

CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL

**DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRY
OF THE
CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

PROGRAM OF STUDY



**WHEN I NEED DIRECTION OR WHEN
MY SPIRIT NEEDS ENCOURAGING,
WHERE DO I TURN?**

MAY 2007

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INTRODUCTION

How many of you as an experienced servant of God can remember your teenage and young adult years? Were there issues, challenges, and concerns that beset you in your quest to live a life pleasing in God's sight? Today's youth and young adults are no less faced with many of the same issues as they grow in age and in God's grace. Because the world sends conflicting messages and inconsistent answers, these challenges can become virtually paralyzing.

The May 2007 Program of Study is, therefore, written for and dedicated to those who are young in age or young in their spiritual walk. The lesson will focus on ten of the many issues or challenges that are real in the lives of so many. Carefully selected verses of scripture will address each of the topics that are lifted. *Whatever the challenges or concerns, - one can find answers and the principles needed to confront them in the word of God.*

I encourage us to seek opportunities to share and discuss this lesson's content and use it as a source in counseling our youth and young adults. Many youth as well as young adults will complete their current school year in May or early June and some will find themselves facing difficulties not yet experienced. Many will graduate from high school and from college and others will prepare to enter the work force full time. We, the church, the lay men and women, can assist in equipping them with insight into the many challenges that are ahead. We must exhibit a sharing, caring, teaching, non-judgmental attitude that is grounded in the Word of God.

It is, thus, our prayer that the scriptures and expressions contained in this lesson, will minister to those who are looking for direction and to those whose spirit may be seeking understanding, encouragement, or consolation.

PRAYER: Father, help us to provide insight and direction for those who are facing life's many issues. Strengthen us as we attempt to lift their spirits and provide wise counsel. This is our sincere partrician, in the sweet and precious name of Jesus. Amen

**WHEN I NEED DIRECTION OR WHEN MY SPIRIT
NEEDS ENCOURAGING, WHERE DO I TURN?**

SEEKING RIGHTEOUSNESS: As men and women of Faith, it should be our intent to live a life that is righteous in the sight of God. The Father is pleased when his children's efforts are focused on pleasing him, especially during challenging times.

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
Psalm 34: 17

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 John 1: 19**

But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. **Exodus 23: 22**

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. **Psalm 34: 15**

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.
Proverbs 21: 21

ANGER: The word anger is one letter short of **(d)**anger. The ability to control ones emotions is a major key to opportunity.

He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly. **Proverbs 14: 29**

A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. James 1: 1-20

Do all things without murmurings and disputing. Philippians 2: 14

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. Proverbs 16: 32

CAPITOL: It is not God's intent that one work and have little or nothing to show for his/her labor. One should plan to work and have an honorable plan for the results of his labor.

There Is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up. Proverbs 21: 20

A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches. Proverbs 11: 16

He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich. Proverbs 11: 16

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Say, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

Luke 14: 28-30

CONVERSATION: What we say, whether in private or whether in public, the Lord surely hears. Most folks can remember our conversation even when they can't remember our name.

*Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth: keep the door of my lips. **Psalm 141: 3***

*In a man offend not in word, the same is perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. **James 3: 2***

*A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards. **Proverbs 29: 1***

*The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things. **Proverbs 15 28***

FORGIVENESS: Carrying a spirit of unforgiveness is taxing on the mind, makes the body weak , and damns the soul.

*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. **Matthew 6: 14-15***

*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. **Ephesians 4: 32***

*And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses. **Mark 11: 25-26***

OBEDIENCE: To forge a right relationship with God and to unbegrudgingly respond to his instruction, we must kindle a spirit of obedience.

*Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. **Philippians 4: 9***

*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **John 15: 10***

*The world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of abitheth for ever. **1 John 2: 17***

*Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do. **Deuteronomy 29: 9***

*But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. **Luke 11: 28***

*If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity and their years in pleasure. **Job 36: 11***

JEALOUSY: Jealousy causes unnecessary competition and more times than not, if not checked, will lead to unwholesome and unruly behavior.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. **James 3: 13**

*Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. **Proverbs 3: 31***

*Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's. **Deuterrnomy 5: 21***

CHURCH ATTENDANCE: What do you say to a young adult who says, "I believe in and love the Lord; I do what is right, and I don't feel that I must attend church to be in full favor with God." **Answer:** The reason that we should participate in a local church is because it is specifically commanded by God as it is written in the book of Hebrews; believers are commanded not to forsake the assembling of themselves together.

*And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. **Hebrews 10: 24-25***

LUST/TEMPTATION: Lust and temptation has been an issue for every generation.

*Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **2 Timothy 2: 22***

*Watch and Pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. **Matthew 26: 11***

*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man." **James 1: 13***

*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it. **1 Corinthians 10: 13***

*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. **Revelation 3: 10***

*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. **James 1: 12***

*The Lord knoweth how to deliver the **Godly** out of temptation. **2 Peter 2: 9***

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. **Matthew 6: 13***

TRUST: It seems that one of the greatest challenges that confront us is trusting God completely. Trusting God requires patience. For if we lack patience we will constantly find ourselves running ahead of Him who has promised to sustain us and supply our every need.

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. **Proverbs 3: 5-6***

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of host, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. **Psalms 84: 11-12***

O my God, I trust in thee: Let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.
Psalm 25: 2 *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?* **Psalm 27: 1**

Trust in him a all times; ye people pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.
Selah. **Psalm 62: 8**

What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise hi word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. In God Have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. **Psalm 56: 3-4, 11**

Scriptural References: The King James Open Bible by Thomas Nelson Inc.