

*MasterLife*  
LEADER GUIDE

II

*The Disciple's*

# PERSONALITY

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**WELCOME!** Thank you for leading this study.

*MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality* is a discussion-based Bible study from Avery T. Willis. This classic Bible study has recently been updated with an integrated discussion guide in the Bible study book to make leading a *MasterLife* group more accessible than ever before.

This leader guide is a more robust discussion guide that contains elements from the original *MasterLife* leader guide, including additional discussion questions, concentrated opportunities to work on the Disciple's Personality presentation, instructions for the Testimony Workshop, and more. We pray this leader guide further equips you to facilitate your group sessions in a way that fosters community, conversation, and transformational learning for you and those you're leading.

Feel free to use this guide in whatever way works best for you and your group. If you want to follow this leader guide to the letter, do that! If you need to adapt parts of it, you may do so. Our goal is to give you all the tools you might need as you lead your specific group in your specific setting.

We're grateful for you and praying for you as you lead this study.

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# INTRODUCTION

*MasterLife* is a sequential, developmental, small-group discipling process to help Christians master life by developing personal, lifelong, obedient relationships with Jesus Christ. This leader guide provides step-by-step guidance for facilitating group studies of the four books in the *MasterLife* process. By studying this introduction, you will learn how to disciple believers using *MasterLife*.

## THE MASTERLIFE PROCESS

*MasterLife* was written to help believers make the following definition of discipleship a way of life:

Christian discipleship is developing a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Jesus Christ in which He transforms your character into Christlikeness, changes your values into kingdom values, and involves you in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.

Participants in *MasterLife* learn how to deepen their relationships with Christ through a 24-week discipleship process that consists of four six-week studies: *MasterLife 1: The Disciple's Cross*, *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*, *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory*, *MasterLife 4: The Disciple's Mission*.

Each course builds on the other and is a prerequisite for the one that follows. Members will benefit most and gain valuable information and experiences to be disciples of Christ if they complete all four books in this process. It is recommended that you begin with book 1 and continue sequentially through book 4. (If you start with a book other than book 1, familiarize yourself with previous books and with presentations such as the Disciple's Cross and the Disciple's Personality, to which subsequent books refer.)

Each Bible study book employs an interactive learning process. Each day for five days a week, members are expected to study a segment of the material and complete related activities. Each day's work should require twenty to thirty minutes of study time. The *MasterLife* process involves six essential elements:

1. The daily activities in the Bible study books lead members into a closer walk with Christ. Doing these exercises daily is important.
2. The weekly assignments in the Walk with the Master checklist are real-life experiences that will change members' lives.
3. The leader is a major element. Discipleship is a relationship. It is not something members do by themselves. Members need human models, instruction, and accountability to become what Christ intends for them to be. That is why Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples (see Matt. 28:19-20). We all need someone who has followed Christ long enough to challenge us. To become better disciples, members need a leader to whom they can relate personally and regularly. Members will not accomplish the goals for *MasterLife* without you teaching them, modeling the behavior, and holding them accountable.

4. The weekly group sessions help members reflect on the concepts and experiences in *MasterLife* and help members apply the ideas to their lives. The group sessions allow members to experience in their inmost beings the profound changes Christ is making in their lives. Each group session also provides training for the next stage of spiritual growth.
5. Christ is the Discipler, and members become His disciples. As they fully depend on Him, He works through each of the previous elements and uses them to support members. If any element is omitted, the discipling process will not be effective.
6. The body of Christ—the church—is vital for complete discipling to take place. Members depend on Christian friends for fellowship, strength, and ministry opportunities. Without the church, members lack the support they need to grow in Christ.

## DISCIPLESHIP IS A RELATIONSHIP

Discipleship is a relationship and a process. As a group leader, don't forget: *Disciples are not instantly made.* Regardless of new technologies and advanced teaching methods, developing disciples is much like physical development. It cannot be rushed. Discipleship takes time. Be patient with your group as you disciple them through this study.

*Discipleship is not a course.* Often, discipleship is defined as content. Some people think they make disciples when they teach certain material. Content is important, with the Bible as the first source of revelation. However, many people believe that if they communicate certain facts, a person is disciplined. Even doctrine—a vital part of discipleship—is not sufficient. Studying every discipleship course available does not in itself make someone a disciple. In the Great Commission, Jesus said, "... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). Jesus went beyond knowing the commands to doing them. Discipleship involves practicing His commands.

In John 17, Jesus revealed His heart in the last prayer with His disciples before He went to the cross. Jesus stressed that as the Father had related to Him, He had related to the disciples. In this relationship, Jesus taught them God's Word but also urged them to obey the Word. He taught and prayed for the disciples. We disciple people in relationships with Jesus Christ, not in a body of knowledge.

*Discipleship is not a program or a method.* No one way of discipling people works with everyone. Although we can use a sequence or a process of growth that is logical or developmental, we cannot prescribe a step-by-step procedure that will be effective for everyone. So how can we use *MasterLife* to disciple others? Picture *MasterLife* as a tool that relates people to Christ, who disciplines them. Use it to help disciples relate to Christ in a personal way and to become obedient to Christ. *MasterLife* teaches obedience in many ways, including the completion of weekly assignments. If members do not honor their covenant with the *MasterLife* group or prioritize their time to do the assignments, remind them that obedience is an attitude of the heart, not just a response to direct commands of Scripture.

Because discipleship is based on relationships, our relationship with participants is a key factor in making disciples. We need to remain flexible and make time to develop a personal relationship with each group member. How? Take members with you as you minister or work. Be ready to disciple during ministry times, recreational outings, and family situations.

God seeks personal, obedient, and lifelong relationships. Help members focus on developing relationships with Christ that continue to grow long after the study ends.

## DEVELOPING COMMITMENT IN DISCIPLES

Common questions surface about participation in *MasterLife*: How do you get people to be committed to Christ and to develop as disciples? How do you develop a commitment that motivates a person to continue a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship with Christ? Our goal is to make disciples who will continue to apply the principles and live the Christlike lifestyle long after they complete course requirements. Here are ways to help disciples be committed.

- *Involve disciples in what you are doing.* Let disciples see how you respond in your own lifelong, obedient relationship with Christ. Let them see and participate in the ways your commitment to God expresses itself through serving in your church, visiting sick or homebound people, witnessing to the lost, participating in your church's prayer ministry, etc. Ideally, disciples will see a commitment to Christ that is not dislodged by other priorities.
- *Invite disciples to be on mission with God.* Make sure they understand they are not merely involving themselves in another church activity or event. Make them aware that they are joining God in His mission on this earth—to bring all people to Himself.
- *Reveal the Father.* Just as Jesus set the example for you by revealing the Father to His disciples, you can reveal the Father to those you disciple. Demonstrate in your life such Christlike characteristics as steadfastness and dependability. As you show that you can be relied on, they will see Christ in you. Ideally, they will understand that commitment is not just a rule but the very essence of who you are and who the Father is. God is committed to us; we need to make the same commitment to Him.
- *Give assignments.* Closely watch how disciples follow through. Praise them for sticking to a task or, if they fall short of the mark, try to determine what deterred them (e.g., circumstances beyond their control, a matter of attitude) and encourage them to make changes.
- *Explain the requirements of a continuing relationship.* Living as a committed disciple does not protect us from suffering or temptation. In fact, it makes Satan want to tempt you even more. Commitment to Christ in a personal, lifelong, obedient relationship leaves us constantly on call. But the greatest peace is found in living at the center of God's will and following Him every second of every day.

## LEADING DISCIPLES TO EXPERIENCE TRUTH

How do you lead a person to master a truth? As you just read, modeling plays a key role. You cannot teach what you are not practicing. The heart of discipleship is living Christ's commands and then teaching them. The disciple respects you and is therefore willing to try an idea because he or she has seen you live it. However, a new disciple needs time to assimilate the scores of ideas he or she confronts. A disciple makes a truth a part of his or her life by practice. Here are five steps a disciple experiences in mastering a truth.

1. *Imitation.* The disciple does what the model does. The disciple may not understand the actions but still does what he or she sees the model doing.
2. *Experimentation.* The disciple tries out the truth in real life. The disciple believes it enough to experiment but is still not convinced. He or she begins trying it in nonthreatening situations.
3. *Application.* The disciple applies the truth in more complex situations. The disciple says he or she believes the truth, but he or she may still have occasional reservations about it.

4. *Demonstration.* The disciple shows proficiency in living the truth under various conditions and situations. It has become a conviction and is part of his or her value system.
5. *Representation.* The disciple models the truth as a characteristic of the life of a disciple.

## HOW TO LEAD A SMALL GROUP

### Understand Your Role as a Leader

As you prepare to lead, ask yourself these questions.

- How can I get the group to accomplish its goals?
- How do I help the group grow and learn?
- How do I involve group members in meaningful activities?

Leading a group is not just relating information to a gathered audience. Create a learning environment that encourages people to participate and share. Note: Your role as a leader is not to bring glory to yourself. The best group learning usually takes place when the leader blends into the group and is not set apart. Read the following guidelines and consider what effect they would have on you and your small group.

- *Atmosphere.* Create an atmosphere that encourages each member to share ideas and invest talents. Convey acceptance to group members. This frees them to participate openly. Arrange chairs in a circle or semicircle so that members can see one another and experience the support of community.
- *Goals.* Help move the group toward its established goals. Keep the group united and focused on its task.
- *Awareness.* Be aware of what is happening within the group and encourage growth.
- *Acceptance.* Express your acceptance of group members. Listen to them, set aside your own biases while they speak, and convey the fact that you consider them a significant part of the group. This will signal that you expect them to contribute to the group and give their best. Be patient and allow them to share when they are ready. Put their needs ahead of your own.<sup>2</sup>

Your role as a leader is not to be a traditional teacher that is expected to have all the answers. Rather, your role as leader is that of a helper or a guide. Help the group discover problems and questions, find answers and solutions, and organize facts and information.

### Continually Pray for Your Group Members

Regularly intercede on behalf of your group. Ask God to use these group sessions and this study to build each group member up in their understanding of His Word. Pray that they would develop a great love for God and that out of that love would come sincere devotion to their spiritual disciplines. Pray that the discipleship journey each group member embarks on through *MasterLife* will continue in a lifelong, obedient relationship with the Master. The practice of praying for your group will help you remember that God is the One who can change hearts through your group study. You can trust Him to work as you faithfully lead your group.

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*Week 1*

# DO GOD'S WILL



## Session 1

# DO GOD'S WILL

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Stating goals for their study of MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality.
- Explaining the "Natural Person" part of the Disciple's Personality.
- Reciting Philippians 2:13 from memory.
- Showing a deepening understanding of what it means to do God's will.
- Completing the assignments for week 1.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.
2. Give the group members a chance to get to know each other. Have each person **share their name, something about their family, and why they chose to join this MasterLife group.**

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite **Philippians 2:13** aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Ask each member to **give a one-sentence statement of his or her goals for this study.** Encourage members to pray in sentence prayers throughout the week, asking God to help them achieve their goals.
2. **How does God's will differ from a person's will?**
3. **What is God's primary purpose for your life?** (To bring glory to God. Many other reasons may be given, but they all bring glory to God.)
4. **How did Jesus fulfill His vision of God's purpose for His life?** (He died to redeem humanity.) **What is your vision of God's purpose for your life?**
5. **What are some of the tendencies of the old life? What are some of the tendencies of the new life?**
6. Direct the group to **look back at the activity on page 21**, where they described how God enables them to commit each part of their personality to His will. Ask volunteers to **share one of their responses.**

7. What difficulties might we encounter as we seek to do God's will?
8. How does God provide resources for doing His will?

## THE DISCIPLE'S PERSONALITY

1. Explain that in the Disciple's Personality presentation, they are expanding the circle in the center of the Disciple's Cross to show how they can make Christ the Lord of their total personalities. Give a brief summary of the Disciple's Personality.
2. What causes you to inherit a nature that is inclined toward sin?
3. Why can't good deeds alone cause a person in the flesh to please God?
4. What happens when the big "I" in your personality takes over in your life?
5. What part of your personality gives additional evidence that you were created in the image of God?
6. Instruct the group to break into pairs, and have each person present the "Natural Person" part of the Disciple's Personality to the other person in his or her own words.

## THE GROUP COVENANT

1. Ask your group members to **turn to and read the Group Covenant on page 9** in their Bible study books. Tell them that with this covenant, you and all the group members are committing to helping one another keep these commitments.

**SAY:** Although you may find some of the demands difficult now, this is a commitment to try, with God's help and the help of the group and the leader. All you need is a willing heart.

2. Invite questions. Then, **ask members to sign the covenant**. When everyone has agreed to sign the covenant, go around the circle and have everyone repeat their names, with group members writing their names in the blanks on the covenant, so everyone has a full list of the people in the group. Explain that praying for group members is an important part of *MasterLife*. Encourage members to refer to the list of members while they are learning names in order to pray for them.

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 2, "Renew Your Mind,"** before the next group meeting.
2. Before you dismiss, ask each group member to **share one prayer request**. Ask other members to **write that request on their Prayer Lists and commit to praying for each other throughout the week**. Close by praying together, and ask God to help each group member develop Christlike character through this study.

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*Week 2*

RENEW  
Your  
MIND

## Session 2

# RENEW YOUR MIND

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Having a date with their spouse or time with a close friend.
- Completing the assignments for week 2.
- Explaining the “Worldly Christian” part of the Disciple’s Personality.
- Identifying ways to renew their minds and committing themselves to a course of action.
- Praying, using “Principles of Conversational Prayer.”

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite **Romans 12:1-2** aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. How did your time with your spouse or close friend go this week? In what ways did you see that relationship grow?
2. What are the key elements of conversational prayer? What did you experience this week as you prayed conversationally with family, a friend, or a prayer partner?
3. In an age of constant input from the news and social media, it’s important to acknowledge who or what controls your mind. What do you think primarily controls your mind? Do you have a choice in the matter?
4. Use the following analogy: In biblical times, sheep were trained to respond to the voice of their shepherd. Shepherds could let their flocks graze together during the day, but at night, each shepherd called his flock aside. The sheep responded because they knew their master’s voice. We are to be trained to respond only to the voice of God. Ask a volunteer to read **John 10:2-5**.
5. How does letting Christ have control of our minds impact our mental and intellectual capacities? (Because Christ is the author and sustainer of truth and reality, to be controlled by Him should increase our understanding of truth and reality.)

6. Ask a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. **What are some worldly arguments and influences that can obstruct the knowledge of God?** (Responses should include secular ideas, entertainment, television, social media, and books.) **How can we keep these things from obstructing our knowledge of God?**
7. **What are some positive ways you can make your thoughts obedient to Christ?** (Responses should include prayer, Bible study, following the Spirit's leading, worship, and Christian fellowship.)
8. Ask a volunteer to read Philippians 4:8. **Do these words describe the things you spend the majority of your time thinking about? If not, what can you spend time thinking about instead?**
9. **Why is the Bible important for renewing your mind?** (It is God's revealed truth that has the power to change lives through mind renewal.) **How does meditating on memorized Scriptures renew our minds?** Suggest that members listen to passages of recorded Scriptures.
10. Remind your group that they choose who or what has control over their minds. They are responsible and accountable to God for their mindset and the choices they make. **What can you do this week to ensure that God is the One who is in control of your mind? What changes do you need to make to ensure that nothing and no one else is controlling your mind?**

## THE DISCIPLE'S PERSONALITY

1. Instruct the group break into pairs and have each person to **present the "Worldly Christian" part of the Disciple's Personality** to the other person in his or her own words.

**\*Consider taking a quick break here\***

## HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

1. Use James 1:22-25 as the key passage as you explain "How to Listen to God's Word" on page 77 in the Bible study book.
2. Ask members to use the questions based on the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:3-23) to determine what kinds of hearers they usually are. **Which classification do you think you fall under?**
3. Review the instructions based on James 1.
4. Ask members to **look at the Hearing the Word form** in the Bible study book on page 141. Describe how to take notes on a sermon. Encourage members to **take notes on sermons and Sunday School lessons**. Suggest that they begin a file of notes for future reference.

## TESTIMONY OUTLINE

1. **How would you define the word testimony?**
2. **What do you think is the difference between a basic salvation testimony and other testimonies of the Christian life? Explain this to your group if there is confusion.**

**SAY:** The testimony we will be working on throughout *MasterLife 2* is the salvation testimony. This testimony forms the foundation for all other Christian testimonies. Its length and use depend on the situation.

3. Ask members to **turn to “Testimony Outline” on pages 86-88** in the Bible study book. Carefully go over this material and call attention to the assignment to write four facts about their conversions.

**SAY:** In week 4, you will build on this basic outline to develop your testimony further.

4. Give your personal testimony as a model for group members. Be sure it is not longer than three or four minutes. After you have given your testimony, ask members to **identify in it the points of the basic testimony outline**.

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 3, “Master Your Emotions,” before the next group meeting**.
2. Ask your group members if any of them have had difficulty completing the activities on the weekly checklist. Offer ideas for how they can make adjustments to complete the activities in the coming week. Praise your group for their progress and encourage them to keep up the good work.
3. Before you dismiss, ask each group member to **share one prayer request**. Ask other members to **write that request on their Prayer Lists and commit to praying for each other throughout the week**. Close by praying together and ask God to help each member place Christ first in their lives during the week ahead.

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*Week 3*

MASTER  
Your  
EMOTIONS

## Session 3

# MASTER YOUR EMOTIONS

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Listing the four parts of a salvation testimony.
- Completing the assignments for week 3.
- Explaining the “Spiritual Christian” part of the Disciple’s Personality.
- Describing how they benefited from taking notes on a sermon.
- Sharing their personal experience applying the ACTION steps to an emotion.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite Galatians 5:22-23 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. How are you doing with having daily quiet time and using your Live in the Word guides for Bible study? How is this practice impacting your spiritual life?
2. Ask volunteers to share about their experience spending time with someone they have a hard time relating to this week.
3. Ask volunteers to share about their experiences listening to a sermon this past week. Invite them to share with the group how they used the Hearing the Word form.
4. What has this week’s study revealed to you about the way you currently process your emotions? Have you identified any areas where you need to grow? What are your next steps?
5. How does gratitude help you respond biblically to situations in which you have strong emotions?
6. Avery said, “Emotions are spontaneous responses to your values and beliefs. Over the years, your emotional responses have been either affirmed or challenged.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?



7. Instruct the group to **look at page 84**, where they recorded what it was like to personally apply the ACTION steps to an emotion. Ask volunteers to **describe their experience**.
8. **What is being removed from your life and what is being added as the Holy Spirit helps you become more Christlike?**

## THE DISCIPLE'S PERSONALITY

1. Instruct your group to break into pairs and **present the "Spiritual Christian" section of the Disciple's Personality** to each other.
2. **How does a spiritual Christian master his or her emotions?**
3. **In the past week, how have you been aware of the Holy Spirit giving you the ability to control your emotions?**

## TESTIMONY OUTLINES

1. Have your group **break into smaller groups of four**. Each person should **talk through the basic facts of his or her testimony outlined during the work on "Testimony Outline."** Ask members to **be brief and factual**. Members will not share full testimonies at this point but will simply discuss the basic facts they have written. Tell the group that each person should **speak for about three minutes**.
2. Call attention to "Guidelines for Writing Your Testimony" on pages 101-104 in the Bible study book. Highlight suggestions for problems that might have surfaced during the testimony-outline practice. Alert members to the following common errors of testimony writing:
  - Not focusing on the salvation testimony—other testimonies are appropriate for other people at other times, but the testimony they are writing is one to be shared with non-Christians
  - Reminiscing too much about things that would not be interesting to others
  - Sounding like a "holy Joe or Jane" who has all the answers
  - Speaking for too long
  - Being either too specific about ages, places, and churches or so general that the testimony does not sound real
3. Break members into groups of two to four people to **talk through "Testimony Outline" on pages 86-88**.
4. Encourage your group members to **set aside time to work on developing their testimonies this week**.

## CLOSING

1. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 4, "Present Your Body," before the next group meeting**.
2. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and close by asking God to help each member grow in their relationship with Him in the week ahead.

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*Week 4*

PRESENT

*Your*

BODY

## Session 4

# PRESENT YOUR BODY

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Sharing ways they are becoming more Christlike in character.
- Completing the assignments for week 4.
- Giving the entire presentation of the Disciple's Personality to another group member.
- Applying to their lives the teaching of the study on the use of their bodies.
- Praying about their victories and personal needs as well as those of others.
- Sharing experiences of discussing with a friend their testimony preparation.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Invite members to break into pairs and spend a few minutes working on their testimonies together.

**SAY:** Remember, this testimony is specifically about your salvation, not other aspects of your life. You can share those another time. You are preparing to share the testimony of your salvation with non-Christians. Talk about the items you added to your testimony outline this week. Try to give a brief summary of your testimony—three minutes or less.

2. How do you feel about sharing your testimony so far? In what ways do you feel you still need preparation before sharing with a non-Christian?
3. Ask members to share about their experiences discussing their testimonies with a friend. Ask them to share responses or suggestions made.
4. Transitioning to this week's study material, ask: How do you feel about your body?
5. What are the three functions the body performs in the world? Ask volunteers to share answers they gave in the activity on page 96 about applying these three functions.

**SAY:** Let's talk about the possibility of achieving those applications. What is working against you? (Flesh) Who is working for you? (Christ) What three actions of Christ make it possible for your body to be used by God? (Incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection)

6. How does applying the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection to our daily lives allow our bodies to be instruments of righteousness?

**SAY:** Sometimes, it's difficult for you to know how to dedicate yourself to God, but if you present each member of your body to Him as a living sacrifice, it becomes clear.

7. Ask volunteers to share the commitments they made on page 106 to honor Christ with their physical bodies.
8. Can the body sin without the soul being involved? Allow time for discussion. Use Matthew 12:34 and James 1:14-15 to stress the fact that this idea is ridiculous.

**SAY:** A person is a singular, undivided entity. Terms like "body," "spirit," and "soul" are used to reflect the different aspects of the total person.

**SAY:** If I sin, it is not my mind that has sinned; neither is it my body nor my soul. It is I who has sinned, and every part of who I am—body, mind, soul, and spirit—is involved.

9. What is being removed from your life and what is being added as the Holy Spirit helps you become more Christlike in the area of presenting your body?

**\*Consider taking a quick break here\***

## THE DISCIPLE'S PERSONALITY

1. Ask members to work in pairs and present the entire Disciple's Personality to each other.
2. Come back together to discuss the Disciple's Personality in light of James 4:1-8. Instruct the group to look at the corresponding diagram on page 183 during your discussion.
3. Ask a volunteer to read James 4:1-8.
4. What is the source of our struggles in living the Christian life?
5. What is the solution?
6. What does James 4:1-8 say about the source of our struggles in the Christian life? (Our lust and desires)

**SAY:** Look at James 4:5. "Or do you think it's without reason that the Scripture says: The spirit he made to dwell in us envies intensely?" This envy is a jealous love. The Spirit is aggressively concerned about your victory.

7. Discuss the actions Christians take to gain victory by **observing the additions made to the Disciple's Personality diagram on page 183.**

**SAY:** "Submit" has been added in the space above the word "Spirit," with an arrow pointing up to God. "Draw near to God" has been added beside it. We draw near to God when we submit to Him.

**SAY:** Another arrow pointing down from God has been added, with "God will draw near to you" beside it. As we submit and draw near to God, He draws near to us.

**SAY:** "Resist" has been added below the word "flesh," with an arrow pointing to Satan. Below the word "Satan" is the result: "will flee from you," with another arrow pointing down from "Satan."

**SAY:** This is the correct order. If you resist Satan in your strength, you will fail. If you first submit to the Lord, you can resist Satan, and he will flee from you. If you send Christ to the door when Satan knocks, Satan will say, "Excuse me; I must have the wrong house." You can study more about these principles in Romans 6; 8; and Galatians 3.

8. Let your group know they will further study how to use James 4:1-8 to apply the Disciple's Personality in the next week of study.

## CLOSING

1. Encourage your group members to **set aside time to continue working on developing their testimonies this week.**
2. Ask members to **complete their personal study and Walk with the Master checklist for week 5, "Be Filled with the Spirit," before the next group meeting.**
3. Ask if anyone has an update on prayer requests that group members have mentioned during this study. Instruct members to **update their Prayer Lists accordingly.**
4. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and close with asking God to help each member use their bodies for His glory and purposes in the week ahead.

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*Week 5*

BE FILLED  
*with the*  
SPIRIT

## Session 5

# BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Completing the assignments for week 5.
- Answering questions related to the filling of the Spirit.
- Confidently using James 4:1-8 to apply the Disciple's Personality.
- Applying a sermon to their lives.
- Continuing the process of reading the first draft of their testimonies and receiving feedback.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to recite Ephesians 5:18 aloud together as a group.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Ask volunteers to share their experience of taking notes on a sermon this week. **What did you write in your personal application section, and what have you done to address what you noted?**
2. **How do people know they have the presence of the Holy Spirit within them?** (If they belong to Jesus) **How do they know they have the power of the Holy Spirit?** (First by faith and then by the fruit and the gifts of the Spirit)
3. Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:18. **Which do you consider worse—being drunk with wine or not being filled with the Spirit?** Invite discussion. Emphasize that we are all commanded to be filled; it is not an option for Christians.
4. Point out that the apostles were accused of being drunk on the day of Pentecost. **Why do you think observers thought the disciples were drunk?**
5. **Have you tried to witness to someone in your own strength? What was your experience like? What was the result?**

6. What are the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23? What are synonyms for these nine nouns?
7. How would you describe a Spirit-filled person in terms of who that person is (fruit) and what that person does (gifts)?
8. Ask a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:19-20. What are two results of being filled by the Spirit? (A Spirit-filled person is characterized by praising and thanking God.)
9. What is the opposite of being filled with the Spirit? (Being filled with self)
10. How does a Spirit-filled Christian differ from a worldly Christian?
11. Ask volunteers to share about their experience of doing the three things necessary to be filled with the Spirit. How do you know you have the presence of the Holy Spirit within you? How do you know if you have the power of the Holy Spirit?
12. How often do we need to ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit?

**SAY:** Being filled is not a once-in-a-lifetime experience like salvation. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit empowers us to grow in Christlikeness and accomplish the work God has given us to do.

## PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

1. Instruct the group to break into pairs and practice sharing their personal testimonies with one another. Invite group members to provide kind, helpful feedback.

## THE DISCIPLE'S PERSONALITY

1. Ask a volunteer to apply the Disciple's Personality using James 4:1-8. When he or she finishes, invite other group members to contribute any additional thoughts.
2. Inform the group that you are going to discuss how to apply the Disciple's Personality using Galatians 5:16-25. Instruct the class to look at the corresponding diagram on page 183.
3. Ask a volunteer to read Galatians 5:16-25.
4. What actions should Christians take related to the Spirit?
5. What actions should Christians take related to the flesh?
6. Discuss the following actions related to the Spirit.
  - Be led by the Spirit (v. 18) • Live by the Spirit (v. 25)
  - Walk in the Spirit (v. 25) • Bear the fruit of the Spirit (v. 22)
7. If we do not walk in the Spirit and instead walk in the flesh, what is the result? (v. 21).



8. Ask a volunteer to walk through the additions to the Disciple's Personality on page 183 and explain what they mean in light of Galatians 5:16-25. Provide your own insights along the way, if needed.
9. Let your group know they will further study how to use Galatians 5:16-25 to apply the Disciple's Personality in the next week of study.

## CLOSING

1. Instruct members to **rewrite the first drafts of their testimonies this week, considering the feedback given to them during their practice in pairs.** They may also want to summarize their testimonies on an index card. They will practice giving their testimony again during the next group session.
2. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and close by praying that each member of your group will continually be filled with the Spirit.

## \*IF YOU PLAN TO HOST THE OPTIONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHOP

1. Share your plans for the upcoming workshop. Consider plans for food and snacks. Answer questions members might have. Make sure everyone understands that this workshop is a time to complete this second *MasterLife* study and celebrate all members have accomplished. All assignments must be completed before the workshop.
2. At the Testimony Workshop, members should be prepared to give their testimonies in three minutes. They will give the testimony several times—once to you and then to people role-playing a seeker, a self-satisfied person, and a skeptic. Relieve any fears by telling members that those playing the roles will be passive and will not make it difficult for them. Members will be able to use their notes on their index cards if necessary.

*MasterLife*

LEADER GUIDE

*Week 6*

LIVE

VICTORIOUSLY

## Session 6

# LIVE VICTORIOUSLY

### SESSION GOALS

Group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Completing the assignments for week 6.
- Sharing ways they have seen other members change during their study of MasterLife 2.
- Sharing successes and failures in living the victorious life.
- Sharing ways they have used the Disciple's Personality in their everyday lives.
- Continuing to work on presenting their testimonies and receiving feedback.

### WELCOME

1. Open the session with prayer.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

1. Try to **recite all six memory verses from this study aloud together**, including this week's verse, Romans 6:12-13.

### STUDY REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

1. Ask all group members to **share one change they have seen in the person seated to their right since beginning MasterLife 2.**
2. **How have you used the Disciple's Personality in your life during the past week?**
3. Ask a volunteer to **apply the Disciple's Personality using Galatians 5:16-25. How does this translate to the way we should live?**
4. **How does the Disciple's Personality explain the possibility of defeat or victory in the life of a disciple?**
5. **In what ways does Satan influence human personality?**
6. **In what ways does the world influence human personality for good? For bad?**
7. **How do Jesus's death and resurrection bring victory over sin. How important to a victorious Christian life is your crucifixion with Christ? (Death to the old person makes possible the new life.)**

8. Ask a group member to read **Galatians 2:20**. What motivated Jesus's action on our behalf? (He loved you and gave Himself for you.)
9. Have a volunteer read **Romans 6:11-13**. What commands in these verses keep you from a lifestyle of sin? Which is most difficult to follow?
10. Have a volunteer read **1 Corinthians 10:13**. Where does temptation stop and sin begin?
11. Point out that when a fleeting, wrong thought becomes a subject you dwell on and you let your mind entertain the idea, you have sinned regardless of whether you have acted on the impulse. Have a volunteer read **Jesus's example in Matthew 5:27-28**.

**SAY:** The following mental discipline is one way to deal with temptation. As you are experiencing temptation, picture a cross. Think of Jesus dying on the cross for the very sin you are contemplating. Remember His victory over that particular sin. Thank Jesus for His victory and for your victory.

12. What victories have you recently experienced? How have you been able to overcome habits that kept you bound by sin?
13. Review the seven steps to Christlike character on page 182. Which of these steps has been most impactful for you during this study? What changes have you seen in your life as a result?

## PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

1. Instruct the group to **break into pairs and practice giving their testimonies**. Invite all group members to **provide kind, constructive feedback**.

## REFLECTION

1. Bring the group back together. **What has been most impactful about this study for you? What do you want to be sure to remember?**
2. Tell your group when you will begin the study of *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory*. Encourage them to **plan to join the group to continue their discipleship journey with MasterLife**.

## CLOSING

1. Share what you have observed in the group members over the last six weeks. Highlight how they have grown. Encourage your group members to **continue in their practice of the six spiritual disciplines and to allow God to continue to develop their character to reflect the character of Jesus**.
2. Close with prayer. Ask for **prayer requests**, pray over those requests together, and thank God for what your group members have learned during this Bible study. Pray that each member will continually be filled with the Spirit as they walk with the Master throughout their lives.

**\*IF YOU PLAN TO HOST THE OPTIONAL TESTIMONY WORKSHOP**

1. Refresh members' memories about the time, date, and place for the Testimony Workshop.
2. **Do you have any questions about the Testimony Workshop?**
3. Remind members that they will need to have all assignments in their Walk with the Master checklists completed before the Testimony Workshop.
4. Instruct members to **rewrite their drafts of their testimonies, considering the feedback from their practice today**. Remind them that they can summarize on one index card. Members should be prepared to give their testimonies in three minutes. At the workshop, they will give the testimony several times—to you and then to persons who will role-play a seeker, a self-satisfied person, and a skeptic. Relieve any fears by telling members that those playing the roles will not make it difficult for them. Members will be able to use their notes on the card if necessary.
5. Review final details for the Testimony Workshop. Invite questions. Reassure group members that they do not need to be nervous about this workshop. This will truly be a celebration of all they have learned over the course of the study.

*MasterLife*

LEADER GUIDE

*MasterLife 2:  
The Disciple's Personality*

# TESTIMONY WORKSHOP

## *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*

# TESTIMONY WORKSHOP

### WORKSHOP GOALS

By the end of this workshop, group members will be able to demonstrate their progress toward MasterLife goals by:

- Sharing testimonies of growth in Christ during *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*.
- Completing all assignments in *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*.
- Revising their personal salvation testimonies to meet the stated criteria.
- Adjusting their salvation testimonies to fit the needs of a seeker, a self-satisfied person, and/or a skeptic.
- Examining ways they plan to seek continued growth in Christ.

### BEFORE THE WORKSHOP

1. Pray daily for each member of your group.
2. Email each member of the group to ensure everyone will be there.
3. Review the goals for the workshop. Master the material in this leader guide for the Testimony Workshop.
4. Check with the people responsible for the meeting site to be sure they are ready for the group. Prepare the meeting room. Divide a large room into four areas or use four available rooms. In the first area, provide tables, paper, and pencils for members as they work on their drafts of their testimony. In the second area, provide spaces for you and your co-leader to meet with each person to evaluate testimonies. In the third area, provide three sets of three chairs. In this section, the role players will meet with the teams (participants will go through the workshop in pairs). In the fourth area, provide light refreshments and a circle of chairs where members can sit for activities not included in the actual testimony time.
5. Have pens or pencils and extra blank paper on hand for the workshop.
6. Prepare to evaluate each testimony. Review the procedures. Approach your tasks prayerfully. Scores of potential decisions for Christ may result from this equipping ministry. The attitude you take as you perform this task is important. You are a servant, not a critic. Avoid making group members feel they are being tested and can either pass or fail. Lead them to rely on the work of the Holy Spirit as they write and give their testimonies.

7. Ask another person to co-lead the Testimony Workshop with you. Ideally, he or she will have already gone through all four steps of MasterLife. Read the previous point about preparation to your co-leader. Prepare him or her to evaluate and offer feedback for testimonies so that you can each individually work with group members during the Testimony Workshop. Make sure this person knows about workshop arrangements (time, date, place) and what his or her responsibilities are.
8. Enlist three people in your church who will agree to play the roles of unbelievers in the Testimony Workshop. Explain the purpose of the workshop and give them the following instructions.
  - **Each of you will play one of the roles of an unbeliever: a skeptic, a seeker, or a self-satisfied person. As you role-play, you will wear an index card with your role name written on the card.**
  - **I will assign each of your roles. As group members present their testimonies to you, assume the mental state of the particular unbeliever assigned to you. Act out how such a person might think and speak.**
  - **As you role-play:**
    1. **Be sincere in the role you play. Respond realistically. It is unhelpful to underplay or overplay the role.**
    2. **Don't throw any curves at the group members. They need positive reinforcement, not discouragement.**
    3. **Be open in order to draw the members into sharing their testimonies.**
    4. **Spend three to five minutes with each person and no more than ten minutes with each pair. Expect each group member to share his or her testimony; respond separately to each.**
    5. **Avoid critiquing the testimony. Simply play the role.**
    6. **Use concluding comments to reflect your position as an unbeliever but not to reject either the person or the testimony.**
9. Before the session, practice with the role players by playing the part of a group member. Present your own testimony to the skeptic; then, let the others assist you in evaluating the way that role player responded. Repeat the procedure with seeker and self-satisfied person. This practice will help role players feel confident when they interact with group members.
10. Review the basic content of MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory so that you can give your group an overview at the end of the Testimony Workshop.
11. Prepare to present the Spiritual Armor presentation.
12. Make plans for starting the study of MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory. Arrange a time, date, and place for the first session. Be prepared to share these plans with group members.



13. Pray for the workshop. Members need to have a sense of accomplishment and success at the end of *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*. Prepare to remind them of all they have accomplished by completing their Walk with the Master checklists and completing their written testimonies. Prepare to encourage them as they assess their growth as disciples.

### TODAY'S WORKSHOP AGENDA

- Have your testimony evaluated.
- Revise your testimony as needed.
- Share your testimony with role players.
- Make adjustments as needed.
- Share the final version of your testimony and/or discuss it with the workshop leader.

## DURING THE WORKSHOP

### Part 1 (20 minutes)

#### WELCOME (10 MINUTES)

1. Greet members. Ask each person to **share one change he or she has seen in himself or herself since beginning *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality***. Go around the group until each member has responded.
2. Pray together, thanking God for the progress that each of the group members have made throughout their study of *MasterLife*.

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (10 MINUTES)

1. Introduce your co-leader for the workshop. Point out that throughout the workshop, members should go back to the same leader with whom they start.
2. Introduce the three guest "unbelievers" by their roles (skeptic, seeker, self-satisfied).
3. Tell members that you and your co-leader will be using "Guidelines for Writing Your Testimony" (pp. 101-104) to evaluate their testimonies.
4. Ask each person to **select a partner for the workshop**.
5. Call attention to the refreshment area. Let the group know that the workshop will have a couple of intentional breaks, but they are welcome to grab a snack when they have free moments throughout the day. Release the group for a quick break now.

**Break (10 minutes)**

**Part 2 (2 hours)**

**TESTIMONY-SHARING TIME**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEADERS**

Review each person's most recent draft of their testimony, asking and answering questions and making suggestions. Spend approximately five to ten minutes with each person. Let the partner listen so that he or she can support the other person. Concentrate on the following areas.

- Look for the storyline. Avoid tampering with it, because it tells how Christ entered a person's life. However, if the storyline is not present, or if it's unclear, the testimony will not sound authentic. In these cases, suggest strengthening their storyline in their next draft.
- Examine all parts of the testimony. Are they equally developed? If not, tell them which area to develop. If a person is using the thematic approach, the first part doesn't have to be well-developed.

Check to see that the four doctrinal truths are expressed in the third part of their testimony. If needed, make suggestions to strengthen this area.

- Evaluate the amount of detail in the testimony. If it leaves out too many details, suggest adding facts; if it includes unnecessary details, encourage them to remove some of the less relevant elements.
- Make sure their final sentence leads to further conversation.
- Keep an eye out for church words and religious verbiage. The testimony should not sound preachy.

Be available to counsel people when you are not evaluating testimonies. It is not uncommon during the workshop to have someone receive assurance of salvation or make a decision for Christ.

1. Gather the group back together after the break and explain the flow of the workshop.

**SAY:**

- a. You and your partner will move at your own pace. You are free to change the order of events if a workshop leader or a role player is occupied. Use extra time to practice sharing testimonies, practice the Disciple's Personality presentation, or recite Scripture you have memorized during MasterLife 1 and MasterLife 2.
- b. Some pairs will have their written testimonies evaluated by one workshop leader, and the other pairs will have theirs evaluated by the other leader. After reading these written testimonies, the leader will make suggestions for improvements.

- c. After the testimonies have been evaluated, you and your partner should go to the work area to make adjustments in your testimonies that you think are necessary. You may want to make notes on an index card to use when you give your testimony to the role players.
  - d. When you have adjusted your written drafts, go to one of the three role players. Partners take turns—one witnesses while the other observes. Each partner opens the conversation with the role player, shares his or her testimony, and concludes with a leading question. The role player will not give you feedback on your testimony. They are simply there to engage with you as you present it.
  - e. After both of you have witnessed to the role player, return to the work area to evaluate the experience. Discuss difficulties you had and give each other suggestions. Discuss facts from the “Testimony Outline” (pp. 86-88) that could be helpful in interactions with that particular type of person. Make any necessary adjustments to your testimony.
  - f. Repeat this process with the other role players.
  - g. Once you have witnessed to all three role players, you and your partner should verbally share your testimonies with the workshop leader who read your testimonies at the beginning of the workshop. Try not to use your notes. Ask any questions that have arisen in the workshop.
2. Dismiss your group to begin sharing their written testimonies with the leaders. For the pairs who aren't going first, instruct them to prepare their testimonies as they wait.
  3. Update the group when one hour is left and again when thirty minutes are left. At the thirty-minute mark, group members need to return to their workshop leader to share their verbal testimonies even if they have not shared it with all three role players. Stop on time unless everyone agrees to extend the session.
  4. At the end of the testimony-sharing time, call the group back together. Thank the role players and give them permission to leave.
  5. Ask the group members to reflect on this exercise. How are you feeling about sharing your testimonies now? How has this workshop time been helpful to you?

**Break (15 minutes)**

### Part 3 (50 minutes)

#### THE DISCIPLE'S VICTORY (45 MINUTES)

1. Preview *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory* by sharing study titles and giving a brief content overview.
2. Tell the group that they will learn the Spiritual Armor presentation throughout their study of *MasterLife 3*. Present the Spiritual Armor presentation in your own words.
3. Ask volunteers to give personal testimonies about why they are committed to continuing the *MasterLife* discipleship process.
4. Share your plans for when the group will begin *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory*, and encourage all members to pray about continuing on with the group. Assure members that regardless of what they decide about continuing, you will always be available to talk to or pray with them about life in Christ.

#### CLOSING (5 MINUTES)

1. Congratulate members on completing *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*. Assure them that the time investment they have made in learning to be a follower of Christ will make their pilgrimage more meaningful in the days ahead. Express appreciation for each member.
2. Close with prayer. Thank God for walking alongside every group member through *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*. Ask God to speak clearly to them about His will for them in the next season of their discipleship journey.

#### AFTER THE WORKSHOP

1. Write a note to each member, expressing appreciation for his or her participation in the course. Remind each member that you are praying as he or she continues to apply concepts of *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality* to daily life.
2. Finalize your plans for beginning *MasterLife 3: The Disciple's Victory*. Email group members to communicate all of the details. If some group members cannot join your group for this next step, encourage them to join a *MasterLife 3* group sometime in the future.
3. This is a good time to take stock of the leadership you provided during *MasterLife 2: The Disciple's Personality*. If you have areas in which you want to grow as a leader, seek counsel from another seasoned *MasterLife* leader. If you believe a problem exists between you and a member, connect with this person and seek reconciliation.
4. Continue to pray for each member of your group.