

# Experiencing God's Love and Forgiveness

## Topic: Confession of Sin

### Purpose of this study:

To teach the disciple how to deal with his sin.

### Motivation for teaching this study:

The average Christian in the United States does not experience the wonderful abundant life Jesus spoke of. Why not? Probably because no one has told them how to deal with their sin or they are not confessing their sins immediately after they have committed them. In either case they are living lives of defeat and impotence because they either will not or do not know to deal with their sin. This study is part one of a learning how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If your disciples are going to stumble anywhere in their walks, it is probably going to be in learning how to deal with their sin. That's why it is essential that you cover this topic thoroughly and clearly.


### Introducing the Lesson:

You may want to start by asking the question, "What do you do when you have blown it spiritually?" or "What do you do in your relationship with God when you know something is wrong in your walk with God?"

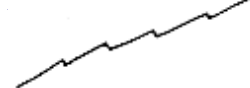
### Teaching the Bible study:

Begin by having them turn to I Corinthians 2:14-3:3 to learn about the three types of people. You should then illustrate these three types of people by drawing the following diagram under each type:


#### 1. Natural Man

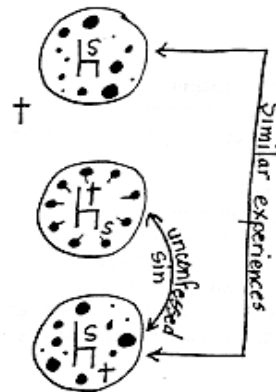
  
He has up and down experiences  
He is not a Christian

#### 2. Spiritual Man

  
Experiences constant spiritual growth

#### 3. Carnal Man

  
He has up and down experiences



### Spiritual Breathing

Explain spiritual breathing as being like physical breathing. In physical breathing, we must exhale the bad and inhale the clean air. Spiritually, we must exhale or confess our sins, and inhale the filling and control of the Holy Spirit. There are five steps to confession. I strongly suggest doing these five steps with your group the first time you go through this exercise.

**Triangle Diagram:** This diagram explains the relationships between God, ourselves and other people involved. I John 1:9 deals with our relationship to God when we sin while Acts 24:16 says we should have a good conscience toward all other men. Our forgiveness to others can help in drawing them to Christ.

### Closing the Lesson:

Have group members each make a list and confess their sins to God by themselves.

### Evaluation:

Here are some questions to ask after you have finished teaching the lesson.

1. Why is it important to confess our sins to God?
2. How often should we confess our sins to God?
3. What happens if we don't confess our sins to God?

### Outside Activities:

Have them read through the booklet, "Have you Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?"