

Steps To Christ

Study Guides

Chapter 9

The Work and the Life

Lesson Preparation

1. Memorize Ephesians 1:7, NJKV.

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

2. Read *Steps to Christ*, Chapter 9.
3. Put in your own words, or write the passage in Chapter 9, that best describes the theme of the chapter.



4. List several key points as you read the chapter.



Scriptures (NKJV)

1. What did Jesus say about His life?

John 17:4. "I have [redacted] You on the earth. I have [redacted] the [redacted] which You have given Me to do."

2. How did the Apostle Paul feel about his life's work?

2 Timothy 4:6, 7. "⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought the [redacted] [redacted], I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

3. What reward awaits those who are victorious?

2 Timothy 4:8. "Finally, there is laid up for me the [redacted] of [redacted], which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

4. What special gifts has God given for witnessing?

1 Corinthians 12:8-10. "⁸ for to one is given the word of [redacted] through the Spirit, to another the word of [redacted] through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another [redacted] by the same Spirit, to another gifts of [redacted] by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of [redacted], to another [redacted], to another [redacted] of [redacted], to another *different* kinds of [redacted], to another the [redacted] of tongues."

5. What other gifts are mentioned in Romans?

Romans 12:4-8. “⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if [redacted], *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or [redacted], *let us use it* in our ministering; he who teaches, in [redacted]; ⁸ he who exhorts, in [redacted]; he who [redacted], with liberality; he who [redacted], with diligence; he who shows [redacted], with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:11-13. “¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in [redacted]; ¹³ [redacted] to the needs of the saints, given to [redacted].”

6. How else are these gifts listed?

Ephesians 4:8, 11. “⁸ Therefore he says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.’ . . . ¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* [redacted], some [redacted], some [redacted], and some [redacted] and [redacted],”

7. Why were these gifts given?

Ephesians 4:12, 13. “¹² for the [redacted] of the saints for the work of [redacted], for the [redacted] of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].”

8. What was the order of the gifts?

1 Corinthians 12:28. “And God has appointed these in the church: first [redacted], second [redacted], third [redacted], after that [redacted], then gifts of [redacted], [redacted], [redacted], varieties of [redacted].”

9. What great work do all Christians have?

Matthew 28:19, 20. “¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, [redacted] them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ [redacted] them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

10. What happens when Christians depend on God?

Acts 1:8. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [redacted] to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

11. What is God’s promise for success?

Isaiah 55:11. “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall [redacted] what I please, And it shall [redacted] *in the thing* for which I sent it.”

Study Questions

1. What was the Savior's joy? (Paragraph 2).

2. What work are the angels engaged in? (2).

3. What is the spirit that pervades heaven? (2).

4. How will love to Jesus be manifested? (4).

5. What was the one great object of Christ's life? (5).

6. What happens when someone comes to Christ? (6).

7. What happens when we are filled with the joy of Christ's indwelling Spirit? (6).

8. What do we do, and what two things should our witness include ? (6).

9. What is the result of the effort to bless others? (7).

10. What is the highest honor and greatest joy God can bestow upon us? (7).

11. What does every act of self-sacrifice do? (9).

12. What does unselfish labor for others produce? (11).

13. Who are most surely working out their own salvation? (11).

14. What is the only way to grow in grace? (12).

15. What is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men? (13).

16. What would be the result if the followers of Christ were awake to duty? (14).

17. Among whom or where can we find a work for God? (15).

18. Why do many find an excuse not to use their gifts? (18).

19. What should we not wait for before we begin to work for God? (20).

20. How should the humble and poor approach their work for God? (21).

Thought Questions

1. I really don't want others to know what kind of a person I was before becoming a Christian. What should I share with them when I witness to them?

2. How can I find out what my spiritual gift is?

3. Do I have to go door-to-door?

4. Will God ever let me fail at my work for Him? Why or why not?

5. I'm not good at explaining the Scriptures to others. Can't I just work for God in the background?

6. Isn't just letting others see you living the Christian life enough?

7. Why witness? No one ever accepts what I try to give them?

8. Why is it so hard to witness to those in my family?

9. If I have only one star in my crown, will I feel embarrassed?

10. What things can you do to witness? Is there a list somewhere of things to do?

11. I'm so busy with my family, how can I find time to do anything else?

12. What does witnessing really do for me?

13. After you witness, what question do you ask to get a decision?

14. Does every person on earth have to hear the Gospel before Jesus returns? They say we are losing ground?

15. I hate rejection!!! Do I have to force my beliefs on others by witnessing to them?



16. What do I do if they accept what I am saying about salvation?



17. I don't think I'm really sure about my own salvation. How can I witness to others?



18. [Add your questions].



Problem Solving

The following family of parents and two teens have been church members for several years. They have rarely been involved in the activities of the church. The children are not in church school, and they have few close friends in the church. The parents often avoid communion and special events where there is a lot of spiritual activity. The parents have confided that none of them are growing spiritually. There is a desire for a change, but they are not sure just where to begin. There is fear they are going to be asked to get up front or go door-to-door. How would you help this family to enjoy living and sharing the Christian life?

Notes: (You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply).



Additional Exercises

1. Add three more things to your “Appreciation List.”



2. Additional reading:

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 469-479.

“Help in Daily Living”

Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 325-365.

“Talents”

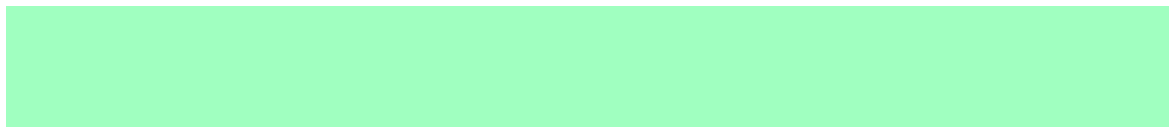
3. Identify your spiritual gift, and discover two ways that gift can be used to bless others.



4. Identify one or more persons in our study group, or in the church who need something that you have the resources to supply. List the need, and the resource, **BUT NOT THEIR NAME**. Ask God to give you an opportunity to supply their need.



5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.



Done (if using another source to keep this information)

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Done

Ellen G. White Quotations

“All things both in heaven and in earth declare that the great law of life is a law of service.” (*Education*, p. 103).

“God can use every person just in proportion as He can put His Spirit into the soul temple. The work that He will accept is the work that reflects His image.” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 37).

“Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 327).

“The specific place appointed us in life is determined by our capabilities. Not all reach the same development or do with equal efficiency the same work. God does not expect the hyssop to attain the proportions of the cedar, or the olive the height of the stately palm. But each should aim just as high as the union of human with divine power makes it possible for him to reach.” (*Education*, p. 267).

“The church is organized for service; and in a life of service to Christ, connection with the church is one of the first steps. Loyalty to Christ demands the faithful performance of church duties. This is an important part of one’s training; and in a church imbued with the Master’s life, it will lead directly to effort for the world without.” (*Education*, pp. 268, 269).

“Love and loyalty to Christ are the spring of all true service. In the heart touched by His love, there is begotten a desire to work for Him.” (*Education*, p. 268).

“He who begins with a little knowledge, in a humble way, and tells what he knows, while seeking diligently for further knowledge, will find the whole heavenly treasure awaiting his demand. The more he seeks to impart light, the more light he will receive. The more one

tries to explain the word of God to others, with a love for souls, the plainer it becomes to himself. The more we use our knowledge and exercise our powers, the more knowledge and power we shall have.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 354).

“The value of service to God is measured by the spirit in which it is rendered, rather than by the length of time spent in labor.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 74).

“Not the amount of labor performed or its visible results but the spirit in which the work is done makes it of value with God.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons* p. 397).

“Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet.” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 481).

“But when we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure.” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 363).

“Let us not forget that as activity increases, and we become successful in doing the work that must be accomplished, there is danger of our trusting in human plans and methods. There will be a tendency to pray less, and to have less faith. We shall be in danger of losing our sense of dependence upon God, who alone can make our work succeed; but although this is the tendency, let no one think that the human instrument is to do less. No, he is not to do less, but to do more by accepting the heavenly gift, the Holy Spirit.” (*Christian Service*, p. 98).

“I was shown God's people waiting for some change to take place—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act, they must take hold of the work themselves and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves. The scenes which are passing before us are of sufficient magnitude to cause us to arouse and urge the truth home to the hearts of all who will listen. The harvest of the earth is nearly ripe.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 261).

“Those who have sought for the development and perfection of Christian character by exercising their faculties in good works, will, in the world to come, reap that which they have sown. The work begun upon earth will reach its consummation in that higher and holier life to endure throughout eternity.” (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 83).

“To be a co-worker with Christ and the heavenly angels in the great plan of salvation! What work can bear any comparison with this! From every soul saved there comes to God a revenue of glory to be reflected upon the one saved and also upon the one instrumental in his salvation.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 232).

“The Lord has a great work to be done, and He will bequeath the most in the future life to those who do the most faithful, willing service in the present life.” (*Christ's Object Lessons* p. 330).

“God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth. If the husbandman neglects to cultivate the soil, God works no miracle to counteract the sure results. He works according to great principles made known to us, and it is our part to mature wise plans, and set in operation the means whereby God shall bring about certain results. Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not

to sit still and do nothing in the work of God.” (*Christian Service*, p. 228).

QUIZ – 9

Select True or False according to the reference:

1. T F The salvation of mankind was the one great object of Christ's life. (SC 9.5).
2. T F The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of mankind. (SC 9.13).
3. T F Christians were to go into all the world with their witness. (Matthew 28:19, 20).
4. T F We are to begin close by when we start to witness for Christ. (Acts 1:8).
5. T F Love to Jesus will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked. (SC 9.4).

Use one or more words to answer the following:

6. Through what agency are God's gifts given to human beings? (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

7. List the three purposes of spiritual gifts. (Ephesians 4:11, 12).

8. List the highest honor, the greatest joy possible for God to bestow upon men. (SC 9.7).

9. List one of your gifts.

10. What does God promise to give to us when we are born again? (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).

Select the option button of the best answer according to the text.

11. When did the Apostle Paul feel he was the strongest? (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10).

- When walking to Athens
- After performing a miracle
- After preaching a sermon on God's love
- When he was weak

12. How are we to abide in Christ? (SC 8.8).

- By staying away from temptation
- By beholding the good example of others
- By good works

- By faith
13. What did the Apostle John lose sight of when his heart of was drawn out toward Christ? (SC 8.15).
- Nature
- Self
- Others
- Sin
14. By what means is Christ to abide continually in the hearts of His children? (SC 8.17).
- Through knowledge from the Scriptures
- By the Holy Spirit
- Through the habit of prayer
- By help from the angels
15. Complete the following passage:
- “It is by _____ with Him, _____, _____,—by _____ in Him,—that we are to grow in grace.” (SC 8.7).