Lay Academy #1

**BIBLICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON CHRISTIAN PURPOSE**

Aim:

The participants will remember Biblical instructions on Christian purposes.

***Time***: 1 hour 15 Minutes

***Materials Needed:***

Poster with Academy Topic: “Biblical Instructions on Christian Purpose”

Projection of Biblical Passages or a Handout: “Bible Passages on Christian Purpose”

Handout: “Remembering Biblical Instruction on Christian Purpose”

Chart Paper or Chalk/White Board and Marker

***Devotions:***

Invocation

Suggested Scripture: Proverbs 25

Suggested Hymn: “A Charge to Keep I Have”

***Introduction***

*Ask*: “When you think about the word *purpose* what other words might come to mind? For instance, when someone asks you, ‘What is the purpose of this group?’ what is another word they could have used other than purpose. Let’s brainstorm some synonyms and we’ll write them on the board. “(*Write all words offered by the participants on the chart paper or board or have a volunteer to write*.)

*Say*: Today our topic is “Biblical Instructions on Christian **Purpose**”

***Activities***

**(1) Reviewing Bible Verses**. *Say*: “Let’s first look at some Bible verses to examine what is indicated about Christian purpose (*pass out handout or show on screen*).” Then taking one passage at a time, ask a volunteer participant to read each one and then have another volunteer to explain what this verse means for the thoughts and actions by Christians individually and corporately (the local church).

**(2) Organizing the Verses**. *Say*: “Some of these verses instructions have implications God’s will for us individually, but others have great implications for the mission of the body of Christ. Let’s look at them again and identify which ones are instructions for us as individual believers, which ones speak very directly the body of Christians, and which ones are both.” Then go through each one and have the group share their thoughts.

**(3) Small Group Discussion.** Make a statement about the helpfulness of memorizing key scriptural content, such as: “It helps when we are working on something to keep our focus. So we will work on memorizing some of these verses.” Then organize the participants into groups of three. Ask the groups to identify two (2) of the Biblical passages (or a part of them) that they think would be very helpful to commit to memory and discuss why they would choose these ones. Then ask some of the groups to share their discussion. (*Give the groups about 10 minutes*.)

**(4) Review Activity. “**Remembering Biblical Instructions on Christian Purpose.” Give participants about ten (10) minutes to complete this activity. Emphasize to them that the activity does not correspond word-for-word with the scripture. Then go over each one with the group reading the verses together.

***Lay Council Closing Prayer* -** Oh God, our Father, pour out your steadfast love upon us and keep us in your care, now and forever more. Amen.

**HANDOUT: BIBLICAL PASSAGES ON CHRISTIAN PURPOSE**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**Acts 2:42-47**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer....44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people….”

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**Colossians 3:15-16**

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**1 Thessalonians 5:4-11**

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**1 Peter 2:9**

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**ACTIVITY. REMEMBERING BIBLICAL INSTRUCTIONS ON CHRISTIAN PURPOSE**

Directions: Use the Bible verses on the handout, to complete these sentences.

**1. Go and make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, baptizing them and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ everything that Christ commanded us. (based on Matthew 28:19-20)**

**2. We should devote ourselves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bread and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (based on Acts 2:42)**

**3. We should continue to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together in the “temple courts.” (based on Acts 2:46)**

**4. Our churches are based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who is the chief \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (based on Ephesians 2:20**

**5. We as Christians are likened to the “whole building of Christ” and should rise to become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord and are in the process of becoming a dwelling in which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lives by his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (based on Ephesians 2:20-22)**

**6. As Christians, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God should dwell in our hearts, and we should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (based on Colossians 3:15)**

**7. The message of Christ should well \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ among us as we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one another with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our hearts. (based on Colossians 3: 15-16).**

**8. Whatever we do, whether in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we should do in the name of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, giving \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God the Father through Jesus the Christ. (based on Colossians 3:17)**

**9. We as believers in the living Christ, are not children of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but are children of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Therefore, we should wear the breastplate of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the helmet of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (based on 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8).**

**10. As believers in the living Christ, we should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one another and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ each other up. (Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:11)**

**11. We should keep in mind how we may spur each other on toward \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ deeds; and we should be steadfast in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Based on Hebrews 10: 24-25).**

**12. We should declare the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ Jesus who has called us out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into his wonderful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Based on 1 Peter 2:9)**