

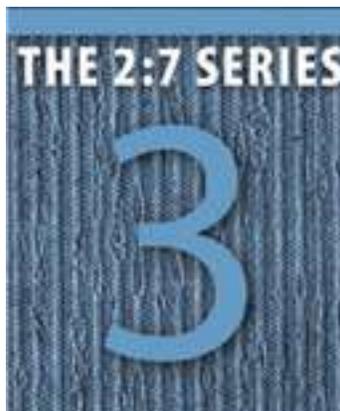
# The 2:7 Series

A course in personal discipleship to strengthen your walk with God

## Book 3

# Leader's Guide

February—2011 Edition



## Introduction

### The 2:7 Series

What the Holy Spirit expresses through Paul in Colossians 2:7 clearly defines what The 2:7 Series is designed to help accomplish in the lives of those who go through this discipleship training.

1. For Christians to be built up in Christ and established in their faith. This series of courses includes instruction in practical Bible study techniques, Scripture memory skills, strengthening the devotional life, and how to be effective in evangelism.
2. For Christians to learn to overflow with gratitude in their everyday lives. The series helps the individual learn to experience and enjoy a stable, consistent walk with Christ.
3. For Christians to be instructed. This implies that training must take place before individuals develop into the kind of Christian lay people whose lives will have an impact on their communities.

Each course in The 2:7 Series builds on the previous one. A person needs to complete Book 1 before going on to Book 2, and complete Book 2 before going to the last course, Book 3.

### Important

#### 1. Leader's Guide

It is important for one person to act as the leader during each group meeting. This may be the same person each time or the responsibility may be shared by two or three group members (preferably those who previously have gone through the course themselves).

This leader's guide is based on extensive use of *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* and the other two books in *The 2:7 Series*. It is imperative for the group leader to use this leader's guide material every week as part of his or her careful preparation. The leader's guide is filled with proven principles, methods, and suggestions. Using it can significantly lighten the preparation load for a group leader.

#### 2. Leader Training

In late 2011 or early 2012 leader training segments will be coming available on *The 2:7 Series* website: [www.2-7series.org](http://www.2-7series.org). For future announcements please look under the tab "2:7 Group Leaders" where these leader's guides are available for you to download.

**Group Size**

The professionals in the field of small group discussions say that 4-8 people make for the best discussions. For this course, **plan for up to 10 participants in your group**—not including yourself. You may find it necessary to have more. Just remember that each person over 10 diminishes the impact of this training material. It is wiser to break a group of 12 or more into two groups whenever possible. Your only limitation may be the number of qualified group leaders available.

**Study Books**

It is imperative that each person in your group has his or her own copy of *Bearing Fruit in God's Family*. People should write their name or use an address label on the line at the top of page 3.

Each person will be expected to do homework every week. It is motivational for individuals to complete their own work and fill in their own answers. By the end of the course, *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* will have become a valued possession and will be a personal reference book for many years to come. With this in mind, suggest that the members of your group make neat and legible entries as they go through the course.

## The Challenge Continues...

The following guidelines should be of great value in helping you effectively lead your group in *Bearing Fruit in God's Family*. You want to refer to these guidelines often as you lead your group through the course.

**Seeing Lives Strengthened and Deepened**

During Books 2 and 3 your group members experience:

1. Solid spiritual growth through consistency in quiet time, Bible study, and Scripture memory.
2. Foundational ministry training through study, discussion, and individual field assignments.
3. Exercises that prepare them to reach out to others with The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This leader's guide is not the final authority on how to lead your group. Each leader and each group is unique. But the information included here offers you valuable help!

Remember that *The 2:7 Series* is only a means to an end. These are excellent and proven materials. However, printed materials and programs do not produce disciples. *Only a disciple can make a disciple*. It is imperative that you practice what you teach. As you know, only as the Spirit of God uses the Word of God (the Bible) in a life can there be significant and lasting transformation.

These concepts should guide your thinking as you help each member of your group grow and deepen in their spiritual maturity in Christ. You may see your own spiritual life and ministry skills take on new dimensions as you facilitate this discipleship training.

## Goals as Group Leader

You have two long-range goals when helping people become functioning disciples:

1. To help each person become a more mature disciple of Jesus Christ
2. To equip each person with tools and know-how for winning and training others.

Your leadership gives each person in your group the opportunity to develop the qualities, habits, and disciplines that will mark him or her as a man or woman of God. They will be growing in their relationships both with God and with other people.

Members of your group also need to be encouraged to share (with people outside of your group) things they are learning during the group sessions and what they are experiencing in their daily walk with God.

## Evaluating Your Leadership

The following questions for evaluating leadership are for your own personal reflection. In your group listen for answers to some of these questions, but you don't want to insert discussions about these topics on top of the assignments in the *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* workbook.

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Who?   | Who am I serving? Who are the people in my group? Do I really know them?  |
| What?  | What are my goals for <i>Deepening Your Roots in God's Family</i> , and what are my goals for each session? What needs and expectations do my group members have? |
| Where? | Where am I in my own Christian life? Where am I taking this group?  |
| Why?   | Why am I leading this group? Why is each person in my group?  |
| When?  | When will we reach our goals? When will I spend time socially with members of my group?   |
| How?   | How do we achieve our goals?  |

## Getting Organized

1. **When** will your group meet? Since you need an hour and a half for each session in the *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* study, the Sunday school hour is usually not long enough to schedule 2:7 *Series* training. So when should you meet? Your final decision may involve some sacrifice on your part—you may have to give up a night or an afternoon each week that you wanted to save for yourself. But, you've decided to serve this group, so find out what time is best for your group.

Consider such things as the types of jobs your group members have. For example, those with construction jobs or other outside work may prefer not to meet in the early evening. But people who commute to work early in the morning may not want to be out late at night. Couples with young children may have days or times that are easiest for them to find baby-sitters. Assess your group's needs and encourage each member to be willing to compromise some if necessary.

2. **Where** will you meet—at church, in your home, in the homes of other group members, or somewhere else? You may find that a rotating system is best, in which you take turns going to each other's homes. This allows everyone to share the responsibility for hosting the group, and it also divides the driving time.

Whatever you work out, try to find comfortable surroundings that encourage group involvement. You will have from eight to twelve people who need room to interact in a relaxed way. You want to sit in a circle or oval so you can see each other and talk easily with one another. There are times when the group divides briefly into twos or threes.

3. What about **refreshments**? Let the group decide how much effort, if any, they want to give to this. Preparing refreshments shouldn't become a burden to anyone. Be sure to keep them simple.

4. The presence of **children** during the meeting can be a distraction. What arrangements do your group members need to make for baby-sitting?

5. Should you plan for informal **socializing** before the scheduled meeting time, with the group arriving early for this? Or would they prefer to begin the session when they arrive, and use the time afterward for refreshments and talking? Discuss this and set a policy that will help them plan when to arrive and how long to stay.

### Handling Potential Problems

Your group may face a few of the problems listed here. By considering them in advance, you will be better able to deal with them if they occur.

- Frequent absences
- Frequent tardiness
- Lack of preparation
- Lack of motivation
- Difficulties in relating to each other or to you
- Members who drop out
- Varying degrees of expectations and interest
- Members who seem to monopolize the group's time
- Considerations that require changing your regular meeting time
- Couples in which the husband and wife seem to be going different directions in their interests and expectations
- Members who are experiencing "dry" periods in their spiritual lives

Difficulties such as these will not simply go away. You can deal with them in an attitude of love and concern. Here are several suggestions:

1. Talk alone with the persons involved. Share with them your concern and your desire for their success.
2. Establish a satisfactory agreement with the persons involved or with the group as a whole. This will make them accountable to each other.

3. Share some concerns with the entire group. Point out your goals of this discipleship training and your wanting them to pursue these goals. You can do this in a positive, encouraging way.
4. Give occasional “locker room chats”—as a coach would with his or her team—you remind, challenge, encourage, and sometimes correct—briefly and in a positive way.
5. Feel free to talk seriously about relevant biblical principles that deal with problems you face with your group.
6. Seek outside help from your pastor or from other mature Christians when necessary.

### Getting Together

1. **Start and end on time.** Most people appreciate punctuality. Don’t allow the time to get away from you at the end. You want the group to be eager to return next week.
2. Try to **involve each group member** in the discussions.
3. **Avoid embarrassing anyone.** Some may feel uncomfortable at first in such activities as reading aloud, praying aloud or group discussions.
4. As the leader, **participate** in all the activities. A new group especially needs to see your example.
5. Be sure any **instructions** you give are clearly understood.
6. Be yourself. Use the outlines given in the leader’s guide for each session, but **don’t be mechanical** about it.
7. **Come prepared.** The others will be discouraged if you do not seem to know what you are doing, especially after they have taken time themselves to prepare.
8. Have your **goals clearly in mind** for each session.

### Between Meetings

Your commitment to the group includes more than just the giving of your time during the group session itself. Accomplishing your goal of developing disciples requires additional activities on your part.

1. Establish a **genuine friendship** with those in your group. If possible get to know them outside of your time in the group. Strong friendships make your group sessions more productive. During *Bearing Fruit in God’s Family* have one or two social activities as a group—like having a simple potluck before one of your sessions. Have fun together.
2. **Pray regularly** for each person in your group. Ask them to pray for one another.
3. **Keep growing** as a Christian? Effective spiritual leaders are continuing to grow in their own lives.
4. Follow your **priorities**. Keep your personal relationship with God and your responsibilities to your family in order as you have a discipleship ministry to others.

### Reading and Marking Assignments

In many of the assignments we ask 2:7 participants to **read and mark certain sections** of the material. An example is *Relationship Evangelism* on pages 26-33. The benefit for them and for the group is that when those pages are discussed, each student can see what he or she has marked and **can quickly come up with things to share in the group**—not having to nervously search through those several pages.

From time to time remind your students of the value of marking as they read. It makes it easier for them to prepare to participate.

### Read Around the Circle

In many of the 2:7 sessions individuals are asked to read aloud from their books. In Session 1 you say something like, “On page 9, let’s read through this list of goals we had for Book 2. Let’s start with Andy and go to the left. Andy, would you read all of number 1, and then we’ll read on around the circle. After Andy reads, you say “thank you.” Then: “Susan, would you read those next two goals. After each one reads, just say “thank you” and make eye contact with the next reader—often eye contact is enough and you don’t have to say anything.

Experience has shown that “reading around the circle” is a simple, efficient way to get things read aloud. It takes a load off of you, the facilitator, and the group grows in its ability to self-manage these reading sections. There are sections of the 2:7 materials that are not mentioned in the assignments—but will be read aloud in that next session. This is planned because it allows a change of pace in your group meeting and the 2:7 participants grow in their verbal skills. These are tiny steps that move them toward their being able to lead a 2:7 group or Bible study group in the future.

### Group-Participant-centered, Not Leader-centered

In *The 2:7 Series* you lead as a facilitator, not a teacher. Let the material carry the load. You don’t have to manage and direct—you facilitate. You want to hear their voices most of the time, not your voice. You sit as part of the circle and participate as one of the group. When the group is reading aloud around the circle, take your turn. But as leader you may want to underscore things that are important or clarify things that are not understood. Many questions you are asked can be directed back to the group. Other questions you may choose to answer outright—and move on.

Prepare your lesson as a participant in the group. Then prepare your lesson as the leader of the group. Have in mind the sections where you discuss material they have read and marked—you want to discuss one segment at a time. Have in mind the sections where you will have them read around the circle. In some of the Bible studies you might have a follow-up question or two that you ask after someone gives an answer to each of those questions.

## Perspective on Bearing Fruit in God's Family

In *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* you are building on the training your people received in *Growing Strong in God's Family* and *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family*. Their capacities have increased during Book 2. Here in Book 3 they will meet new challenges that will stretch them a bit. The workload is about the same as it was in Book 2. They continue to sharpen their salvation testimony (“My story”)—and they are encouraged by new insights into themselves and their spiritual journey. As with Books 1 and 2, Book 3 only impacts a life to the degree that the Holy Spirit works in and through the materials, the Word of God, and the influence people in the group have on one another.

### Goals for *Bearing Fruit in God's Family*

The principle goals are to continue to develop the group members' walk with Christ and to upgrade their ministry effectiveness. You are seeking to develop habits and patterns in each person's life that will continue long after these three 2:7 courses have been completed.

You want to help your 2:7 group members reach the following milestones:

1. To experience a more consistent and meaningful quiet time by:
  - a. Combining meaningful Bible reading and prayer.
  - b. Having at least 14 consecutive quiet times during the course.
  - c. Recording daily quiet time thoughts on *My Reading Highlights*.
2. To retain the five or six memory verses from Book 1 and the 6-12 “Live the New Life” verses memorized in Book 2.
3. To memorize 6-12 “Proclaim Christ” verses from the TMS.
4. To complete and discuss five Bible studies on Christian character.
5. To experience six methods for meditating on Scripture.
6. To give a personal salvation testimony in less than four minutes—with or without written outline notes.
7. To present The Bridge Illustration satisfactorily to a classmate.
8. To study and discuss principles for setting and fulfilling priorities.

### Flowchart for *Bearing Fruit in God's Family*

This flowchart shows how and when the various aspects of the Christian life and ministry are emphasized in Book 3.

#### *Bible Study*

- “Introduction to Bible Study—Book 3”—Session 2.
- Bible study on five Christian character subjects—Sessions 3, 5, 6, 8, 11.

### *Meditation*

- “Ways to Meditate on the Scriptures—Part 1”—Session 1.
- “Ways to Meditate on the Scriptures—Part 2”—Session 2.

### *Scripture Memory*

- The TMS in Book 3”—Session 1.
- Memorizing at least six verses on the gospel—Sessions 2-7.
- Continue the normal verse review pattern—Sessions 2-11.

### *Evangelism*

- “Openly Identifying with Christ”—Session 1.
- Memorizing at least six verses on the gospel—Sessions 2-7.
- Tell “My Story” with or without notes—various sessions.
- “Relationship Evangelism Bible Study”—Session 4.
- “The Bridge Illustration”—Session 7.
- Practice giving “The Bridge”—various sessions.

### *Priorities*

- “Verse Analysis of Matthew 6:33”—Session 9.
- “Priorities-Part 1”—Session 9.
- “Priorities-Part 2”—Session 10.

### *Quiet Time*

- Sharing quiet time highlights—Sessions 2-11.

### *Prayer*

- A regular activity—all sessions.

## Preparing to Lead Book 3

As you prepare to lead Book 3, think back on what worked, what didn't work, and what could have been done better in Book 1 and Book 2. Learn from your experiences. Continue using the methods that have been effective in your group.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you lead Book 3, *Bearing Fruit in God's Family*.

1. The **goal** of The New 2:7 Series is to produce disciples who walk with God and effectively minister to others.
2. Watch for signs **fatigue and stagnation**. Your group members have been working faithfully for several months. In Book 3 they may show signs of tiring. Especially men and single-parent women seem to tire at this point. They feel the pressure of preparation time as well as their work, church and family commitments.

3. How are your group members **relating** to each other? By now they have probably developed warm friendships among themselves. Let the group members initiate more of the fellowship and caring.
4. How is your own presentation of *The **Bridge** Illustration*? Can you give them a good model to follow?
5. Are you avoiding the trap of letting your preparation and study time replace your **quiet time**? Your preparation is necessary, but be careful to maintain your own personal relationship with God.
6. The material on **priorities** (Sessions 9- 10) is extensive and packed with important principles and application. Before beginning this material, get a total picture of what you are attempting to do. Don't view it as two separate lessons, but rather as one entity. Prepare this subject as a package.
7. Maintain a **tentative schedule** of when your group members will be giving their "My Story" in less than four minutes with or without notes.

### The Format for Session 1-11 in Book 3

For Sessions 1-11 you will find:

1. The specific goal or goals you should seek to accomplish during each session.
2. Specific instructions on how to lead each point on the session outline.
3. Occasional reminders designed to prod your memory on what to be planning or watching for as you progress through the course.

**NOTE:** Most 2:7 groups plan to meet for two hours each week. They spend 1½ hours in covering the lessons and allow 30 minutes for conversation and informal fellowship. Some groups have 30 minutes of fellowship and light refreshments after the lesson. Other groups have roughly 15 minutes both before and after the class session.

#### *Graduation Plans*

It is a significant milestone for the people in your group to complete all three courses in *The 2:7 Series*! Plan a graduation at the end of Book 3, "Bearing Fruit in God's Family." It is an opportunity to recognize work well done. It can be a significant encouragement and motivation to your people, as well as a fun and uplifting event.

You can ask your group what they would like to do when you are about half way through Book 3. You can organize a surprise graduation and simply ask them to reserve a certain block of time on their calendar. Be creative and enthusiastic.

*Possible graduation activities:*

1. Have a potluck dinner together.
2. You and/or your pastor recognize them in a church service or key Sunday school class (This is a good way to motivate and recruit other people for this type of training!).
3. Give them each a small gift like a book on walking with God or other practical topic.

*The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul...— Proverbs 13:19 (KJV)*

## How to Make the Bible Study Discussions Effective

### Group Leader Resource Material

It is important for you to carefully prepare, so you can do a good job of leading each of the Bible study discussions. The following material has been compiled to assist you in handling the five Bible study group discussions.

Usually each of the 11 sessions in *Deepening Your Roots in God's Family* is led by the same group leader. Because of a group leader's being sick, traveling, or some other contingency, it may become necessary for someone else from the group to take a turn leading one of the 11 sessions. The group leader for sessions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6—will lead a Bible study discussion as well as facilitating the other course activities. Each time you prepare to lead, you will find it helpful to review the suggestion in this section.

### 2:7 Group Member Preparation

A key ingredient to stimulating and beneficial Bible study discussions is for each member in the group to have his or her Bible study completed before coming to class.

From time to time remind the members of the group how important it is (for you and for them) to have the Bible study done prior to the group meeting. If people come without the study completed or partially finished, don't ignore or punish them with non-verbal looks of disapproval. Make them feel accepted and as much a part of the group as the others. It is important for those people to enjoy and benefit from the group discussion and not be made to feel rejected and unaccepted. At the beginning of the discussion you might assign such a person one or two questions that can be quickly prepared and ready for discussion when you get to that part of the lesson.

### Group Leader Preparation

First, prepare the Bible study for your own enlightenment and application. Ask God to speak to you and to strengthen you from the study as you begin to work on it. You want correct and good answers without being academic and theoretical. If you get excited about the topic of the study and its content, you are well on your way to being an exciting and animated group leader.

Second, look over your questions and answers. Think of the needs and interests in your group. To which parts of the study should you give more attention? Thinking through and

planning in advance can make for a more effective Bible study discussion. During the actual Bible discussion you may find it wise to deviate from your original plan. Thoughtful preplanning gives you a general direction in which to move, but you must remain flexible and willing to adjust your original plan.

### **The Bible Says . . .**

In your group you want people sharing what the Bible teaches, not opinions and conjectures. On one hand we don't want people to be afraid of making theological mistakes. On the other hand we don't want people sharing opinions and hearsay without a passage of Scripture. Mostly, this problem can be alleviated by sticking with the verses, questions, and answers in the Bible study. Don't let the discussion drift into tangents where you and the group members have not done your homework. Each week stick with the subject at hand.

### **Several Helpful Discussion Guidelines**

1. *Sit in a circle.* This is the best seating arrangement. Each person has eye contact with most of the people in the group. It creates an informal and warm atmosphere. The group leader is considered more of a peer because he or she is not placed in a prominent physical location.
2. *Don't dominate.* As the leader, you are both a facilitator and a participant in the group. You should not talk more than others in the group. As the facilitator you give direction and ask questions. As a participant you share your insights and study answers along with the others. Share humbly, not expertly.
3. *Not the authority.* Avoid becoming the authority figure in the group. You don't want all the questions directed to you with the others thinking that you should be able to answer them. Direct questions back to the group. Say something like, "That is an interesting question. What thoughts might some of you have that would help us answer that question?" Sometimes you might recruit a volunteer who will take a difficult question to the pastor or an associate pastor. The volunteer can come back to the group with an answer the following week.
4. *Work together.* Your role as group leader is not a teaching responsibility, just as the student's role is not to sit, listen, and take notes. You and the group members are working together to find answers and clarify issues.
5. *Too talkative.* You may soon find that one or two people in your group will have something to say about everything. Chat with them on the side. Say something like, "You have some great ideas. You are excellent in the discussion times. I need your help. There are others in the group who need to talk more so they can grow in

confidence. Could you help me in getting some of these people to talk more? Before you talk in the group, let one or two others go first. Don't be afraid of silence. It sometimes takes some silence before (name) and (name) will talk. Maybe you could share only your best thoughts in the group. Thank you for your help in this!"

6. *Too quiet.* When you direct a question to the group, give the quiet people more eye contact. Sometimes ask one of your less vocal people to read a quotation or to answer a specific question. They will become secure as they talk more. A number of things in the general structure of *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* are designed to build confidence and help people participate more comfortably. Reading around the circle helps bring people out of their shells. Quoting verses and working on *My Completion Record* in groups of two or three each week also nurture a growing confidence and security.
7. *Acknowledge answers.* Thank people when they participate. Thank them for reading a paragraph or answering a question. This is particularly important with those who tend to be quiet. An acknowledgment doesn't always have to be verbal. Many times it can be a nod of the head or eye contact that communicates approval. As you apply this, others in the group will follow your example and begin doing it, too.
8. *Ask the group.* Usually you will address your questions to the group, not to an individual. (An exception to this would be to ask a quiet person a specific question.) As you ask a question, let your eye contact sweep around the group. Don't let your eyes lock on to one person.
9. *Get several answers.* After one person has given an answer to a Bible study question, you will usually ask for one or two other people to give their answers to the same question. This allows several people to participate on each question. It also helps insure that the answers reflect a correct handling of that particular Scripture passage.  
A simple question should be answered by only one or two people. A more difficult question could be answered by three or four people. Thought and application questions could be answered by half of the group or more if you wish. Have people read their answers exactly the way they have written them down. This keeps things moving. After they have read their written answer they may wish to express an additional ad lib sentence or two for clarification.
10. *Application and Summary questions.* In the *Bearing Fruit in God's Family* Bible studies you will find a sprinkling of application and summary questions. When you discuss the answer to these questions, give them priority. You may consider some

questions important enough to ask several to give their answer. For some questions you may ask every person in your group to share their answer.

This is not a comprehensive list—but these are a few examples:

- Page 31, question 5e (application question)
- Page 34, question 10 (application question)
- Page 44, question 1a (summary question)
- Page 46, question 4 (summary question)
- Page 48, question 10 (summary question)
- Page 48, question 13 (application question)
- Page 56, question 9c (application question)

### **The “Think About” Questions**

You may have observed that there is a “Think About” question at the beginning of each of the last six Bible studies. Remind the group members to give two or three minutes of thought to the “Think About” question before starting to prepare their Bible study. Its purpose is to get the mind moving in the direction that the Bible study topic will be going. In your group meeting you can have several give their answer to the “Think About” question just before you move into discussing the actual Bible study content. This moves people’s minds away from their busy day into the subject you are about to discuss.

You will notice that there are no correct or “school” answers to “Think About” questions. They are designed to stimulate thinking and to precipitate a wide range of answers.

### **How to Lead the Bible Study Discussion**

In the eight Bible studies, your goal will be to have every question answered by at least one person. When an answer is simple and straightforward, you can usually move right on to the next question. More complex answers generate a variety of comments from others. You may see an area of special interest surface. That may lead to your having to invest more time discussing that topic. During this course, as the group leader will probably use both of the following methods for leading discussion.

**1. Question-by-question—sharing in sequence.** Go around the circle and in turn have each person answer one question or sub-question. You are going through the questions in order.

(You may want to review items 8 and 9 on page 10.) It is wise to use this first method at least through Session 5. You will find that often people new to Bible study discussion prefer this approach because of its predictability.

As you go around the circle, also ask people read aloud the quotations and paragraphs between questions.

When you start the discussion, tell the group where you want them to begin in the circle and whether you want them to go to the left or to the right. Don’t always start in the same place or always go in the same direction. Share your answer or read a quotation when it is your turn.

**2. Question-by-question—sharing at random.** In this method do not go around the circle in sequence, but still answer the Bible study questions in order. Work on a volunteer basis. You might ask, “Would someone please read the opening paragraph?” Someone says, “I will,” and reads it. After it has been read, ask, “Who will answer question 1 for us please?”

Continue on with question 2, then, question 3. Have the quotations and paragraphs read in between questions as you did in the previous method.

Occasionally quieter students in the group may need to be asked something like, “John, would you answer question 6 for us please?” Then go back to the volunteer approach again. Still apply “Ask the group” and “Get several answers” (page 10 above).

As you feel comfortable with this approach, use it in Book 3. In the leader’s guide for Sessions 3-5, 10, and 11 you are given some additional Bible study discussion questions. Use them sparingly. You cannot ask one of these questions until after someone in the group has given an answer to the question for which you have an additional discussion question. If your group responds to them, you may wish to use them more in future sessions.

You can effectively lead the discussions by only using these two methods—even without using the additional discussion questions. Here is a brief explanation if you wish to try out a few of the additional questions.

One of these additional questions should only be asked after a 2:7 book question has been answered. For example: Please look at question 3a on page 62. Perhaps two people give an answer to the Mark7:6-9 question. Then we can ask the 3a additional question provided for you on page xx: “What are some examples of ‘tradition’ to which people give undue authority?” There is not correct answer to this type of question, but it stimulates and promotes a deeper discussion on the issue at hand. After a brief discussion of “tradition,” continue where you left off in the lesson.

**Session 1****Book 3****GOALS FOR SESSION 1**

- To review the highlights of Book 2 and preview Book 3.
- To briefly discuss meditation and to practice two methods for meditating on Scripture.
- To encourage pre-evangelism and evangelism by:
  - a. Discussing “Openly Identifying with Christ.”
  - b. Discussing current use of their *Evangelism Prayer List*.

**1. Open the session in prayer.**

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

**2. “Reviewing the Goals of Book 2 in *The 2:7 Series*” (pages 9-10).**

Go around the circle and have this segment read aloud. The intent is to encourage people in your group to rejoice in what they have completed. Reading this can give them a sense of accomplishment and can act as a motivator for them to faithfully work through Book 3 a week at a time. Weekly faithfulness accumulates into a completed course and a growing list of personal benefits.

**3. Preview Book 3.**

Convey a sense of excitement as you lead the group in looking over *My Completion Record* on pages 7-8. Instead of mentioning possible difficulties, help them anticipate the benefits that will be theirs by successfully completing these requirements.

Point out that the memory verses will be very valuable for use in ministry. These are key gospel verses! For 14 consecutive days they will need to review the “Live The New Life” verses they memorized during Book 2. Strongly encourage them to review all of their memory verses daily—at least five out of seven days every week. Field experience has shown that those students who do this will excel in Scripture memory. They will not only know the verses expertly but their life and ministry will be enriched by the verses as well. You, the group leader, must set the pace in verse review! You must be able to tell them that you are reviewing all your verse cards at least five out of seven days a week yourself.

Most weeks there will be a time for the group to share some of the highlights from their quiet times. Sometime during the course each person needs to record 14 consecutive quiet times on *My Reading Highlights*.

The several evangelism requirements relate to a skill, knowledge, or an activity. “Openly Identifying with Christ” (page 18) gives practical suggestions about how one might fulfill the “Identified with Christ” requirement. It would be good if you could share a personal example of how you recently did this.

When any Bible study has all the answers filled in it is complete and can be signed off. They can tell their “MY Story” either with or without outline notes. But encourage them during this course to get to where they don’t need notes. Someone needs to time the testimonies to be sure they are given, in less than four minutes. The timer may give a signal (tap the table three times or hold up three fingers) when the three minute mark is reached. This helps the person finish up under the four minute target time.

The requirement to use one’s *Evangelism Prayer List* for seven consecutive days is an exercise designed to increase consistency in using this important tool. A student may keep track of this on his or her *My Reading Highlights* (by checking the small circle for each day) or by using any other practical method.

There are three requirements to sign off regarding *The Bridge Illustration*.

- *Outline*: The person draws out the illustration and knows where the verses go. It is not necessary to quote the verses or ask the questions as they put the illustration on paper. They simply get all of the ingredients on paper without help from someone else.
- *Lecture presentation 1*: The person presents The Bridge Illustration to someone in the class in lecture form without asking questions. This means drawing the illustration step by step and explaining in logical sequence how The Bridge Illustration explains the gospel. The students need to practice at home several times before making this presentation.
- *Lecture presentation 2*: This is done in the same way that “lecture presentation 1” was done. The intent is that the second presentation will be done more skillfully. The students need to practice at home before making this presentation.

The Bible studies cover excellent, practical subjects. As the group leader, you will be the Bible study leader every week. Prepare prayerfully and carefully. Those in your group students will come to class each time with his or her Bible study completed. Don't be vindictive if one or two people don't have a completed study some week. They will have to have a written answer for every question in a Bible study before that topic can be signed off. Encourage the students to start work on the Bible study early in the week so the Holy Spirit can speak to their hearts through it. Doing preparation at the last minute can take the joy out of both the preparation and the discussion in the group.

There are several excellent short projects in this course listed under “Other.” These are high impact, practical subjects. Each of these items can be signed off on *My Completion Record* after the segment has been studied and all of the questions answered.

One of your delightful tasks as a 2:7 group leader is to verify that everything has been signed off on each student's *My Completion Record*, then to sign off the “Leader's Check” to confirm that the person has graduated from Book 3 in *The 2:7 Series*.

#### **4. Survey “Scripture Memory Guide—Week One”** (page 10).

Have group members read aloud this section on pages 10 and 11. Also take your turn as the group reads around the circle. Make a brief comment after each section has been read aloud. Remind your group that for each of the first six weeks they will be memorizing a verse. For the remaining weeks they will be reviewing these verses at the beginning of each session. It is particularly important to give special attention to the scripture memory assignments in the early weeks.

## 5. The TMS in Book 3 (pages 11-13).

Have the group read these pages aloud by continuing to read around the circle. Remind the students that they will want to be daily reviewing at least 11 memory verses from the previous two courses as well as any verses they have learned in this course.

When they know verses it takes very little time to review them. If the verses are not reviewed regularly, recall can disappear. It is wise to consistently review the verses they know so they will not lose their investment. It also keeps the verses sharp to be used by the Holy Spirit in their own life as well as in ministry to others.

## 6. Do the group exercise “Ways to Meditate on Scriptures—Part 1” (pages 14-18).

There are six methods for meditating on Scripture presented in this course. Only the first two methods will be done this week. At home the students will complete an exercise for each of the other four methods. That work will be discussed by the group next week.

Have the verses and introductory material read aloud (page 14). Spend some time reflecting on the value of meditation, and the seeming absence of it in our fast-paced society. Be sure the term meditation is well understood before you explain how to meditate. Ask for their reactions to what this introductory material says.

Have them read aloud **1—Paraphrase** at the top of page 15 and **2-Questions** at the bottom of page 16. Mention that as soon as you read these two segments, they will do the two exercises on their own. (Do not have all of the translations of the verses read aloud). After the information for these two methods has been read, answer any questions they may have. Then give them about 10 minutes to paraphrase 2 Timothy 3:16 and to jot down questions and answers for Hebrews 10:24-25.

When you continue as a group, ask several to share their paraphrase. Ask how this method of meditation on the passage spoke to them. How well did it get them into the content of the verse?

Then ask several to share some of their questions and answers from the second exercise. Again ask how well this method drove them into the content of the passage. It may need to be clarified that, in real life, it is often very helpful to have identified a specific question even though no immediate answer is available. There are not always instant answers to questions, problems, and difficulties in life.

Next, ask someone to read “*Meditation Exercises in Session 2*” on page 18. Be sure they are clear about what they will do in each of these exercises before next week. Glance over pages 22-24, where they apply meditation methods 3, 4, 5, and 6.

## 7. Discuss current use of the *Evangelism Prayer List*.

It has been said, “People don’t do what you expect, they do what you inspect.” You want the individuals in your group to pray for their evangelism prospects. You want them to keep these people in mind. You want them to choose to do things with the

people on their list. You want to see them deepen their friendships with these people—to spend time with these people.

Discuss how frequently they find themselves praying for these people. Have they added or subtracted people from their list? Has the list been helpful? What have they learned about themselves by using this list? What are they learning about the kind of people they want to reach? Are they getting time with these people?

People in your group will want to select one or two people from their *Evangelism Prayer List* with whom they think they would feel comfortable openly identifying with Christ—they may have already done that. The next thing on the class schedule is to discuss what this will entail during this course.

**8. Read and discuss “Openly Identifying with Christ”** (pages 18-19). Ask for this page to be read aloud and briefly discuss its content.

**9. Read the “Assignment for Session 2”** (page 20). Ask someone to read the assignment aloud. In Session 2 there will be an opportunity for some to share their “My Story” with or without outline notes in under four minutes. This will be a part of several sessions. Ask which one or two people would like to do theirs next week, or possibly assign all the people for future sessions.

**10. Close the session in prayer.**

Are you praying for each of the individuals in your group? What are you asking God to do for them? (See Mark 10:51a: “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.) Make sure you allow adequate time in each session for a little conversational prayer. Ask several to pray for motivation and teachable hearts and minds as we all begin Book 3.

**Session 2****Book 3****GOALS FOR SESSION 2**

- To help the group experience the benefits of four more methods for meditating on Scripture.
- To motivate those in your group to thoughtfully prepare their Bible studies during the course.

**1. Open the session in prayer.**

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### 2. Break into verse review groups.

In the groups they quote their verses on “All Have Sinned”: Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6 (recommended but optional).

Don't forget the importance of encouragement and praise during verse review. Get Book 3 off to a positive start. Point out the usefulness of the *Proclaim Christ* verses for sharing the gospel. Also point out that later in the course they will be using these verses to illustrate the gospel.

### 3. Share some quiet time thoughts.

This is the first chance to share quiet time thoughts since Session 10 in Book 2. Make the most of this time together in the Word. Are most people sharing? Are you thanking them and commenting as various people contribute their thoughts?

### 4. Discuss “Ways to Meditate on Scripture—Part 2” (pages 22-24).

Let everyone share responses to the exercises on these pages. Point out that while six methods have been presented, each person will probably find one or two methods more useful than the others.

Ask group members to tell which methods they liked best and why. Ask them what ideas they have for incorporating these methods of meditation into their quiet time, Bible study, or other activities.

### 5. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.

Put this week's two or three presenters at ease. You want them to relax and enjoy telling their salvation story. It will be timed, but that is for their benefit so they can sense what four minutes feels like. If a testimony runs too long, something needs to be deleted from it. If it is less than 2 ½ minutes in length, something should be added to it. Get a volunteer timer each week for the “My Story” presentations. The timer should signal the presenter at the three minute mark by holding up three fingers or tapping the table three times. This helps the presenter to finish up in under four minutes.

Those who go over four minutes or under 2 ½ minutes will have another opportunity to present. It is not uncommon for people to need two or three attempts in order to hit the 2 ½ – 4 minute window. Ask for one or two volunteers from the group to tell their “My Story” next session, unless assignments were made earlier.

### 6. Read “Introduction to Bible Study—Book 3” (pages 24-25).

Have several people assist in reading this segment aloud. A brief discussion is appropriate, or simply answer any questions the students may have. Sometimes two or three in the group have comments and then you can continue on to the next item.

### 7. Read the “Assignment for Session 3” (page 25).

Ask someone to read the assignment for Session 3. Encourage your people to enjoy the course and avoid unnecessary stress by

- a. Staying current and sharp on their memory verses.
- b. Completing their Bible study early in the week between classes.

### 8. Close the session in prayer.

You may want to suggest that this prayer time focus on those things that might keep each of you from getting the most out of this course—areas where Satan might cause opposition.

## Session 3

## Book 3

### GOALS FOR SESSION 3

- To emphasize the benefits of a fruitful Christian life and the prerequisites for living such a life.
- To give ongoing affirmation and encouragement to members of the group as they continue to work at completing their course requirements.

### 1. Open the session in prayer.

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### 2. Break into verse review groups.

In the groups they quote their verses on “Sin’s Penalty”: Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27 (recommended but optional).

Remember that the objective of Scripture memory is not only to learn the verses but also to understand, apply and use them. From time to time, ask if they have had an opportunity to use their memory verses in their own life or in ministering to others.

### 3. Share some quiet time thoughts.

Most weeks you should continue to set the example by sharing something from one of your quiet times. Before coming to class, give some thought to what you might share. Look for a quiet time thought that is simple and uplifting. You are probably more spiritually mature than most people in your group. You can discourage them if you share complex and heavy insights. By sharing something simple and uplifting you discourage competition and encourage your spiritually younger Christians.

### 4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.

Each week encourage and affirm those who tell their salvation story. There is trauma in testimony preparation and sharing.

### 5. Discuss the Bible study, “The Call to Fruitful Living” (pages 28-35).

You need to be completely familiar with the questions and answers in each Bible study that you lead. This sparks your excitement and that motivates and inspires those around you in your group. Do a thorough job in personal preparation on your Bible study each week. First, answer the questions for your own growth and benefit. Then, prepare to lead.

Begin this discussion by asking someone to read the introductory paragraph on page 28.

Next, let the group “brain storm” some possible answers to the “Think About” question. Allow several to share. If the answers are brief, a person could share more than once. Spend three or four minutes on this question. Remember that there is a “Think About” question at the beginning of every Bible study. Its purpose is to get the members of the group talking and to help them focus their minds on the subject of the Bible study.

Here are additional questions you might ask during the discussion. As you know, you only ask an additional question after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “The Call to Fruitful Living”:

Question 2    John 15:8                      What does it mean to “bear much fruit”?

Question 3    Galatians 5:22-23    What relationship do you see between any two of these qualities?

Question 4    1 Peter 2:12                      What are some examples of “good deeds”?

Question 4                                      Which of these three areas do you think is the most important?

Question 6                                      In what way do you think acquiring wisdom differs from acquiring knowledge?

Question 8    Philippians 3:4-14    How would you define “attitude”?

### 6. Read the “Assignment for Session 4” (page 35).

Ask someone to read the assignment for Session 4.

Commend them for persevering. They have completed Book 1 and Book 2 in *The 2.7 Series* and are well into this third and final course!

### 7. Have a short period of group prayer.

Perhaps focus on non-Christians who are listed on each person’s *Evangelism Prayer List*. You can have them pray by verse review groups, in groups of two or three, in two groups, or the whole group together. It is easy for each individual to pray for someone on his or her list. It takes too much time to share requests and then pray for each other’s evangelism prospects.

## Session 4

## Book 3

### GOAL FOR SESSION 4

- To clarify that both proclaiming the gospel and affirming the gospel are essential elements in the process of evangelism.

### 1. Open the session in prayer.

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### 2. Break into verse review groups.

In the groups they quote their verses on “Christ Paid the Penalty”: Romans 5:8 and I Peter 3:18 (recommended but optional).

They have now memorized half of the memory verses in this course. Take five minutes or so, give a brief phrase from one of their “Proclaim Christ” verses and see who can identify the topic and reference, and then quote the entire verse. You want to prepare this little fun quiz in advance.

### 3. Share some quiet time thoughts.

Keep in mind those who have been sharing in previous weeks. If some have not been saying much, you might call on them to share this week. Observe whether people share from *My Reading Highlights* or just thoughts from their Bible. Some weeks limit their sharing to only what they have written on their *My Reading Highlights*. After reading an MRH entry, they might briefly elaborate on that thought in an impromptu manner. This applies to all MRH sharing.

### 4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.

Express appreciation to those who share. Give them a warning at the three-minute mark to help them finish on time. Do you have any individuals assigned to give their testimonies next week?

### 5. Discuss the “Relationship Evangelism Bible Study” (pages 38-41).

This important Bible study is intended to be both instructional and motivational. You will find that all three sections provide interesting and significant discussion material. Start by asking someone to read the paragraph under “Two Key Ingredients” on page 38.

You might lead the study section by section rather than question by question. Ask them what they observed or learned out of “Proclaiming the Gospel.” People will share at random and their sharing will skip around in that section. Then what their observations were in “Affirming the Gospel.” Handle the discussion the same way you did in the first section. Then go on to “The Process of Relationship Evangelism.” Do it in the same way.

Here are additional questions you might ask during the discussion. As you know, you only ask an additional question after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for the “Relationship Evangelism Bible Study”:

Question 1    2 Corinthians 5:18-20    How would you define “reconciliation”?

Question 2    Mark 16:15    Would you call the U.S. and Canada “mission fields”? Why or why not?

Question 7    To what degree are we limited to being only able to minister to people similar to us in background and station in life?

Question 7    What is another word for “affirming”?

### 6. Read the “Assignment for Session 5” (page 41).

Ask someone to read the assignment for Session 5.

### 7. Close the session in prayer.

Ask several to pray conversationally about the material in the Bible study. Remind them that we want to be praying for one another during the week.

## Session 5

Book 3

## GOAL FOR SESSION 5

- To clarify what genuine love is and how important it is for Christians to demonstrate it in and through their lives.

**1. Open the session in prayer.**

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

**2. Break into verse review groups.**

In the groups they quote their verses on “Salvation Not by Works”: Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5 (recommended but optional).

Get a reading of how well the group members are doing in getting their Scripture memory verses signed off on their *My Completion Record*. Compliment them for what they have done. Encourage them to keep getting things signed off on their *My Completion Record*.

**3. Share some quiet time thoughts.**

Ask what Bible books they have most enjoyed reading and why. How much do they feel the quiet time has become a part of their life? What have they been learning about the value of the quiet time?

**4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.**

Ask if anyone has had an opportunity to share his or her testimony with someone outside this 2:7 group. If so, have them tell what took place.

Have someone time the testimonies and give a three-minute warning. Determine which people have not completed the testimony requirement for this course. Who will be sharing their testimony in Session 6?

**5. Discuss the Bible study, “Love in Action” (pages 44-49).**

This is one of those studies where perhaps “familiarity breeds contempt.” Some in the group will feel they know a great deal about this subject. Pray and prepare so this session will deeply impact each person in your group.

Here are additional questions you might ask during the discussion. As you know, you only ask an additional question after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

## Session 6

Book 3

Additional Discussion Questions for the “Love in Action”:

- |             |                |   |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| Question 3  | 1 John 4:8-21  | What is the difference between saying “God is I love” and saying “love is God?” |
| Question 3  | 1 John 4:8     | What are some things God is other than love?                                    |
| Question 5  | John 13:34-35  | Must we <i>like</i> a person before we can <i>love</i> that person?             |
| Question 6  |                | What do you feel is the relationship between dependence on God and humility?    |
| Question 8  | Romans 12:3    | How is it that thinking too little of oneself is also pride?                    |
| Question 11 | Proverbs 12:25 | How does this differ from flattery?   |

### 6. Read the “Assignment for Session 6” (page 50).

Ask someone to read the assignment for Session 6.

The Bible study, “Purity of Life,” is excellent but is a little longer than some of the others.

### 7. Close the session in prayer.

Have a brief time of conversational prayer. Have them focus the prayer on the children and close relatives of those in the group.

## Session 6

Book 3

### GOAL FOR SESSION 6

- To emphasize—from the Bible study—the imperative of purity in the life of the Christian.

### Reminders:

This is a good point in the course to check yourself on some of these items:

- Who am I serving?
- Why am I leading this group?
- Why are these people taking the course?
- Do I really know my group members personally?
- Am I familiar with the goal for each session?

- What needs and expectations does each group member have?
- What do I want to see happen in the lives of those in my group?
- How much social time am I spending to build relationships among those of us in the group?
- What is the quantity and quality of the time I spend praying for my 2:7 group members?

### **1. Open the session in prayer.**

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### **2. Break into verse review groups.**

In the groups they quote their verses on “Must Receive Christ”: John 1:12 and Romans 10:9-10 (recommended but optional).

Ask the group how well they are doing in reviewing all of their verse cards from five to seven days each week. Tell them how much doing this has meant to you.

### **3. Share some quiet time thoughts.**

You may want to check to see how many in the group have had 14 consecutive quiet times and have it signed off. Be sure you have met this requirement as well.

### **4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.**

Have each one timed and at the three minute mark the timer gives a signal so the person can finish up under four minutes.

What opportunities have some in the group had to share their salvation story?

### **5. Discuss the Bible study, “Purity of Life” (pages 52-58).**

Keep in mind that during the quiet time we read for the enjoyment and refreshment of the passage. We look more for what impresses us than what The Scriptures are specifically teaching in the passage.

In Bible study, however, we want to be more exacting in our handling of The Scriptures. Answers to Bible study questions should not state or imply concepts that are not expressed in the passage. Promote exactness in the group’s answers to Bible study questions without becoming perfectionistic.

Here are additional questions you might ask during the discussion. As you know, you only ask an additional question after someone has answered the original question.

Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Purity of Life”:

Question 1 1 Peter 1:15-16

How is it that some non-Christians are able to live very moral and upright lives?

## Session 7

Book 3

Question 2	2 Corinthians 7: 1	What does the word “cleanse” or “purify” mean to you? What does it imply?
Question 3	Colossians 1:21-23	What are some words or phrases that mean the same thing as “holiness?”
Question 6		Are there any other excuses you can think of that you have heard someone make?
Question 10		Which of these is the most helpful to you personally?

### 6. Read the “Assignment for Session 7” (page 58).

Ask someone to read the assignment for Session 7.

Point out the importance of carefully reading and marking the information about *The Bridge Illustration* (pages 60-70).

### 7. Close the session in prayer.

We sometimes fail to recognize—or admit to others—periods of dryness, or struggles in our walk with Christ. Your group should develop a depth of honesty and fellowship so that requests for help and admissions of failure can be made freely to the group. We all want to gradually become more open to receiving counsel and help from one another.

Prayer to overcome areas of difficulty is a major way that we can minister to each other. So, close this session by allowing several to share a personal need or struggle if they wish. People can pray for themselves without first sharing the concern with the group. Simply pray conversationally for each other.

## Session 7

Book 3

### GOALS FOR SESSION 7

- To help the students become familiar with the contents of *The Bridge Illustration* as well as why and how it can be used effectively.

### 1. Open the session in prayer.

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### 2. Break into verse review groups.

In the groups they quote their verses on “Assurance of Salvation”: 1 John 5:13 and John 5:24 (recommended but optional).

After everyone returns to the group, you might ask how many of them have all of their verses signed off, including the verse(s) for this week.

### 3. Share some quiet time thoughts.

Ask them to primarily share what they have written in *My Reading Highlights*.

Encourage them to continue to respond back to God in prayer during their quiet time. They learned this back in *Growing Strong in God’s Family*, but it is still an important factor in keeping the quiet time vital!

### 4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.

Be alert to one or two things in each testimony that you can comment on positively as an example or others. Seek to create a spirit of gratitude for all God has done in sending His Son Jesus Christ.

### 5. Discuss *The Bridge Illustration* (pages 60-70).

The testimony was described as a door-opener. Now, with *The Bridge Illustration*, your group learns to use a tool that allows a person to explain the gospel clearly. Go over the explanation of “The Bridge” in detail. Handle questions as they are asked.

Plan to draw and present “The Bridge” so the group can see how it should be done. Come prepared to make a sterling presentation! You might practice in advance with someone in the group so the two of you can role play a “Bridge” presentation in front of the group. You will want to use the questions as well as sketch out “The Bridge”. During this course, every group member will need to present “The Bridge” at three levels of proficiency: (1) Just the outline, (2) Lecture presentation 1, and (3) Lecture presentation 2.

In order to use *The Bridge Illustration* most effectively, one should memorize the overall framework, including the verse references, the sequence, and the questions for each main point. This is not required for this course, but these are goals the students might pursue after completing Book 3.

### 6. Read the “Assignment for Session 8” (page 65).

Ask someone to read the assignment for Session 8.

Underscore that they will need to practice so they will be able to present the outline next session. The outline includes the illustration of the bridge with the main points and the following verse references inserted into the diagram:

- God’s Purpose — Abundant Life John 10:10 Eternal Life John 3:16

- Our Problem — All Have Sinned: Rom. 3:23 (optional: Isaiah 53:6) Sin's Penalty Heb. 9:27; Rom. 6:23
- God's Remedy — Christ Paid the Penalty: Rom. 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18 Salvation Not by Works: Eph. 2:8-9 (optional: Titus 3:5)
- Our Response — Must Receive Christ: John 1: 12; Rom. 10:9-10 Assurance of Salvation: John 5:24 (optional: 1 John 5:13)

Point out this list to the students on page 61 in Book 3. They need to be able to draw out the illustration in four segments, inserting the verses at the appropriate times. They can begin learning the questions, but won't need to know them during this course.

### 7. Close the session in prayer.

Pray for Christians in the U.S. and other countries who are taking *The 2:7 Series* or other discipleship training. Pray that their lives and ministry skills will be sharpened and that God will work greatly through them for years to come!

## Session 8

Book 3

### Session 8

#### GOALS FOR SESSION 8

- That the group members will each successfully draw the outline of The Bridge Illustration from memory.
- To strengthen the group members' commitment to personal integrity.

### 1. Open the session in prayer.

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### 2. Break into verse review groups.

They want to quote all the verses memorized in Book 3 and get anything signed that they can on their *My Completion Record*.

### 3. Share some quiet time thoughts from *My Reading Highlights*.

You want to continue to share your own excitement about reading the Bible and responding back to God in prayer. Attitudes and habits are “caught” as much as they are taught. Which meditation methods are you finding most helpful? Share motivating discoveries from your quiet times when you think the topic is appropriate for the group.

### 4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.

It is possible that by this time every person in your group has completed his or her “My Story” requirement. Those who have not completed it need to finish this work by Session 9 or 10.

### 5. Discuss the progress you are making with non-Christians.

How many in the group have “Identified with Christ in a relating activity,” and have that requirement signed off? Those in your group need to complete this activity in the next week or two so it is not left until the very end of the course.

What other things are happening in their friendships with non-Christians? Who has been able to share his or her testimony with a non-Christian?

Are friendships deepening with one or two non-Christians? Has anyone come to Christ? A brief discussion about what is going on is motivational to everyone.

### 6. Break into groups of two and take turns presenting *The Bridge Illustration* outline.

Have a stack of 8 ½ by 11 plain bond paper on hand. You may want to have a few gel pens or ballpoint pens as well—be prepared.

Each person should draw the outline twice. The two people need to take turns drawing. They don’t need to talk through *The Bridge Illustration*—just sketch it out. They will sharpen their skill and be an encouragement one another as they work through this exercise.

### 7. Discuss the Bible study, “Integrity in Living” (pages 71-75). By now your group members are becoming skilled at talking about their Bible studies. You are both a leader and a participant in the group. Share from time to time, but mostly draw out the others and “direct traffic.”

Here are additional questions you might ask during the discussion. As you know, you only ask an additional question after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Integrity in Living”:

Question 3    1 Samuel 15:1-23                      Explain what it means to “rationalize.”

Question 3    1 Samuel 15:1-23                      Do you think Saul was rationalizing in this incident or was he doing something else?

Question 7 Psalm 51:1-5

Are these qualities you have listed merely ideals or can a person really live this way?

Question 9

How much do you think a person's conscience can be altered as a child? How much do you think it can be altered as an adult?

### 8. Read the “Assignment for Session 9” (page 76).

Ask someone to read “Assignment for Session 9.”

There is quite a bit of homework to be done for Session 9. They will complete “Verse Analysis of Matthew 6:33” and study “Priorities—Part 1.” These are interesting subjects, but will require some thoughtful preparation.

They need to come prepared to do “Lecture Presentation 1” for *The Bridge Illustration* in Session 9. They will each make a complete presentation to another person in the group—without asking the questions. They will need to practice this “lecture” several times—starting by referring to some notes and then getting away from using those notes.

### 9. Close the session in prayer.

Have a time of brief conversational prayer. Pray for the individuals who have already heard or will yet be hearing members of the group “Identify with Christ.”

## Session 9

## Book 3

### GOALS FOR SESSION 9

- To understand the meaning and implications of Matthew 6:33.
- To learn several principles and guidelines for applying priorities.
- That the group members will each successfully do a lecture presentation of *The Bridge Illustration* from memory.

### 1. Open the session in prayer.

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

### 2. Break into verse review groups.

In the verse review group they quote all the verses memorized in Book 3 and get anything signed that they can on their *My Completion Record*.

**3. Share some quiet time thoughts.**

After you have had a time of sharing, ask each one to describe his or her quiet time routine: where, when, average time spent, and how they do it? This can stimulate your group members as they hear how others spend their time. Have each person share which part of their quiet time is most meaningful at this point in time.

**4. Break into groups of two and take turns doing “Lecture Presentation 1” for *The Bridge Illustration*.**

Each person needs to make the complete presentation—without the questions. If there is time, some of them may be able to present it a second time. The more practice people get, the more proficient they will become.

After you are all back together, ask how it went. Are some of them beginning to feel comfortable with the contents of *The Bridge Illustration*? What comes easy? What seems to be difficult? Practice, practice, practice is the key to proficiency. Only the Holy Spirit can impact a life, but our skill in presenting *The Bridge Illustration* facilitates the communication of the gospel. The Holy Spirit then uses that truth that a person clearly understands. Group members can complete this requirement outside of a class session—by meeting together in twos or threes and explaining *The Bridge Illustration* to one another.

**5. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.**

It is possible that by this time every person in your group has completed his or her “My Story” requirement. We are getting down to the last two opportunities for group members to complete this requirement. It would be good if everyone could have all have this done—at the latest in Session 10.

**6. Discuss “Verse Analysis of Matthew 6:33” (pages 77-80).**

This verse analysis exercise should remind everyone of the meditation techniques discussed earlier in this course. This is another significant meditation exercise. In this case, a single verse has been approached from different angles to understand its meaning and application more completely.

Go over the parts of the exercise much as you would a Bible study lesson. Ask the group members to share their answers—section by section. Plan to get each person to participate.

A verse analysis can be done with any verse. Mention to the group that they can use this format for future studies for their personal benefit or in a group with others.

Have several volunteers share their paraphrase of the verse. In what ways do some of them more clearly understand the verse because of their paraphrase work? Have several other people share how they chose to summarize the context surrounding Matthew 6:33.

Have different people in the group each take one of the four cross-references and share the thought they wrote down. If someone has another cross-reference that comes to mind, everyone may want to write that reference in the margin.

In Bible study, problems can be categorized as “real” or “possible.” A “real” problem is one for which you do not personally have an answer. A “possible” problem is one for which you have an answer, but you know that younger Christians may not. In this study, four problems have been identified your 2:7 group members. This was done to save preparation and discussion time.

Ask each person describe his or her application unless it is one that they feel is too personal to share with the group.

### 7. Discuss “Priorities—Part 1” (pages 80-84).

Have the opening paragraphs on page 80 read aloud. Work through the rest of the exercise the same way that you would discuss a Bible study. Don’t rush, but move right along; there is a lot to cover here.

When you discuss “Guidelines for Setting and Applying Priorities” (pages 82-84), have the bold statements read aloud (such as “Make responsible choices”)—then ask for a couple comments from the group on each of these nine items. You may want to have someone read the “Conclusion” (page 84).

### 8. Read “Assignment for Session 10” (page 84).

Ask someone to read the “Assignment for Session 10.”

Lecture Presentations 1 and 2 for The Bridge Illustration may be completed by class members outside of class. Other *My Completion Record* signing may be done outside of class as well.

In Session 10 there will be an extended time for sharing quiet time thoughts. Each person will have an opportunity to share two or three of his or her best quiet time thoughts from the last week or two. **There are two weeks for people to get everything signed off on *My Completion Record*.** Now is the time for people to make the final push!

### 9. Close the session in prayer.

Have a time of brief conversational prayer related to priorities.

## GOALS FOR SESSION 10

- To learn additional principles and guidelines for applying priorities.
- To enjoy an extended time for sharing quiet time thoughts.

**1. Open the session in prayer.**

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

**2. Break into verse review groups.**

In their small groups they get anything signed that they can on their *My Completion Record*.

**3. Share some quiet time thoughts from *My Reading Highlights*.**

This will be an extended time for sharing quiet time thoughts. People may share more than once. There is adequate time, but keep the sharing moving along.

**4. Listen to two or three group members tell their “My Story” with or without notes.**

This is the last classroom opportunity to fulfill this requirement.

**5. Break into groups of two and take turns doing “Lecture Presentation 2” for *The Bridge Illustration*.**

Each person needs to make the complete presentation—without the questions. If there is time, some of them may be able to present it a second time. The more practice people get, the more proficient they will become.

After you are all back together, ask how it went. How much more comfortable were they in this presentation? What other comments do they have about this second presentation?

Practice, practice, practice is the key to proficiency. Only the Holy Spirit can impact a life, but our skill in presenting *The Bridge Illustration* facilitates the communication of the gospel. The Holy Spirit then uses that truth that a person clearly understands. Group members can complete this requirement outside of a class session—by meeting together in twos or threes and explaining *The Bridge Illustration* to one another.

**6. Discuss “Priorities-Part 2” (pages 85-90).**

This material does not need to be read aloud. It has been studied prior to coming to this class. Read the title for each major heading and have the group comment on

what impressed them from that section. Start with “The Priority of God” and continue on through. Get their comments about the diagrams as well.

**7. Read the “Assignment for Session 11”** (page 90).

Ask someone to read “Assignment for Session 11.”

**8. Close the session in prayer.**

It is always appropriate to focus on thanksgiving during a prayer time. Close this session with brief prayers of thankfulness, including gratitude to the Lord for all they have learned together during the three courses of *The 2:7 Series*. Put the focus on what God has done—what He has done among them—not focusing on the workbook material, but on the Lord.

## Session 11

## Book 3

### GOALS FOR SESSION 11

- To emphasize the importance of Christian character and its relationship to adversity.
- That the group members might realize how much they have accomplished during the three courses of *The 2:7 Series*.

**1. Open the session in prayer.**

Pray yourself—or ask for someone to volunteer to pray—or ask someone by name to pray. Usually keep this brief.

**2. Break into verse review groups.**

In their small groups they get anything signed that they can on their *My Completion Record*. You as the leader sign off “Graduated from Book 3.” You can sign off some of these now and others at the end of Session 11. Commend each one for his or her good work!

**3. Share some quiet time thoughts from *My Reading Highlights*.**

Reinforce the idea that the quiet time is the backbone of one’s walk with God. One goal is for the quiet time to become a natural part of each person’s lifestyle.

**4. Discuss the Bible study, “Character in Action”** (pages 91-96).

The discussion of the “Think About” question could go on and on. Use the question to get into the subject, but move on into the study.

Here are additional questions you might ask during the discussion. As you know, you only ask an additional question after someone has answered the original question. Ask an additional question to the whole group, not to an individual.

Additional Discussion Questions for “Character in Action”:

Question 2 Romans 8:28 To whom is Paul referring when he speaks of those who love God?

Question 3 James 1:2-4, 12 What do words like “persevere” and “endure” imply?

Question 9 Ephesians 5:20 When is it appropriate to not give thanks or “turn the other cheek,” but pursue justice?

### **5. Read aloud “Keep On Keeping On” (page 97) and on through page 99.**

Have these final comments read aloud around the circle. Commend your students for their commitment and diligence in completing these three discipleship training courses.

### **6. Close in prayer.**

Often the highlight of this session is the concluding prayer time. Allow at least 15 minutes of time for it. Here you can reflect together on what has happened, what needs to be worked on, and what God holds for the future. Allow adequate time for individual and group feelings to be expressed through prayer. Don’t rush this time.

**Good job 2:7 group leader. May God multiply the results of your efforts across your state and into other countries around the world!**