

W 248.4 MAC

SURVIVAL KIT

for CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

*Practical help for living as Christians in
today's world*

Keith Bergin talking with

John Mallison

● *For individual listening or for use in small groups.*

Subject

Timing

CASSETTE 1

<i>SIDE A</i>	1. BEGINNING	17.38 min.
	2. LEARNING TO PRAY	18.35 min.
	3. GETTING MORE OUT OF READING THE BIBLE	17.06 min.
<i>SIDE B</i>	3. Continued	
	4. CULTIVATING FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES	17.52 min.
	5. SURVIVING TOGETHER IN SMALL GROUPS	16.52 min.

CASSETTE 2

<i>SIDE A</i>	6. DEVELOPING A CHRISTIAN STYLE OF LIFE	18.22 min.
	7. COPING WITH FAILURE	21.27 min.
<i>SIDE B</i>	8. SERVING GOD & HUMANKIND	22.24 min.
	9. SHARING OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS	21.15 min.

* *Captures in an easy form a lot of basic principles.*

* *Invaluable down to earth help for anyone in their
Christian growth - not just for beginners.*

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JOHN MALLISON - is well known in Australia and overseas for his special ministry in enabling renewal through small groups in the Christian community.

- In his teaching and training he has a name for being practical, creative, enthusiastic and expressing himself simply.
- He is the author of 12 books. His Small Group Series, giving practical guidelines for commencing and maintaining small groups in the Christian community, has become a best seller.
- He headed up the training of over 3,000 nurture cell leaders in connection with the Sydney Billy Graham Crusade in 1979.
- For 17 years he was a parish minister and at present is the Associate General Secretary of the Board of Education of the Uniting Church in Australia in New South Wales.

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HOW TO USE THIS SURVIVAL KIT

● LISTEN TO IT ON YOUR OWN - While driving or working around the house. Better still, use it when you can give it your undivided attention.

- Taking one talk at a time, make notes of the main points and think about how they relate to you personally.

— Note anything you find personally helpful

- Why is it helpful to you?
- Think out specific ways you could put it into practice in your own life. Begin now or plan to do this soon.

— Note anything you don't understand or plan to discuss, it with your pastor or a Christian friend.

- Read the scripture passages referred to, particularly the main passages.

— Look for ways these relate to the talk and any further insights.

— Ask some questions of the passage:

- What does it teach me about God the Father, Jesus Christ or God, the Holy Spirit
 - Who God is?
 - What he has done for me?
 - My relationship to him?
 - What he promises me?

- What does it teach me about living the Christian life?

- In what specific way would I change if I took this seriously?

— Refer to one commentary on the passage to give you helpful background and to check your understanding of the passage. A very helpful one volume commentary is "The New Bible Commentary Revised" published by I.V.P. It is expensive but well worth the outlay if you are going to take your Bible study seriously.

3.



- Make a specific response to God.
(Begin by being silent for a minute or so.)

— Try to do at least one of the following:

- Write a brief prayer
- Pray a brief prayer
- Write a personal covenant - "As a result of this experience I will, by God's grace endeavour to . . . (complete)"

- USE IT IN A SMALL GROUP of 2 or more people who want to grow.

— At church, in your family, school group, at conferences, retreats, seminars

— For high school and adult ages

- Use each talk as part of a group session spending approximately one-third of the time listening to the cassette, one-third in sharing and discussion and one-third in group prayer. . . or . . .

- Follow this programme outline:

Begin by studying the main Bible passage(s).

— Working individually and in silence

- Read the setting of the passage - possibly the whole or part of the chapter.
- Select the main verse(s)
- Put the main verse into your own words (paraphrase it). Write it simply, as you would say it to a friend.
- Answer the following questions
 - * What is the central meaning?
 - * What is the meaning of this passage for my own personal life?
- How does it apply to:

What I believe

Who I am as a person

My lifestyle

My relationship to God

My relationships to other people.

- What should I plan to do? (Don't generalise, be quite specific)

— Working now as a group each person shares his or her paraphrase and thinking about the passage with the group.

- After each has shared, discuss the passage and what aspects of each others sharing was especially helpful.

- Use a commentary on the passage to check on the central meaning.

— Play the cassette. Each notes the main points and any questions it may raise. Share what was helpful and discuss any aspect.

— Plan to each put into practice what was learned in the Bible study and in listening to the cassette. Report back to the group at the next meeting.

— Pray for:

- each other, focussing on items shared by each individual, either praying in pairs or going around the group with each praying for the person on his or her right
- your church - remember specific events, leaders, members, its influence in the community
- other people
 - those in need known to the group (keep a record of people prayed for)
 - events and people mentioned in the newspaper

(There are many Bible study and prayer methods for small groups and a wealth of ideas and practical help on how to commence and maintain a small group in John Mallison's Abridged Small Group Series, "Building Small Groups in the Christian Community" and "Creative Ideas for Small Groups in the Christian Community".)

ACTOY - A PATTERN FOR PRAYER

(Mentioned in Talk No.2)

A simple pattern to follow can help us make the most of a brief period each day. It can also help us avoid spending a disproportionate time on one aspect of prayer, such as confession or asking for ourselves.

Here is a plan for 10 minutes. You will be surprised what you can fit into such a short time. Begin with a brief time then allow it to lengthen as you feel the need.

MEDITATION (1 minute)

Try to relax. Take deep slow breaths. Hear the words of Jesus, "I am with you." Think about a verse or two of a Psalm, such as 139 verses 7-10.

PRAY (9 minutes)

The following pattern for prayer can help put a freshness and balance into what you say. You will notice that the first letters of the five parts form the word ACTOY. This makes it easy to remember the order. The times indicated are only suggestions - vary them as you wish.

1. Adoration (2 minutes)

This is simply telling Christ that you praise Him for who He is. Telling Him you love Him in your own words. A line or so from a hymn, Psalm, poem or Prayer Book that expresses adoration especially well can lead into spontaneous prayers of adoration.

2. Confession (1 minute)

Reflect upon your experiences since last you prayed. Seek to locate thoughts, words, actions which make you uneasy. Recall some things you should have done, spoken or thought. Don't try to hide or rationalize these things. Be specific, don't generalize. If you find it difficult to recall specific things, read a passage like 1 Corinthians chapter 13 verses 4-8. Don't spend overlong on confession.

ACTOY Cont'd

Accept God's forgiveness by faith, apart from how you may feel. "If we confess our sins, He *is* faithful and just to *forgive* us our sins and to *cleanse* us from all unrighteousness."

Thank Him that you are forgiven and clean to begin afresh.

3. Thanksgiving (2 minutes)

Again be specific. The old hymn says, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!"

4. Others (3 minutes)

Begin by praying for your family then let the prayer widen out to friends, acquaintances and the wider world. Most find prayer lists help keep in touch with those who need our prayers. To recall items from news broadcasts or our daily papers will provide specific items from "the wider world".

5. Yourself (1 minute)

This pattern helps us from falling into the common trap of praying too much for ourselves. However tell God exactly what you yearn for; it will bring you closer to Him.

THE SHAKERTOWN PLEDGE

(Mentioned in Talk No. 6)

Recognizing that the earth and the fulness thereof is a gift from our gracious God, and that we are called to cherish, nurture, and provide loving stewardship for the earth's resources,

And recognizing that life itself is a gift, and a call to responsibility, joy and celebration,

I make the following declarations:-

1. I declare myself to be a world citizen.
2. I commit myself to lead an ecologically sound life.
3. I commit myself to lead a life of creative simplicity and to share my personal wealth with the world's poor.
4. I commit myself to join with others in re-shaping institutions in order to bring about a more just global society in which each person has full access to the needed resources for their physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth.
5. I commit myself to occupational accountability, and in so doing I will seek to avoid the creation of products which cause harm to others.
6. I affirm the gift of my body, and commit myself to its proper nourishment and physical well-being.
7. I commit myself to examine continually my relations with others, and to attempt to relate honestly, morally, and lovingly to those around me.
8. I commit myself to personal renewal through prayer, meditation and study.
9. I commit myself to responsible participation in a community of faith.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES REFERRED TO IN THIS KIT

(The passages in brackets represent the wider setting of main passages. Those underlined are suggested for individual or group study.)

1. Galatians 3:11
John 3:16
John 10:9
John 1:12
Romans 8:16 (8:1-17)
Galatians 5:22 (5:16-25)
Romans 5:8
2 Corinthians 5:17
(2 Corinthians 5:16-21)
1 Corinthians 10:31
Matthew 5:16
2. Luke 11:1
Romans 8:26 (8:26-39)
1 Thessalonians 5:17
Matthew 6:6 (6:5-15)
1 Corinthians 13:4-8
1 John 1:9 (1:5-10)
Matthew 28:20
Psalm 139:7-10
3. James 1:22 (1:22-25)
Matthew 7:24 (7:21-29)
4. Acts 2:44 (2:37-47)
John 15:1-8 (15:1-11)
John 10:16
1 Corinthians 3:16
Ephesians 2:20-22
1 Peter 2:5
Romans 12:4 (12:3-8)
1 Corinthians 12:12 (whole chapter, especially 12:12-26)
Acts 2:41,42
5. 1 Corinthians 12
6. Matthew 6:33 (6:19-34)
Amos 5:21-24
1 Peter 1:16
John 15:12
Matthew 5:44
Matthew 6:19
Matthew 6:25
1 Peter 2:21
John 16:13 (16:7-15)
Romans 8:26
Romans 8:12
Matthew 13:31-32;
17:20,21 (17:14-21)
Philippians 3:12-14
(3:8-16)
John 13:35
1 John 4:8
John 13:34,35
1 Corinthians 13
1 John 3:17
7. Matthew 11:28
John 10:10
John 14:27
Matthew 16:24
John 14:26
John 14:17
John 16:13
Romans 8:2
Romans 8:11,26
2 Corinthians 4:7
(2 Corinthians 4:7-18)
Ephesians 4:22-24
(Ephesians 4:17-32)
Romans 3:23
Hebrews 4:14-16
Hebrews 2:18

10.

7. Continued . . .
1 Corinthians 10:12
(10:6-13)
Mark 14:38
Matthew 26:41
1 Corinthians 10:13
Hebrews 12:1,2
1 Corinthians 15:3
1 John 1:7 (1:5-10)
1 John 1:9
Matthew 7:1
8. Mark 10:45
Luke 22:26,27 (22:24-27)
John 13:1-17
Matthew 25:14-30
1 Corinthians 12,13,14
(1 Corinthians 12:1-11)
Ephesians 4:1-16
Romans 12:4-8
1 Peter 4:9,10
Proverbs 3:6
Matthew 6:33
Matthew 22:37
Matthew 5:16 (5:13-16)
Matthew 22:21
Matthew 5:13
2 Corinthians 6:17
9. Matthew 5:14,15
Acts 1:8 (1:1-8)
2 Corinthians 5:18
Acts 9:1-25
Acts 22:12-16
John 3:11
1 Peter 2:11,12
1 Peter 1:14,15
Matthew 5:11,12
Matthew 28:18-20
(28:16-20)
1 Corinthians 13:1-7
(13:1-7)
John 13:34-35
John 15:26,27
(15:18-27)

11.

