

Fountaingate Christian Foundation presents...

**The
King's
Table**

Series

**Directives for the
New Creation**



***Sending the Word of God to the
Ends of the Earth***

A Personal Letter

Dear Friend,

This series of studies - "Directives for the New Creation" - is where the Christian life begins and continues in growth. These are some simple instructions for the new believer so that, not only will there be a good foundation at the beginning of a new life, but also some essential advice on how to maintain a vital life of relationship with God. If a Christian follows this advice, a strong faith and growth in Christ will be assured and, with it, victory in the face of the surrounding temptations of the world.

Every blessing,

*Paul, Bunty and David
The Collins Ministry Team*

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Lord's Directives

‘ In Acts 2:36-47 the apostles brought an earnest plea to new believers to escape the corruption of the world. They did this by setting boundaries for their new life. ’

The First Steps

"... God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ...'" Acts 2:38-39.

A Revelation of Jesus

The first step to our new life in Christ is a revelation of who Jesus is. He is both Lord - the Son of God - and Christ - the one anointed by the Holy Spirit to bring salvation to the world. Faith in who Jesus is and why He came results in an active response from us which is expressed in two ways...

"Repent"

To "repent" means to change direction. A revelation of Jesus causes a total change in our thinking and behaviour. We turn from a self-focus to a focus on the Lord.

"Be baptised"

Water baptism is the outward declaration of the inward experience. It is our funeral service, declaring to the world and the devil that our old self died with Christ and, joined with Him in His resurrection, we have been raised a whole new creation to walk in a whole new way of life. Read Romans 6:6-14; Ephesians 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17. The Lord then responds to our faith by giving us the most precious gift imaginable...

"Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"

The gift of the Holy Spirit makes us spiritually alive (John 3:3), enables us to live lives that are pleasing to God (1 Peter 1:15) and empowers us to witness for Christ (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4).

The Framework for Living

"With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation'" Acts 2:40.

"Save yourselves..."

Receiving the Lord as Saviour brought the believers into eternal life and relationship with God. Having taken the first steps of their salvation and new life in Christ, they then took specific steps in response to Peter's plea to "save yourselves from this corrupt generation". These steps are essential for every believer to enable them to live a victorious Christian life down here on earth.

"They continued steadfastly..."

"And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers" Acts 2:42 (Amp.V).

As believers in Christ we are now to totally commit ourselves to four vital ingredients of the victorious Christian life. "The *continued steadfastly* in..." (KJV); "They *devoted* themselves to..." (NIV):

*** The apostles teaching**

Read Ephesians 5:25,26; Psalm 119:11; 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4.

*** The fellowship**

Read Acts 2:44-47; 1 Thess.2:8; Hebrews 10:25.

*** The breaking of bread**

Read Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Cor.10:14-21; 11:17-33.

*** Prayers**

Read Acts 4:18-33; 12:5-11; 27:9-10,20-26; Matthew 18:19.

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Revelation of Jesus

‘...God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart... Acts 2:36-37

The Starting-Point

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better” Ephesians 1:17.

Everything in the New Creation life begins with, and revolves around, a revelation of Jesus. Through a revelation of who Jesus is and what He has done, we are “born again” of the Spirit (John 3:1-21). And it is through the revelation of the Spirit continuously in our hearts that we grow in Him and are changed to be like Him.

“And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in every increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Amp.V).

The Centre-Point

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things - For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him. To Him be glory forever! Amen - so be it” Romans 11:36 (Amp.V).

*** From Him - The Source**

See 1 Corinthians 8:6; John 1:14; James 1:17; Hebrews 5:9; 12:2.

*** Through Him - The Power**

See Colossians 1:10-11; Galatians 2:20;

Ephesians 1:19-20; 6:10; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 12:9; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37.

*** To Him - The Goal**

See Hebrews 12:1-2.

As Peter preached to the people that day, described in Acts 2, they were “cut to the heart” when he declared that the one they had crucified was both Lord and Christ. The whole Christian experience revolves around these two revelations of Jesus.

Jesus is Lord

“...and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord” Romans 1:4.

The revelation of who Jesus is. He is the Son of God, the Lord of glory (Luke 9:28-36; Revelation 1:9-18).

“...in these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word...” Hebrews 1:2-3.

Jesus is Christ

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” Romans 5:8.

The revelation of what He has done. He is the Christ, the Messiah - the one anointed by the Holy Spirit (John 1:29-34) to bring salvation and restore the glorious plan God has for us.

Read Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-2:3; Ephesians 3:14-21.

The King's Table

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Repentance

“ God...now commands all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17:30 (NKJB) ”

What Repentance is Not

Not just conviction of sin

No one repents unless they are convicted, but not all who are convicted actually repent (Genesis 6:3; Acts 24:24-25).

Not just worldly sorrow

Many people are sorry, not for what they have done wrong, but for the penalty they receive in being caught (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Not just 'turning over a new leaf'

Many people try in their own strength to become a better person and change their way of life. Any self-effort has a root of self-righteousness in it, which does not entertain the need of repentance from sin (Isa. 64:6).

Not becoming religious

The Pharisees fasted and prayed and had many religious ceremonies, yet never repented (Matthew 3:7-10; 5:20).

Not just mental acceptance of truth

Having an intellectual head-knowledge of truth does not guarantee that the truth has become a living reality in one's life (James 2:19-20).

What True Repentance Is

Godly sorrow for sin

True repentance is a sorrow not just towards one's self, or towards another person, but first and foremost it is true sorrow towards God (Psalm 38:8; 2 Cor. 7:10).

Confession of sin

"Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity, I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord' -- and you forgave the guilt of my sin" Psalm 32:5 (see also 1 John 1:9).

Being willing to forsake sin

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whosoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy" Proverbs 28:13.

Having a hatred of sin

"...and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done..." Ezekiel 20:43,44.

Restitution included

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount'" Luke 19:8 (see also Leviticus 6:1-7).

What Repentance Involves

Turning from sin

"Don't be like your fathers were! The earlier prophets pled in vain with them to turn from all their evil ways. 'Come, return to me,' the Lord God said. But no, they wouldn't listen; they paid no attention at all" Zech.1:4 (TLB) (see also Gal.5:19-21; Eph. 5:5).

Turning from the world

"Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God..." 1 John 2:15 (TLB) (see also James 4:4).

Turning from ourselves

"He died for all so that all who live -- having received eternal life from him -- might live no longer for themselves, to please themselves, but to spend their lives pleasing Christ who died and rose again for them" 2 Cor.5:15 (TLB) (see also Luke 14:26).

Turning from the devil

See Acts 26:18 and Colossians 1:13.

The King's Table

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Water Baptism

“ ...Repent, and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven... Acts 2:38-39 ”

The Importance of Knowing

Dealing with the false concept that grace meant it didn't matter if you kept on sinning because God would forgive you, Paul declares...

*"We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or **don't you know** that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" Rom.6:3 (read verses 1-11).*

Understanding the finished work of Christ is the key to a victorious and liberated Christian life.

Two Kingdoms

Read Colossians 1:13. Every person born into the world is born under the dominion of darkness, slaves of the dictator, Satan. There is only one way out of this satanic dominion - **death**. There is only one way into the Kingdom of God - **birth**. Jesus provided our death on the Cross and our new birth in his resurrection. This is what water baptism depicts.

Two Representative Men

"... 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit...The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven..." 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 ((Read also 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12-21).

The First Adam

Adam was God's representative man. As the father of the human race his sin resulted in all

succeeding generations inheriting a rebellious diseased nature alienated from God.

The Last Adam

Jesus was also God's representative Man. He hung on the Cross as the "Last Adam" - the last of the Adamic Race. God crucified the fallen creation in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The Second Man

Jesus was raised from the dead - not as the Last Adam but as the "Second Man" - the head of the New Creation, a new humanity with the spiritual "DNA" of God himself (2 Pet.1:3-4).

Four Stages of Christ's Work

He died - *I died in Him (Rom.6:6-7)*

He was buried - *I was buried in Him (Rom.6:3-5)*

He rose. - *I rose in Him (Rom.6:8-11)*

He ascended - *I ascended in Him (Eph.2:6)*

Our Funeral Service

"We were buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" Rom.6:4.

Water baptism is our funeral service. It is the outward enactment of a spiritual reality. Only a person who is already dead is buried, and when we go down into the waters of baptism we are declaring that our "old self" - the person of sin that we were in Adam - died in Christ on the Cross (Romans 6:6). When we come up out of the waters we are declaring we have been "born again" (John 3:3-8), raised together with Christ as a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17), to walk a whole new way of life (Matthew 28:18-20).

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The Holy Spirit

“...And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and...for all whom the Lord our God will call. Acts 2:38-39”

“...Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit” Eph.1:13.

Read John 14:16-18; 16:5-7. When Jesus went back to his Father, he did not abandon us as spiritual orphans in the world. He sent his Holy Spirit into our lives. The Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons of the Godhead (Matthew 28:19). That means that although the Holy Spirit is distinct from the Father and the Son, he is indeed God (note Peter’s words in Acts 5:3-4). All three Persons are actively involved in our salvation.

“For through [the Son] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit” Ephesians 2:18.

Gift of the Spirit

“We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit” 1 John 4:13.

The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to every believer. When a person personally receives Jesus as Saviour and Lord, God’s Spirit comes to live on the inside, imparting spiritual life (John 7:37-39).

Ministry of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit has a two-fold ministry:

In the believer

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within the believer to help him to grow in the Lord. He...

- Opens access to the Father* (Ephesians 2:18)
- Gives us new birth* (John 3:3,6; Titus 3:5)
- Testifies we are God’s children* (Romans 8:16)
- Makes us one with the Lord* (1 Cor.6:17)
- Teaches and guides us* (John 14:26; Rom.8:14)
- Gives wisdom and revelation* (Ephesians 1:17)

- Enables us to live a holy life* (Gal.5:16-25)
- Helps us in prayer* (Rom.8:26; Eph.6:18)
- Imparts Life* (Ephesians 1:18-20; Rom.8:11)
- Changes us to be like Christ* (2 Cor.3:18)

Through the believer

The Holy Spirit also empowers the believer to serve and glorify God in the world. He...

- Gives power to witness* (Acts 1:8; 4:31)
- Testifies Jesus is alive* (Acts 5:30-32;4:31-33)
- Anoints with spiritual gifts* (1 Cor.12:4-10)
- Releases true worship* (Eph.5:18-19; John 4:24)
- Glorifies Jesus* (John 16:13-15; 15:26)

New Way of the Spirit

“But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code” Rom.7:6.

The “old way of the written code” is a way of self-effort. In the “new way of the Spirit,” the Holy Spirit empowers us to live a life pleasing to God. He is the inner power which changes us from the inside out (2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Romans 8:2).

Empowered by the Spirit

Read Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49. Not only does the Holy Spirit indwell the believer, he also fills him with power to be an effective witness (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5). God desires every believer to experience the power of the Holy Spirit both *in* him (for personal growth) and *through* him (in empowered ministry to others).

“Do not get drunk on wine...Instead, be filled with the Spirit” Eph.5:18 (see also 3:16-20).

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

The Apostles' Teaching

‘ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’...They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching... Acts 2:40, 42

In response to Peter’s warning and exhortation to “save yourselves from this corrupt generation”, the believers “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (v.42 KJV). The word “doctrine” means “teaching”, so what was it those early apostles taught? They put their teaching into writing which became the New Testament. The New Testament interprets and fulfils the Old Testament. So the apostles’ teaching is the *whole Word of God*.

“...he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” 2 Peter 1:4 (read through vs 3-11).

Revealing of the Mystery

“For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit, and for a special purpose: that I might fully declare God’s Word...that sacred mystery which up till now has been hidden in every age and every generation, but which is now as clear as daylight to those who love God” Colossians 1:25-26 (Phillips)

The apostles taught the mystery of the ages, God’s glorious plan and purpose, was fulfilled...

In Jesus (Col.2:2-3;16-17; Rom.16:25-27).

In the believer (Colossians 1:25-27;Eph.3:7-9).

In the Church (Ephesians 5:25-32).

The Purpose of the Word

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and train-

ing in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

Like water, it cleanses and keeps clean Ephesians 5:25-26; John 15:3; Psalm 119:9,11.

Like light, it guides, reveals, gives discernment

2 Peter 1:19; Heb.4:12; Psalm 19:8; 119:105,130.

Like inner concrete, it makes us stand strong Matthew 7:24-27.

Like food, it causes us to grow in Christ Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Cor.3:1-2; Hebrews 5:12-14; Ephesians 4:11-15.

Like seed, it brings forth fruitfulness in us Luke 8:4-15; Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Corinthians 9:10.

Like a sword, it protects us from the Enemy Ephesians 6:17; Psalm 119:98; Luke 4:1-14.

The Power of the Word

It gives us power and authority in prayer John 15:7.

It has creative power in our souls

John 6:63; 5:39; Psalm 33:6,9; Hebrews 11:3; Isaiah 55:11;57:19.

It transforms us to be like Christ

“And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendor and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Phillips).

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Fellowship

They devoted themselves to...the fellowship...
Acts 2:42

What we call "fellowship" today tends, in our thinking, to be more like the secular world's kind of fellowship - a "Club Membership" type of mentality where people of the same interests gather together and enjoy one another's company. The Bible's meaning, however, is much deeper.

The Quality of Fellowship

Jesus describes true Christian fellowship when he prayed for us all...

"...I pray...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" John 17:21.

Christian fellowship is of the same quality as that of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and is only possible through our relationship with God himself.

The Purpose of Fellowship

To express love to one another

Romans 1:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10.

To manifest God's glory to the world

John 17:22-23.

The Nature of Fellowship

Christ-centered

"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us...our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ" 1 John 1:3.

Commitment to others based on 'agape'

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than

this, that he lay down his life for his friends" John 15:12-13 (see also 1 Thess.2:8-9).

"Agape" is one-way love, which loves 'in spite of' not 'because of'. Such a commitment therefore will not be affected by the other person's inconsistent behaviour (John 13:34; 1 Peter 4:8). True fellowship means a willingness to lay down one's life for the other. Our life includes not only our physical being but also our personal interests, our material possessions etc (see James 2:15-16).

What Fellowship Involves

Walking in the light (1 John 1:5-7).

Walking in the truth (3 John 3-4).

Walking in love (1 John 2:11;4:7-9;5:11).

Example of Early Church

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had" Acts 4:32.

Sharing all things (Acts 2:44-45).

Laying down their lives (Romans 16:3-4).

Devoted to serving (1 Corinthians 16:15).

Being a channel of supply (1 Cor.16:17).

Sharing in suffering (Philippians 4:14).

Giving sacrificially (2 Corinthians 8:2,3).

Practicing hospitality (Hebrews 13:2).

Encouraging one another (Eph.4:11-16).

Praying for one another (James 5:15-16).

Results of fellowship

"...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" Acts 2:47.

The King's Table

"He brought me into His banqueting table..." Song of Solomon 2:4

Breaking of Bread

‘

They devoted themselves to...
the breaking of bread... Acts 2:42

’

Daily remembrance

The “breaking of bread” was a common cultural occurrence for every Israelite (Luke 9:16; 24:28-32). Each day, as the family gathered for the meal, the head of the household would “break bread”. This was done as a remembrance of their Covenant with God.

The Passover

As well as the daily remembrance, there was also the special annual celebration to commemorate the institution of their Covenant with God - the Passover. When Jesus took the Last Supper with his disciples, just prior to going to the Cross, he was doing what was happening in every household of Israel - celebrating the Passover (Matt.26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26). Passover was the festival instituted by God for Israel to remember how he had delivered them out of bondage in Egypt (Exodus 12; Lev.23:4-8) and prepictured the Lamb who was to be slain to deliver mankind from slavery to sin and Satan (1 Corinthians 5:7).

There were four cups taken during the Passover, expressing the four aspects of redemption mentioned in Exodus 6:6-7. But in establishing the New Covenant, Jesus specifically took two of these cups (Luke 22:14-20)...

The Cup of Sanctification or Fellowship

The meal began with the taking of this cup. It is the declaration that we have been “sanctified” (separated by God, set apart) and expresses our fellowship together as a separated people.

The Cup of Redemption, or the Covenant.

At the end of the meal (“*after supper he took the cup....*”) he took the Cup of the Covenant

declaring “*This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me*” 1 Corinthians 11:25

The Bread of Affliction

To Israel the bread that was broken was “the bread of affliction” which represented their fellowship in their sufferings as a nation. Jesus took the bread and declared:

“*..this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me*” 1 Corinthians 11:24 (KJV)

He was taking all the suffering upon himself. He was broken for us, in our place, on the Cross.

Establishing of Covenant

“*And day after day they regularly assembled in the temple with united purpose, and in their homes they broke bread [including the Lord's Supper]...*” Acts 2:46 (Amp) (Acts 20:7,11).

The “Breaking of Bread” (“Communion”, “The Lord’s Table”) is the outward expression of the daily reality of the New Covenant in our lives. It is the “fellowship” together in the Covenant...

As a family (Exodus 12:24-28)

As a community of believers (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Exodus 12:47, 1 Peter 2:9).

Attitudes of Heart

Glad, sincere, praising God (Acts 2:46-47).

Washing one another's feet (John 13:1-17).

Taking worthily (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

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Prayers

‘ And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to...prayers. Acts 2:42 (Amp.) ’

The Call to Prayer

Prayer is our means of communication with the Father, and it delights his heart when we talk with him (Proverbs 15:8). Prayer is absolutely essential to the Christian walk, for through prayer we come to know God and what his purpose is for our lives. Prayer knows no limitations - it changes lives, circumstances, and the history of nations.

The Individual Praying

Prayer is simply talking to God. It has many expressions (read 1 Timothy 2:1). God wants us to experience the excitement of answered prayer (Isaiah 65:24). The Lord invites us to personal, private prayer in the secret place.

"When you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" Matt.6:6.

Help provided for us

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express" Romans 8:26.

Yokefellows Praying

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven" Matt.18:19.

There is unity

If any two... Two joining together in prayer generates faith and encouragement in one another

to war a good warfare (Eccl.4:9-10). It also provides help in discernment, and guidance in relation to God's will. One can check and bear witness to what the other is sensing from the Lord.

There is agreement

If any two shall *agree*... The two people must be in complete harmony. In prayer and worship God always stresses the importance of people being in relationship (Matt.5:23-24).

There is scope

If you shall agree about *anything*... This indicates the vastness and scope of the invitation (see Mark 9:23).

There is action

If any two of you shall agree about anything they shall *ask*... This is authority in action (see John 14:14).

There is the answer

...it shall be done for them by the Father.

The Church Praying

If there is tremendous power when two people pray in unity, what about the whole assembly of God's people?! In Acts 4:24-33 we read that the Church "lifted up their voice to God with one accord" (KJV). The result was a mighty demonstration of the living Christ through his power.

Today God is calling his people to prayer. The Church's mission is to change individual lives, families, communities, cities and nations through prayer! (1 Tim.2:1-4; 2 Chron.7:14).

Making the Truth Mine

Write out in full the scripture from this lesson which means the most to you. We encourage you to commit the verse to memory.

Write out one statement from the study which you feel is most significant for your life.

Write in your own words how you believe you should respond to the truth of this study. Are there any decisions you should make?

You can make a difference!

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- * Read and digest the study - meditate on the Word of God.
- * Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- * Share the Word of God with others.

Your places of ministry have been pre-arranged by God: your home, the street you live on, your place of work and your church.

“I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free” Psalm 119:32

Food for Thought

Sending God's Word to the Ends of the Earth

The Word of God made available in a
clear, simple layout for personal study and
for use in sharing with others.

The King's Table is designed to help...

- * ***Every believer for personal study***
- * ***Parents to teach their children***
- * ***Leaders of home groups***
- * ***Ministers of congregations***
- * ***Christian schools and home schooling***
- * ***Missionary projects to other nations***

Our Project 21 series for leaders has been widely received and multiplied throughout Asia and the Pacific. The reports from many places of growth and blessing encourage us greatly in the spreading of the life-giving Word of God. It is something that for us never loses its excitement.

The King's Table is an extension of the Project 21 teaching program which has many series of 21 lessons on different subjects. Our prayer is that this series might be a great blessing to you.

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The "How to" ..

Suggestions on how to run a "King's Table" gathering

Your Ministry

The fivefold ministry gifts that Jesus gave to the Church - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers - are given to train and equip every believer for the work of the ministry.

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ...From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" Ephesians 4:11-16.

This means that, under the New Covenant since Jesus death and resurrection, every believer is full-time in the ministry and we are all called to share the Word of God with others whatever our vocation in life is. We are full-time for the Lord working in a bank, a school, on a farm, as a student at school or university, or raising our children.

On top of this, each of us is called to teach others what we ourselves have received from the Lord, according to the principle of Matthew 10:8:

"Freely you have received, freely give."

This "receiving and giving" pattern in each believer's ministry is further described in Colossians 3:16:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

All over the world there are meetings in homes, schools, restaurants, factories, halls and church buildings. Any place is a good place to have a gathering.

Your House

The "breaking of bread" was a common cultural occurrence for every Israelite (Luke 9:16; 24:28-32). Each day, as the family gathered for the meal, the head of the household would "break bread". This was done as a remembrance of their Covenant with God. To Israel the bread that was broken was "the bread of affliction" which represented their fellowship in their sufferings as a nation. At the Passover Festival Jesus took the bread and declared:

"..this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me" 1 Corinthians 11:24 (KJV)

He was taking all the suffering upon himself. He was broken for us, in our place, on the Cross.

The early Church carried on the "breaking of bread", celebrating together the New Covenant

they had become part of through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“.....They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” Acts 2:46-47.

Your social network, i.e. your neighbors, friends and workmates, is your world. God has positioned you in the house where you live. Your house is a mission station on your street. Proverbs 9:1 says...

“Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.”

Built on seven pillars of faith your house can impact your world. The Lord has designed your house to be...

A house of redemption

You are the light of the world on your street (Matthew 5:14). In the storms of life that your neighbors constantly face, your home is like the lighthouse that can bring them to the peace and safety of God's presence.

A house of faith

As the Word of God is ministered in your home your house is a house filled with faith in the Lord (Romans 10:17).

A house of prayer

“...I will...give them joy in my house of prayer...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations” Isaiah 56:7 (also Mark 11:17).

Let your house become a house of prayer as you pray constantly for each of your neighbors, friends and workmates.

A house of joy

You possess a powerful tool to reach your world...your testimony. Your life and your testi-

mony is the “living” Word of God “read by everybody”.

“You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” 2 Corinthians 3:2.

As you gather together, other Christians sharing their testimonies and giving God praise for what He has done in their lives, will make your house a house of great joy.

A house of mercy

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” Luke 6:36.

As you hear of needs your neighbors or workmates may have, do acts of kindness for them. At their time of need they are more open to receive the Lord and the living Word.

A house of fellowship

True fellowship is expressed in the informal atmosphere of a home with the sharing of hearts and lives and love for the Lord being able to be expressed naturally.

A house of ministry

Paul encouraged and guided the Corinthian Christians in their gatherings together:

“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church” 1 Corinthians 14:26.

In other words, *all* of them had something to contribute in their gatherings and he encouraged all to express what God had given them for the edification of all the others. The expression of everyone's ministry will be different but it will be the same in terms of the foundational beliefs

as instructed in the Word of God. The teaching of “The King’s Table” will bring that firm foundation in God’s Word.

Easy to Use Studies

“The King’s Table” studies are especially designed on one page with plenty of space around the study for easy photocopying for whatever number of believers are studying. The lessons are designed in such a way that the message can be given in 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 30 minutes or 1 hour, depending on the time and opportunity to convey its truth. The lessons can be freely given out to everybody so that they can study them further for themselves. With each series is a “Making the Truth Mine” page for those studying to fill out and express the impact the truth they have studied has had in their lives. Only one “Making the Truth Mine” is supplied but photocopies can be made for each lesson to be given to each student.

Add Testimony

The studies are written in such a way that the scriptures are speaking the main message and the limited comments simply give a quick flow of understanding to the truths. Personal experiences and testimonies can be used to reveal the impact of God’s Word in the believer’s life.

A Team

It is important to work with a team. This can be made up of three different types of ministries. Most people are one of these:

Gatherers

Those who have an ability to gather people and bring them to “The King’s Table” meeting.

Nurturers

Those who have an ability to encourage people in their growth in the Lord on a one-to-one basis.

Remember, always, that the Word of God does the counselling if we are sharing the wonderful truth of the Gospel.

Teachers

Those who have an ability to clearly teach God’s Word in an inspiring and positive manner, always focussing on the Lord, what He has done for us and the wonderful grace He gives us daily.

Prayer, Worship

Prayer and worship are also important factors in any gathering of believers. Encourage the believers to make their public prayers brief and Christ-focussed and let worship be simple with short Christ-centered songs.

Missionary Contributions

Generosity is a vital part of the Christian life, and every gathering should be encouraged to give outside of the group. Make a “giving plan” and each month designate the money for what the group has decided to give toward.

If you would like to give to help support the ministry of “The King’s Table” - going to the ends of the earth - contributions can be sent in several ways for your convenience:

1. Personal cheque made out to “Fountaingate Christian Foundation”, designated for “The King’s Table” and posted to P.O. Box 1033, Newcastle NSW 2300, Australia.
2. Money orders also mailed to the above address. However, any money order from outside Australia must be an *international* money order not a local one.
3. You can contribute by credit card by sending through our secure online facilities designated for “The King’s Table”:

<https://www.onlinebiblecollege.net/donations/>