

## KORLE BU COMMUNITY CHAPEL START RIGHT GROUP STUDY 1

### There is a New Life for You

Life for many people is to have a good education, plenty of money, a fine house, good food, nice clothes, a car and many pleasures to enjoy. However, these don't bring satisfaction and therefore such people always want more. Their life is characterised by bad habits and fears which they cannot overcome. God seems far away and because of this, some seek power and protection from juju and the occult.

#### WHERE CAN SATISFYING LIFE BE FOUND?

Jesus promises peace and contentment to all who entrust their life to Him so that life does not become a mad rush chasing after things and more things John 10:10.

Many people try to find life in religion like Casual Christianity, Islam, traditional religion, Eastern religions, etc. They go to church, pray and take part in all activities of their religion, but God still seems far away and uninvolved in their daily lives. The cost of living and worries about how to make ends meet leaves everybody always struggling to get the best for himself now and in the future.

WHY DO MANY PEOPLE FIND LIFE SO DIFFICULT AND UNFULFILLING? When God created the world and man, he looked over all that He had made, and it was excellent in every way Genesis 1:31. Then something terrible happened. Man rejected God's way and chose to go his own way Ps. 14:2-3. If you are not in Christ then you are still going your own way. The rejection of God is the root of all sin Isaiah 53:6.

SIN SEPARATES YOU FROM GOD. Sin makes you spiritually dead. It puts you under the wrath of God and destines you for hell and eternal condemnation Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23.

SIN ROBS YOU OF ALL PEACE – It robs you of peace with God, peace with others and peace with yourself in spite of your frantic efforts to live a good life Romans 7:18-19, Isaiah 64:6.

We all want to enjoy a good life, to be free from bad habits and fears, and to know God's power and protection. Many have tried to make their way back to God with their own effort – going to church, getting baptised, saying prayers and doing good to others. These things are good, but they don't go far enough to put us right with God James 2:10.

To be put right with God man must accept the new way of salvation which God has provided. This new way does not depend on perfect obedience of God's laws, but depends on our acceptance of new life in Jesus who took all our sins upon himself and died in our place Romans 3:21-22, Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 2:24.

#### HOW TO ACCEPT THIS NEW LIFE      Read Romans 10:9-10

**Admit** that you are a sinner ready to turn from all sin. That's hard! It means throwing off the old life of selfishness and disobedience to God. It may mean confessing a theft, giving up juju or saying sorry to someone. You may have to stop an immoral friendship, and hate to live in sin.

**Believe** in your heart that Jesus died to pay for your sins because you cannot save yourself.

**Confess** with your mouth that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today.

**Do** invite Jesus into your life to take full control. Without your invitation He cannot come into your life and send his Holy Spirit to live in you.

### CAN I BE SURE OF MY SALVATION HERE AND NOW?

You do not have to wait till the judgement day before you know whether you are saved or not. God's promises assure us of our salvation. John 5:24, 1 John 5:11-12, Rev. 3:20. If you have done your part, you can be sure that God has done His part. **YOU ARE BORN AGAIN. YOU ARE SAVED!** Don't rely on your feelings. Rely on God's promises!

### NEW LIFE IS PROVEN BY CHANGED BEHAVIOUR

Receiving Jesus is a turning point in your life. Now you are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) and **GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN YOU**. Before, you lived to please yourself but now you want to please Christ.

### Growing In New Life

As a new Christian you are a spiritual baby and like a human baby you must grow. 1 Peter 2:2

### Let God talk to you everyday

Read the Bible everyday. Use a Bible study guide to help you understand and know how to apply God's Word to your life Ps. 119:105.

### Talk to God in Prayer everyday

Pray to God everyday. Tell Him about your needs and the needs of others you know. Don't forget to thank Him for His answers Philippians 4:6.

### Find A Spiritual Family

Find a Bible centred Church and join other believers to worship God, fellowship together and serve God together.

### Talk with Others about New Life in Jesus

Tell friends and family about your decision to follow Christ. Encourage them also to invite Christ into their lives.

### **Questions**

1. Within the group share your experience of the new birth.
2. How does the new birth affect your daily life?
3. If you have never invited Jesus into your life, would you like to do so now?

## KORLE BU COMMUNITY CHAPEL START RIGHT GROUP STUDY 2

### WALKING WITH GOD

After we become Christians, the rest of our lives is a walk with God just as Enoch, Abraham, David, Peter and Paul etc. walked with God.

The successful Christian life doesn't just happen. It takes effort. A father put it well when he said to his daughter, "My dear, if only you would realise that life is hard, things would be so much easier." Acts 14:22

This however does not mean we need to endure the Christian life. There is no greater privilege than to know Christ, to walk with Him and experience His power. Until you give your life to Christ you don't have any idea how happy and satisfying and worthwhile life could be. To make life complete, everyone needs to know Jesus, have faith in Him, know his forgiveness of sins, and assurance of eternal life. This is what Jesus calls the abundant life that he came to give to those who trust him. John 10:10.

Other things like drugs or drink or mere religion can only make you feel good for a while. Only Jesus can make you feel good permanently. Following Jesus is the only way to find out God's best plan and purpose for your life. This means that without Jesus your life will certainly be something much less than you are capable of.

The Apostle Peter tells us 2 Peter 1:1-11 that walking with God involves

- a) God's part and
- b) Our part.

#### A. God's Part – God has made his Power and Promises available to us (2 Peter 1:1-4)

Verse 3 says God has given us everything we need for life and godliness.

1. In Vs 1 – 4 enumerate and explain the things God has given to enable us live the Christian life.

- E.g.
- a) The righteousness of Jesus Christ our Saviour – (Vs 1)
  - b) Faith – (Vs 1)
  - c) Grace and Peace – (Vs 2)
  - d) Knowledge of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ – (Vs 2)
  - e) His Divine Power – (Vs 3)
  - f) Promises of God – (Vs 4)
  - g) A divine nature – (Vs 4)

#### B. Our Part – To Build upon Our Faith with Diligence (2 Peter 1:5-11)

Faith is believing in a God we do not see and having confidence that his promises to us are true. By faith we invited Jesus into our lives. Faith is a gift that God gives us and so we can't take credit for it. We can only accept it with gratitude and build on it with diligence.

2. According to vv 5 – 11 how do we build on this faith?

Answer:

We build on Faith with:

- a) Goodness (Faith is proven by good character James 2:17)
- b) Knowledge (Learning about God and his ways through the Bible and also through experience)
- c) Self Control (Knowledge if not controlled may lead to arrogance and pride 1 Cor. 8:1)
- d) Perseverance (Especially when we learn about or experience things which may discourage us eg. the harsh realities of life)
- e) Godliness (Let your knowledge and experience of God transform you to Godliness)
- f) Brotherly Kindness (Godliness means loving your brother. 1 John 4:20)
- g) Love (Unconditional love is the fulfilment of the whole law. Matt 22:36-40)
- h) Diligence (It takes effort to live as a faithful Christian. Hebrews 6:11, 12; Phil 2:12 – 13)

What this means is that faith and diligence are two sides of the same coin. They both have to be present if we are going to have spiritual success.

3. How does a holy fear of God help us to work for God? (Jer. 32:38-40)

As we read God's word and pray everyday the Holy Spirit communicates with us by putting challenges in our hearts and minds. With diligence and obedience we carry out these challenges with the wisdom and strength that the Spirit gives us. (Hebrews 8:10 – 12)

4. What is the one thing above all others that we need to remember to help us in our walk with God?

Answer: The Cross of Christ Hebrews 12:2 (Explain)

This emphasises the need to constantly think of Christ's sacrifice for us on the Cross and thank Him for it. A grateful heart enables us maintain our joy even in difficult circumstances as we serve the Lord.

5. What encouragement do we find in 1 Corinthians 15:58?

## KORLE BU COMMUNITY CHAPEL START RIGHT GROUP STUDY 3

### THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

The entire Bible is the story of God building a family who will love Him, serve Him and reign with Him forever. The church is that family and God has chosen you and me to be part of it. The church nurtures believers into true disciples of Jesus Christ.

Believers don't develop into spiritually mature persons on their own. Even the strongest Christians are never meant to go it alone. Jesus taught his disciples not just to make converts but to train them thoroughly in his ways (Matthew 28: 19-20). Followers of Christ are likened to a human body where all members are dependent on one another. Jesus made it clear that he calls people not only to Himself but also to one another (1 Peter 2:9).

Because as Christians we still have our sinful human natures, confusions and conflicts are common in the Church but with God's help they can be resolved.

1. In Acts 4:32-36 members of the church in Jerusalem showed a wonderful loving relationship to one another. In Acts 5:1-10 in what ways were things changed by the deceitfulness of Ananias and Sapphira?

(e.g. Dishonesty and mistrust broke up the community life.)

2. God's judgment was so sudden and drastic!  
Why does God not always respond that way when we sin even though that often happens in idol worship? See Ezekiel 33:11

3. In what ways do we also allow our sinful human nature to negatively affect life in the church?

Gossip                      *Colossians 4:6*

Unforgiveness            *Romans 12:17-21*

Lack of humility         *Romans 12:3, Philippians 2:3*

4. What can we do to control the sinful nature? Romans 8:13

5. Do conflicts have to break up churches? Acts 6:1-7

6. Do conflicts have to break up relationships? Matthew 18:15-17, Matthew 6:12

## **Korle Bu Community Chapel As Part Of The Family Of Christ**

### Membership

1. Membership in Korle Bu Community Chapel is open to everyone, but you are encouraged to finish the 6 "Start Right" studies before you seek membership.
2. When you want to seek membership, fill a membership form (ask the Secretary at the desk) and give it to any of the Pastors
3. In the meantime you are welcome to participate in activities of the Church e.g. prayer meetings, area fellowships etc.

#### 4. Quarterly Business Meeting and Annual General Meeting

These are meant for church members only. You may attend as an observer.

#### 5. Expectations of membership

- a. Regular attendance of church services
- b. Belong to an area fellowship
- c. Belong to at least one group or committee
- d. Pray for the ministry of the church
- e. Give a tithe of your income
- f. Contribute generously to the running of the church
- g. Witness to others and invite them to church
- h. Live a holy Christian life as a good soldier of Christ

### **PLEASE NOTE**

The Pastoral Team is always ready and happy to talk to you. They are:

Rev. Emmanuel Osae-Addo, <b>Head Pastor</b>	669627(o) 666343 (h) 0244468953
Prof. Grace Parkins, <b>President of Council</b>	Tel: 0277-589471 (mob)

# KORLE BU COMMUNITY CHAPEL START RIGHT GROUP

## STUDY 4

### SIN, TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

#### SIN

Human beings without the ability to make our own choices would be mere robots or machines. As such we would not be responsible for our own actions. God did not want to make us like robots but like responsible people. Thus He made us in His own image (Gen. 1:26). Adam and Eve, unlike the animals had the freedom to choose good or evil. Unfortunately they chose evil and thereby acquired a sinful human nature.

By their action the human race inherited a sinful human nature which was completely different from the original sinless nature they had. With sin came separation from God and a natural inclination to oppose God and disobey Him. Pain, suffering and death also entered the world as a result of sin. (Rom. 6:23.)

If this was the end of the story then man would have every cause to blame God for all the sin and suffering in the world. However, this is not the end of the story because at the right time God in the form of Jesus came into the world to die and pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind. This action opened the way back to God for everyone who would choose to return to God. Everyone has a fresh chance to choose for themselves good or evil just as Adam and Eve had.

Q1. Why can't we blame God for making us inherit Adam's sinful nature?

Answer: See Rom. 5:18-19

Q2. What obligation does this place on everyone?

Answer: See John 5:24

#### TRIALS

When a man chooses to believe in Christ and follow Him, he becomes born again spiritually and is reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:17.) He becomes a child of God just as Adam and Eve were, before they sinned. He is given a new spiritual nature as the Holy Spirit now lives in him. (2 Pet. 1:4.)

He is justified and declared righteous as if he has never sinned. (Rom. 5:1.) He inherits the righteousness of Christ. (2 Cor. 5:21.) Thus he will be received into heaven the moment he dies. This does not mean the Christian ever reaches sinless perfection. For as long as he retains his sinful human nature, the Christian has a natural inclination to sin. This creates the paradox that whereas the Christian is seen as righteous before God, he has to do constant battle with sin in order to put to death his old sinful nature and nurture his new spiritual nature. (Galatians 5: 16-18)

This process is called sanctification and it is God Himself who carries it out in our lives with our cooperation. It continues until we die or until Christ returns to do away with our sinful human nature completely. (1 John 3:2.)

Trials are from God. He uses them to test our faith. Passing us through trials is one of the methods God uses to achieve our sanctification. God uses trials to weaken our old sinful human nature and strengthen our new spiritual nature. Without trials we will never grow into mature Christians. As we humbly submit ourselves to God in times of trial and we trust him, we grow in holiness and our faith is strengthened.

Q1. How does God use trials to test our faith and help us grow in holiness? See James 1:2-4

E.g. In times of failure?  
Financial problems  
Problems with family and friends  
Sickness etc.

Q2. In times of trouble how do we demonstrate our faith in God? Phil. 4:6-7

Q3. What kind of suffering is not approved for the Christian?

1 Pet. 4:14-16

He gives His approval to those who remain faithful in trial – James 1:12

### TEMPTATION

Unlike trials, temptations are not from God (James 1:13-15). God allows Satan to tempt Christians to sin. Resisting temptations and confessing our sin when we fall to temptation are ways through which we put to death the desires of our sinful nature and grow in holiness.

Q1. What are some of the temptations which Satan brings to us?

Answer: See Gal. 5:19-21

The problem of sin is deeper than just the outward physical manifestation of the sins we commit. Sin is the state of the heart. The heart of man is sinful. (Jeremiah 17:19) Jesus said that all sins come from the heart within us. (Matthew 15:19) Dealing with sin must therefore start at the heart level. We must ask God to deal with our underlying nature of sin.

Q2. What weapons has God given us to overcome temptation to sin?

Answer: See Psalm 119:9 – 11

Satan can tempt us only with God's permission. (Job 1: 9-12) God has promised never to allow Satan to tempt us beyond what we are able to bear. Read 1 Cor. 10:13

## KORLE BU COMMUNITY CHAPEL START RIGHT GROUP STUDY 5

### SEX, LOVE AND MARRIAGE

After conversion, marriage is one of the most important commitments an individual can make. This decision affects life totally and permanently. So it is important for the Christian to consider it carefully, examining the Bible for guidance.

#### SEX IS GOOD

By creating us as men and women, God made us sexual beings (Gen. 1:27). Creating man as male and female was an expression of God's love. The Christian is not supposed to be negative or embarrassed about sex. Some people think that women are a source of evil and they create problems for men, but that is a wrong attitude. God called His work "very good", therefore sex is good (Gen. 1:31). We should accept our sexuality as a gift from God and thank Him always for it.

#### SEX MAY BE ABUSED

The good gift of sex may be misused in various ways, thereby giving the impression that it is bad. Some people see sex as the most important or the most precious thing in their life. The person who thinks this way is giving sex the first place in his life. This is wrong because the first place in our lives should belong to God alone. We must never worship or put any created thing above the Creator, who is God (Rom. 1:25).

Sexual intercourse is permitted only within the bond of marriage. Having sex outside marriage is either fornication or adultery, and these are abuses of sex. They are included in the evil things that defile a person (Mark 7:21). Jesus extended the meaning of adultery to include the act of looking lustfully at another person (Matt. 5:28). The Christian should keep the standard of absolute chastity before marriage and then of absolute faithfulness to his or her partner in marriage.

#### LOVE IS MORE THAN SEX

Two people intending to marry love each other and are physically attracted to one another. But love is more than physical attraction. True love involves the whole person – body soul and spirit. It is an attitude of the heart. Love based on only physical attraction decreases with time but true love lasts forever. Love is a mutual experience. It means confidence and trust in the other person. It means shared self-giving. Love seeks the highest good of the loved one at all times (1 Cor. 13:4-7).

#### MARRIAGE IS FOR HAVING CHILDREN AND FOR COMPANIONSHIP

Marriage has been designed for at least two purposes: having children (Gen. 1:28) and companionship (Gen. 2:18). We see something of God's wisdom in how He has so ordained that a man and woman bound by the ties of marriage are enabled to bring children into the world and nurture them into responsible adults.

But the other purpose of marriage may be even more important. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so he made him a partner who would fit him in every way (Gen. 2:18). He is masculine and she is feminine. They complemented each other.

Because men and women are different, they need each other's help in the marriage. In this union, the Bible says men and women are one (Gen. 2:24). This is symbolic of the relationship between the three persons of the Godhead, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the three are one.

Marriage is also symbolic of the relationship between Christ and His Church (Eph. 5:31-32).

The wife is to be subject to the husband just as the Church is subject to Christ. The husband is to love the wife just as Christ loved the Church and was willing to die for the Church. Marriage is therefore a serious relationship which is not to be entered into lightly but with deep commitment. This unity is expressed through the act of sexual union. Marriage is meant to be a permanent relationship. Separation and divorce are not God's ideal (Malachi 2:16).

### GOD CALLS SOME TO BE UNMARRIED

All this should not imply that unmarried people are incomplete persons. They are as complete as married people. Jesus was perfect yet he never married. Paul and Barnabas were also unmarried.

God may call some Christians to forsake marriage for the sake of the Kingdom of God (Matt. 19:10-12). If this is God's call for you, it is the ideal for you to be accepted not reluctantly or even bitterly, but willingly.

### CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER

For those who are contemplating marriage, the Bible gives some guidelines for choosing a partner. A Christian should marry only another Christian (2 Cor. 6:14). He should marry only if he is ready and is sure of God's choice for him. Character is more important than physical beauty and attractiveness. Important characteristics that should be considered are: the person's commitment to God, spiritual, emotional and intellectual traits, family background and education. Seek confirmation through prayer, Bible reading, circumstances surrounding your relationship with the person and advice from trusted Christians who will help you find God's will. Your own peace of mind or lack of it concerning the issue should be the eventual guide. Remember that if God loved you enough to send His Son to die for you, then he loves you enough to lead you to the person He has prepared for you as a life partner.

- Q1. Since God understands our need for a helpmate what should be our attitude in choosing a life partner?
- Q2. What qualities are desirable when looking for a life partner?
- Q3. How can men and women use their differences to help one another in the marriage relationship?
- Q4. What is wrong with today's boy/girl relationships?
- Q5. How should a Christian courtship be planned?

## KORLE BU COMMUNITY CHAPEL START RIGHT GROUP STUDY 6

### THE BIBLE AND YOU

The Bible is not just one book. It is composed of sixty-six books. It was written over a period of nearly two thousand years by more than forty different authors who lived in different countries, generations, cultures and social standings – kings and aristocrats, learned people and unlearned people, shepherds, fishermen, etc. These men wrote without knowing what the others had written and yet they have a common message that runs throughout their writings – the common central message about Jesus Christ the Messiah and salvation by grace through Him alone. Amazingly their messages don't contradict one another. Seeming contradictions and mistakes fade away with proper understanding or proper translation of the original writing. The Bible thus gives every evidence of being the product of one mind. This must be the mind of God because countless evidences make it impossible to believe that the Book is a product of human effort.

**Other marvels about the Bible include these facts**

#### **1. Its supernatural origin**

*The Bible claims supernatural origin in a way that no other book can claim. This is because God inspired the writers of the Bible to write what they did. 2 Peter 1:21. And God has said his word should not be changed. Revelation 22:18-19.*

#### **2. Twenty centuries have not improved it.**

*The books men write need to be revised from time to time to improve the contents and bring them up to date. Because the writers of the Bible were supernaturally guided, their message has not needed to be changed or improved. It is only the language that has needed updating. Yet the message has remained fresh and relevant in every age and culture*

#### **3. It has withstood the hatred of men and enjoyed Divine protection.**

*Men have never liked the message of the Bible because it tells of human sins, and impending judgement. Also, it has a way of exposing man's hidden thoughts and motives. (Hebrews 4:12) In every age men have sought to destroy it or degrade it, but have never succeeded. It has always been a sought after book. No book on earth has existed for as long as the Bible has.*

#### **4. No book speaks in the same commanding tone.**

*The Bible sounds differently from all other books. Its words speak to man as one having authority over him. "Thus says the Lord" and "Truly I say to you" occur frequently (Matthew 7:28-29)*

#### **5. Translation does not alter its impact**

When the works of great men are translated from the original language, they lose a lot of their beauty and effectiveness. Not so the Bible! Even though it has been translated into more than 1,200 languages and dialects, it brings to the reader the same preciousness and power as the original. This is unique. This is because the Word of God is meant for all. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

**6. It has teachings that are contrary to all human teachings.**

*The Bible teaches ideals and methods that are wholly different from the philosophy of men, for example:*

The teaching of life through death (Mark 8:35)

Exaltation through self denial (Matthew 23:11 & Luke. 14:11)

Friendship with the world is enmity with God. (James 4:4)

Love your enemies and do not take revenge. (Romans 12:14)

The Bible belittles human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)

The wisdom of man is said to be the foolishness of God (1 Corinth. 1:20)

This is because God said, "My thoughts are not your thoughts neither are My ways your ways" (Isaiah 55:8, 9)

**7. It never grows old**

It is usually unnecessary and unprofitable to read ordinary books over and over again. With time they even go out of print. However, there is something about the messages of the Bible that always makes them fresh. They never grow old and the more we read them, the sweeter and richer they become to us. This is because the teachings of the Bible meet a heartfelt need in man in a way no other book does or ever will. (Psalm 119:89, 103)

**8. The fulfilment of prophecy in the Bible is unequalled**

The Bible is filled with many prophecies. Many of these have been fulfilled in the past. Many are being fulfilled in our day and many are to be fulfilled in the future. The accuracy with which thousands of these prophecies have been fulfilled, especially concerning Jesus and the nation of Israel, is one of the greatest marvels about the Bible. It gives assurance about the accuracy and trustworthiness of the book.

**9. No book has answers to man's need like the Bible**

The Bible has an answer to every human problem or question. It has promises that give assurance of God's help and peace in every personal need. (Isaiah 41:10. 1 Corinthians 10:13) If we care to study it, there is more than enough material to cover a whole lifetime. Joshua 1:8

**10. The Bible changes lives**

There is no safe educational philosophy that is not built upon the Bible's fundamental teachings. Yet it is not the mere teachings of the Bible that are remarkable, but rather their ability to transform the lives of those who believe them and therefore seek a personal relationship with God through Christ. (John 5:39-40) Faith in the God of the Bible is the greatest asset of any man, woman or young person. (Psalm 119:9-11)

**What basic teaching of the Bible do we learn from the following verses?**

James 1:22; 1 Peter 2:11-12	(Bible study & conduct)
Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:19; 2 Cor13:14	(The Trinity)
John 10:30; 14:8-11; Colossians 2:9	(The Deity of Christ)
Hebrews 9:27-28	(Man's destiny)
John 3:3; 3:16	(Salvation)
Matthew 16:18 ; Ephesians 2:22	(The Church)
Revelation 21:1-5; 22:12-15	(The End of Time)