WHEN...
Session 1: When You

Key Scripture:

Matthew 7:16-20

Opening Remarks:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called those who wish to follow Him to action. He could have phrased His principles any way, but He started them with "when *you*." The implication is that followers are called to act out these principles daily to access the strength, peace, and joy of walking after Christ.

Watch Session 1 Video

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus put such an emphasis on action?
2. How does acting out these principles change our perspective from consumers to followers in the church?
3. How can these foundational action principles change how we approach difficult situations?

Closing Remarks:

Our faith is active. It requires investment and obedience in order to soar. Using the principles of fasting, praying, and giving provide the foundation for actively following Christ's teaching and tapping into the vast resources He provides for us.

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WHEN...
Session 2: When You Pray

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 6:5-6 & 9-13

Opening Remarks:

Prayer opens doors—not just opportunities but insights. Jesus gave detailed instructions on what prayer is not, but He also detailed what prayer has the potential to be in our lives. Prayer is about fellowship that transforms. Prayer gives us a new perspective on what is possible through submission .

Watch the Session 2 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we shape our daily prayers to model the Lord's Prayer?
2. What other functions does prayer serve besides asking for forgiveness or asking for help in times of need?
3. What might expansion prayers look like in your life?

Closing Remarks:

Prayer is not meant to change God's mind or bend His will to ours; it is meant to change our perspective and make our will more like His. Prayer has the power to change the atmosphere of our situations and align our worldview with God's. We must work diligently to expand our use and understanding of prayer in order to live a rich life of fellowship with God.

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WHEN...
Session 3: When You Fast

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 6:16-18

Opening Remarks:

Fasting can just be fasting, a removal of something from our lives without a real purpose or goal, but biblical fasting is an intentional discipline. Biblical fasting should draw us closer to God by saying no to the flesh.

Watch the Session 3 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. What goals and focuses might you set during a fast?
2. How does "afflicting the soul" impact our relationship with God?
3. What can self-denial accomplish in a Christian life?

Closing Remarks:

In a culture that is increasingly indulgent and consumeristic, self-denial and fasting must remain a cornerstone of the Christian walk. Practicing self-denial is critical for the required self-denial Jesus calls all His followers to partake in. When you fast you draw closer to Jesus' suffering. We know from Romans chapter 5 that suffering with Christ leads to hope, and hope does not disappoint.

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WHEN...
Session 4: When You Give

Key Scripture:

Matthew 6:2 & 21

Opening Remarks:

Service, charity, and giving are all an assumed part of the Christian walk. Jesus expected His givers to give of themselves, looking to future rewards, not the temporal ones. Charity gives us the opportunity to exercise our faith and love. Let's see what happens when you give.

Watch the Session 4 Video

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a cheerful giver?
2. How can we develop a culture of giving in ourselves and in others?
3. What are the fruits of service and giving?

Closing Remarks:

Consistent deeds reflect eternal values. Giving and service are opportunities for us to test our faith. The principles of charity must be grounded in love and evangelism. Our desire to love souls will be evident in our lifestyle of giving of ourselves, just as Christ did. Let the love of God shine through when you give.

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