples Are motivated by God's Love for Us)

- I John 4: 19-21 He loved us first
- II. What we do we do because of love
- III. This is the only motivation that lasts

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Matt 28:18-20

- (19) A Christian is a baptized disciple (I.e. someone who is baptized after making the decision to truly make Jesus lord). Jesus gives a new purpose to everyone who makes Him lord. Disciples are called to go and make disciples
- II. We are told to go and baptize these new disciples
- III. We must remain learners
- IV. This is the way to change world.

Questions:

- I. Are you a disciple?
- II. Have you been baptized?
- III. Were you a disciple when you were baptized?
- IV. Discuss
- V. Do you want to be?

If so: Let's continue to study out some things that every disciple needs to know.

Additional Scriptures: Luke 9:57-62, Mark 10:17-31

Homework: Read these passages in preparation for the next study (Galatians 5:19-21, II Tim 3:1-9, and Rev 21:8). Take the time to define any of the terms that you don't understand.

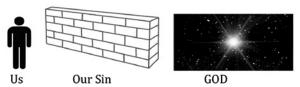
The Engagement

Lesson#5: Love Story Study Series

What is our role in accepting God's grace? What is the role of repentance?

Isaiah 59:1-2

Sin separates us from God



Romans 3:23

- All have sinned. We all fall short, from the "best" to the "worst"
- II. Can't compare our sins to others
- III. No one deserves heaven. Without Jesus we are all condemned

Gal 5: 19-21 (Also, be sure to read the scriptures in additional scriptures)

- I. (Verse 21) Anyone who lives this way will not go to heaven
- II. (Verse 21) We must avoid these sins or any like these (example: being under the influence of drugs is like the sin of drunkenness
- III. List some activities not on the sin lists studied that are like the sins on these and other lists in the Bible. Whether listed or not, these activities are sinful as well.
- IV. What are the physical sins that have plagued your life (for example: lying, sexual immorality, pornography, fits of rage, etc.)? Spend some time thinking about this, maybe writing them down.
- V. How does God feel about them? How did they hurt others? You? God?
- VI. What are the sins of the heart that have plagued your life (for example: pride, selfishness, bitterness, un-forgiveness, etc.)? Spend some time thinking about this, maybe writing them down.
- VII. How does God feel about them? How did they hurt others? You? God?
- VIII. It would be a great idea to find a mature Christian to help you with this study.
- IX. God wants you to be free of these sins

Let's move on and talk about the good news...REPENTANCE!!!

Repentance

Matthew 5:27-30

- I. Repentance is radical
- II. It is faith and lordship in action
- III. It is not about perfection but it is about making every effort

Luke 13:1-5

- I. Repentance is a salvation issue
- II. It is an urgent issue

II Corinthians 7:8-11

- I. What is the difference between Godly and worldly sorrow?
 - A. Godly sorrow focuses on how we've hurt God and others
 - B. Godly sorrow leads to change
- II. How does Godly sorrow lead to repentance?
- III. Godly sorrow produces radical action
- IV. What is your plan of action of overcoming the sin plaguing you?

Acts 26:20

- I. We prove our repentance by our deeds
- II. Repentance is the practical manifestation of real faith

Acts 3:19

- I. When we repent times of refreshing come
- II. The decision to repent is ours but the power to repent comes from Jesus

Additional Scriptures: Romans 1:18-32, II Tim 3:1-9, LK 18:9-14, Rev 21:8, Mark 7:20-23, James 2:14-26, Luke 15:11-32

The Wedding

Lesson#6: Love Story Study Series

At what point is someone actually saved? What is the meaning of baptism?

(Timeline: What are the major events of your spiritual life?)

- 1. Were you christened as a baby?
- 2. Have you been baptized? When? How many times?
- 3. Why were you baptized?
- 4. When were you saved? When? How?

Let's look at the Bible's answers for some of these questions...

I Peter 2:9-10

- God has called us to be a people with special privileges.
- II. Let's look at some of the before and after promises in this passage. Before is the Dark...after is the Light...

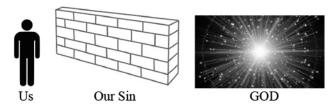
Dark	Light
Not a People	People of God
No Mercy	Mercy
Lost	Saved
Hell	Heaven

You?

How do we get into the light??? Let's look at some scriptures?

Isaiah 59:1-2

Sin separates us from God



II. Salvation exists when the wall of sin is done away with? How can it be swept away?

Mathew 26: 27-28

- Only the blood of Jesus has the power to forgive sins
- II. No matter how "good" or how religious someone is, without the blood of Jesus he is lost in his sins.



- A.If our sin is a chasm between God and us, what can get us across to the other side?
- B. Will praying be enough? Reading our Bible everyday? Sharing our faith? Coming to all the church services? Repenting of all of our sins?
- C.No, nothing will get us across except the blood of Christ. Christ's blood is the key.
- III. The most important question is: How do we receive the blood?

John 3:16

I. Faith is the first step, but it is not the only step.

Acts 2:36-39

- I. To have our sins forgiven, we must repent and be baptized
- II. What is repentance?
 - A. A change of mind that leads to a change of action
 - B. To leave our life of sin and embrace discipleship
- III. What is baptism?
 - A. Baptism comes from the Greek word baptize, which means to immerse. Baptism is immersion in water.
 - B. Must be immersed in water (baptized) in order to be forgiven.
- IV. Faith + repentance + baptism=forgiveness of sins & gift of the Holy Spirit

Why is baptism so important?

Romans 6:3-7

- I. In baptism we are buried with Jesus
- II. In baptism we come in contact with the blood of Jesus (Remember the blood is what saves).
- III. What we do to be saved parallels what Jesus did.



Jesus Died



Jesus Was Buried



Jesus Rose



We die to our Old Lives



We Are baptized



We Receive the Holy Spirit

Colossians 2:11-12

- We are buried with Christ in baptism
- II. We are raised by our faith in the power of God.
 - A. Baptism is an act of faith, specifically faith in the power of God to do what he promised He'd do.
 - B. Without saving faith, baptism is just a bath

- C. How can we have faith in the power of God to do what He promised if we do not understand what the promise is (forgiveness & Holy Spirit)? How much should we understand?
 - 1. Can infants get baptized?
 - 2. Should adults get baptized if they haven't repented?
 - 3. If they don't understand why?

Matthew 28:19-20

- I. To be a candidate for baptism one must first be a disciple
 - A. Have you been baptized?
 - B. If so, were you a disciple when you were baptized?
 - C. Had you repented?
 - D. Do you believe you understood enough?

Based on what you studied today, are you in the dark or in the light (go back to timeline if necessary)? If you are in the dark, what do you need to do to get into the light?

Do you need to be baptized? If so, when do you want to get baptized?

Meet the Family

Lesson#7: Love Story Study Series

Colossians 1: 17-18

- The Church is the body of Christ. The Bible uses several terms as synonyms for God's church (the body, the household of faith, the kingdom {because the church is the kingdom of God on earth}, God's Household) The most common expression used is the Body. Christ's Body is the church
- Christ is the head of the church (No man, no board, no decision making group can be the head). Christ is the head. There can be no other manual than the Bible. Christ's words direct the affairs of His church.

Additional scripture: Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 4:1-6

- There is only one Body, one church. There can be many congregations but there is only one true church.
- 2. Christ's true church teaches the one faith, one Lord, and one baptism that Jesus lays out in the Bible.

I Corinthians 12:12-26

- 1. If we belong to Christ, we must be committed to the body!!!
 - a. We cannot survive spiritually without the Body (Illustration your hand cannot survive without the body. Cut off it will eventually die.)
 - b. The body needs you. There are roles is the church that God created us to fill. Only we can fill it. The church needs us to serve and use our special gifts to build up Christ's body!
 - We should come to the fellowship not just to have our needs met but to meet the needs of others.

Acts 2:42-47

- 1. This is a picture of God's church on the first day of His church. It's a blue print of how His church must be!! If we deviate from God's plan we will become a false church!
 - a. We must be devoted to the apostle's teaching (the Bible)...Can't deviate frim God's plan.
 - b. We must be devoted to the fellowship (meeting together, relationships)
 - c. Prayer
 - d. The Breaking of Bread (the Lord's supper)

Hebrews 10:23-25, 32-34

- 1. We cannot forsake meeting together (23-25)
- 2. How devoted should we be? During time of persecution (32-34), God still expected disciples to keep meeting together.
- 3. If God expected disciples to be devoted to meeting in dangerous times, what's a good reason for staying home today? (Being tired? Being emotional? Being busy?) How serious is God about our need for fellowship? Should we be willing to change our schedule? What would Jesus say?

Challenge: Are You Willing to Be Devoted to the Fellowship! What do you need to change to make this happen?

Additional Passages: Mathew 6:19-34, Mathew 16:13-19, Mathew 6:33

