

DIGGING DEEP!

STUDENT WORKBOOK

A deeper connection with God

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DIGGING DEEP!

Making a deeper connection with Christ for some comes at great cost. Christians have given their lives for what they believe. There may come a time when we have to make that kind of commitment. Do we really believe this truth enough to give our very lives? Are we convinced enough to stand for what we believe no matter the consequence? How can we come to that place of commitment? What are the outcomes of such a commitment and where do we start? In this series of lessons we want to Dig Deep into the Word of God and discover the key to a deeper, richer relationship with God. One that will bring us so close to the Heavenly Father that nothing shall be able to separate us.

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).



LESSON 1 - Aerate the Ground - Personal Preparation

Repent

1. When you are preparing a garden, the first step is to _____. Is the soil rich in nutrients?
2. Have we _____ the soil and removed all the hinderances?
3. In the same way, we evaluate our _____. How do I look for _____? Does my heart need to be Aerated?
4. I need to _____ the ground, my _____ for this beautiful garden of commitment that I will offer God and others when I'm done.
5. Aerate the ground - This literally means to supply the soil with _____. It is softening up the ground so that when you plant the seed, the ground will _____ it.
6. Aerating the ground is a bit like _____ - clean your heart of all distractions. This may need to be done daily to keep your heart conditioned for God's work.

“Search my heart”

Psalm 139

1

O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

2

*You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.*

3

*You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.*

4

*For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.*

5

*You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.*

6

*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain it.*

7

*Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

8

*If I ascend into heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there...*

13

*For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.*

14

*I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvelous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well...*

23

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;*

24

*And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.*

7. Search me, O God, and know my _____. Ask Him to dig down deep and reveal anything that would come between you and Him.
8. David had a _____ heart. He is a good example. He left no rock unturned. He knew who God was and what God knew about Him... EVERYTHING!

Reach - Long for Him

We are aiming for good, healthy earth for the seed to be planted - a pure, ready heart for His Word to take hold. Reaching for God is like a small child reaching out to his parent; arms wide open; totally vulnerable; never a thought of rejection; just pure trust.

1. "O God, You are my God; Early will I _____ You; My soul _____ for You; My flesh _____ for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water" (Psalm 63:1).

2. "My soul _____, yes, even _____ For the courts of the Lord; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God" (Psalm 84:2).
3. "I _____ out my hands to You; My soul _____ for You like a thirsty land. Selah" (Psalm 143:6).
4. David put it this way: "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So _____ my soul for You, O God" (Psalm 42:1). So _____ - gotta have Him! So _____ - gotta have Him now! So _____ - I can't go another step!
5. If you will long for God, He will stay _____ in your soul. If you are always _____ for Him, asking Him to hold you _____, you won't ever get so far you can't _____ His heart beat or _____ His voice.
6. _____ His Word - God's word is just that. He speaks through His Word. Because He has ordained His Word and it was in the beginning with God and _____ (John 1:1).
7. God's Word is is _____ and _____.

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

8. _____ to Him every day - _____ is the surviving tool of any relationship. If it is absent, the relationship is sure to crumble.
9. The word "communicate" has the word "_____ " in it. This means to communicate intimately, on a very personal level¹.
10. Communication is a _____ - _____ conversation. Yes, we must talk to God, but then we must be quiet for Him to talk to us. Talk, Listen, Obey.

¹ Webster's Dictionary; online at: www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/commune; accessed 3-5-15

Guard Your Heart

1. Before we are ready for the seed to be planted the last thing we must do is take some _____ measures. We must _____ the lot. We must make sure no animals can get in to destroy the flower garden. So we build _____ to keep out the _____ and _____ to allow the _____ to come in at will. Fences and Gates are _____ to the growth of our garden.
2. Fences - We must guard our heart against the _____ of the enemy. The devil wants to destroy you. He is NOT your friend.

“The thief does not come except to _____, and to _____, and to _____. I have come that they may have _____, and that they may have it more _____ “ (John 10:10).

3. Fences - We must also protect our heart against _____ to the world. If sin alienates us from Christ, then wouldn't He be pleased if we stay as far away from that ugly animal as possible? We don't have to look like the world! We don't want to look like the world! We want people to see Jesus! Not the world!

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2).

4. *Conform* definition - to be _____ to or the _____ as something; to _____ or _____ with something; to do what other people do: to behave in a way that is accepted by most people. ²

² Webster's Dictionary - online at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conform>; accessed 3/5/15

NLT-Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

The Message -Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

5. Gates - I will keep an _____ heart for God to work. Even when He needs to do a little _____, I will gladly welcome Him back to see the progress.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will _____ to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

6. I must respond to God's presence at the Gate. _____ I hear His voice and open the door, _____ He will come in. I have a part in this relationship. He is a gentleman and will not force himself in. But the joy is unspeakable when I accept His presence into my life!
7. Gates - We are looking for the day God will _____ and say, “Come Home my child. Well done!” That is when we will walk through those pearly gates! If we open the gate for Him, He will one day open His gate for us.

“His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were _____ over a few things, I will make you _____ over many things. Enter into the _____ of your lord’” (Matthew 25:21).



LESSON 2 - Planting Seed

1. Now that our hearts have been conditioned for the next part of our journey, it is time to decide what we want to plant in this well-prepared heart.

“And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how” (Mark 4:26-27).

2. Growing is an amazing phenomena. We cannot explain it. Growing is a _____ thing.
3. 1 Corinthians 3:7 reminds us that it is not the one who plants or waters that is at the center but _____ who makes things _____.
4. In the parable of the sower, there is one constant and that is the _____, the _____ of _____.

Weed Seed

1. The enemy wants to sow “_____” seed among the good seed.
2. What are some of the seeds that produce _____?
3. _____; Proverbs 6:14 Perversity *is* in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows _____.
4. _____; Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends. Proverbs 22:8 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow.
5. _____; Proverbs 21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.
6. _____; Mark 10:24 ...Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

7. _____; Proverbs 6:19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

8. _____; Proverbs 6:34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

There is a list of things in Revelation 21:8 that will keep us out of heaven;

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. Write down any more “weed seeds” you can think of here: _____

Good Seed

1. Mark 4:14 The sower sows the _____ of _____

2. Deuteronomy 4:10 ...I will let them _____ My _____...

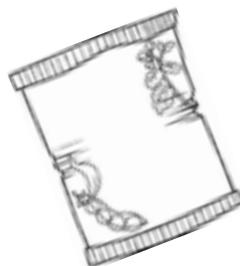
3. Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his ways? By _____ according to Your word.

4. Psalm 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not _____ against You

5. Psalm 119:105 Your word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ to my path.

6. God's Word is not going to morph into our _____. We have to make the effort to read it.
7. Reading the word brings about other good seed to plant. These include:
8. Salvation - Scripture Reference: _____,
9. Obedience- Scripture Reference: _____,
10. Righteousness, Peace, Joy- Scripture Reference: _____,
11. Righteousness & Justice - Scripture Reference: _____,
12. Hosea 10:12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.
13. According to the dictionary, Righteous means to be _____ good, following religious or moral laws.³
14. Giving - Scripture Reference: _____
15. Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is _____; And what does the Lord _____ of you But to _____ justly, To _____ mercy, And to _____ humbly with your God?
16. It is good to read the Word, and to understand it. Now we are _____ to obey what we read and understand for it to germinate in our hearts.
17. Deuteronomy 12:28 _____ and _____ all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is _____ and _____ in the sight of the Lord your God.
18. Stay _____ - What is God saying to you right now?
19. Determine if it _____ to you.
20. Take _____ - obey the Word as you read it.

³ Ibid.



LESSON 3 - Watching the Harvest

21. God is faithful to _____ what He _____.

22. The harvest is an outgrowth of the _____ season.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

“Water properly. Don't water frequently for only brief periods of time. Doing so causes plant roots to hover near the soil surface. Instead, deep soak each time you water to encourage roots to grow deep down into the soil. And to the extent that you're able, water early in the morning so plant leaves have a chance to dry during the day. That will help minimize fungal diseases.”⁴

“Now he who _____ and he who _____ are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor” (1 Corinthians 3:8).

23. The Fruit of the Spirit is an outgrowth of the seed that has been placed in good ground.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is

24. _____

25. _____

26. _____

27. _____

28. _____

29. _____



⁴ <http://www.hgtvgardens.com/garden-basics/8-steps-to-smart-gardening#sthash.Ntr4CmJa.dpuf>

30. _____

31. _____

32. _____ - _____...” (Galatians 5:22-23).

33. What part of the fruit am I strongest in?

34. Do I exhibit signs of bearing all the fruit of the Spirit?

35. What am I missing?

36. How can I fix this? Go back to the _____, the good seed.

37. He is faithful. We _____ the seed, and He _____ the increase. Then when we see the right things surfacing in our lives, and know that the seed has taken hold and is growing in our hearts, we can rejoice.

38. We must have _____ that God will follow through.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to *cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:19).

39. As you get into this journey of a deeper connection with Jesus Christ, you will notice a change in your spiritual _____.

40. Make _____ check ups on your garden/heart.

41. Be _____ to any red flags you may detect.

42. Pray the prayer David prayed: “_____ me, O God, and know my heart; _____ me, and know my anxieties” (Psalm 139:23).

43. You don’t want anything to rise up and _____ out the beautiful work the Lord is doing in your heart.

44. Pull _____. Get rid of anything that does not belong in your heart!

45. Soon it will be _____ time. A time where we are ready to _____ in the fruit of our labor.

“But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come” (Mark 4:29).

46. Walking with God is a _____ experience. Especially when you see new babies come to God because they gleaned from your fruit. You get the joy of watching them grow.



LESSON 4 - Sharing the Blessing

How can we share our abundant harvest with others?

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,” (Isaiah 55:10).

1. What is amazing about _____ the seed is that it not only brings forth more seed, but it will live on in those who _____ from your _____.
2. It is a sign of spiritual _____ when we stop focusing on ourselves and begin to look for others to bless.
3. There is nothing wrong with _____ - _____ but we cannot become so _____ -focused that we forget _____ -focused.
4. Focusing on others does not mean to _____ your status with God, but it does mean to _____ your focus from looking inside to outside.
5. Those who are always focusing on themselves, their feelings, their wants and satisfactions, are in danger of _____.
6. The best way to break the rut of self-absorbed behavior is to _____ out to someone else.
7. _____ for someone to bless; _____ out to someone else; _____ of yourself.

The Reciprocal Effect

1. The reciprocal effect of giving is, the act of giving always _____ . The more you give, the more you _____ .
2. The best gifts are to people who cannot _____ the favor because it changes us.

3. We are more blessed when we give with _____ of return.

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35).

What Can I Give?

1. Give some thought to the fruit you have.
2. Reach down into the _____ you are bearing and that is what you can give _____.

3. What can you give? Check the boxes that apply.⁵

- Love
- Joy (laughter)
- Peace
- Long-suffering (patience)
- Kindness (Words of affirmation/gifts)
- Goodness
- Faithfulness (honor),
- Gentleness (physical touch)
- Self-control.
- Respect
- Quality time
- Service

4. _____ secures the return of _____ the next season.

⁵ * also using, *Five Love Languages* by Gary D. Chapman

What Makes Us Secure in Christ?

1. What makes us so secure in Christ that NOTHING can separate us? It is the fact that our _____ are down _____.
2. We have _____ the soil of our heart.
3. Now our hearts are ready to _____ the _____ of God's Word in our lives.
4. We have _____ and nurtured the garden.
5. We have taken time to _____ our hearts and consistently _____ anything that will choke out the good fruit.
6. If we are _____, never giving up, we will have victory over Satan and be able to fight his tactics before it gets out of hand.
7. The _____ of the Holy Spirit in us, is a valuable tool.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

8. He has given us _____ through the Holy Ghost to _____ the enemy.

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

9. When we obey God's plan, submit to His authority, and bring every thought into the captivity of the obedience of Christ, then we have the _____ to _____ and say it is fulfilled in me!
10. _____ will stand against us when we are _____ in the arms of the authority of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

1. We have _____ the ground, _____ the seed, _____ and _____ the harvest.
2. Now we are ready to _____ the blessing of the harvest.
3. If somewhere down the road we have lost our _____, we will _____ over again.
4. Re-planting, _____ and asking God to help us dig in _____, put our roots _____ deep so that NOTHING can _____ us again!
5. This _____ will be our _____ song!

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

