

## THE 5 ASSURANCES: LEADER'S GUIDE

This lesson is designed to help solidify some basic fundamental ideas that back up the habits you've been developing in your disciple.

### PURPOSE

- To give a basic understanding of the "5 Assurances", and what they mean for the disciple's life
- To be able to do a "word study" to find out what a Bible verse has to say about any particular topic.

### PLAN

1. Remember to pray before the meeting! Your disciple may be struggling with doubts that are addressed in this lesson, so pray that God would soften their hearts and that they would be responsive.
2. If you feel the need to, spend some extra time on the assurances you think your disciple really needs to hear. Look up other verses beforehand that go with the assurance
3. When you get to the Discipleship Challenge, teach them how to do a Word Study! This simple study method is a great way to help your disciple begin discovering biblical truth on their own. Below is a structure for how to do one.
  1. Write out the word you plan to study. Write down a definition from the dictionary on it. Go to a thesaurus and look up any related words that might be helpful.
  2. Go to <https://www.biblestudytools.com/> and put your words into the search, one at a time. Copy down every verse that comes up, including the text and the reference. If it's a word with a lot of references (Love has over 500!), then specify a few books in the filter settings.
  3. Spend some time meditating on each verse individually. What does each verse have to say about your word? What insights does it give you? Why was that word used in the story?
  4. After you do this with each verse, summarize your findings on what the Bible says about your word. Create an application based on your summary.
    - Remember to keep your application **SMART**: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely.

### IMPORTANT ILLUSTRATIONS

#### The Train Illustration



1. Draw a train with the locomotive at the front, a passenger car in the middle, and a caboose at the back. Explain that this illustration shows how we should order what we believe.
2. In the middle of the locomotive, write "Fact". Explain that when dealing with doubts, we must first remember what is true. What does Scripture have to say about the subject? What do you know to be true about God?
3. In the passenger car, write "Faith". Because of what we know about God, we can trust Him in situations where there isn't a clear answer. What is something you've had to trust God in? How did it work out?
4. In the caboose, write "Feelings". Explain that feelings are important, but they shouldn't be driving the train because they are fickle and prone to change. Feelings should be guided by what we know and believe, not the other way around. How have feelings guided you in making a decision in the past?
5. Explain that when we have these in order, working through doubts can be a faith-building experience, rather than a faith-destroying one. Are there doubts you struggle with? How do you think this way of thinking can help you process it?

# THE 5 ASSURANCES

Memory verse checklist:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Joshua 1:8
- Psalm 119:11
- Philippians 4:6
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Matthew 28:19-20
- Romans 5:8
- John 14:26
- Ephesians 5:15-17

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 John 5:11-13 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

What does it mean to have confidence in something?

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According to this verse, why did John write this letter?

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Why do you think it was important to John that his audience understands this?

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## THE FOUNDATION OF BELIEF: THE 5 ASSURANCES

### Assurance #1: Assurance of Salvation

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” - 1 John 5:11-13

There will be times where you may not “feel” like you are saved. Maybe you gave in to sin, or feel so overwhelmed with your brokenness that you wonder if you really are saved. But because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross, we can rest in the knowledge that if we have given our hearts to God, and received Christ as our Lord and Savior, we cannot lose our salvation by anything we can do.

### Assurance #2: Assurance of Answered Prayer

“Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” - John 16:24

You may feel doubts about whether or not God is answering your prayers. But according to the Bible, if Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, you have a privilege of getting to speak directly to God. How does that make you feel?

Asking in Jesus’ name means asking in His authority based on His merit, not your own. This also means that the prayer God answers are those that fall in line with Jesus’ character, since it’s on His authority we ask them.

# BE A DISCIPLE

## **Assurance #3: Assurance of Victory over Sin**

“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.” - 1 Corinthians 10:13

What is a temptation that you struggle with regularly? What is the “way of escape” that God wants you to use to get out of it?

## **Assurance #4: Assurance of Forgiveness**

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”  
- 1 John 1:9

Although God promises us victory over sin, there will be times where we still fail, and fall into sin. What does this passage say God will do if we confess our sins to Him?

## **Assurance #5: Assurance of Guidance**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” - Proverbs 3:5-6

God promises to lead us in our lives as we follow Him. What three things are we supposed to do? What does God promise to do in return? How would that help you in your life?

## **WORKING THROUGH DOUBT: THE TRAIN ILLUSTRATION**

Many Christians have struggled with doubts in their minds, and from that can develop a wrong idea that God isn't who He says He is in the Bible. This illustration helps guide us through those feelings.

**DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE:** Pick one of the assurances above, and do a word study on it.