

HOW TO SUCCEED ON THE STREETS

DICK HOPKINS



Developed as a study course by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

This course is designed for the Christian man or woman who is about to parole. However, it contains principles that will be of value to all readers. Text written by Dick Hopkins. Dick was converted to the Lord while in the Navy. Following graduation from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, Dick worked for 33 years as a probation officer. Since 1994, he has done volunteer work for ECS Ministry of Northern California, 401 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, CA 94577.

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From the Prisoner's Pen

“**H**ow to Succeed on the Streets had some very powerful messages for me. Some of the steps I have already begun or completed. Other steps I want to become involved with, but my fear is still strong. I know accountability is critical for me in my Christian walk. I pray often that God will bring the right people into my life where I can be open and truthful to them and trust it will not be abused.” –Lyn (Florida inmate)



“**I** can't begin to tell you what a pleasure it has been to read and answer the exam questions for *How to Succeed on the Streets*. As a parole violator and coming up again for parole review, this course could not have come at a better time. It really teaches and gives guidelines on how a parolee can succeed in society. I will be the first to admit that had I known the rules and information in this course when I was out on parole, I wouldn't be back here today in prison. But God has His ways and plans. I just thank Him for His love, grace, and mercy by allowing me another chance to return to society with my kids and family.” –Richard (California inmate)

“**T**he course *How to Succeed on the Streets* is a practical study for me since I am slated for release in a couple of weeks. There is a lot of great advice here! I particularly enjoyed the section on getting a mentor on my release. Today, I am not afraid to ask for help. I have God on my side to help me through the difficult moments.”

–Frank (Canada inmate)

“For over 25 years, I’ve been incarcerated behind these iron bars and walls of stone and concrete. I never thought that I’d ever have anything to do with religion. But then one day in the mail came my first Bible correspondence course. I’ve been studying the lessons and have received Jesus Christ as Savior . . . and now I truly cannot believe what has been happening to me! I feel like I’ve been transformed, molded, and set free, even while incarcerated. I may have lost everything that I have or own, but here in prison I’ve found Jesus and He’s found me, and I’m so thankful for His mercy and forgiveness for my sins. It’s great to belong to Him.”

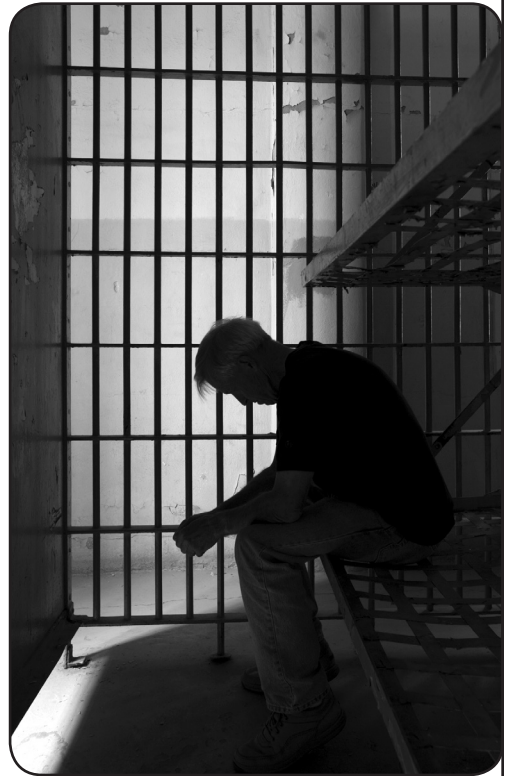
–Joe (Colorado inmate)

“ECS correspondence courses are the best out there. They have guided me through the Bible like no other influence has been able to. I’ve had a hard time with school in the past, but now I’m motivated to study with my newfound life in Christ. I find myself excited by what I am learning in these studies. I can speak to others with confidence about God like I never have been before.”

–John (Alaska inmate)

“One of my duties here was taking trash out. Several weeks ago, I found eight of your study courses in the trashcan and picked them out. To make a long story short, for the last three weeks all I have been doing is reading the Bible and working on the questions in these courses. So far, I’ve learned a lot about myself, about what God wants for me, and how to treat people in my life. I really want Him to help me live the way I’m supposed to as a new believer in Jesus Christ.”

–Mel (Kansas inmate)



STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

In this course you will find twelve Steps of Obedience, each with its own exam, and all based on the Word of God. Find a quiet place to study away from noise and distractions. Have your course book, Bible, pen or pencil, and note paper available. You may want a dictionary to check any unfamiliar words.

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Course Components

This course has two parts: this study course and the exam booklet.

How To Study

This study has twelve chapters (steps), and each chapter has its own exam. Begin by asking God to help you understand the material. Read the chapter through at least twice, once to get a general idea of its contents and then again, slowly, looking up all the Bible references given.

Begin studying immediately, or if you are in a group, as soon as the group begins. We suggest that you try to keep a regular schedule by trying to complete at least one chapter per week.

Exams

In the exam booklet there is one exam for each chapter (exam 1 covers chapter 1 of the course). Do not answer the questions by what you think or have always believed. The questions are designed to find out if you understand the material and the Bible verses given in the course.

After you have completed each chapter, review the related exam and see how well you know the answers. If you find that you are having difficulty answering the questions, review the material until you think you can answer the questions.

How Your Exams Are Graded

Your instructor will mark any incorrectly answered questions. You will be referred back to the place in the Bible or course where the correct answer is to be found. After finishing this course with a passing average, you will be awarded a certificate.

If you enrolled in a class, submit your exam papers to the leader or secretary of the class who will send them for the entire group to the Correspondence School.

See the back of the exam booklet for more information on returning the exams for grading.

INTRODUCTION

In Joshua 1:5-9, God gives a challenge to Joshua; to be strong and courageous, to not be afraid, for God will be with him. Further instruction is given; meditate on God's Word day and night that you may do all that is written in it. Then you will have good success!

The Israelites, who had been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, were about to enter the Promised Land. They were like inmates who had been in prison for 40 years and were then paroled to the streets.

The failure rate for parolees in some states is about 75%, and the spiritual failure rate is probably even higher. The reason is that **to succeed, you must do what God says to do in Joshua 1:5-9. Success depends on obedience to the Lord.**

This course revolves around the book of Joshua. One of the themes in Joshua, especially chapter 24, is the choice the Israelites had to make between serving the one true God and serving the false gods of the Canaanite tribes. You will see in this course that there are six false gods that you must reject in order to worship the one true God (Joshua 24:14-15):

- **The Devil himself** (called “the god of this world” in 2 Corinthians 4:4). Satan is called the father of lies. He is the enemy who will tempt you to lie, steal, con, and manipulate others. Our responsibility is to “stand against” him (Ephesians 6:11) and to “resist” him (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8).
- **The god of immoral sex.** The Devil will tempt you to do this. He'll want you to think that it's all right since “everyone else does it.”

- **The god of intoxication.** Satan will try to persuade you to use drugs and abuse alcohol. He'll want you to think that you can quit anytime.
- **The god of money.** Satan wants to distract you and make you think that making money is the key to success. He wants you to think that serving money is better than serving God. Unfortunately, too many Americans have bought into this lie, whether they know it or not.
- **The god of family neglect.** The Devil is a divider of families. He wants you to live an utterly selfish life and to ignore the needs of your children. He desires that you think your own happiness is more important.
- **The god of violence.** The Devil moves people to commit acts of violence. In the Bible, Cain was jealous of his brother Abel. He allowed Satan to move him to murder his brother.

Satan wants all these practices to become your gods. To be successful you must totally reject the lies of Satan and instead choose to completely follow the one true God.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE LORD

God promised Joshua (Joshua 1:3-8) that He would be with him every step of the way. As Joshua entered the Promised Land, he needed assurance that God would be with him. This passage illustrates the first key to success, which is to become a “24-hour Christian.” Just like the person talking on his cell phone while walking down the street, you must be in constant communication with the Lord. Remember that God wants to maintain close fellowship with you at all times. Be like David, who said, “*I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved*” (Psalm 16:8).

The very first thing you must do when you walk out of prison is to stop and pray, seeking God’s guidance. Pray every hour and stay in the Word of God several times a day. Do what God told Joshua to do: **meditate on the Word of God day and night** (Joshua 1:8). This is not what your flesh wants to do. Your flesh will want to get on the phone, call your friends, party that night, use drugs, have sex, and basically celebrate your release from prison.

A brother who was on fire for the Lord while in prison writes that he intended to go to church the first Sunday he hit the streets, but instead got on the phone and became so involved with his friends that he forgot church. After keeping God “on hold” for a few weeks, he got himself into trouble. Now he is back in prison doing a life sentence. He disobeyed God. He did not stay in close communion with Him.

Read Matthew 26:31-75. Peter was a strong believer. Jesus compared him to a rock. For three years, he’d been following Jesus. The other disciples looked to him as a natural leader. He’d been invited to a prayer meeting with Jesus the very night he blew it. But just hours after that prayer meeting he found himself denying Jesus. Why? Because he did not stay close to the Lord on an hour-by-hour basis.

Joshua made the same mistake. He started out doing what God had told him to do (Joshua chapter 1), but later (chapter 9) got tricked by some con artists. He disobeyed God and got dragged into sin. Why? Because he did

not stay in touch with the Lord on an hour-by-hour basis. He stopped meditating on the Word of God “day and night.” He became self-confident. He thought he had the believer’s life in a bag and he could coast. He thought all he had to do was to check in with God (like a parole officer) every so often, or when a big problem came his way. He was wrong. He failed to obey the command to stay in touch with the Lord constantly.

2 Chronicles 17:1-19:3 records the story of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was a believer and one of the good kings of Judah. Most of the time he did the right thing. But when his guard was down, a fellow king, Ahab, who was an evil man, talked him into doing something that was wrong. Jehoshaphat suggested to Ahab that they make sure that God was in the plan. But when God warned Jehoshaphat that what he was about to do was wrong, he went ahead anyway. Jehoshaphat lost the battle; Ahab was killed; and after it was all over, God severely rebuked Jehoshaphat for going along with an evil king and disobeying God. Jehoshaphat would never have made this wrong choice had he stayed close to God.

You may have been a strong Christian on the prison yard, but on the streets, you will face an entirely new set of issues and problems. You will have godless friends and relatives who will try to talk you into doing something against God’s will, as was the case with Jehoshaphat. Or you might be like Joshua, who made a quick decision without consulting the Lord. Or you might be like Peter, who became too sleepy to stay close to God. All these men loved the Lord, but blew it at one point in their lives because they failed to stay close to the Lord on an hour-by-hour basis. They got careless, over-confident, and also lazy. They all suffered the consequences of their disobedience.

The Bible says to pray always (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). It says to rejoice in all circumstances (Philippians 4:4), keep in step with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25), and obey God in both big things and little things (Joshua 1:7). These are your responsibilities. If you want to be a success as a Christian on the streets, the very first step of obedience is to keep in touch with the Lord. Keep your “cell phone” on. Listen to what God has to say and be quick to obey.

HOW TO SUCCEED ON THE STREETS

EXAM BOOKLET

AK '05 (1 UNIT)

STUDENT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COURSE GRADE: _____

INSTRUCTOR



Exam developed by Emmaus Correspondence School, founded in 1942.

A NOTE ON THE EXAMS

The exams are designed to check your knowledge of the course material and the Scriptures. After you have studied a chapter (step), review the exam questions for that lesson. If you have difficulty in answering the questions, re-read the material. If questions contain a Scripture reference, you may use your Bible to help you answer them. If your instructor has provided a single page Answer Sheet, record your answer on that sheet. This exam contains the following types of questions:

MULTIPLE CHOICE

You will be asked to write in the letter of the correct answer at the space on the right. Here is an example:

The color of grass is

- A. blue C. yellow
B. green D. orange

 B

TRUE / FALSE

For these questions, circle the correct answer.

T F

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Questions headed this way are designed to help you express your ideas and feelings. You may freely state your own opinions in answer to such questions.

RETURNING THE EXAM

See the back of this exam booklet for instructions on returning your exam for grading.

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STEP 1 EXAM**STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE LORD**

EXAM GRADE

Before starting this exam, write your name and address on the front of this Exam Booklet.

Directions: Read each question carefully and write the letter of the correct answer in the blank space on the right. Use the separate answer sheet if provided.

1. Success in the Christian life begins with
 - A. getting a good job
 - B. getting your family to go to church each Sunday
 - C. staying in close personal fellowship with the Lord Jesus
 - D. getting into a good drug or alcohol program_____

2. Joshua 1:8 teaches that the Christian should
 - A. study the Word of God each morning
 - B. witness to at least one person each day
 - C. meditate on the Word of God day and night
 - D. find a good church to attend_____

3. The story of Jehoshaphat shows that
 - A. a believer can get off the right path by listening to an unbeliever
 - B. Jehoshaphat was trying to be a good witness to Ahab
 - C. God was happy with Jehoshaphat for trying to do the right thing
 - D. Jehoshaphat was right in following the advice of another king_____

4. The story of Peter reveals that
 - A. he was a brave witness for Christ during the trial of Jesus
 - B. he fell asleep instead of staying up while Jesus prayed
 - C. he should not have used bad language
 - D. he trusted and followed God through this difficult time_____

5. Joshua was fooled into disobeying God because
- A. the devil appeared to him as an angel and Joshua was deceived
 - B. he did not pray before making a decision on the matter
 - C. he was recovering from a battle wound and was not thinking clearly
 - D. he got bad advice from his wife
6. There are consequences if we disobey God. _____
T F
7. A “24-hour Christian” is someone who goes to church every 24 hours. T F
8. Psalm 16:8 shows the importance of maintaining a close relationship with Christ. T F
9. When the Israelites arrived in the Promised Land, God told them He would give them success on condition that they obey Him. T F
10. The Christian inmate should plan a big celebration the first day he gets out, and invite all of his worldly friends. T F

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Imagine that you are going to be released on parole one month from today. What would you plan to do during your first 48 hours on the street?
