

How to Use the *Compass* Quarterly

Your *Compass* quarterly provides you with the weekly lesson content for Sunday School. **Its primary mission is to interpret and apply each Bible text for the quarter to your life as a student of God's Word.**

The Proper Role of the Quarterly

Though many classes use *Compass* as a classroom textbook, that is not its intended use. The book to be studied in the classroom is the Bible. *Compass Teacher* is the guide for teachers in preparing and presenting each week's Bible study.

The writers of *Compass* assume that you keep your quarterly at home and read it in lesson units as you prepare yourself for Sunday School. (You should, of course, carry the quarterly with you to Sunday School, but not for the purpose of reading it during class time.) You use *Compass* properly when you find a good study place at home and you keep your Bible open for reference as you read your Sunday School lesson.

If your schedule does not permit you to read your lesson from *Compass* before you attend Sunday School, make time to do so afterward. This reinforcement of your teacher's lesson will help to anchor the Bible message in your life.

The Elements of the Quarterly

To get the most from your quarterly, understand what it contains and how to make best use of each part.

The table of contents. The list of lessons on page 1 not only tells you where to turn for a particular lesson, but it also helps you to see the entire quarter as a whole. When you begin to study each week's lesson, refer first to this list to review lesson topics you have already studied, and recall the great facts and truths from each. Also note from future lessons where the quarter will be going. Then note the title of the current lesson and locate it.

Introduction to the quarter. Page 2 of each quarterly sets the theme for the full quarter. Read it when you first get your quarterly to get a feel for the overall study. Then reread this introduction periodically to keep the focus.

The lesson title and "The Lesson in Brief." When you first open to a lesson, two display elements will give you the core message before you dig into the details. Thoughtfully read the lesson title and the box on "The Lesson in Brief" to set your direction in your further study.

The Bible text. The first page of the lesson prints out the passage of Scripture that is the true "lesson" to be learned and applied. Consider all elements in the quarterly other than the Bible text to be aids to make this passage meaningful in your life. Read the Bible text carefully and prayerfully before you read the quarterly writer's comments on it. Make it your goal to digest this Scripture passage fully. Mark the text into its natural sections and label them. Underline key words and phrases. Open your Bible to take note of verses before and after the text and any gaps that could not be printed because of space limitations.

The writer's commentary. The second page of the lesson begins the writer's commentary on the Bible text. Read it with full attention to the content. Discipline your mind to absorb what you are reading. Highlight important concepts to help you learn them. As you find key explanations of the Bible text, turn back to the first page of the lesson to note the exact wording of the Bible. Keep your Bible open to check other scriptures referred to. In summary, make your reading of the lesson a prayerful search for God's truth for your life.

Topic headings in the commentary. As you read the writer's commentary, use the section headings as guideposts in determining how everything fits together. Read all of these topic headings in a single view to see

how they relate to one another. Read them in context with the lesson title and the core message in “The Lesson in Brief.”

Daily Bible readings. On the second page of each lesson, look for the box listing readings from the Bible for Monday through Saturday. In the week before the lesson is presented in Sunday School try to read these scriptures day by day in your personal devotions. As you do so, determine how each relates to the lesson theme. The “tag line” with each reading should help.

Devotional meditation. Below the daily Bible readings, you will find a devotional thought and scripture. Make that passage your Sunday morning Bible reading before you go to Sunday School. Let it prepare you to receive the lesson your teacher will present on the lesson’s Bible text.

Gospel presentation. At an appropriate spot within the quarterly, given the lesson subjects, you will find a short article on how to be saved. If you have never trusted in Christ, read the article and respond to it as you seek salvation. If you are already a Christian, pray as you read that lost people who read the article will trust in Christ. Reexamine the article to see how you can develop a witness by it. Then bookmark the article, and seek a chance to give your quarterly away as a gospel witness.

Author information. On page 2 of *Compass* you will find the name of the author, his picture, and brief information about him. When you see this notice, appreciate him as a busy person (a pastor, a teacher, or whatever — not an employee of DiscipleGuide) who sacrifices many hours of personal time to meet a demanding schedule of writing. Pray for him. As you have opportunity, communicate with him to express your gratitude.

Additional Suggestions

If the type in the regular-size *Compass* is too small for you to read comfortably, ask your church to order the large-print edition for you.

Keep a pen in hand as you study for Sunday School — both at home and in class. Underline key concepts in your quarterly. Enter insights in a notebook or journal to help you remember them.

Read *Compass* as a whole book, not just a series of detached lessons. Skim all the lessons at the beginning of the quarter as a preview. Study lessons in depth week by week. Reread the entire book as a review at the end of the quarter.

Save issues of *Compass* as a file of Bible information and personal help.

When you finish with a quarterly that you do not care to keep for personal use, give it to someone else who would benefit from it. Or send it to the Missions Literature Ministry for recirculation on a mission field. (Call 501-455-4977 for shipping instructions.)

[For a brief description of *Compass* and other adult Sunday School publications, click here.](#)