Muscle and a Shovel

Bible Class Student Workbook

13 Week Quarter

Michael J. Shank
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All credit and glory to God, Jesus Christ, and Randall
www.muscleandashovel.com

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NOTE: Chapter titles are included in this workbook, but were removed from Revision 6. The intent is to prevent the reader from scanning the book and selectively reading a few chapters. This causes the lost to prejudge the story, and often prevents them from reading the book from beginning to end as intended.
It would be a great tragedy not to recognize that the one, true Creator, our God and Father in Heaven, has blessed this humble work beyond our wildest imaginations (Eph. 3:20). I cannot accept a shred of credit. Over ten thousand baptisms have resulted by God’s hand through *Muscle and a Shovel* with an incalculable number of restorations and those proclaiming a renewed and deeper commitment to the Lord and His Cause. Therefore, the Shank family gives God the entirety of credit, honor, and glory for His hand of blessing on *Muscle and a Shovel*.

We know that we are nothing and that all our works are, as the Spirit so eloquently penned through Isaiah the Prophet, *as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away* (Isaiah 64:6).

This Bible class workbook is based on the book which bears its name, and it is designed for perfecting and equipping you for the work of ministry (service) and for the edifying of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12).

I hope that you will find the contents to be useful, encouraging for your faith, inspiring a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ, and giving you the tools to become the type of courageous Christian seen so prevalently in the New Testament.

The Second Restoration cannot and will not begin, nor will it succeed, without you. You are the key. You are the soldier of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:10-11). You have a mission, and it is a mission second to none, to save that which was lost (Matthew 18:11), and to carry forward the work of our Master. And your weapon? The greatest and most powerful sword that has ever or will ever exist – the word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

Humbly in Him Who Died for Us,

Michael Shank
Make this workbook yours. Write in and all over it. Customize it in your own personal way to make it a tool that serves you well. Wear this thing out in your endeavor to reach the lost and dying world!

Objective of this Workbook

The class objective, if designed by the framework of this workbook, is to equip you, the Christian, for a future of greater confidence in reaching out to the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ. With this aim in mind, please know that this book is not like the traditional class workbook you have probably used in the past.

You will find that this workbook is filled with scripture, but it is formatted in a way that attempts to focus your class activity on class discussion, rather than using the customary “fill in the blank” format.

Below you will find the optimal way to use this workbook listed in the order of importance.

1. **NOTECARDS.** For the Bible to be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path, the Word *must* be internalized. When you see this symbol, write the verse on a notecard.

2. **ACTION POINTS.** These are simple, practical, real-life things to work on during the week, whenever your schedule permits. When you see this symbol, it is an action for the week.

3. **DISCUSSION.** Learning Randall’s methods should be fun, and the discussion sections should foster lively group discussions that are both instructive and enjoyable.
I hope that you will enjoy this class. Forty chapters and an epilogue is an enormous amount of material to try to cram into a thirteen-week time frame, so please forgive me for pushing you. And if you cannot cover it all in the time you have, don’t fret! There is no deadline on spiritual growth. Have fun, learn, and reach out!
You grin at the sense of pride and accomplishment you feel when looking at the arrows positioned exactly sixty feet from your left foot. Both arrows appear to be in the tiny yellow elliptical at the center of the field round – the coveted bull’s-eye. From where you stand the arrows appear to be so close together that the fletchings are meshed together; the shaft of your last arrow is still vibrating slightly from the impact.

Those standing close gently pat you on the back. While those watching from the gallery clap loudly in reaction to your skills, hard work, dedication, and composure under pressure.

Field judges lift the target and begin walking it to you while family and friends engage you in excited accolades. As you hug a dear friend, volumous gasps come from the gallery; something is wrong! You turn quickly to the audience only to see that they are staring at something. They are staring at your target. The target that was carried to your shooting post by the judges. Your arrows are at the outer edge of the target, not even within any of the point rings.

How could this be? Didn’t you see those two arrows positioned perfectly in the center? Didn’t the crowd see the same with cheers and clapping? Didn’t everyone think you had hit the bull’s-eye? The reality puts you into shock, disappointment, frustration, and bewilderment. How could you have been so wrong?

Dennis, a dear friend and brother in Christ, said to me, “Michael, everyone thinks that they’ve hit the religious bull’s-eye.” A
statement so simple, yet so profound. Everyone thinks they have hit the bull’s-eye – everyone!

Why does Muscle and a Shovel incite such primal emotion? Why do so many love the story and react so positively – even to the point of obeying the gospel of Christ - while so many others react with intense indignance? Shock. It is complete shock to the system. Everyone thinks they have hit the bull’s-eye, but when someone carries the target to their feet, and they are forced to realize that they have not even been close to the bull’s-eye, it creates deep shock, terror, frustration, and perplexity.

Don’t you think you have hit the biblical bull’s-eye? Can you now understand how good-hearted, God-fearing, Jesus Christ believing, moral, hard-working, do-the-right-thing religious people feel when presented with evidence that confirms that they have not hit the bull’s-eye?

Yes, it is easier to believe a lie heard a thousand times than to believe a fact one has never before heard. Throughout this lesson we will examine Randall, his approaches, his responses, and the attributes that fostered his attitude of gentle, persistent love. We will also study Mr. Mike’s attitude, his emotional responses, and the reasons why he believed the things he believed.

We will cover the host of objections Mr. Mike offered to refute the Truth, and you will find the tools, the methods, and the attitudes to spread the gospel message with greater comfort and confidence than ever before.

You will need your Bible, a notepad, a stack of 3x5” index cards, a highlighter, and a box of Krispy Kreme doughnuts! Let’s get started with a heartfelt prayer to our Father in Heaven:
“Dear Father in Heaven, we are so grateful for the precious gift of your Son’s blood, and for the written Word. As we study this text with our Bible, please bless us with renewed zeal for the lost around us. In Christ’s name, Amen.”

(In Class: Spend approximately 10 minutes per chapter; 4 chapters per week.)
Chapter 1: Top of the Steps
March 15, 1988, 12:45 A.M.

Acts 22:16

ACTION POINTS

1. Write out your conversion story on paper. Do not minimize the importance of this exercise. We see the example of Paul sharing his conversion story. Read Acts 21:27 thru Acts 22:16.

2. Highlight the areas of your conversion where you can see that God’s Divine Providence played a role.

3. In light of those who attended Michael and Jonetta’s baptism, we can see that they were unrestrained in their singing and praying. Research the New Testament to find three significant portions of scripture that demonstrate how Christians were not ashamed of their faith, nor were they restrained from their joy.
DISCUSSION

1. Pick someone to tell their conversion story to the class. Telling their story will do several powerful things for the life and faith of the class:
   a. By sharing a story with the group, you are forced to recall the details, the people that influenced you, and your emotional/spiritual state prior to your immersion.
   b. Giving your story a voice encourages every hearer.
   c. Wisdom will be gleaned from your story as there are factors in your story that others will be able to relate.
   d. This exercise fosters confidence and courage within you.

2. Why was there an urgency in Michael and Jonetta to get baptized immediately?
   a. Regarding your conversion, was there an urgency for you to get to the burial ground (water)?

3. What shift occurred in Michael’s mind when the cop confessed that he was a Christian?
   a. The concept of Divine _________________? Find three examples of this concept in the scriptures:
      1) ____________________________
      2) ____________________________
      3) ____________________________
4. After reading about the men’s singing while Michael and Jonetta changed into their baptismal garments, what would you say about the men’s hearts? Why was Mike concerned about the time and thinking that their loud singing would wake up the neighbors?

5. Ask yourself the following:
   a. Should immersion into Christ be urgent?
   b. How would I react if I received a phone call in the middle of the night to come to the building to witness a baptism?
   c. Are we sometimes too reserved in our singing? In other words, are we sometimes too concerned about our singing skills or our personal performance?
Chapter 2: 
An Unexpected Friendship 
August 3, 1987, 7 Months Earlier

Acts 20:28

ACTION POINTS

1. On a notecard, make a list of ten people in your sphere of influence who are not members of the body of Christ, His blood-bought church (Acts 20:28). Do not “prejudge,” just make the list. Keep this list with your verse notecards.

2. Pray for these people.

3. Pray that God will bless you with courage, wisdom, and an opportunity to “have something better for them a little later.”

4. Research your New Testament, and find three instances of a Christian engaging the lost in a one-on-one situation.
   a. Instance 1: ________________________________
   b. Instance 2: ________________________________
   c. Instance 3: ________________________________

5. How can these three instances help to equip you in the future?
DISCUSSION

1. What is revealed about Michael that demonstrates his “worldliness?” (Worldliness Verse)

2. “There was that guy again!” What were some of the personality traits that Randall demonstrated at the beginning of his introduction with Michael?

3. In your opinion, did Randall plan or premeditate his introduction to Michael?

4. Did Randall’s attitude and/or appearance have an impact on Mike? What were the visible attributes of Randall’s attitude and character?

5. Randall shifted the relationship immediately after introducing himself. How did he do this?

6. After Randall’s “shift” of conversation, what critical and bold move did Randall make?

7. Did Randall seem prepared?

8. If yes, how so?

9. Do you think that Randall had been praying for opportunities to seek and save the lost?

10. Do you think that Mr. Mike was the only person that Randall was focusing on?

11. What can you do to be more prepared to engage someone in a spiritual conversation?

12. Discuss anything from your last week’s action points.
Chapter 3: Are They Nuts or What?
November 20, 1987

Matthew 24:36

ACTION POINTS

1. List three ways the Adversary has hindered your Christian growth. Have you been able to overcome these hindrances?

2. List three things that you can do this week that will help you to prepare to interest a lost soul in a Bible discussion.
   a. ___________________________________
   b. ___________________________________
   c. ___________________________________

3. Research four passages in the Old and New Testaments on patience and persistence.
   a. ___________________________________
   b. ___________________________________
   c. ___________________________________
   d. ___________________________________
DISCUSSION

1. How long did Randall and Mike develop their friendship to this point in the story?

2. What did Randall persistently do in his interactions with Mike?

3. Why did Mike think that Randall was “a very different sort of Christian?”

4. As a Christian, how do people see you? What is their “spiritual” perception of you?

5. What question did Randall ask Mike to open this day’s spiritual dialogue?

6. What portion of scripture did he lead to next?

7. What was the most important question that Randall asked (this question set the foundation for the future of Mike becoming a Christian)?

8. Notice three critical components of their dialogue:
   a. Randall’s question, “How were you saved?” He sincerely wanted Mr. Mike to tell the story.
   b. Second, Randall really listened. Listening is a skill that is learned, and it is vital in building human relationships. Can you think of a verse that teaches us the importance of listening?
   c. Third, Randall continued to question and listen.

9. What final question did Randall ask to invoke the opportunity to have a Bible study?

11. The seed of doubt is compelling. According to the text in the story, what does doubt cause?
Chapter 4: Yellow Scrap of Paper
November 30, 1987

1 Peter 3:21
Col. 2:11-13

ACTION POINTS

1. Continue to memorize one notecard this week.
2. Study 1 Peter 3:21 in its context. How does this verse relate to Colossians 2:11-13?
3. Research the New Testament on the topic of baptism. How many verses are there on the new birth?
4. Consider the fear you feel when thinking about handing someone a scripture scribbled on a piece of paper. What verse helps us manage this fear?
5. Set a goal to introduce yourself to one stranger this week.

Brother and sister, get to work! The work of the disciple is not for the lazy! You’ve got a lot to do in the next seven days. It’s exciting, exhilarating, and a precious opportunity from God! Do not squander your talents or your time. Hey, if this is not for you, find a class that suits you better! If this is for you, do not procrastinate. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ needs
courageous sisters and brothers who are ready to begin the Second Restoration Movement.

Yes, you are going to be a part of the Second Restoration Movement! You must be a part of it, because I do not know the people you know. Randall does not know the people you know. You are the only one that can plant the seed into the hearts of those in your sphere of influence. Without you, they are lost!

Make your list of ten. Review your notecards. Memorize just one card this week. Meet one stranger this week. Study the simple and easy texts recommended. Get excited about your faith! You are about to enjoy an excitement and purpose that you may have never experienced! God has a purpose and plan for your life within the body of Christ.

**DISCUSSION**

1. How did Mike become a Baptist?
2. What are the differences in “once saved, always saved” vs. “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life?”
3. What made Mike think he was a “good guy?”
4. What different course did Randall take after Mike cancelled their Bible study appointment?
5. Larry, Mike’s best friend, had started carrying a Bible? Do you know why?
6. What verse did Randall pass off to Michael?
7. What did this verse do to Mike?
8. Wouldn’t most Christians have given up when Mike cancelled the appointment to study with Randall?

9. How do you feel about Randall handing Mike a verse scribbled on a little piece of note paper?

10. Have you ever done this with anyone?

11. Relax. Most of us would never do what Randall did by handing someone a verse on paper. Why? Fear. Fear of rejection, fear of questions, and fear of confrontation. Do you think Randall experienced these same fears?

12. When the company meeting took place and fear of change was created, what was Randall thinking about?
Week II: Chapters 5-8

Spiritually speaking, has it been an incredible past week? How do you feel? The Action Points Outside of Class are the key to your Christian growth. What are you here for? Why are you investing your time and effort in this Bible Class? It is about a spiritual payoff. You want to grow beyond who you are today, right?

If you want a life of joy, happiness, and that peace that surpasses all understanding, it takes work. The Action Points Outside of Class are a key. Last week’s action points covered a lot of ground.

Brother and sister, did you want milk or meat? This is meat! Did you think that growth would come easy? We are in spiritual warfare, and it is time we recognize that Satan is seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). Do the work, my brother and sister.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58
Chapter 5: Are They Nuts or What?  
December, 1987

Ephesians 2:8-9  
Luke 8:15

ACTION POINTS

1. Memorize another notecard from your growing stack.  
2. Continue to pray for those on your list.  
3. Study the book against the text of Ephesians 2:8-9, and see if you draw the same conclusion.  
4. Research this dialogue from the book, and note how Randall disarmed Michael and how he treated Michael throughout their discussion.  
5. What verse did Randall quote as Mike walked away?  

DISCUSSION

1. Did the Bible discussion go as Mr. Mike had intended? Why?  
2. Notice how Randall ended the discussion. What simple teaching did Randall want Mr. Mike to take to bed with him that night?
3. What conclusion did Michael come to at the end of this chapter?
4. Who did Mike turn to for religious advice and instruction?
5. What was Mike’s attitude after receiving advice from the religious expert?
6. When Mr. Mike presented his statement to Randall, what was Randall’s response?
7. When Mike called baptism a work, what was Randall’s response?
8. How did Randall “disarm” Mike?
9. How did Satan use the tactic of peer pressure to attempt to thwart Mike’s desire to study with Randall. Who was the pressure coming from?
10. Randall began the study from the passages Mr. Mike presented. List the scriptures that Randall presented to guide Mr. Mike into Truth on the topic they were discussing:

_________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

11. What epiphany did Michael have after Randall teaching him the context of Ephesians 2:8-9?
12. This was the first “shift” in Mike’s mind. When the Truth meets with an honest and good heart, what is the reaction?
13. In your opinion, what did Randall do that impressed Mike the most?
Chapter 6:
Am I Going to Hell?
Later that Morning

Acts 2:47       Col. 1:18
Luke 8:15       Eph. 5:23

ACTION POINTS

1. Continue to memorize another notecard this week.
2. Study the following chart and research the beginning of two of the denominations listed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Origin</th>
<th>Originator - Builder</th>
<th>Name of Group (Circa)</th>
<th>Books &amp; Creeds Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem</td>
<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>church, kingdom, house, body, the Way, bride, holy temple of God, habitation of God, assembly</td>
<td>Old and New Testaments (OT/NT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Boniface III</td>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>OT with additional seven pseudepigraphal (deutero-canonical) books, NT, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Martin Luther</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>OT/NT, Book of Concord, and the Handbook of the General Synod (and/or a variety of handbooks representing geographical synods)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Henry VIII</td>
<td>Church of England/Episcopalian</td>
<td>OT/NT, The Three Creeds, the Nicene Creed, Athanasius’s Creed, the Apostles’ Creed, Book of Common Prayer, the Clergy and Parish Handbook of the Church of England (and/or a variety of handbooks representing geographical parishes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33 AD

606 AD

1520 AD

1534 AD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td>Norwich, England</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Holland</td>
<td>Newport, RI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Calvin</td>
<td>Robert Browne</td>
<td>John Smyth</td>
<td>Stephen Munford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>Congregational (Brownists)</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>Church of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1536 AD</td>
<td>1581 AD</td>
<td>1607 AD</td>
<td>1671 AD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1739 AD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISCUSSION

1. People outside of the church of Christ commonly state, “That denomination believes they’re the only ones going to Heaven.” Discuss the many misunderstandings and false perceptions people have about the Lord’s church.

2. Is the church of Christ a “denomination?” Discuss the reasons why you think it is or is not.

3. How many arks did Noah build? Was anyone saved outside of the ark? (I Peter 3:20-21)

4. What about the women and children caught in the flood? Do you think any of those who were trying to keep their heads above water prior to drowning in the flood remembered Noah’s words and prayed for salvation?

5. How is the Lord’s church similar to the ark?
   a. Read out-loud the following verses: Acts 2:47; Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4; Eph. 5:2.
   b. Does the teaching of the New Testament promote the concept of a singular church (body) or multiple churches (bodies)?

6. What did Kirk say to Mike in his attempt to discourage Mike from discussing the Word with Randall?

7. What “mantra” confused Mike?

8. What scripture refutes this popular mantra?

9. What logical premise did Mike conclude upon?

10. When Mike pressed Randall for an answer to the question, “Do you think all denominations except yours are going to
Hell,” what was Randall’s three-fold response? In other words, Randall presented at least three responses to avoid answering yes or no. What were they?

a. ___________________________________________

b. ___________________________________________

c. ___________________________________________
Chapter 7: 
Fight or Flight
Later that Morning

ACTION POINTS

1. Continue memorizing another notecard from your growing stack.

2. Research Luke 8:1-15. What are the four types of soil represented?
   a. _______________________
   b. _______________________
   c. _______________________
   d. _______________________

3. What is the origin of the church of Christ as found in the Scriptures?

4. Why is it important to know this Bible fact?

5. Do others know about the origin of the church of Christ?

6. When/where do they think the church of Christ started?

7. Regarding Dr. Cannon’s work relating to his scientific findings that animals react to threats with a general discharge of the sympathetic nervous system, priming the animal for one of two subsequent responses: fighting (fight) or fleeing (flight), how should the Christian react to “spiritual” threats?
8. Randall provided the stimulus for Mike to react according to his spiritual judgment that he was lost. Randall’s response initiated his “fight” response.

9. Was this a good or bad thing?

10. How “should” the Christian respond when a person’s “fight” mechanism is stimulated by their teaching? Provide two scriptures that confirm your conclusion:

   a. _________________________________
   b. _________________________________

11. In your opinion (from this chapter), what was the most important thing that Randall did that caused Mr. Mike to decide to “search” the scriptures for himself?

12. What verse did Randall quote as Mike walked away?

**DISCUSSION**

1. Why was Mr. Mike “motivated” to pick up “tracts?”

2. What affect did these tracts, or picking up these tracts, have on Mike?

3. What conclusion did he draw from reading the myriad of tracts he collected?

4. What excellent point did Jonetta bring up regarding “spiritual decisions?”

5. What elementary question did Jonetta bring up?

6. How does the knowledge of denominations help us in our effort to seek and save the lost?
Chapter 8:
Enough to Make a Guy Cuss!
Christmas Closing In


ACTION POINTS

1. Continue memorizing a notecard from your growing stack.
2. Give any amount you choose to a poor Christian this week.
   a. Note their response. _________________________
      __________________________________________
   b. Note how the act of direct giving made you feel.
      __________________________________________
   a. What strikes you about these passages?
      __________________________________________
   b. What great sacrifice did Barnabas make?
      __________________________________________
DISCUSSION

1. What was Mike’s allegation regarding the motivation of today’s contemporary churches?

2. According to the LBA, there are currently 297 different Baptist sects around the globe (London Baptist Association, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP, 2014). With this in mind, it is understandable that not all Baptists believe that John the Baptist started the Baptist denomination. Do you have any Baptist friends/family? Have you ever asked them of the origin of their particular Baptist sect? Would this be an important question to your Baptist friends/family?

3. In your opinion, do you see any “Christian opulence” within today’s church of Christ buildings and/or meeting places?

4. In your opinion, what affect does this have on the body?

5. What affect does it have on the sinner who visits?

6. Consider the following verses:
   a. Mark 10:24
   b. Luke 12:33
   c. Luke 18:25
   d. Acts 2:44-45
   e. James 1:11

7. What were the primary uses of the Christian contribution in the New Testament? Cite at least two references.
   a. ______________________
   b. ______________________
8. Regarding our giving and the distribution of church funds, discuss the differences in how the first-century church utilized contributions as compared to how today’s Lord’s church utilizes contributions.

9. Is Paul saying in 1 Timothy 5:3-4 that we should remember to give (provide for) to children and parents?

10. While remembering and helping the poor among us, consider Paul’s words found in Galatians 6:3-5. What was Paul’s concern found in these passages?

11. What is Paul’s point in 2 Thessalonians 3:7-15?
Growing in the Word toward greater Christian maturity takes work doesn’t it? Are you getting something out of this class? Please let me remind you again that the Action Points Outside of Class are the key in your growth throughout this class.

If you have been doing the Actions Points, do you feel that you are stronger this week than last week? Can you tell that you are growing? At this point you should have a fantastic stack of notecards with Bible verses written on each one. You should be proud of yourself for doing the work; if you have made it this far, I am very proud of you and thankful to God! Keep up the good work!

*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
Chapter 9: Lower Than a Pregnant Ant

Later That Afternoon

Romans 5:10
2 Corinthians 5:11
2 Corinthians 5:18

ACTION POINTS

1. Find the passage in this chapter that demonstrates why people make religious mistakes.

2. Memorize another card from your stack.

3. Take the opportunity to think about someone in your life with whom you have not reconciled. Pray for strength and courage, and then go to that person and make an honest attempt to reconcile with them on the foundation of Matthew 5:23-24.

4. In this chapter we see one of the many wonderful character traits of Randall, his true nature as defined by the Holy Word of God. How many times have we offended someone, only to later justify and rationalize our actions? Do we live a consistent Christ-like life by following our Lord’s instructions found in Matthew 5:23-24 when we offend our family, neighbors, or strangers?
5. Another one of Satan’s tactics is to inflame our pride and ego when the need arises to employ Matthew 5:23-24.
6. What prevents you from a total commitment to this foundational principle (assuming you are not totally committed to the principle)?
7. Is there anyone in your life that you have not reconciled with?
8. Consider the following verses.
   a. Romans 5:10
   b. 2 Corinthians 5:11
   c. 2 Corinthians 5:18

DISCUSSION

1. What affect did Randall’s apology have on Mike?
2. How did Randall’s actions affect Mike’s desire to study the Bible?
3. What primary point did Randall make about the impossibility of John the Baptist starting the Baptist Church?
4. What verses did Randall show Mike to teach him about the establishment of Christ’s church?
   a. __________________
   b. _________________
   c. _________________
A resource for encouragement: free monthly Muscle and a Shovel e-Newsletter. It features conversion and restoration stories that are incredibly strengthening to every Christian, young or old! Just go to muscleandashvovel.com and click on the e-Newsletter link.
Chapter 10: Don’t Drink the Kool-Aid

Christmas Closing in Fast


ACTION POINTS

1. Continue memorizing a notecard from your stack.
   a. It becomes clear that the word *believe*, in verse 16, is used as a *synecdoche* (si-nek-duh-kee).
   b. Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole or the whole for a part.
   c. Example: Bake a cake. The word bake in this example is a part that is used for the whole process, because bake envelops all of the steps required within (grease pan, preheat oven, mix ingredients, cook, remove, ice).
3. Application: Verse 16 says, “…that whosoever believeth in him should not perish…” What does the synecdoche “believeth” represent?
DISCUSSION

1. What are some of the many reasons why some think that the church of Christ is a cult?

2. Consider the Lutheran Reverend’s inaccuracy of his statement about John 15:5. What are the affects of one misquoted scripture?

3. Randall was now a spiritual fountain for Mike. Name three Christian traits found in the Bible that Randall demonstrated that helped establish him as Mike’s “go-to-guy” for spiritual answers? Discuss the power of these principles.

4. Why did Mike remind himself, “Don’t drink the Kool-Aid?”
Chapter 11: Salt n’ Pepper
A Week Before Santa

2 Timothy 3:16-17 Romans 12:18
1 Peter 3:15 Matthew 5:44

ACTION POINTS

1. Work on memorizing a notecard from that big stack of cards!
2. Consider experiences in your life when you have seen a “Christian” react to negative situations in ways contrary to Christ’s teachings found in Matthew 5:44.
3. Consider your own life experiences. Have you ever reacted to a negative event in a way contrary to Matthew 5:44?
4. What can you do to help yourself follow these biblical instructions found in v.44?

DISCUSSION

1. Have you noticed that Randall stays with small portions of scripture in studying with Mr. Mike? Can we learn something from Randall’s method?
   a. He maintains the topic at hand.
b. He does not dump huge volumes of scripture on Mike during one study.

c. He does not try to tell everything he knows all at one time.

2. Why didn’t Randall go through the establishment of the Lord’s church, the plan of salvation, the origins of denominationalism, the way New Testament Christians worship, and then invite Mike to his church?

3. What did Randall project that was beyond emotional toughness?

4. Discuss how Randall stopped Mike from attacking the man in the diner along with the scripture that Randall quoted.

5. What was Randall trying to accomplish in requiring Mike to find the Sinner’s Prayer as a “first objective?”
Chapter 12:  
The Holy Ghost  
& the Porch Swing  
Christmas at Home

I Corinthians 13:8  
1 Corinthians 13:10

ACTION POINTS

1. Keep working on your notecard. You can do it!
2. Read Acts 2:1-11 What does the word “tongues” mean in this text?
4. How many notecards do you have at this point?

DISCUSSION

1. What did Aunt Nancy seem to deem more necessary than the Sinner’s Prayer?
2. From what you know about tongues, as found in Acts 2:1-11, was Aunt Nancy’s “tongue speaking” like that of the those on the Day of Pentecost?
3. What does the Bible require when someone “speaks in tongues?”

4. Discuss your thoughts on Mike’s questions, “Why do denominations teach opposing doctrines if everyone is going to the same place?” and “How can everyone be religiously correct?”