

## “BUILDING YOUR ABUNDANT LIFE”

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier  
Bishop Edward A. Smith

### *INTRODUCTION TO LESSON*

#### **Life Group Lesson Objective: Understanding, Growing in and living the Abundant Life**

#### **Life Group Leader preparation:**

The Abundant Life You Grow Into – John 10:10

God’s Word says that we are “transformed by the renewing of our mind”– Rom 12:1-2

As we read and study the Word of God, our thinking will change, starting a transformation in our actions. However, we must build on the scriptures by being a “doer of the word” which will renew our mind on how to think and see ourselves according to God’s Word.

John 10:10 – Amplified: The thief comes only that he may steal and kill and may destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance—to the full, till it overflows. Abundance means to:

- Prosper in every way – soul prosperity = abundant life
- Built to last
- The abundant life is experienced over a lifetime

Let us not forget that Jesus “the good shepherd” willingly gave his life so that we might live.

Abundantly: (Strong’s) – Superabundance, excessive, overflowing, surplus, over and above, more than enough, profuse, extraordinary, above the ordinary, more than enough

**Week #1: THE ABUNDANT LIFE YOU GROW IN TO**

**Group Discussion Questions:** How do you measure your abundant life?

- John 10:10 – “that you might have life and life more abundantly”

**Discussion:** We are always growing and being built by God or someone else....

Who other than God has caused you to grow? How has that growth effected your life in specific areas? (marriage, love, financially, lifestyle etc.)

**BUILDING ON THE ABUNDANT LIFE**

**“IT’S NOT COMPLICATED”**

.....To have the abundant life

But you must build on it.....it is BUILT TO LAST!

BUILT TO LAST SCRIPTURES: Who You Are!

- A New Creature in Christ Jesus – Therefore if ANY man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away behold all things are become new. – 2 Cor 5:17
- Understand the wisdom and simplicity of God’s ways –OT Isaiah 55:8 – says God’s thoughts are not my thoughts, neither his ways my ways....
- NT – for we have the mind of Christ – Phil 2:5
- Don’t be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing your mind.

.....YOU HAVE TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO ANOTHER PERSON.... WHICH IS YOUR TRANSFORMED SELF.... WHO YOU WERE CREATED TO BE!

GROW – In embracing God’s way of thinking

GROW – In the Spirit – Connection to God

GROW – In adopting biblical patterns of behavior

**How do you do this....**

*Make God’s Word your final authority....*

when you are filled with God’ word

you must feed your heart with the Word of God....

Prov 20:4-23

James 2:17 – faith without works is dead

John 6:63 – the word that I speak they are life....

Heb 4:12 – the word is alive and full of power (Amp)

Isa 55:10-11 Amp

1. **Let's be honest – Discussion? Do you express gratitude to those who love you enough to bring correction into your life? Describe how you receive correction.**

**Week #2: “WHEN YOU GROW TO MATURITY, YOU ARE BUILT TO LAST!”**

*Group Discussion Questions:* When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things...”

1 Corinthians 13:11 – how does spiritual maturity happen?

IT TAKES PRACTICE TO GROW.... true change takes time

- The Perfect You – by Caroline Leaf: “true change takes time”!

**Describe personal childish behavior you have put away vs your growth behavior**

- There should come a time when we should no longer act with childish behavior.....
- What characterizes our behavior is how we talk, how we understand and how we think.....
- Becoming a mature adult is characterized by deciding not to behave immaturely or childish anymore.... You decide not to act that way anymore.... Recognize it and quit it in order to live out a higher calling in life!
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As we grow in spiritual maturity, we will learn to discern between the “voice of our human spirit and our flesh” .... not driven by our emotions

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”

1 Peter 2:1-2 NKJV

PUT OFF...THEN PUT ON...BUT SEEK THE “HIGHER CALLING LIFE” IN CHRIST...!

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

– Colossians 3:1-2 NKJV

Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Colossians 3:5

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Col 3:8-10

**Let's be honest: What things do you need to put off? Maybe Who? (be specific)**

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; - Col 3:12

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. Col 3:14

But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”  
Colossians 3: 25

**Let’s be honest – Discussion: How we you handle childish behavior in adults?**

**Week #3: “YOU SHOULD BE TEACHERS BY NOW”**

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” Hebrews 5:12-14 NKJV

Do you consider yourself a teacher?

Group Discussion: Read Matt 13:3-13: vs12 – For whosever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more ABUNDANCE: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

- **Let’s talk:** how do you maintain your life more abundantly?
  - o Do you learn from past mistakes?

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“MY PERSONAL BACKSTORIES SHARED” (Bishop Ed)

Involved with an older woman while in college

- Proverbs 5:1-13 – childish people make choices they regret
- Proverbs 6:23-29 – avoid the evil and strange woman
- Proverbs 7:1-27 – a strange woman is looking for the youthful thinking man who is SIMPLE... He Thinks Simple.... he will reap what he sows

Galatians 6:7-9. – we all reap what we sow. So, be proactive sow good seeds so you will always reap good in your future!

- Invested money without wife’s total agreement – Not good seed

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BENEFITS OF TITHING AND GIVING OFFERING: - Financial/Wisdom = Abundance

Bought our first house in Minneapolis...With Favor

Bought our current house .... with Favor

Got fired and got a much better job

.....with housing benefits

Bought Whittier church with \$20K

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**Let's be honest – Discussion: We all have backstories, what is your story of "building an abundant life"? Mistakes you made in the past....remember you should be teaching others now.....get rid of shame and embarrassment....Your story can set others free!**

**Week #4: THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS EXPERIENCED OVER A LIFETIME**

Discussion Question: How can we measure our spiritual growth?

- What are some personal practical applications that you have learned?
  - We pray, we study.....what else?

Acts 20:32 ...*the word of his grace, which is able to guild you up* and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

*Spiritual food and spiritual exercise cause spiritual growth – God's word is our spiritual food. We can feed ourselves and let others feed us God's word by listening to teaching and preaching.*

**AS WE GROW AND MATURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH OF THE WORD OF GOD"**

*Jesus said "You will know them by their fruits.... Matt 7:16-20*

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The people the bible was written about and to, were not highly educated people and most could not read. ... The bible was only put into mass circulation when the printing press was invented...by Johannes Gutenberg in Germany in the middle 15th century...1440-1450. (however, the Chinese are credited with the earliest use of a less adaptable press in 600 BC).

God's word of truth does not require higher education to receive basic life benefits and live out its promises.... God requires faith!!

.....he requires men to believe what he said and put their trust in him by doing what he said!

3 John 2.... I wish you prosper even as your soul prosper  
YOU ARE WHAT YOU THINK.... "THINK GOD THOUGHTS"

JESUS SAID..... "LEARN OF ME AND MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT". LIFE IS NOT TO BE HARD BUT EASY" – Matthew 11:29-30

ST JOHN.8:31 – IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORD, YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE

ROMANS 8:26-28...." ALL THINGS WORK OUT TO YOUR GOOD WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT "

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Matthew 6:33.... Seek FIRST the kingdom and all you need will be added to you. “FIRST THINGS SHOULD BE DONE FIRST”

Malachi 3:10..... The windows of heaven are opened, and the devourer is rebuked for your sake  
GODS DIVINE PROTECTION AND PROVISION PLAN

PSALMS 1:1-3 ..... that whatsoever he does shall prosper

Build your house upon the Rock of the Word and you will be STANDING AFTER THE STORMS PASSES OVER HOUSE

MARK 11:24-25.... Believe you receive and you shall have it AND IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER WILL FORGIVE YOU....

PSALMS 91:1-16.... with long life will God satisfy you

PROVERBS 2:20..... GUARD YOUR HEART, OUT OF IT FLOWS THE ISSUES OF LIFE

JOSHUA 1:8; PSALMS 1:1-3....MEDITATING ON GODS WORD DAY AND NIGHT....  
YOU WILL PROSPER

WE CANNOT HIDE FROM SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IF WE PLAN ON LIVING OUR BEST LIFE WITH GODS FAVOR ....
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“WE HELP YOU BUILD YOUR BEST LIFE... BUILT TO LAST!”

(31). Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

(32). And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”  
John 8:31-32 KJV

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....” OTHERWISE, IF WE DO NOT GROW, NOT ONLY WILL WE NOT ENJOY THE ABUNDANT LIFE, BUT WE WILL LIVE IN BONDAGE TO OUR FLESH, RUNNING THE RISK OF WALKING AWAY FROM GOD OR BECOMING A CAST AWAY....”

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***Let's be honest – Discussion: Give examples of how you are building your best life...built to last...or what will you do in the future?***