



## LESSON TWELVE: RESPONSE

### FACILITATOR NOTE

This is a foundational lesson, which discusses the life response of every believer who has entered into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus. These notes are a suggested guide to keep the discussion on course. Feel free to adapt either in advance or in class if you think that it would be fruitful to the discussion. Your feedback is welcomed.

### PRAYER

Spend time in prayer with the class. Allow for requests and center your prayer on this lesson.

### FOCUS

This lesson focuses on the life practices of a believer who has entered into a relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Specifically, the lesson addresses the following: worshipping God, growing spiritually, loving one another, sharing the good news of Jesus with all people, and serving others.

**Memory Verse:** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

- Our family believes the Bible teaches that our committed relationship to God prompts a response from every believer (disciple) which inspires them to:
  - Worship God (2 Kings 17:28-39; Psalms 29:2; 95:6; 99:5,9; 100:2; Matthew 4:10; John 4:20-24; Romans 12:1; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 7:11; 14:7; 22:8-9)
  - Grow spiritually (Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 1:6; 3:12-17; Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 5:12-14; 6:1-2; 1 Peter 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 2 Peter 3:17-18)
  - Love each other and strive for perfect unity (John 13:34-35; 15:12; 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Colossians 3:12-14)
  - Share the good news (Gospel) of Jesus Christ to all people (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-32, 40-42)
  - Serve others (Acts 2:45; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; 1 Peter 4:8-11)

### LESSON

#### I. OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

##### A. He is our sole object of adoration

1. (Matthew 4:10) Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"



2. (Revelation 22:8-9) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!"
3. Read 2 Kings 17:7-41 to see an account of divided (false) worship of God.

**B. Our worship should be characterized by gratitude, reverence and awe**

1. (Hebrews 12:28) Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our "God is a consuming fire."
2. (Revelation 7:11) All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever. Amen!" [Note: The angels demonstrate the same attitude we should have in worship.]
3. (Psalm 29:2) Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
4. (Psalm 95:6-7) Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! <sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

**C. Our worship is spiritual and continual, seen in how we live daily**

1. (John 4:20-24) Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."
2. (Romans 12:1) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.
  - a) The OT sacrifices in the Law of Moses were centered on the sacrifice of animals in the temple, whose lives were drained as part of the sacrificial rites; in contrast, our lives are a continual sacrifice, where we offer our entire life, at all times, to God.
  - b) (Hebrews 13:15-16) Through him [Jesus] then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.



## II. OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD CALLS US TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

### A. He provided us all the resources we need to grow

1. (2 Peter 1:3-4) His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
2. (Ephesians 4:11-16) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up<sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
3. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### B. Our relationship with Him is a partnership; we are responsible for striving to grow, to keep moving forward

1. (Philippians 3:10-16) I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup>Only let us live up to what we have already attained.
2. (1 Peter 2:1-3) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.
3. (Hebrews 5:12-6:3) In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again.



You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And God permitting, we will do so.

**C. Our growth in Him never stops, never reaches its end**

1. (2 Peter 1:5-11) For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup> and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup> and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. <sup>8</sup> For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup> and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2. (2 Peter 3:17-18) Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

### **III. OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD CALLS US TO LOVE EACH OTHER AND TO STRIVE FOR UNITY**

**A. Our love for one another is what shows that we are Jesus' disciples**

1. (John 13:34-35) "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

**B. Our love for one another is what shows that we love God**

1. (1 John 4:19-21) We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

**C. Our love for one another demonstrates obedience to His commands and love for Him**

1. (John 15:9-17) "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have



kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup>I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup>This is my command: Love each other.

2. (1 John 5:2-3a) This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. <sup>3</sup>In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.
3. (John 14:15-24) "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup>I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." <sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup>Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

**D. Our love for one another brings unity to our fellowship**

1. (Colossians 3:12-14) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
2. (1 Peter 4:8) Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

**E. Our unity of fellowship shows all people that God loves them and sent Jesus for them**

1. (John 17:20-23) "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may



believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

2. (1 Corinthians 1:10-17) I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. <sup>11</sup>My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe’s household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.” <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>(Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don’t remember if I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.
  - a) The divisions within the Corinthian church were causing friction between believers and it could be perceived by unbelievers too. (See also 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 11:17-19).
  - b) The lack of unity in the church is not appealing, driving unbelievers away from Jesus rather than drawing them near to Him.

#### **IV. AS CHILDREN OF GOD WE ARE CALLED TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS WITH OTHERS**

##### **A. Jesus has commanded us to share the news and make disciples of all people**

1. (Matthew 28:18-20) Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
  - a) Note that teaching others to obey Jesus in everything means teaching them to teach others in turn, so that the baton of faith is continually passed from one generation to the next.
2. (Mark 16:15-16) He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup>Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

##### **B. We are called to share the Gospel, even when there is opposition**

1. (Acts 4:18-20) Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John replied, “Which is



right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup>As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

2. (Acts 5:27-32) The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup>"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." <sup>29</sup>Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

**C. The Gospel is truly good news and will not be hindered by opposition**

1. (Acts 8:1b-4) On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup>Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup>But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. <sup>4</sup>Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.
2. (1 Corinthians 16:8-9) But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, <sup>9</sup>because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.
  - a) Effective sharing is usually accompanied with opposition from the enemy who wants to shut it down.

**D. We should always be ready to share what we know God has done for us**

1. (1 Peter 3:15-16) but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.
2. (John 9:24-25) A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"
  - a) Read all of John 9. The blind man doesn't worry about whether the Pharisees believe his story or not. He knows what Jesus has done for him and shares it.

**E. Sharing the Gospel is not done by words alone but by our outward actions which demonstrate that we are children of God**

1. (Matthew 5:16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



2. (Acts 26:19-20) "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. <sup>20</sup>First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.
3. *Always remember to preach the gospel, and if necessary, use words.* (Famous quote generally attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.)

## V. OUR COMMITMENT TO GOD CALLS US TO SERVE OTHERS

### A. **We are never more like Jesus than when we serve**

1. (Matthew 20:25-28) Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### B. **We serve others to bring glory to God, to express our gratitude to Him**

1. (1 Peter 4:9-11) Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup>whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
2. (Matthew 5:16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
3. (2 Corinthians 9:6-15) Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." <sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go



out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**C. We have been created/called/commanded by God to serve others**

1. (Ephesians 2:8-10) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
2. (Acts 2:42-45) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup>And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup>And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.
3. (Galatians 5:13-14) You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup>For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
4. (Galatians 6:9-10) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup>So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
5. (Proverbs 3:27-28) Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. <sup>28</sup>Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"—when you already have it with you.

**D. When we serve others, we serve Jesus**

1. (Colossians 3:23-24) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, <sup>24</sup>knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
2. Read Matthew 25:31-46, the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. The sheep were those whose lives were filled with good works of faith; they saw people in need and helped them. The goats, in contrast, saw people in need and did nothing. When the sheep helped others, Jesus said they helped Him, and when the goats ignored those they saw in need, Jesus said they ignored Him.

## REFLECTION

- Discuss worship.
  - When and how do you worship?
  - Is your worship with the church on Sunday mornings (corporate worship) different from your private worship? How so?
  - What kinds of practices do we know existed in the corporate worship of NT churches? (e.g. the Corinthian church as discussed in 1 Corinthians Chapters 11,12,14)



- What, if anything, would you like to see changed in the corporate Sunday morning worship at FXCC?
- What are things you can do to help promote your spiritual growth? (Note that while God has provided you the 'food' you need to grow, you have a responsibility to actually eat it.)
- What do you need in order to share the good news of Jesus with someone? Special knowledge? Special skills? Discuss.

## PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: *THE FAMILY***