1. **Personal Introduction/prayer**
2. **Step 4 Introduction**
   1. One of my favorite steps: uncovered truth, revealed God’s immense love, a tool that freed me from managing behavior to focus on the sin in my heart.
   2. This is not the most important step.
      1. Regeneration truly begins at step 3. Forgiven and cleansed, made righteous, adopted with Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us; we receive new desires, insight, convictions, peace and joy. God wants to do more than to fix your issue, he wants to give a new life. No dry drunks managing one sin but peaceful, joy-filled hearts that endure any circumstance.
      2. You can’t complete a searching and fearless and moral inventory without the Holy Spirit.Step 3, Trust in Jesus, brings the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If you haven’t trusted Christ, don’t continue to Step 4, and take as long as you need to explore Jesus and trust Him.
   3. Focus on purpose (why of inventory). Inventory training answers many “how” questions.
3. **Reason 1, commanded to live in the light** 
   1. Sinful nature is deceptive. It wants to keep sin and the damage of sin hidden from you, God and others. When we stop denying sin but exposed it to God’s truth we are free to examine it and take s steps to deal with it biblically.
   2. Ephesians 5:8-11 – *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.  Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*
   3. ***GOOD PLACE TO INSERT A PERSONAL STORY***
4. **Reason 2, Die to sinful nature**
   1. Baptism symbolic. Many try to forget the past rather than die to sinful nature. We are clueless as to how much life is dictated by our sinful nature and harms we have suffered.
   2. Colossians 3:3-10 - *For you, [Christian] have died [to your sinful nature], and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*
   3. When sin or idols have not been laid to rest, when we hold on to hurt and sin’s losses not grieved properly, it influences how we respond to life today. Harms suffered controls relationships. Shame from sin not dealt with makes us insecure and keeps us from intimacy. The harms we’ve caused others and pride separates us from important relationships. Shame of sin, pain of wrong suffered and isolation leads to escape.
   4. ***GOOD PLACE TO INSERT A PERSONAL STORY***
5. **Reason 3, Inventory is an all-out hunt to understand your idols and their worship patterns**
   1. Inventory is like a map. It reveals worship patterns and identifies idols of the heart.
   2. Recovery struggle symptom of heart problem. *Worship is a response to what has captured your heart.* Your addictions and sinful behavior patterns are strategies to cope with the fallout of misplaced worship—ruts leading to and from your idol. You will trade one symptom for another until you deal with your heart problem.
   3. Your sinful nature will seek to worship anything but the one, true God. When we look to something other than Him for significance, security, love, provision, life—we experience pain, broken relationships, disappointment, fear, low self-worth, search for meaning.
   4. ***GOOD PLACE TO INSERT A PERSONAL STORY***
6. **Reason 4, Understand God’s great love for you**
   1. Luke 7:36-50 *One of the Pharisees asked [Jesus] to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” 40 And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” 41 “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” 43Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” 44Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” 50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.*
   2. Understanding your own need for forgiveness and your desperate need for savior has a direct influence on the love you have for Christ. He who is forgiven much loves much.
   3. For the Christian, inventory is a picture of the price Christ paid to ransom your soul, the record of your debt. Your soul was expensive—each sin a death sentence to a holy God. Inventory is a picture of the magnitude of God’s love for you. What he was willing to endure to rescue you. The more you understand how much Christ suffered for you, the more you will embrace God’s goodness and love for you.
   4. Colossians 2:13-14 - *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven [you] all [your] trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against [you] with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*
7. **Inventory is one of my favorite steps**
   1. It revealed pride and idolatry of my heart. It showed me what needed to heal and steps I could take to begin to walk in freedom. It showed me opportunities to repair the damage of my sin.
   2. But more than all it showed my desperate need for a savior and the magnitude of God’s love for me. He used inventory to remove the clutter on the throne of my heart and retook his rightful place. It is a heart that now overflows from an eternal identity, security, love, joy and peace.
8. **Final Encouragements to you**
   1. Be thorough. Don’t intentionally ignore a significant event. Christ’s blood covers all.
   2. If you get stuck battling fear, shame or insecurity. Revisit Steps 1, 2, 3.
   3. We are teaching you a process. Don’t be afraid if you miss some something. God will reveal things throughout your life. Do the best that you can during your weeks in Step 4.
   4. You won’t figure it out on your own. You don’t have to have it all figured out today. Just work on getting it out. Eventually others will help you discover idols/sin patterns.
   5. Identified by the blood of Christ.If you have taken Step 3, sin no longer defines you or your worth. The blood of Christ defines you value. God loved you and chose you. He gave you a new identity. You are significant because you matter greatly to God—sovereign over all, loves you and calls you child.
   6. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”*