🟦 **Zion Baptist Church**
Diaconate Leadership Training Program

🧭 **Week 2: Growing in Faith and Understanding Your Relationship with God**

🟦 📘 WORKBOOK OVERVIEW

- **1. Devotional Reflection**
- **2. Initial Assignment**
- **3. Understanding Your Relationship with God**
- **4. What Does It Mean to Be a Good Christian**
- **5. Seven Scriptures Every Christian Leader Should Know**
- **6. Key Terms and Scripture Application**
- **7. Reflection**
- **8. Spiritual Growth**
- **9. Action Plan**

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

Diaconate Leadership Training Program (DLTP)

“In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow.

Amen.

We have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

Stir us, O Lord,
to dare more boldly, to venture into wider seas
where storms show Thy mastery,
where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.

Because we have sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, O Lord,
when with the abundance of things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life;

when, having fallen in love with time,
we have ceased to dream of eternity;

and in our efforts to build a new earth,
we have allowed our vision of Heaven to grow dim.

Disturb us, O Lord,
when we are too well-pleased with ourselves,
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little."

This prayer is attributed to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, adapted from an original prayer by Sir Francis Drake.

✍ **Reflection**

As a leader, what disturbs or stirs you?

What disturbs or stirs you becomes the passion and motivation for your leadership. How is God using what stirs you to shape your leadership?

INITIAL ASSIGNMENT

Assignment

A. Bring Your Lord to Training

(3 participants – 1 minute each)

Be prepared to share your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In your introduction, reflect on the following:

- Who is Jesus to you?
- Why is your relationship with Him important?
- Would you recommend Him to others? Why or why not?

B. Tribe Presentations

(12 participants – 1 minute each)

Each tribe will present a **Biblical personality** that best reflects one of the seven traits of Christian growth found in Scripture.

📖 **II Peter 1:5–11 (NKJV)**

The seven traits of Christian growth:

- Virtue
- Knowledge
- Self-Control
- Perseverance
- Godliness
- Brotherly Kindness
- Love

Each presentation should clearly connect the selected Biblical figure to one of these traits.

✍ **Reflection**

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ in a clear and personal way?

Which trait of Christian growth do you feel most connected to, and why?

Which Biblical figure best represents your current spiritual journey or desired growth?

THEME SCRIPTURE

II Peter 1:5–11 (NKJV)

Fruitful Growth in the Faith

“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Objective for Module I

To build and strengthen our relationship with God by developing a deeper understanding of our faith in Jesus Christ and embracing our responsibility as His disciples to make other disciples.

✍ Reflection

Which of the seven traits (virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love) do you see most active in your life right now?

Which of these traits requires the most growth in your life? Why?

What steps can you take to grow in your relationship with God and become more fruitful in your faith?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN?

Key Considerations

When people think about being a "good Christian," they may define it in different ways. Some common ideas include:

- Good
- Better than others
- Above others
- Pure
- Included
- Free
- Deserving
- Entitled

This raises an important question:
Is this how Scripture defines a Christian life?

✍ **Reflection**

How have you personally defined what it means to be a "good Christian"?

Which of the ideas listed above have you seen in yourself or others?

Do any of these ideas conflict with what Scripture teaches about humility, grace, and salvation? Explain.

How should a Christian truly measure their spiritual growth and relationship with God?

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Reflection Exercise

If you had to **draw a picture** that describes your relationship with God, what would it look like?

Think beyond words—consider:

- Distance or closeness
- Direction (moving toward God or away)
- Obstacles or barriers
- Growth or stagnation
- Light, clarity, or confusion

✍ **Reflection**

Describe the picture of your relationship with God.

What does this picture reveal about your current spiritual condition?

What changes would you like to see in your relationship with God?

What steps can you take to move toward a stronger and closer relationship with Him?

SEVEN SCRIPTURES EVERY CHRISTIAN LEADER SHOULD KNOW

Scripture 1 – John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Scripture 2 – Romans 3:21-23 (NKJV)

God's Righteousness Through Faith

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Scripture 3 – Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Scripture 4 – Romans 10:8-13

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Scripture 5 – Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

[8] There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Scripture 6 – II Corinthians 5:17

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Scripture 7 – Romans 12:1-2

Living Sacrifices to God

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

✍ Reflection

What does "no condemnation" mean in your daily walk with Christ?

How does walking according to the Spirit change your decisions and behavior?

DLTP ASSIGNMENT – TRIBAL WORK

Key Terms & Scripture Application

Term 1 – Salvation

Definition:
The state of being freed from the penalty and the power of sin through faith in Jesus Christ.

Scripture (NKJV):
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” (Ephesians 2:8)

✍ Reflection

What does it mean to you personally to be saved by grace?

How does salvation change the way you live daily?

Term 2 – Justification

Definition:
Imputed righteousness; declared not guilty based on Christ's sacrifice.

Scripture (NKJV):
"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:1)

✍ Reflection

What does it mean to be declared "not guilty" by God?

Term 3 – Sanctification

Definition:
Being set apart for God's purposes through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture (NKJV):
"For this is the will of God, your sanctification…" (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

✍ Reflection

How do you see God shaping your life over time?

Term 4 – Glorification

Definition:
The final state of becoming like Christ, fully completed beyond this life.

Scripture (NKJV):
"…whom He justified, these He also glorified." (Romans 8:30)

✍ Reflection

How does the promise of glorification give you hope?