

# EDO

EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE OTHERS



Series 1

Essentials for ~~New~~ **All** Believers

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20*

July 2019

# Welcome

Jesus offers to every person the greatest invitation in the world: the gift of eternal life.

*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

To every believer Jesus extends the privilege of participating in His work of reaching the lost. To the disciples He offered this invitation:

*And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

*Matthew 4:19*

Both of these invitations are still in play today. This series is designed for the person who has received God's gift of eternal life. We trust that you have made a decision to entrust your eternal destiny to the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. In our first section, we will review the basics of the Gospel just to be sure.

This series is about continuing the journey by responding and living out the second invitation of Jesus, to follow Him and become a fisher of men. Over the next eight weeks you will explore from the Bible the basic principles of living life in a healthy relationship with Jesus.

We recommend you take this journey with two or three other people. Commit to study through each section individually and then meet together to discuss the material. You will be surprised to see the additional insights you will gain as you discuss it together.

**May the Lord bless your study** as you continue your life journey of following Jesus.

Ray Cardwell  
Teaching Pastor

# Disciples Who Make Disciples

## Introduction

*Discipleship* is one of the most common words used in churches, yet many of us have not found a way to make it real in our lives. This booklet is **a tool** every believer can use to help other believers to become disciple makers. Discipleship is a lifelong pursuit. The key to this series is that it is **transferable** and **repeatable**. It is not overwhelming. It can be a starting point in your life long journey of helping other people find and follow Jesus Christ.

The Plan: Work through each section on your own first, looking up each Bible passage and making observations. Then meet with your group to discuss your observations. During your meeting, do not read every verse, which may stall momentum. Be sure to complete the “disciple making assignment” each week.

## General Goals

For You: To lock in the basics of living a Christ-centered life

For Others: You can take what you have learned and use this series to help lead others in living a Christ-centered life

## Series 1

The topics in this series are designed to establish the **New Believer** in the essentials of following Jesus. However, they are timeless principles that can bring blessing to **every believer**, whatever our stage of growth.

## Companion Resources for this Series

You can supplement this series with a resource available from NavPress: **Growing in Christ, a 13 week course for New & Growing Christians**. Each section in this guide will point you to a chapter in Growing in Christ for additional study.

Also available is the sermon series by the same name on the EquippedToDisciple.org website. Look for the series, *DM1; Essentials for New Believers*. Listen to the message after you have completed your study.

## Series I Outline

Section 1	The Gospel Spiritual Growth	What do I do now?
Section 2	Assurance Eternal Life is a Gift	Can I lose my salvation?
Section 3	Sin Temptation	What about sin in my life?
Section 4	The Bible Why is it so important?	How did we get the Bible?
Section 5	Prayer Examples of Prayer	How do I pray?
Section 6	The Church One Another Relationships	What is church, really?
Section 7	Sharing My Faith We are Ambassadors	What do I tell others?
Section 8	What's Next?? A Framework for Life	What is the main thing?
Appendix	Additional Resources & Notes	

## The Plan for Each Week

We encourage you to walk through this series with two or three other people. When discipleship meetings are one on one, it usually creates a “Bible Answer Man” relationship. The one being discipled (Timothy) tends to look to the one who is leading (Paul) for all the answers. However, when you meet in a small group of three to five people, the focus can be turned to the Lord and Scripture. “We are meeting together to seek the Lord and learn from His Word.”

### ***The Role of Paul***

A “Paul” initiates the discipleship process. The first phase is to form the group.

1. Pray for who should be part of the group. (all night) Luke 6:12-13
2. Invite each person to be part of the process. Matt 4:18-22
3. Clarify the expectations for each Timothy. For example:
  - We will meet each \_\_\_\_\_
  - You are expected to have completed the section before we meet
  - Each week, you will have a Disciple Making (DM) Assignment
  - We will hold each other accountable for the DM Assignment
  - We will consistently pray for one another, etc. etc.

When you meet, “Paul” facilitates the flow of your time together.

Model what Disciple Making (DM) looks like. The “Timothy’s” in the group should be able to imitate you.

### ***Commitment & Accountability***

This is not just another Bible study group.

This is focused training to follow Jesus and become a Fisher of Men.

Any Transfer of Knowledge must be followed by Obedience. Every skill in life is gained by knowledge and practice. Consider how we learn to ride a bike, drive a car, to cook, become a plumber, or doctor, or engineer.

There is classroom training and then there is some venue for doing – for practicing the skills under the watchful eye of the teacher. So it is with becoming a disciple maker, a fisher of men.

“Paul” is responsible for instilling some aspect of accountability into the group to ensure there exists opportunities for living out disciple making skills.

## ***Recommended Format of Each Meeting***

Each time you gather together, we recommend you look three directions.

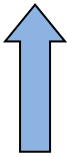


### **Look Back**

Encouragement, Celebration, Accountability, (about 20 minutes)

Look back on what God has done, and is doing. Lovingly hold everyone accountable to report on their progress. Make course corrections, offer suggestions. Follow up on the "I WILL" statement and the Disciple Making assignment from the prior meeting.

Be sure to remember, this is spiritual work. Our role is to be faithful to speak the word. The results are in God's hands!



### **Look Up**

New Insight from the Word of God, (about 60 minutes)

Look up and seek a better understanding of the Lord, and His will for our lives. Be careful to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Our ability to understand spiritual truth depends on the teaching ministry of the Spirit in our lives. The source document is the Bible. What is God saying to us through His Word?



### **Look Forward**

Response and Application, (about 20 minutes)

Look forward and address the next steps that need to be taken to incorporate God's truths, and instructions into your life. Write down a tangible step to be taken in response to God's word. It is often helpful to identify the next step in the form of an I WILL \_\_\_\_\_ statement. It should be specific and measurable.

The following meeting, each person will be held accountable regarding their I WILL statement.

*Acknowledgement: The Timothy Initiative (TTI) Trainers Guide*

## Section 1: The Gospel

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*What is the Gospel?*

*What must I do to be Saved?*

### The Gospel

The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus Christ. It is the starting point for the Christian faith. Paul gives us a concise summary of the Gospel:

*1 Cor 15:1,3-4*

*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which also you stand,*

*by which also you are saved,*

*if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.*

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:*

*that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and*

*that He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures,...*

#### **Creation:** *The Background*

God \_\_\_\_\_ heaven and earth.

Gen 1:1

God \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Rom 5:8

God wants a \_\_\_\_\_ with us.

2 Peter 3:9

We were created to be in relationship with God.

However, a love relationship requires the freedom to choose.

#### **Fall:** *The Need*

All have \_\_\_\_\_ and fall short of the glory of God.

Rom 3:23

The penalty of sin is \_\_\_\_\_.

Rom 6:23

As a consequence of rejecting God's design for life, we are all spiritually dead, separated from God.

Rom 5:12

**Redemption: The Good News**

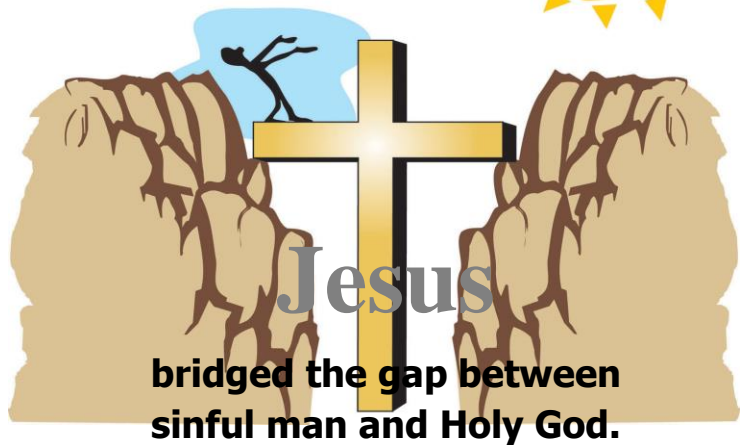
Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins,  
and was \_\_\_\_\_ on the third day.  
Christ died in our place. He paid the full penalty.

1 Cor 15:3-4

2 Cor 5:21

**The GOSPEL**

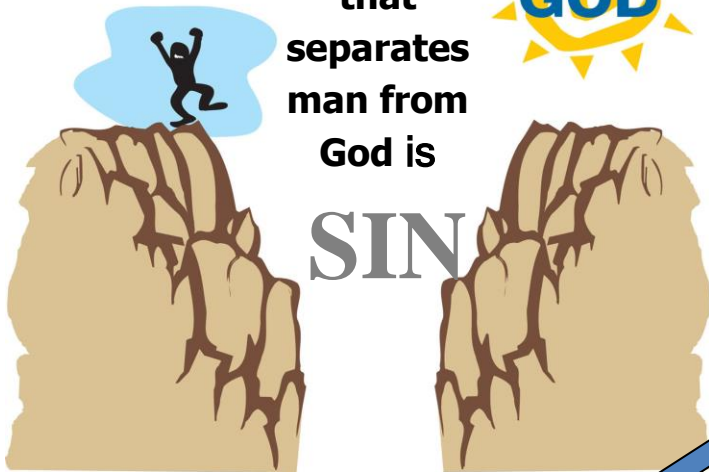
is that Christ died on the cross  
for our sins and rose again  
from the dead.



The Barrier  
that  
separates  
man from  
God is

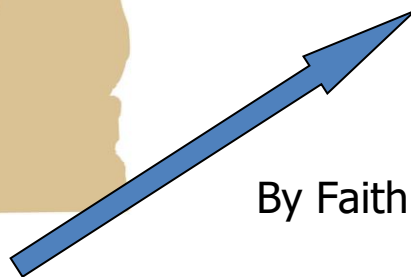


**SIN**



Now we are **Alive** in Christ  
Eph 2:4-6

By Faith



We were **Dead** in our Sins  
Eph 2:1-3



## The Required Response

He who \_\_\_\_\_ has eternal life.

John 6:47

The required response to the gospel can be summarized in one word:

***"believe."***

*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved... Acts 16:31*

*What does it mean to believe in Christ?*

- 1) Intellectual Agreement: I understand and confess I am a sinner and that God is righteous. I understand Jesus bore the penalty of my sin, and that He rose from the dead as evidence of His divinity and victory. Because of His completed work on the cross on my behalf, He is offering to me the gift of eternal life.
- 2) Personal Application: This applies to me. I need to change my mind by confessing my sin and my need for a Savior who is Jesus Christ alone. The Bible calls this change of mind "*repentance*."  
I must choose to respond, to accept or reject the invitation of Christ.
- 3) A Decision: I consciously decide to entrust my eternal destiny to Christ and what He did for me on the cross. This decision is typically expressed by a prayer to God expressing faith in Christ and a need for God's salvation. The Bible refers to this decision as "calling on the name of the Lord."

*For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "Whoever will call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved."*

*Romans 10:11-13*

To believe in Jesus means to entrust ourselves  
to Him alone for our salvation.

*Faith alone, in Christ alone.*

# What Do I Do Now?

What does God want for every believer? How do the following passages answer that question?

Matthew 28:18-20

Ephesians 4:1

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

The Worthy Walk qualifies us to fulfill our role as Ambassadors

Take a moment to unpack what it means to be an ambassador.

What does an ambassador do?

Consider what might happen if a king sent a person with no knowledge of his policies to represent him. What must a person do to be ready to assume the role of an ambassador?

Scripture uses the word picture of **spiritual growth**. When a baby is born, he begins a lifelong process of maturity to become prepared to fulfill his role in life.

When a person trusts in Christ for salvation, he/she is said to be:

_____	John 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23
Born into God's family	John 1:12
And become a child of God	Gal 3:26

What do the following passages say about the Means of Growth?

1 Peter 2:2

Matthew 4:4

What do the following passages say about the Goal of Spiritual Growth?

Ephesians 4:12-16

Galatians 4:19

2 Peter 3:18

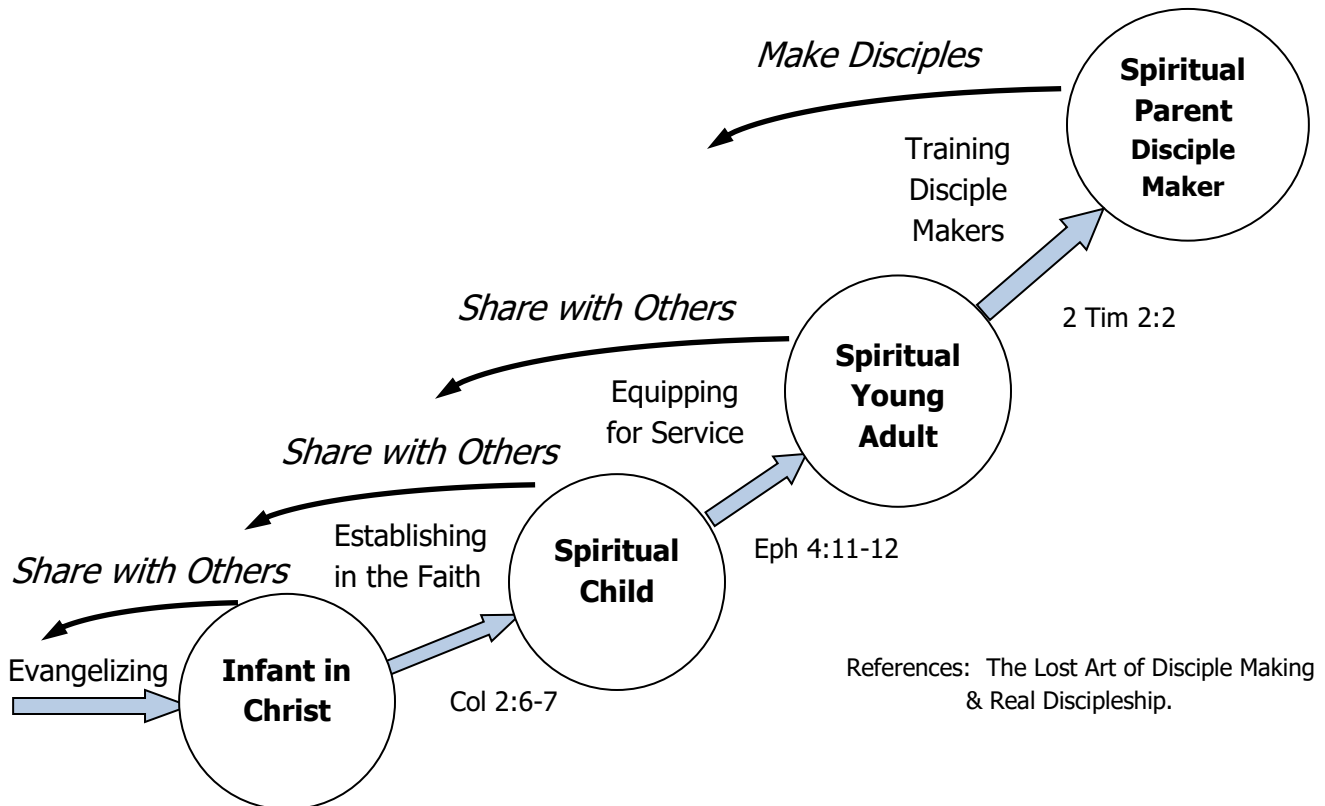
# The Spiritual Growth Process

Spiritual growth requires an intentional process that takes place over time. The typical believer will move through different phases of spiritual growth, similar to the physical growth we experience from infancy to adulthood.

## Characteristics of Each Phase

- Infants** are totally dependent. They need constant care and nourishment.
- Children** are often selfish. They tend to focus on their own needs: "I want." They need training and life experiences in order to become mature.
- Young Adults** are learning to focus on others. They need encouragement, guidance, balance, and discernment.
- Spiritual Parents** are spiritually mature, equipped with the Word. They have a servant's heart and understand God's plan for making disciples. They need to initiate the discipleship process with those within their sphere of influence.

## Making Disciples of Others



Through spiritual growth, as we become more like Jesus, we become better equipped to make disciples of others.

## Defining Some Key Terms

**A Christian / Believer:** There is one condition to be saved: a definitive decision to *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*.

To the person who trusts in Christ, God gives the gift of eternal life. God has completed a once-for-all transaction of being born again. At a moment in time the person has been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Col 1:13

**Disciple:** The word comes from the Greek word, μαθητης (mathetes), which has the basic meaning of "learner, or pupil."

A disciple is a learner and a follower of Jesus Christ.

Today we might use the word apprentice or intern.

While believing is the crucial first step in following Jesus, the requirements of being a disciple are continuous and daily.

Unfortunately, many Christians fail to fully embrace their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Disciple Maker:** A Disciple Maker is a follower of Jesus who comes along side of another person and helps them find and follow Jesus. A Disciple Maker is intentionally looking to influence others toward Jesus, whether an unbeliever or a believer.

**Discipleship:** The intentional process where a Disciple Maker comes alongside another person to influence them toward Jesus – wherever they are on their journey. - The continual efforts to speak the word of God into a person's life, so that they take one step closer to Jesus. It is a lifelong endeavor.

## When You Meet Together

### **Looking Up:**

Share your observations from your study this week.

Discuss any lingering questions that came up.

Discuss the different phases of spiritual growth.

Who do you know who needs a personal relationship with Jesus?

### **Looking Forward:**

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Notes or Questions

# Assignment for Upcoming Week

## Bible Reading

Each week we will help foster the habit of spending a few minutes each day reading the Bible. As you read, see what you learn about Jesus Christ.

Here is the reading schedule you can use for the week:

*(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      **John 1:1-18**

**Day 2**      **John 1:19-34**

**Day 3**      **John 1:35-51**

**Day 4**      **John 2:1-11**

**Day 5**      **John 2:12-25**

## Preparation for Section 2

Complete Section 2: "Assurance of Salvation." Read through the entire section, look up all the Bible verses, and record your observations in this booklet.

Further Study: Complete Section 1 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, also titled: "Assurance of Salvation."

## Disciple Maker Assignment

Where has Jesus sent you? What is your area of influence?

Who are the lost people in your life who need Jesus?

People I know who need Jesus:

_____	_____
_____	_____

## Section 2: Assurance of Salvation

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*How do I know I am saved?*

*Can I lose my salvation?*

Memorize Phil 1:6
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The Bible tells us salvation is a gift of God that we receive by faith in Christ. To have faith in Christ is to trust in what Jesus accomplished by taking the penalty for our sins. There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve our salvation - it is a gift, that God offers by grace.

Just as there is nothing we contribute to obtain salvation, there is nothing we do to "keep" our salvation.

*And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5:11-12*

## Salvation is totally a Work of God

What do our good works contribute to salvation?

Eph 2:8-9

Titus 3:5

What did Jesus accomplish on the cross?

Col 2:13-14

1 Pet 2:24

1 Pet 3:18

What is the only condition to be saved?

John 3:36

John 6:40, 47

Acts 16:30-31

## God Completes an Irreversible Transaction

The moment we place our trust in Christ, the Bible describes a number of supernatural, instantaneous, permanent transactions that God completes to the benefit of the believer.

### **John 5:24**

*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

### ***The Transaction from Death to Life***

How is this transaction described in these verses?

John 3:7; 1 Pet 1:23

John 1:12

Gal 3:26

### ***The Transaction of Citizenship***

How is the citizenship of the believer now described?

Col 1:13

Phil 3:20-21

### ***The Financial & Legal Transaction***

The natural man does not meet the absolute perfect standard of God's righteousness. At the moment of salvation, God makes a transaction that is described in financial terms. What is transferred, and to who?

2 Cor 5:21

Phil 3:8-9

Based on that transaction, then God makes a legal declaration. What is it?

Rom 5:1

Gal 2:16



### ***The Transaction of a New Standing, a New Identity "in Christ"***

At the moment of salvation, the new believer is identified with, or placed "*in Christ.*" This is accomplished by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor 12:13. (We will look at that more in a later series.)

Our new position "in Christ" makes possible the pouring out of God's blessing on the believer. What blessings are described in the following verses?

Eph 1:3; 2 Pet 1:3

Rom 8:1

Rom 8:15; Gal 4:4-7

Eph 1:11; 1 Pet 1:3-5

Col 2:10

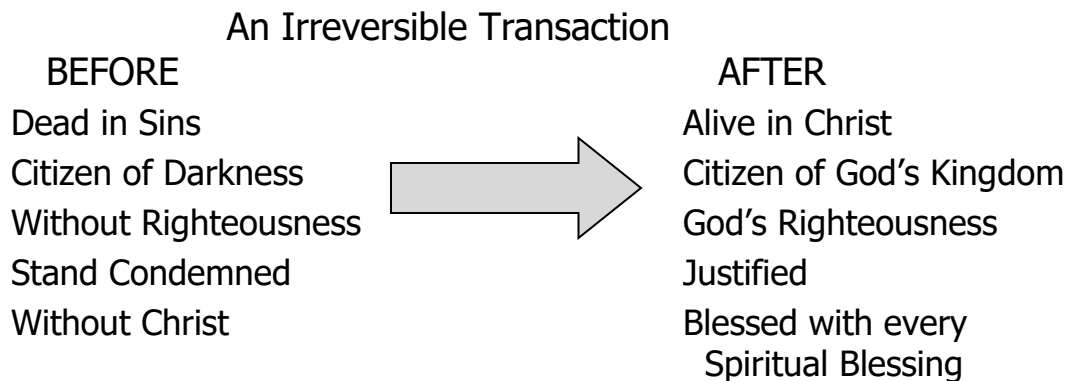
Eph 2:4-7

### ***Think it Through***

All of these verses describe some aspect of a transaction completed by God. What can you conclude about the security of your salvation?

According to Peter, on what does our salvation depend?

1 Pet 1:3-5



## Three Wheels of Assurance

Assurance is not a 100% deal. Life does not work that way. When we are faced with severe trials, or persecuted for our faith, doubts can arise.

Even John the Baptist experienced doubt when he was thrown into prison.

Matt 11:2-6

Describe the doubts of John the Baptist.

How did Jesus answer his doubts?

Assurance can be viewed as a tricycle with three wheels. There is one large wheel that is our main source of assurance. Then there are two smaller wheels that contribute to our assurance.



### *The Main Wheel of Assurance: The Promises of God*

The bedrock of our assurance comes from **trusting** the promises of God. Jesus has offered the gift of salvation and promised that we receive eternal life through believing in Him.

We have just looked at over 20 passages that speak of the irreversible transaction of God that happens the moment we trust in Christ. These are promises of God. Our assurance comes from trusting God's Word.

This is one of the reasons the Word of God takes such an important role in our lives. We saw last week that the Bible is like spiritual food. It is the means through which we grow spiritually. The consistent intake of the Word of God builds our toolbox of promises from God. These promises strengthen our ability to **rest** in the assurance of our salvation.

Our **Relationship** with God is permanent!

Take another look at what Peter wrote:

1 Pet 1:3-5

vs 3 What has God already done?

vs 4 What has God promised every believer?

vs 5 What makes the promise sure?

***The Second Wheel of Assurance: Visible Changes in our Life***

The Apostle John wants us to be assured of our salvation.

*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. 1 John 5:13*

“These things” are the topics he covered throughout the book. As we grow spiritually and become more like Jesus, we can expect to see evidences in our lives. What evidences can we expect to see according to the following verses:

1 John 2:3

1 John 2:19

1 John 3:2-3

1 John 3:10; 1 John 2:9-10

1 John 3:13

1 John 5:13-15

Remember, our salvation does not depend on us. The above verses refer to evidences in our lives that should assure us that God is changing us to be more like Jesus.

***The Third Wheel of Assurance: The Holy Spirit***

The third wheel of our assurance is the internal witness of the Holy Spirit. The moment we trust in Christ, believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to give internal assurance that we belong to Christ. Write your observations:

Romans 8:14-17

1 John 4:13

Life can be hard, and we all experience times of doubt. But God wants us to maintain an assurance that we are saved; we belong to Him. This assurance comes through trusting His promises, seeing the evidence of Him working in our lives, and the internal witness of the Holy Spirit.

## The Eternal Plan of God

God is working out His eternal plan. It is so much bigger than us. However, He has also invited us to become part of His Plan. In Romans chapters 1-8, Paul lays out a comprehensive description of God's plan of salvation. At the end of chapter 8, he summarizes the Plan.

What is the progression of God's Plan of salvation for each believer?

Romans 8:28-30

Paul opens the book of Ephesians, with the statement:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly  
places in Christ... Eph 1:3*

Each member of the Godhead is involved. What are the blessings?

Eph 1:3-14

The Father:

vs 4

vs 5

The Son:

vs 7

vs 11

The Holy Spirit:

vs 13-14

### **Nothing Can Separate Us!!**

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:38-39*

## When You Meet Together

### **Looking Back:**

Pray for the people you listed in the DM Assignment last week. pg 1-8

### **Looking Up:**

Share your observations from your study this week.

What part do we play in maintaining our salvation?

Share with the group, your level of assurance that you are saved. Why?

Practice reciting from memory: Phil 1:6

### **Looking Forward:**

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Notes or Questions

## Assignment for Upcoming Week

**Bible Reading** *(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      *John 3:1-21*

**Day 2**      *John 3:22-36*

**Day 3**      *John 4:1-42*

**Day 4**      *John 4:43-54*

**Day 5**      *John 5:1-18*

**Day 6**      *John 5:19-47*

### **Preparation for Section 3**

Complete Section 3: Victory over Sin

Further Study: Complete Section 3 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, titled:  
"Assurance of Victory."

### **Disciple Maker Assignment**

Continue to pray for the people you listed on page 1-8.

Practice presenting the Gospel as clearly as you can.

What are some good questions that may start a spiritual conversation?

## Section 3: Victory over Sin

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*What happens when I sin?*

*What can I do about my sin?*

Memorize 1 John 1:9
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Last week we studied the transaction God completes in each person the moment we trust in Christ for salvation. The Bible describes this transaction as a one-time, instantaneous, irreversible event. From this we can conclude, the believer's **relationship** with God is **permanent**.

### Relationship vs. Fellowship

Consider the following example: A child is physically born into a family. This is a onetime irreversible event. There is nothing that can change the relationship that exists between the child and the parents.

However, now consider what happens when that child grows to become old enough to drive a car. Suppose a son asks his dad for permission to take the car for the evening. Ground rules have been established as to where the son can go with the car, and with whom. Now suppose the son disobeys, lies to his dad, and drives the car to an off limits party with a group of rowdy teens.

Then the dad finds out what happened...

What has changed? The basic relationship between the father and the son still stands. The relationship is permanent.

However, the current experiential state of the relationship HAS changed. The Bible uses the word **fellowship**. The fellowship has been broken between the son and his father. The son lied and disobeyed; he knows it, and the father knows it. The father is disappointed with his son. In this state, the son stays clear of dad and tries to avoid speaking to him. Their fellowship is broken.

What needs to happen?

There is a process the father and son must go through to re-establish their fellowship, to regain a state in their relationship where they are on speaking terms and once again enjoy each other's company.

And so it is with our Heavenly Father...

## Fellowship with God

The character of God is multifaceted. However, there is one primary attribute that is often used to describe the overall nature of God. Notice the primary declaration made about God in the following:

Isaiah 6:1-7

vs 3 How is God described?

Rev 4:5-11

vs 8 How is God described?

In 1 John chapter 1, John uses the word picture of *light* to describe the holiness of God. With that as his starting premise, he explains that light and dark are mutually exclusive. Light and dark cannot co-exist together. This word picture is used to explain the spiritual principle that God cannot compromise His perfect character. When a believer sins, his fellowship with God is broken.

### **1 John 1:1-10**

Write down your summary observations.

vs 1-2 To whom is John referring?

How does John establish his credibility?

vs 3-4 What is the two fold purpose of writing?

1)

2)

vs 5 What does he say about God's character?

vs 6 What is the first false claim?

What does it mean to "walk in darkness"?

vs 7 What are the two results of "walking in the Light"?

1)

2)

vs 8 What is the second false claim?

vs 9 What is the condition? What is the promise?

vs 10 What is the third false claim?

What is the condition to be "in fellowship" with God?



### ***Walking in Light vs Walking in Darkness***

John is writing to believers. He has, in very broad terms, described two ways a believer can walk, can live out their life. A believer can walk in light or walk in darkness. To walk in light is to walk in a manner consistent with the will of God, to obey the commands of God and to be quick to confess any know sins. To walk in darkness is to live out our lives in disobedience to God, to allow sin to dominate our lives.

John has also made a connection between our walk, and whether we are in **fellowship** with God. To walk in light results in being in fellowship with God. To walk in darkness breaks our fellowship with God. It must be because God is light. Light cannot have fellowship with darkness.

John also acknowledges that as believers we continue to sin. In fact, to declare we do not sin is to deceive ourselves and call God a liar, vs 8, 10. Therefore, to walk in light does NOT mean we live sinless lives.

When the believer sins, God has provided a means for our fellowship with God to be restored. *“If we confess...”*

### ***Confession***

The word translated "*confess*" literally means "to say the same thing." To confess is to agree with God, to name our sins to God. According to verse 9, when we confess our sins to God, He promises to do two things. What are they:

- 1)
- 2)

God is faithful and righteous to do this because the Lord Jesus Christ has already paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. He now acts as an advocate before the Father. 1 John 2:1-2

Confession is not new. What do the following Old Testament verses say about sin, confession, and forgiveness?

Ps 32:5

Lev 5:5-6

## Temptation, Our Struggle with Sin

The passage in 1 John states two times (vs 8, 10) that we still have sin in our lives. To tempt someone means to lure or to bait them, to draw them in to do something that is wrong. The believer is constantly tempted to sin by the desires of his flesh and by the allurements of the world.

Temptations are so prevalent, that in His model prayer, Jesus included asking protection from temptations.

... *And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Matt 6:13.*

In later studies, we will examine in more detail the believer's internal struggle with sin and God's provisions for victory. Our starting point is to claim the promise of God regarding temptation:

*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Cor 10:13*

**Memorize this Promise!**

Feel creative? Draw a picture of this verse.

Observations from this promise:

What is true about every temptation?

What two things has God promised to do:

1)

2)

Careful here: Has God promised to remove temptations?

Why do you think God allows temptations and trials in our life?

Consider what Peter and James wrote:

1 Pet 1:6-9

James 1:12

### *Temptation, ... Common to Man*

What is the major source of temptation in our lives?

James 1:13-14

What are the three primary areas of temptation?

1 John 2:15-16

1)

2)

3)

What are examples of each of these in your life?

### *Jesus Understands our Struggle*

What does Hebrews say about Christ? What are we to do?

Heb 4:14-16

### *Preventative Measures to Avoid Temptation*

The first is to \_\_\_\_\_ Matt 6:13; 26:41

**Make a decision** to block out known sources of temptation.

Consider how to apply the following in your life.

Job 31:1

Job 34:3-4

Ps 119:59

Prov 4:25-27

Rom 6:12-13

**Commit** to a consistent study of the Word of God, the Bible (next week's topic).

Ps 119:9-11

Prov 4:13-15

Rom 12:2

## The Discipline of Spiritual Washing

As we are bombarded with temptations, we can expect there will be times when we fall to the temptation and choose to sin. According to 1 John 1, God is light, and He cannot have fellowship with darkness. When we sin, our fellowship with God is broken. However, God has given us the grace provision of **confession** to recover from sin.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

Notice, when we are careful to confess our known sins to God, He has promised to not only forgive those sins, but to cleanse us from **all** unrighteousness. This would include even unknown sins, sins we have done in ignorance.

The last phrase introduces the word picture of spiritual cleansing. Consider for a moment your normal routine of physical cleansing. For most of us, there are two reasons we wash up:

- 1) As part of a normal routine, for example, a shower every morning
- 2) Whenever we get dirty, after a workout or completing a dirty job

These practices, provide a great model for spiritual cleansing.

- 1) Take time at the beginning and/or end of each day for a time of reflection. Are there any sins in my life I have failed to confess?  
In a sense, take a spiritual shower as a matter of routine.
- 2) Any time you get dirty, as you go through the course of the day, whenever you sin (mental attitude sin, verbal sin, or an overt sin), stop and take a moment to confess that sin.

This is a great way to ensure you are walking in the light and remain in fellowship with God.

## When You Meet Together

### **Looking Back:**

Continue to pray for the people you listed in the DM Assignment on pg 1-8.

Have someone practice presenting the Gospel.

What questions can you ask to begin a spiritual conversation?

### **Looking Up:**

Discuss your insights from this week.

What is the difference between our relationship and fellowship with God?

What are some common temptations in your life?

How do you ensure that you are "spiritually clean?"

Practice reciting from memory: 1 John 1:9 and 1 Cor 10:13

### **Looking Forward:**

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## *Additional Notes & Questions*

## Assignment for Upcoming Week

**Bible Reading** *(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      **John 6:1-21**

*Day 2*      *John 6:22-40*

*Day 3*      *John 6:41-71*

*Day 4*      *John 7:1-36*

*Day 5*      *John 7:37-53*

### **Preparation for Section 4**

Complete Section 4: God's Word the Bible

Further Study: Complete Section 8 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, titled: "God's Word."

### **Disciple Maker Assignment**

Continue to pray for the people you listed on page 1-8.

Commit to make an effort to begin a spiritual conversation by asking a good question. Check out the Sample Questions in the Appendix.

Practice presenting the Gospel as clearly as you can.

## Section 4: God's Word, the Bible

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*How does the Bible all fit together?*

*What is the Big Picture?*

Memorize  
2 Tim 3:16-17

The Bible is the way God reveals His truths to us. The Bible is the source document of the Christian faith. The Bible is the ultimate authority on the issues of life and everything spiritual. For every life issue, the question we should consider is: "What does the Bible say?"

### God has Revealed Himself

God is Spirit, He is invisible! Yet God has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to us.

*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of the law.*  
Deut  
29:29

According to this verse why has God revealed His truth?

God has used three primary means to reveal Himself. What are they?

- 1) Ps 19:1-4; Rom 1:18-32 through \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Ps 19:7-14; Ps 119 through \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Heb 1:1-2 through \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is unique to all other writings in that it was "inspired" by God.

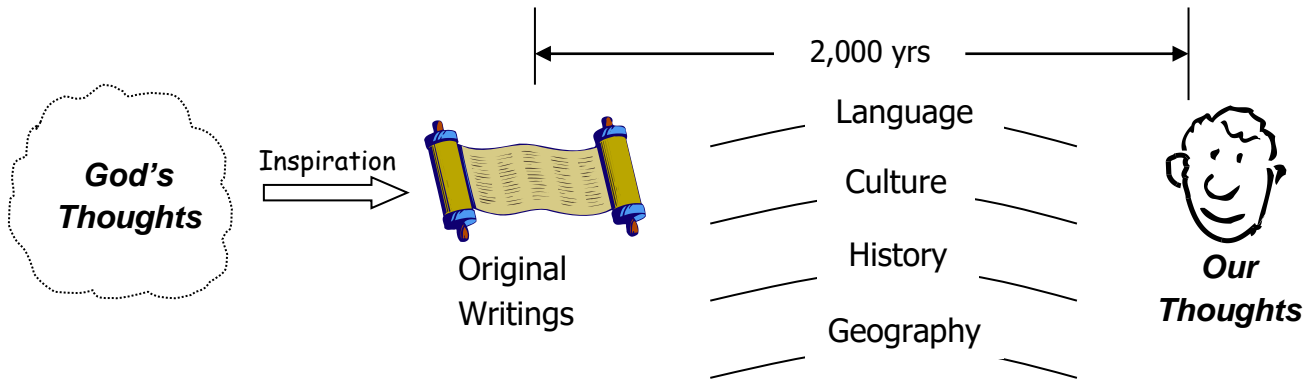
*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*  
1 Tim 3:16-17

**Inspiration** is the process whereby God the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors of Scripture to write without error, the truths God chose to reveal to mankind. Peter gives us more information: What is his warning?

2 Pet 1:20-21

# Thinking Through Inspiration

If Scripture is not a matter of our own interpretation...  
 then we need to be careful to build accurate bridges



The Goal: To Conform our thoughts to God's Thoughts

Proper Bible interpretation requires that we build the correct bridges illustrated above. We need the proper context of:

- Language*                      *What does this word mean?*
- Culture*                        *What was the cultural practice of the time?*
- History, and*                  *What is the historical context?*
- Geography*                    *Where did this happen?*

to understand what a given passage is saying.

We must be careful to use all of God's provisions to understand His revelation:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Eph 4:11-12
- \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:26; 16:12-15; 1 Cor 2:12-13
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Tim 2:15; Acts 17:11

*Now these were more noble minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so. Acts 17:11*



# The Big Picture

The Bible was written by about 40 men, over a period of 1,500 years, (1400 BC to AD 90). The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew with some portions in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.

OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)			NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)			
<b>History</b> (17 Books)  <b>Law Pentateuch</b> (5 Books) Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy  <b>Historical</b> (12 Books) Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	<b>Poetry &amp; Wisdom</b> (5 Books)  Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Solomon	<b>Prophetic</b> (17 Books)  <b>Major</b> (5 Books) Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel  <b>Minor</b> (12 Books) Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi		<b>Historical</b> (5 Books)  <b>The Gospels</b>  Matthew Mark Luke John  <b>The Early Church</b>  Acts	<b>Epistles</b> (21 Books)  <b>Epistles of Paul</b>  <b>Journey Epistles</b> Galatians 1&2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Corinthians Romans  <b>Prison Epistles</b> Ephesians Philippians Colossians Philemon  <b>Pastoral Epistles</b> 1 & 2 Timothy Titus  <b>General Epistles</b> Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2, & 3 John Jude	<b>Prophecy</b> (1 Book)  Revelation

The Old Testament looks forward to Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

The New Testament presents new truths based upon the completed work of Christ on the cross.

## Getting a Firm Grip on the Word of God

It is the intent of God that we understand the truths He has revealed in the Bible. Practically speaking, there are five disciplines that can help us get a firm grip on our understanding of the Bible. *The Navigators*, a mission organization that started on college campuses, have long used this illustration.



- Hear**      **Rom 10:17**    Make it a priority to sit under the teaching of those who are gifted to teach the Word of God, and who stay close to the text of Scripture. Seek out a church where the Bible is taught.
- Read**      **Rev 1:3**        Develop a habit of spending a few moments each day reading the Bible. There are many reading plans available that can guide your reading effort.
- Study**     **Acts 17:11**    Some passages are difficult to understand. It takes diligent study to compare Scripture with Scripture to ensure you are getting a balanced view of any given topic.
- Memorize** **Ps 119:9-11** There is no better way to infuse the Word of God into our thinking than to memorize verses and promises that have special meaning to us.
- Meditate** **Josh 1:8-9**    To meditate is to give active, diligent thought and consideration to the truths of Scripture. As we meditate on the Word, the Holy Spirit is able to “connect the dots” and help us to understand how it all ties together.

## Why is the Bible so Important?

We noted in Section 1 that the Bible is compared to spiritual food. A consistent intake of God's Word is vital to our spiritual growth and health.

What do the following passages say, or promise regarding the Word of God?

Matt 4:4

1 Pet 2:2

Deut 6:6-9

Deut 32:46-47

Joshua 1:8-9

Ps 1:1-3

Ps 19:7-8

Ps 19:9-11

Ps 119:9,11

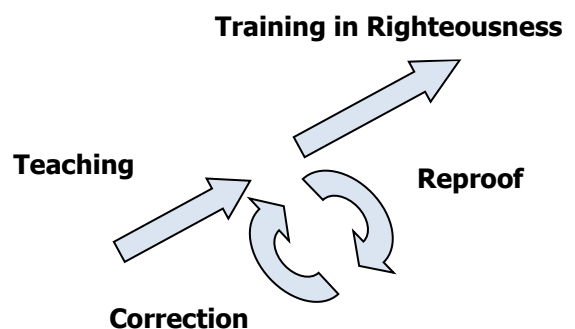
Col 3:16

Heb 4:12

Look again at 2 Tim 3:16-17.

What is the four-fold intent of Scripture?

What is the ultimate goal?



### **Psalm 119**

Ps 119 is one of the most unique writings in all of Scripture. In a wonderful display of Hebrew poetry, the verses of each section each begin with a different Hebrew letter, going all the way through the Hebrew alphabet. In addition, nearly every verse makes some reference to the Word of God, (law, testimony, precepts, statutes, commandments, etc.).

Take some time to read through Ps 119.

## Going Deeper, How Did Jesus View Scripture?

**Matt 5:17-19**; Lk 24:25-47; Matt 22:29-33, 43-45

Jesus Christ repeatedly gave confirmation and testimony to the divine origin and reliability of the Scriptures. He believed the Bible to be the divinely inspired Word of God.

- Unbreakable authority: the Scriptures cannot be broken. John 10:35
- Complete fulfillment: till all be fulfilled, Matt 5:18
- Ended all debate: facing temptation, Matt 4:1-11  
about divorce, Matt 19:1-12  
concerning tradition, Matt 15:3-4

Jesus Christ maintained a literal interpretation of the accounts of the Old Testament:

- the creation of Adam and Eve Matt 19:4-5
- the murder of Abel by Cain Luke 11:51
- the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah Luke 17:29
- the universal flood of Noah's day Matt 24:37
- the death of Lot's wife Luke 17:32
- the calling of Moses Mark 12:26
- the great fish and Jonah Matt 12:39-41

Jesus Christ maintained a literal interpretation of the people of the Old Testament:

- Moses John 5:45-47
- Isaiah John 12:38
- Daniel Matt 24:15

Jesus declared the very words of Scripture were inspired: Matt 5:17-18

Notice how the Apostle Paul interpreted Genesis 3: Rom 5:12



### The "Golden Rule" of Interpretation

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise." D. L. Cooper

## When You Meet Together

### **Looking Back:**

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 3-8.

Have someone share "Their Story."

My Life Before Christ

What Brought Me to Christ

My Life After I Trusted in Christ

### **Looking Up:**

Share your insights from this week.

What evidence is there in Scripture that we are to interpret the Bible literally?

Discuss Paul's statement in Rom 5:12. That does that say about Genesis 3?

Practice reciting from memory: 2 Tim 3:16-17 and Matt 4:4

### **Looking Forward:**

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## *Additional Notes & Questions*

## Assignment for Upcoming Week

**Bible Reading** *(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      *John 8:1-30*

**Day 2**      *John 8:31-59*

**Day 3**      *John 9:1-41*

**Day 4**      *John 10:1-21*

**Day 5**      *John 10:22-42*

### **Preparation for Section 5**

Complete Section 5: Talking with God

Further Study: Complete Section 2 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, titled:  
"Answered Prayer."

### **Disciple Maker Assignment**

Continue to pray for the people in your life who need Jesus.

Commit to make an effort to begin a spiritual conversation by asking a good question. Check out the Sample Questions in the Appendix.

Practice telling "Your Story." (See pg 7-5)

    Before Christ

    How I Found Christ (or He found me)

    After Christ

## Section 5: Talking with God

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*How do I pray to God?*

*Why should I pray to God?*

<p>Memorize Phil 4:6-7</p>
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As children of God, as new members of God's family, we have the privilege of going before God in prayer. **Think of it**, the God who created you and holds the universe together wants us to come to Him in prayer! Just like any relationship, the closeness of our relationship with God, the vitality of our fellowship with God, is maintained by good communication.

### Jesus Teaches on Prayer

A parable is an earthly story that illustrates a spiritual principle. In Luke 11, Jesus begins His "Prayer 101" training with His disciples. What does Jesus emphasize as the starting point in our prayers?

#### *Luke 11:1-13 The Importunate Friend*

vs 1 The occasion for the parable: "Lord teach us \_\_\_\_\_."

vs 5-8 The earthly story, summarize the story:

vs 8 Why did the friend respond to the midnight request?

vs 9-10 The application of the parable

Keep on \_\_\_\_\_

Keep on \_\_\_\_\_

Keep on \_\_\_\_\_

vs 10 Why:

vs 11-13 The parable is further illustrated by Jesus

vs 11-12 The response of an earthly father to a son's request

vs 13 In contrast, how would our heavenly Father respond?

Main Point: We must be \_\_\_\_\_ in our prayers.

Make Prayer a Priority!

## Consider the Examples of Prayer

*Now these things happened to them as an example,  
and they were written for our instruction... 1 Cor 10:11*

The Bible is full of examples of godly people who sought out the Lord in prayer. What do you see in each of these examples:

Gen 19:27	Abraham
Ex 32:11-14	Moses
Ex 17:8-13	Moses
1 Sam 1:9-11, 1 Sam 1:19-20; 2:1-10	Hannah
Ps 5:1-3	David
1 Kings 18:36-39	Elijah
Dan 6:10	Daniel

Take another look: What do we see about Daniel's prayer life?  
By way of application, consider incorporating into your life the habit of a "**Daniel Prayer**," a designated time and place that you totally focus on prayer.

### *The Examples of Jesus*

Mark 1:35

Lk 6:12-13

Lk 5:15-16

If even Jesus made prayer a priority, how much more should we?

What habits of prayer can you incorporate into your life?



## Guidelines for Effective Prayer

*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.  
James 5:16-18*

Be a righteous man! 😊 What do the following verses say about how our prayers can be more effective?

John 15:7-8

1 John 3:21-22

1 John 5:14-15

There are also warnings of things that will hinder our prayers:

Ps 66:18; Is 59:2

James 1:6-7; 4:2-3

1 Pet 3:7

Job 35:12-13

### *The Method of Prayer*

Directed to the Father

Matt 6:9; Eph 3:14; 5:20; Rom 1:9

Through or in Jesus' Name

John 14:13; 15:16; 16:23-24; Eph 5:20

In the power of the Holy Spirit

Eph 6:18; Rom 8:26-27

### *The Content of Prayer*

Searching the heart

Ps 139:23-24

Confession

Ps 32:5; 1 John 1:9

Adoration & Praise

Is 25:1; Ps 91; Heb 13:15

Thanksgiving

Eph 5:20; 1 Thes 5:17-18; Phil 4:6-7

Prayer for Others

Eph 6:18; 1 Tim 2:1

Prayer for Ourselves

Heb 4:16

Remember the acronym ACTS:

**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication

## Just Do It!!

Devote yourself to prayer.

*Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And **they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.***

*Acts 2:41-42*

*"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **but we will devote ourselves continually to prayer** and to the ministry of the word."*

*Acts 6:3-4*

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, **devoted to prayer;***

*Rom 12:9-12*

### ***Prayer Promises***

Phil 4:6-7; 1 Pet 5:6-7

Heb 4:14-16

Ps 34:15-18

Ps 50:15

Ps 116:1-2

James 1:5

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;*

*Col 4:2*

## When You Meet Together

### Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 4-8.

Practice telling "Your Story." (See pg 7-5)

My Life Before Christ

What Brought Me to Christ

My Life After I Trusted in Christ

### Looking Up:

Share your insights from this week. What did you learn from Moses & Daniel?

Share prayer requests and commit to pray for each other.

Practice reciting from memory: Phil 4:6-7 and 1 John 5:14-15

### Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer Journal

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Many find a Prayer Journal to be a great encouragement to help in their consistency. Set up a journal where you record your prayer requests, and then go back and note how God answered each prayer.

A prayer journal also helps as a reminder of the requests you need to lift up each day.

## Assignment for Upcoming Week

**Bible Reading** *(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      *John 11:1-44*

**Day 2**      *John 11:45-57*

**Day 3**      *John 12:1-19*

**Day 4**      *John 12:20-50*

**Day 5**      *John 13:1-20*

**Day 6**      *John 13:21-38*

### **Preparation for Section 6**

Complete Section 6: The Local Church

Further Study: Complete Section 11 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, titled:  
"The Church."

### **Disciple Maker Assignment**

Continue to pray for the people in your life who need Jesus.

Practice telling "Your Story."

Before Christ

How I Found Christ (or He found me)

After Christ

Who are the next two people you can disciple using this booklet?

## Section 6: The Local Church

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*What happens at church?*

*Why is the church important?*

Memorize  
Rom 12:10-13

The moment we trust in Christ, we are placed into the “*Body of Christ.*” This is one of the names used in Scripture for the church. It is a simple yet profound word picture. We can visualize a physical body, made up of many parts, all connected and working together.

The church is God’s provision for our spiritual growth, our encouragement, and our care. It is a training and support facility for the believer.

The word “church” comes from the Greek term *ekklesia* (Εκκλησια) and means an assembly of people, a gathering, called out ones.

The term is used to identify two views of the Church:

The **Universal Church** is made up of EVERY person who has placed their trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. We become members of the universal church at the very moment we place our trust in Christ as our Savior, through the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 12:13-14

A **Local Church** is the visible expression of the universal church in a specific location (1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1). It is an assembly of believers who, under Christ and the delegated authority of its leadership, devote themselves to one another, and to God’s Kingdom work within their sphere of influence. (Romans 12:10-13).

The local church is the main vehicle through which God carries out His purposes on earth. The local church can be thought of as a local “*Embassy*” where believers, as ambassadors of Christ, gather for worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer, and encouragement.

In the opening of Paul’s letter to the church at Thessalonica, he commended them saying:

*For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.*

*1 Thess 1:8*

## Illustrations Used to Describe the Church

There are at least five analogies used in Scripture to describe the church and to illustrate characteristics of the church. In the following passages, what is the illustration and what does it teach about the church?

Eph 2:19-22

1 Pet 2:4-5

Eph 5:23-32

John 15:1-5

Gal 6:10

1 Tim 3:15

By far the most common illustration is that of the **Body of Christ**.

*For just as we have many members in one body and all members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.* Romans 12:4-5

This is a very strong word picture. Take some time to unpack this analogy. What are the characteristics of a physical body, and what do they teach about the proper function of a local church?

Physical Body

The Local Church

1 Cor 12:12-27 What attitudes does Paul address?

Col 1:18 Who is the head of the body?

## The Functions Within the Local Church

The Local Church is a group of believers that God has brought together to represent Him within a specific location. The local church is a *"support facility"* for the believers to be prepared, trained, encouraged, and supported as they carry out their roles as ambassadors for Christ where they live. 2 Cor 5:16-21

The first days of the church in Acts 2 give us a good example of the functions within a local church. What do the following passages tell us about the local church?

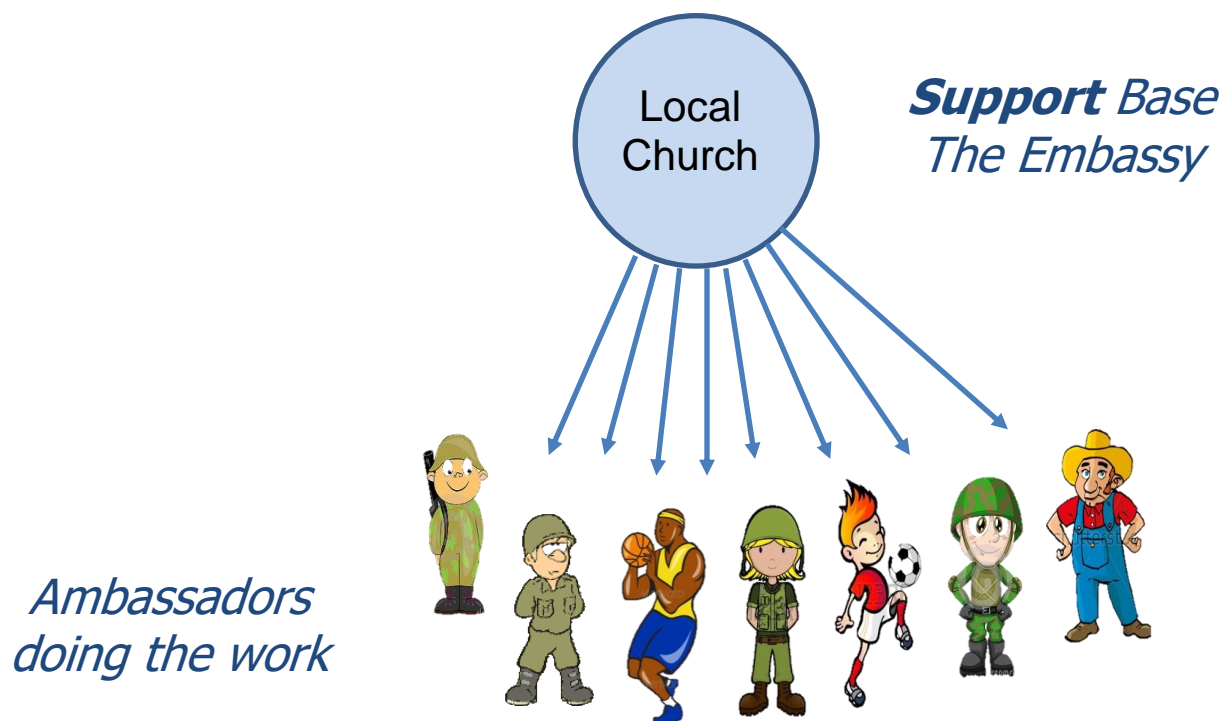
Acts 2:41-42 What four things were they doing together?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Hebrews 10:23-25 Why do believers meet together?

### *The Embassy*

The local church is like an embassy. Unpack that word picture. What functions does an embassy provide for ambassadors who are in a foreign land?



## The Ordinances Practiced within the Church

The two ordinances practiced within the church are water baptism and communion, (also called the Lord's Table). We are careful to use the term "ordinance" because neither of these practices are a "sacrament." The word sacrament implies the imparting of some sort of divine blessing just by the act of participation. This teaching has no basis in Scripture, but has come out of church traditions.

### ***Water Baptism***

The word baptism comes from a Greek word "baptize," meaning to dip or immerse. A secular use of the word included to dip or immerse a cloth into a container of dye. The cloth comes out identified with the color of the dye. This led to a ceremonial use of the word, "to identify."

In the New Testament, the word is used in several contexts, but in each one, a person is identified with something. For example, Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist. The baptism of Jesus obviously did not have anything to do with Jesus being saved. It was a public act of Jesus identifying Himself to be the Son of God, and the start of His public ministry according to the will of the Father.

Matt 3:13-17

Water baptism is an outward demonstration of the inward work of God in the life of the believer. It is a public testimony of a person's faith in Christ. In the book of Acts, it is seen as a first step of obedience for the new believer in following Jesus. Note the following:

Acts 2:41

Acts 8:12-13

Acts 8:34-38



## Communion

Throughout Scripture God has implemented ways for His people to remember Him and what He has done. Note some of the OT examples:

Ex 12:14

Deut 5:12-15

Num 15:37-41

The night Jesus was arrested, He observed the Passover meal with His disciples. He took two elements from the Passover feast, and instituted a new ordinance for believers to observe, until He returns:

Luke 22:14-23

We are to observe this *in remembrance* of Him. The bread is a reminder of the body of Christ, the person of Christ. Jesus Christ is both God and man, and without sin. Only Jesus was qualified to be our sacrifice for sin – to die in our place. The cup is a reminder of the blood that Jesus shed for us on the cross. On the cross Jesus bore the penalty of our sin, spiritual death. Together, the bread and the cup are a reminder of the Person and Work of Jesus on our behalf.

In his instructions to the believers in Corinth, Paul included a warning as to the seriousness of approaching the Lord's table in a worthy manner.

1 Cor 1:23-32

As we observe the Lord's Table, we are reminded of the enormity of the love that Jesus demonstrated for us in removing the eternal penalty of our sin. He first loved us. It is His love that should compel us to love in return, through a life that is pleasing to Him.

2 Cor 5:14-15

## Church Family Relationships

In describing a “worthy walk” of every believer, Paul starts with talking about our relationships within the local church. What does Paul say about unity?

Eph 4:1-6

In addition to being spiritually one in Christ, through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, God intends our unity to be visible for all to see. Throughout the New Testament, that unity is described with what is commonly called the “*one another*” verses. How is unity to be expressed?

John 13:34-35

1 Cor 12:25

Eph 4:2

Gal 5:13

1 Pet 4:8-9

1 Pet 4:10

Life is all about relationships. Relationships take time and effort. Relationships are built through communication and shared experiences. But we live in a fast-paced culture, filled with activity. This means that for us to build and foster these *one another* relationships, it will take intentional effort.

Phil 2:3-4

Investing in relationships takes time and effort, but these relationships become the greatest source of blessing in our lives.

### ***Not a Building, or an Event***

The local church is not a building. The local church is not an event one attends once a week. The local church is a family of believers, united in Christ, who care, support, and encourage one another.

## Who Does the Ministry?

Many churches come from a tradition that includes a separate group of people who are specifically tasked to do the work of the church (clergy, pastors, priests etc.). This traditional view comes from the Old Testament and from the history of church denominations. In the OT, the tribe of Levi was designated by God to function as priests, to represent God before men and to offer sacrifices to God on behalf of men. The clergy/laity distinction has made its way into most denominations. While there is a valid role of spiritual leadership within the church, the traditional clergy/laity distinction is not what the Bible teaches.

The body of Christ is made up of many members, each fulfilling a unique role. Every believer contributes to the work of "ministry." Notice what Paul says regarding the role of the pastor and teacher.

Eph 4:11-16

vs 11 Those with leadership/communication roles

vs 12-13 What is their purpose? Who does the work of service?

vs 14 Good teaching should result in:

vs 15-16 *...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body,*

1) *being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies,*

2) *according to the proper working of each individual part,*

**Result:** *causes the growth of the body*

*for the building up of itself in love. Eph 4:15-16*

According to these verses,

What is the role of the pastor?

What is the role of each believer?

## Going Deeper, Church Leadership

Who leads the Church?

Col 1:18; Eph 1:22-23; Eph 5:23-24

All who serve in the church in any capacity, must always remember we serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

### *Elders*

Jesus Christ has delegated spiritual authority to elders to act as under-shepherds of His flock. What instructions are given to the pastor/elders?

1 Peter 5:1-4

What instructions does Paul leave with the church leaders of Ephesus?

Acts 20:28-32

The qualifications for elders are set forth in 1 Tim 3:1-7, and Titus 1:5-9.

### *Deacons*

The origin of deacons goes back to Acts 6:1-7. In the early church, there was a group of Hellenistic Jewish widows who were being overlooked. The apostles instructed the church to select 7 men to ensure their needs were being met. From this account comes the basic role and responsibility of the deacons:

To meet the physical needs of the members of the body, such that the spiritual leaders can remain focused on spiritual oversight, namely prayer and the ministry of the Word of God.

The qualifications for deacon candidates are outlined in 1 Tim 3:8-13.

## When You Meet Together

### Looking Back:

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 5-6.

Have someone share "Their Story." Practice presenting the Gospel.

### Looking Up:

Share your insights from this week.

Discuss the role of the local church as an "Embassy."

Where is the work of ambassadorship accomplished?

What will it take to develop "one another" relationships?

What is the job of the Pastors?

Practice reciting from memory: Rom 12:10-13

### Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## Assignment for Upcoming Week

**Bible Reading** *(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      *John 14:1-14*

**Day 2**      *John 14:15-31*

**Day 3**      *John 15:1-17*

**Day 4**      *John 15:18-27*

**Day 5**      *John 16:1-15*

**Day 6**      *John 16:16-33*

## Preparation for Section 7

Complete Section 7: Sharing My Faith

Further Study: Complete Section 13 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, titled: "Witnessing."

## Disciple Maker Assignment

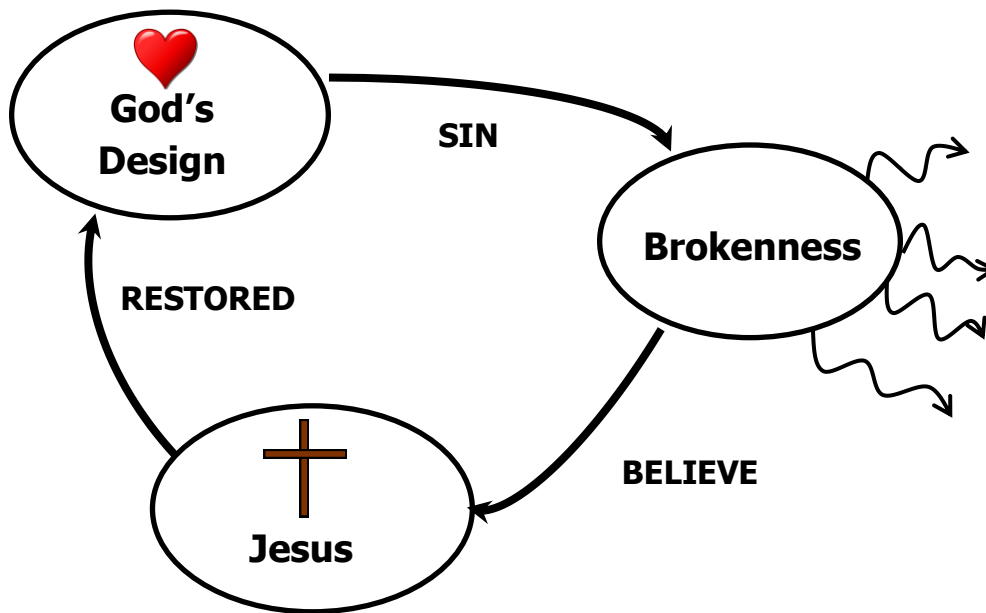
Continue to pray for the people in your life who need Jesus.

Practice presenting the Gospel as clearly as you can.

Try using the 3 Circles Diagram.

Who are the next two people you can disciple using this booklet?

### The 3 Circles Diagram



Acknowledgement: The 3 Circles Life Conversation Guide  
from *Life on Mission*

## Section 7: Sharing My Faith

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*The basic invitation*

*How do I tell others?*

<p>Memorize 1 Pet 3:15</p>
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The welcome letter at the beginning of this booklet reminds us that believers are intended by God to be disciples who are “fishers of men.”

Every section of this booklet contributes to the learning process of following Jesus, but the goal is to personally become a fisher of men. What can we learn from the word picture of “catching men”?

Matt 4:19

Note this verse has a condition, and describes a transformation that Jesus will do that results in us becoming something new. The Bible uses additional expressions to describe our role of fishing for men.

### *Sent Ones, Just Like Jesus*

This all starts with Jesus. Why did Jesus come to earth?

Lk 19:10

On the evening before Jesus was to be crucified, John records His prayer to the Father. Jesus prayed for those who would *believe in Me through their word*. That is Us! What does Jesus say about us in this prayer?

John 17:18-21

John 20:21

Consider this privilege. Jesus has invited us to continue the work that He has started. There is no greater and fulfilling “job opportunity!” As the Father has sent the Son, so Jesus has sent us.

## Disciples Who Make Disciples

The primary term Jesus used was **disciple**. A disciple is a learner and a follower. The term we would use today is an apprentice. For example if someone wants to become a plumber, they find a licensed plumber (a master) to work alongside to learn the trade. A disciple is anyone who follows Jesus to learn from Him how to walk in a manner that pleases God.

However, the call to become a disciple of Jesus includes high standards. What do the following verses say about being a disciple of Jesus?

Matt 16:24-26

Lk 9:57-62

Lk 14:25-35

John 8:31-32

The goal of the following and learning is to become better equipped to carry on the work of Jesus. Jesus summarized the task in what is called the Great Commission.

Matt 28:18-20

vs 18 What does Jesus remind the disciples?

vs 19 The main verb is "make disciples."

What is the extent of the task?

vs 19-20 Making disciples includes two primary functions:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ them (everything leading up to salvation)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ them how to live, all I commanded you

Every believer is called to follow Jesus, to become trained and able to make disciples of others.



### **Witnesses**

After the resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with the disciples preparing them for what lay ahead. He was returning to heaven. The work He started of seeking the lost was now passed to His disciples. Acts 1:1-3

Jesus instructs them to remain in Jerusalem to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus would send. Jesus introduces a new term to describe their work.

Acts 1:8 You shall be My \_\_\_\_\_

What is the scope of the task?

What must be true of a witness, for the witness to be effective?

What must a witness do to be a witness?

## **Paul Used a Third Expression**

The moment we trust in Christ, our citizenship is transferred to heaven.

Phil 3:20-21

For now, we live in a foreign land, representing our King. Describe the role of an ambassador. What are the character qualities of a good ambassador?

What must an ambassador do to be effective?

2 Cor 5:14-21

vs 14-15 What should motivate us? What should be the focus of our lives?

vs 16 How are we to view people?

vs 17 What has God done in every believer?

vs 18-19 What has God done for the world? What has God given us to do?

vs 20 Therefore we are \_\_\_\_\_!

What is our basic invitation message?

vs 21 What made all this possible?

## Ambassador Preparation

The ambassador must be able and ready to clearly present the invitation from the King.

*But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed  
And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,  
but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a  
defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in  
you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that  
in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good  
behavior in Christ will be put to shame.* *1 Peter 3:14-16*

What kind of responses can we expect?

What manner of demeanor must we maintain as an ambassador?

### **Telling Others**

Read the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.

John 4:7-30

vs 28-29 What did the woman do after she spoke with Jesus?

vs 30, 39 What was the result?

Read the account of Jesus healing the man possessed with a demon.

Mark 5:1-20

vs 19 What did Jesus instruct the man to do after He healed him?

vs 20 What was the result?

## Telling Your Story

The Samaritan woman did not have any training, but she had a story. She immediately went out and told people she knew, what Jesus had done in her life.

If you have trusted in Christ, you have a story to tell. It may not be a story that will make it into a best selling book, but it is your story. It is unique to you. It is real, and no one can deny your story. There is no theological debate.

*He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."*

*John 9:25*

### ***What is Your Story?***

Take some time to concisely write your story.

#### **My Life Before Christ:**

"There was a time in my life when..."

#### **What Brought Me to Christ:**

"Then someone showed me..."

#### **My Life After I Trusted in Christ:**

"Jesus changed Me, and now..."

*The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself..."*

*1 John 5:10*

## Nuggets for a Spiritual Conversation

Beginning a conversation about Jesus can be very intimidating. How can I turn a conversation to spiritual things? Consider the following two key points:

- 1) Earning the right
- 2) Asking good questions

### ***Earning the Right***

You have earned the right to talk to this person (depending on the context).

To a neighbor, you have shown kindness.

To a work mate, you have been eager to help them.

To a fellow passenger on a plane, you have been friendly.

### ***Asking Good Questions***

Ask questions to show genuine interest in them as a person.

Explore if there is any spiritual interest or background.

Ask if they have any knowledge of church or Jesus.

Ask if they have a religious background, ask about their experience.

Learn about their perspective of God and what God requires.

Ask if they have any first-hand experience of what the Bible teaches.

Ask if you can tell your story of how you came to know God through Jesus.

See the sample questions in the Appendix.

## When You Meet Together

### **Looking Back:**

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 6-10.

Have someone share "Their Story." Practice presenting the Gospel.

### **Looking Up:**

Share your insights from this week.

What makes it so hard to share the Gospel?

What steps can we take to overcome our fears?

What is at stake for our friend who has not trusted in Jesus?

Practice reciting from memory: 1 Pet 3:15

### **Looking Forward:**

As a result of this study, I Will \_\_\_\_\_

## *Additional Notes & Questions*

## Assignment for Upcoming Week

**Bible Reading** *(Write down your observations for each day.)*

**Day 1**      *John 17:1-26*

**Day 2**      *John 18:1-23*

**Day 3**      *John 18:24-40*

**Day 4**      *John 19:1-16*

**Day 5**      *John 19:17-42*

### **Preparation for Section 8**

Complete Section 8: What next?

Further Study: Complete Section 12 in the **Growing in Christ** booklet, titled:  
"Good Works."

### **Disciple Maker Assignment**

Continue to pray for the people in your life who need Jesus.

Who can you tell about how you came to trust in Christ?

Pray for an opportunity to share the Gospel this week.

Who are the next two people you can disciple using this booklet?

## Section 8: What Do I Do Next?

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### *Growing in Christ*

#### *Walking worthy of our calling*

We have covered a lot of ground over the last several weeks. Admittedly, this *New Believers Series* may be a little more intense than most. 😊

This week we are going to take a breath. Let's go back through what we have covered and hang it all on a framework we can remember.

### A Framework for Life

It is easy for life to get out of balance. Each week we have studied some basic principles to help us stay on track. (Also, further study will give us more insight.)

Remember what Jesus has done: (Sec 1-2)

2 Cor 5:14-15 (Series 2)

Gal 2:20

Maintain Good Spiritual Health:

Matt 4:4; 1 Pet 2:2; Col 3:16 Consistent Diet (Sec 4)

1 John 1:9 Stay Clean (Sec 3)

Get Plenty of Exercise:

Eph 4:1 Walk Worthy (Series 3)

Phil 2:12-13 Work Out (Series 4)

Maintain Good Strong Relationships:

Heb 4:16; Col 4:2 With God in Prayer (Sec 5)

Rom 12:10; Heb 10:24-25 With Other Believers (Sec 6)

Be Ready:

1 Pet 3:15 To Give an Answer (Sec 7)

## Press Forward

The Christian way of life is a lifelong pursuit of following Jesus, seeking to become more and more like Him, walking the path of *good works* before us.

Phil 3:12-14

Eph 2:10

## Stay Focused on the "Main Thing"

Jesus gives us two commands that set the course of our lives.

To love \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Matt 22:37-40

To make \_\_\_\_\_ Matt 28:19-20

Our **Relationships**: Love God & People

Love God, devotion to God (time in His word, prayer).

Love your neighbor, building relationships

Doing good works, being salt & light

Being ready to give an answer

Our **Mission**: Make Disciples

Become a disciple of Jesus (be a learner and a follower of Jesus).

Carry out the work of assisting others to become a follower of Jesus.

The Means:

through baptizing, leading unsaved people to trusting in Christ

through teaching, training & equipping believers.

## The Common Thread

*We are to be an **influence** in the lives of others,  
to help them **find** Jesus, and **follow** Jesus.*



## Examples from Life

We are Ambassadors: 2 Cor 5:16-21      We are Witnesses: Acts 1:6-11

To be an **ambassador**:

Prepare, be trained.  
Live to the required standard.  
Bring honor to the King.  
Earn the right to speak for your King.  
Present the message of the King.

To be a Good **witness**:

Be sure you have your facts straight.  
Be a credible witness.  
Be a person of sound character.  
Be believable.  
Give verbal testimony of the truth.

## The Qualities Needed

2 Tim 2:3-4 As a \_\_\_\_\_

You train; you drill; you focus, motivated to please the commander.  
Then you go and fight the enemy.

2 Tim 2:5; 1 Cor 9:24-27 As an \_\_\_\_\_

You workout and build muscle. You train so you can run the race -  
with the intent to win the race!

2 Tim 2:6 As a hard working \_\_\_\_\_

You plant, water, nourish and protect the crops so that -  
you can harvest the crops.

Eph 2:10; 2 Tim 4:7. As a hiker, (\_\_\_\_\_)

Life is a course, a path set before us. You steadfastly walk the course laid out -  
until you finish the course.

John 15:1-8. As a \_\_\_\_\_

You stay connected to the Vine. Sometimes you are pruned so that -  
you will bear much fruit.

*Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding  
in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

*1 Cor 15:58*

## Practical Steps to "Make Disciples"

The task of telling others about Jesus can be overwhelming. Especially when we are worried about how others will respond, and what they will think of us. We need to remember we carry the most important invitation of the world. Everyone needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Consider the following practical steps:

### **Mind Set**

Embrace your role as an ambassador. 2 Cor 5:14-21

### **Preparation**

Value the training available at the local church. 2 Tim 3:16-17

Be ready to give an answer. 1 Pet 3:15-16

### **Prayer & Seeking**

Be in prayer, Who has God brought into my life? **Mark 5:19**

Look for opportunities to have spiritual conversations, (pg 7-6).

### **BLESS the People in your Life**

**B**e in prayer for them. 1 Tim 2:1

**L**isten to them. What are their questions? Acts 17:22-23

**E**at with them, spend time together. Mark 3:14

**S**erve them. Be a good friend. Matt 5:16

**S**hare the Gospel with them. 1 Pet 3:15

## When You Meet Together

### **Looking Back:**

Follow up on the disciple maker assignment for this week, pg 7-8.

### **Looking Up:**

Who are the people currently within your sphere of influence?

What are some practical ways you can fulfill your role to make disciples?

What steps can you take to "BLESS" them?

## Next Steps:

Over the last several weeks, we have focused on the basic disciplines needed for us to have a Christ-centered life. From the moment we trusted in Christ, we began a lifelong journey of *following Christ*, such that He can transform us into *Fishers of Men*. (Matt 4:19)

This is truly a lifelong journey. The priority and pursuit of the principles we have covered in this series will result in *Life Change*. To continue your journey, consider the following next steps.

1. **Time with God:** Spend quality time with God each day. Lift up your prayer requests to the Lord and continue the habit of reading the Bible each day. John 15:1-11
2. **Local Church:** Faithfully attend and serve in a church that teaches the Bible. Develop "one another" church family relationships. Rom 12:10
3. **Make Disciples:** Find 2 or 3 others who you can lead through this series. Do not let this booklet sit on a bookshelf and collect dust!!
4. **Continue Your Training:** Series 2, *Foundations of our Faith*, is the next booklet in this series. It covers the foundational doctrines of God, man, sin, and salvation.

We were created to enjoy fellowship with God forever. Until we meet the Lord face to face, we have the privilege of participating in His kingdom work.

*And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."  
Matt 4:19*

*Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.  
1 Cor 15:58*

## *Additional Notes & Questions*

## Appendix, Additional Resources & Notes

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General	Patton, Michael C. <i>Now That I'm a Christian</i>
The Bible	DeYoung, Kevin. <i>Taking God at His Word</i>
Discipleship	Coleman, Robert I. <i>The Master Plan of Evangelism</i>

### Acknowledgments:

The content of this booklet reflects the privilege I have had to sit under the instruction of gifted Bible Teachers over 40 years. My ability to give specific credit to various teachers is long since gone. However, I can at least acknowledge the men who have had the greatest influence on my understanding of sound doctrine.

Bob Theime, Jay Chappell, George Miesinger, Ron Merryman, Charlie Clough  
The professors of Capital Bible Seminary  
The pastoral staff of Chantilly Bible Church

Thank the Lord for these men who faithfully and carefully taught so many, so we could turn around and teach others also.

*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

*2 Tim 2:2*

## The Irreversible Work of God

The moment we place our trust in the work of Jesus Christ for our salvation, there are a number of supernatural, permanent transactions that God performs to the benefit of the believer:

### ***New Life: Made Spiritually Alive***

The natural man is spiritually dead, separated from God, unable to understand spiritual things. At the moment of salvation, the believer is spiritually born, made alive:

From death to life	John 5:24; Col 2:13-15
Born Again into God's family	John 1:12; 3:7; Gal 3:26; 1 Pet 1:23
Regenerated by the Holy Spirit	Titus 3:5
New Creation	2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:24; 2 Pet 1:3-4
Reconciled	2 Cor 5:18-19

### ***New Home: Transferred Citizenship***

The natural man is within the domain of Satan's kingdom. At salvation, the believer is transferred into God's kingdom.

Transferred into God's Kingdom	Col 1:13 (rescued us)
Heavenly Citizens	Phil 3:20

### ***New Standing: Legally Declared Righteous***

The relative righteousness of man does not meet the absolute, perfect standard of God's righteousness. At salvation, the believer is credited with the righteousness of Christ and declared justified by God the Father.

Credited with +R of Christ	2 Cor 5:21; Phil 3:8-9
Declared Justified	Rom 5:1; Rom 3:26-28; Gal 2:16
No condemnation	Rom 8:1, 31-34
Cannot be separated from God	Rom 8:35-39

### ***New Identity: Placed "In Christ"***

At salvation, the believer is identified with or placed in Christ. This makes possible the pouring out of God's blessing.

In the Body of Christ	1 Cor 12:13
Adopted as adult sons	Rom 8:15; Gal 4:4-7
Inheritance of Christ	1 Pet 1:3-4; Eph 1:11
Complete In Him	Col 2:10
Every Spiritual Blessing	Eph 1:3; 2 Pet 1:3
Seated with Christ	Eph 2:4-7

## The Three Aspects of our Relationship with God

Every relationship in life has three aspects:

1. The Basis of the Relationship, Why the relationship exists, in most cases there is a defining event that established the relationship, (birth, wedding, hired for a job, moved into a neighborhood).

Our Relationship with God: The believer's Standing in Christ because of the work of God at the moment we trusted in Christ. We were *born again*. The one time, irreversible transaction described on the previous page.

John 5:24; 1 Cor 1:30; Eph 2:1-9

2. The Experiential State of the Relationship at a given time, Describes how the relationship is doing at the current time. Vibrant, close, OR cold, in conflict, not on speaking terms

Our Relationship with God: Typically expressed in the "Walk" passages. The believer is either Walking in the Light, in Fellowship with God, OR Walking in Darkness, out of Fellowship with God. Conditioned on obedience, and being cleansed through confession.

Jesus used the word "*abide*" in John 15.

### Walk Passages:

1 John 1

Gal 5

Eph 4

Col 1:10; 3;

Phil 3:17

2 Cor 5:7

3. The Maturity Level of the Relationship, Describes the nature of the relationship as it has gradually grown over time.

Our Relationship with God: As we grow spiritually, our relationship grows, God relates to us as a child, or as a teen, or as a young adult, or as an adult. Eph 4:11-16; Heb 5:11-14

In 1 Corinthians, Paul is writing to a church that is filled with divisions. In chapter 3, he addresses all three aspects of their relationship with the Lord:

vs 1 I have to speak to you *as infants*, (their Maturity level)

*in Christ*, (the Basis of their relationship)

vs 2 I gave you milk to drink, (because they are spiritual infants)

vs 3 for you are *still fleshly*, ...

and *walking like mere men*, (Experiential state of their relationship)

## Sample Questions to Begin a Spiritual Conversation

### **Innocent Awe Questions:** (Getting to know you)

- 1) What are your life goals?
- 2) What did you want to be as a kid?
- 3) What dreams have you let go of? What dreams do you still hold on to?
- 4) What is your dream job?

### **Life Based Questions:**

- 1) Tell me your greatest success along the way?
- 2) What is the biggest thing you have learned on your journey?
- 3) What was the best advice, or wisdom ever passed on to you?

### **Other belief systems:** (Getting to know your worldview)

- 1) What kind of belief system did your family have growing up?
- 2) How can all religions be right and so different?
- 3) How is it possible for a person to know what is right?
- 4) What is the source of your moral authority?

### **Right & Wrong:**

- 1) Do you think there are absolutes when it comes to right and wrong?
- 2) How do you teach your kids right from wrong?
- 3) Why do you think our culture has moved away from absolutes of R & W?
- 4) Why do people try to live Good Lives?

### **Knowing God:** (Getting to know your view of God)

- 1) Why are there so many misconceptions about God?
- 2) Why do people live as though God does not exist?
- 3) What would God have to do to validate to you that He exists?
- 4) What do you hope is true about God?
- 5) Do you think we are the product of random processes?
- 6) How does your view of God, affect your life?
- 7) What is your biggest question for God?

### **About Following Jesus:**

- 1) How does someone become a Christian?
- 2) Have you ever thought about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?
- 3) Have you ever explored what the Bible says about following Jesus?

### **Talking about New Birth:**

- 1) What do you think when you hear the phrase Born Again?
- 2) Do you ever wish you could get a mulligan, a do over?



## Section Notes

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### Section 1 Notes

We have discussed the means to be saved. What are some of the “false” gospels being presented today?

What is a common part of most “false gospels”?

The word “*believe*” appears over 80 times in the Gospel of John.

John 1:7, 1:12, 1:50, 2:11, 2:22, 2:23, 3:12, 3:15, 3:16, 3:18, 3:36,  
 4:21, 4:39, 4:41, 4:42, 4:48, 4:50, 4:53, 5:24, 5:38, 5:44, 5:46,  
 5:47, 6:29, 6:30, 6:35, 6:36, 6:40, 6:47, 6:64, 6:69, 7:31, 7:38,  
 7:39, 7:48, 8:24, 8:30, 8:31, 8:45, 8:46, 9:18, 9:35, 9:36, 9:38,  
 10:25, 10:26, 10:37, 10:38, 10:42, 11:15, 11:25, 11:26, 11:27, 11:40, 11:42,  
 11:45, 11:48, 12:36, 12:38, 12:39, 12:42, 12:44, 12:46, 13:19, 14:1, 14:10,  
 14:11, 14:12, 14:29, 16:9, 16:27, 16:30, 16:31, 17:8, 17:20, 17:21, 19:35,  
 20:8, 20:25, 20:29, 20:31

### Section 4 Notes on the Bible

Evidences for Divine Inspiration of the Bible, by Dennis Rokser

#### 1. SUPERNATURAL UNITY

The Bible consists of 66 books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) written over 1600 years by about 40 different authors from all walks of life, yet without contradiction or error. If you had a room filled with 40 people with notebooks, and you asked them to write down their thoughts about God, Satan, sin, origins, prophecy, life, death, heaven, hell, etc. • would they all agree? Never! Unless God the Holy Spirit was directing each of them. This is the very reality the Bible evidences.

*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

*Knowing this first, that **no prophecy of the scripture** is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.** (2 Peter 1:20-21)*

#### 2. FULFILLED PROPHECY

Unlike the other holy books of various religions, the Bible includes amazing and numerous prophecies that have been specifically fulfilled. In Christ's first coming, over 100 Old Testament predictions about the Messiah were specifically fulfilled. The mathematical odds of this occurring are astronomical. Your chances of winning a 175

million dollar Power-Ball lotto are 10 times better than these predictions being fulfilled by one person • yet it did with Jesus Christ.

A sampling of these are...

- Christ's birth (Isaiah 7:14 • Matthew 1:18)
- Christ's birthplace (Micah 5:2 • Matthew 2:1)
- Christ's death by crucifixion (Psalm 22:16 • Matthew 27:38)
- Christ's betrayal (Zechariah 11:12 • Matthew 26:15)
- Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection (Isaiah 53 • Matthew 27 & 28)

### 3. AMAZING UNIQUENESS

Being inspired by God, the Bible is unique in its claims, teaching, and preservation. Unlike the Koran, Book of Mormon, Upanishads, etc., the Bible claims over 5,000 times to be the Word of God. It also teaches that one's eternal salvation from divine retribution and reception of eternal life is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone apart from religious works or rituals. Regarding its unique preservation, Voltaire, the French philosopher of the eighteenth century announced, "One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity - seeker." Ironically, one hundred years later, Voltaire was dead and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. Doesn't God have a sense of humor?

*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but **my words shall not pass away.** (Matt 24:35)*

*For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast. (Eph 2:8,9)*

### 4. ARCHAEOLOGY

Though modern archaeology grew out of a desire to support evolution, the archaeologist's spade has been a friend and not a foe to the Bible. Middle Eastern archaeological digs repeatedly have uncovered artifacts that render support to the accuracy and historicity of the Bible.

- Discovery of the Nuzi Tablets (1925) • confirmed numerous Old Testament customs and practices.
- Discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) • confirmed the accuracy of the Hebrew text of Scripture.
- Discovery of the Ebla Tablets (1975) • confirmed various biblical events and names.
- Discovery of a silver amulet in Jerusalem with the name "YAHWEH" on it (1980) • first time the tetragrammaton has been found in an archaeological excavation.

## 5. TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ repeatedly gave confirmation and testimony to the divine origin and reliability of the Scriptures. He believed the Bible to be the divinely inspired Word of God. Jesus Christ said,

- *If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and **the scripture cannot be broken.*** (John 10:35)
- *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, **one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*** (Matthew 5:18)
- *But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress **the commandment of God** by your tradition? For **God commanded,** saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. (Matthew 15:3-4)*

Jesus Christ also believed and confirmed many of the accounts of the Old Testament, such as...

- the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah (Luke 17:29)
- the death of Lot's wife (Luke 17:32)
- the murder of Abel by Cain (Luke 11:51)
- the calling of Moses (Mark 12:26)
- the universal flood of Noah's day (Matthew 24:37)
- the great fish and Jonah (Matthew 12:39-41)
- the creation of Adam and Eve (Matthew 19:4-5)

If the Bible was believed by Jesus Christ, should it not be believed by you?

# Phases of Discipleship Effort

How do we help a person take one step closer to Jesus?

**Skeptic, Far from God**  
 Deceived by the wisdom of the world  
 Enslaved by the lusts of the flesh  
 No knowledge of God or Jesus  
*Engage*

**Growing in Christ**  
 Following & Serving the Lord  
*Equip*

Questions &  
 Stories

**Seeker, Approaching the Cross**  
 Open to hearing about Jesus  
 Under Conviction of Holy Spirit  
*Evangelize*

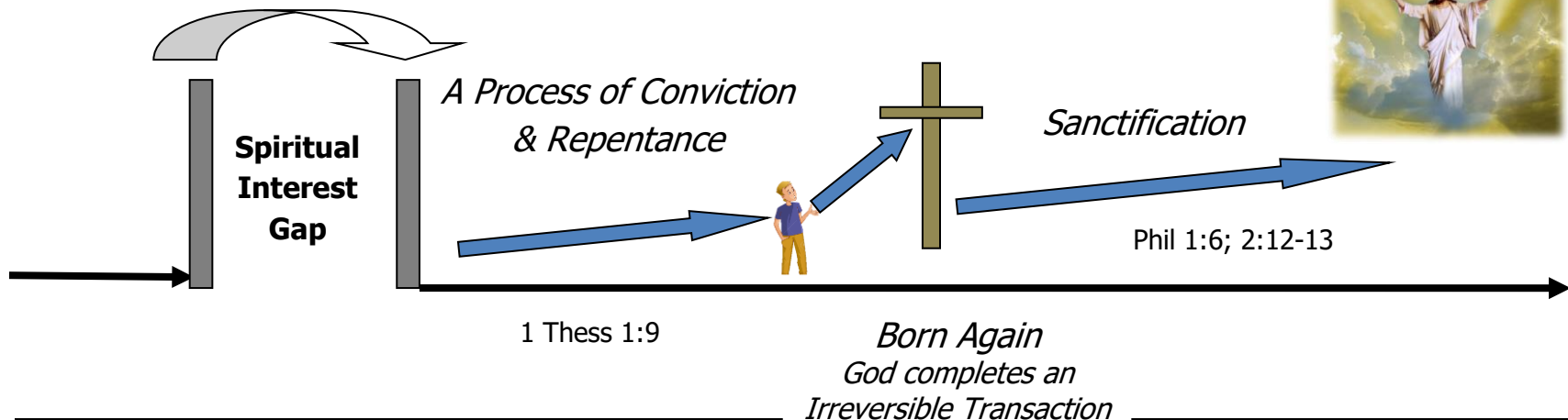
**Follower  
 A New Believer**  
 Has Trusted in Christ  
*Establish*

DM3 Pressing On  
 DM4 Serving  
 Fishers of Men

**Apathy**  
 No Interest in  
 Spiritual Things

The Invitation  
 Who is Jesus?  
 Good News Booklet

New Life in Christ  
 DM1 Essentials  
 DM2 Foundations



# The Ambassador Toolbox

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This booklet is part of a series of materials which together give us a toolbox of resources we can use to make disciples. Every discipleship opportunity is different. There is no one cookie-cutter approach. However, the following resources are designed to give you a place to start.

*3 Circles: Life Conversation Guide*, a pamphlet outlining a diagram of circles to initiate a spiritual conversation that sets the context for the gospel.

*The Invitation*, a 5 week booklet intended for an unchurched person, with minimal exposure to the God of the Bible. Starting with Genesis, how does the Bible answer the fundamental questions of life. "Have you ever read for yourself what the Bible says?"

*Who is Jesus?* This 5 week booklet is intended for the religious person with some knowledge of the Bible, maybe grew up with some exposure to Jesus, but has never really come to understand who He is.

*The Good News of Jesus Christ*, After you have had a conversation explaining the gospel, this is a follow up booklet. "How about you read through this, and we get back together again next week and talk about it?"

*New Life in Christ* This 5 week booklet is for the new believer. I just trusted in Christ, what happens now?

*Making Disciples, Series 1, Essentials for the New Believer*, an 8 week study that covers the essentials for living a Christ centered life. Don't let the name fool you, it covers good reminders for any believer, no matter how long you have been saved.

*Making Disciples, Series 2, Foundations of the Faith*, an 8 week study that covers the doctrines of God, man, sin, and salvation. A solid understanding of these foundational topics provide stability and confidence to the believer.

*Making Disciples, Series 3, Pressing on to Maturity*, an 9 week study that covers the supernatural provisions of God for the believer to walk in a manner that honors Christ.

*To be developed:*

*Making Disciples, Series 4, Serving the Lord*



**EDO**  
EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE OTHERS

Mailing Address: 25050 Riding Plaza, Suite 130-641, South Riding, VA  
[EquippedToDisciple.org](http://EquippedToDisciple.org)