

EDO

EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE OTHERS



Series 4

Serving the Lord

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 Corinthians 15:58

March 2020

Welcome

Jesus gives the two greatest invitations to the world.

First, He offers to every person 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

Second, He offers every believer 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

This is the fourth in the series of booklets to equip believers to disciple others. Series 1 lays out the essentials for the believer to live a Christ-centered life. Series 2 covered the foundations of our faith, the doctrines of God, man, sin and God's work of salvation. Series 3 addresses the supernatural provisions of God for the believer to walk in a manner that honors the Lord.

This series addresses head on what we are here to do, *Serve the Lord*. We will look at our mission outside the church, our ministry within the church, God's provisions to serve, and wrap up with the promise of reward.

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 move from Knowing to Doing. This series can help you focus in on your *sweet spot* where you can most effectively serve the Lord.

For Others: To move from Doing to Sharing. You can take what you have learned and use this series to help lead others in living out a life of serving the Lord.

Series 4

The topics in this series are designed to move you into the phases of what the apostle Paul called, *fellow workers*, and *fellow soldiers*. The Lord has invited every believer into His Kingdom Work. We look to define the work, appropriate God's provision to complete His Work, guard against the dangers and then respond by faithfully serving the Lord.

Companion Resources for this Series

Books on Spiritual Gifts & Spiritual Warfare:

Also available is the sermon series by the same name on the EquippedToDisciple.org website. Look for the sermon series, *DM4; Serving the Lord*. Listen to the message after you have completed your study. (TBD)

Series 4 Outline

Section 1	Jesus Is Lord! Managing our Lives	
Section 2	Mission Outside the Church Parable of the Nobleman	
Section 3	Ministry Inside the Church Serve One Another	
Section 4	Spiritual Gifts How do they function?	What is my Gift?
Section 5	The Enemy Spiritual Armor	Spiritual Warfare
Section 6	Our Motivation The Example of Jesus	Staying On Track
Section 7	The Reward of a Faithful Servant The Bema Seat of Christ	
Section 8	What's Next?? Disciples Who Make Disciples	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 disciplined (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. 1 Cor 11:1

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.

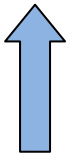


Look Back

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

Reviewing the Starting Point

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

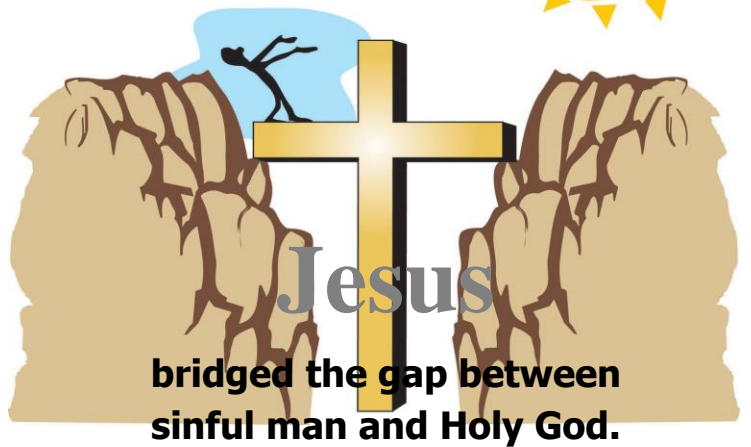
Jesus Christ _____ for our sins,
and was _____ on the third day.
Christ died in our place. He paid the full penalty.

1 Cor 15:3-4

2 Cor 5:21

The GOSPEL

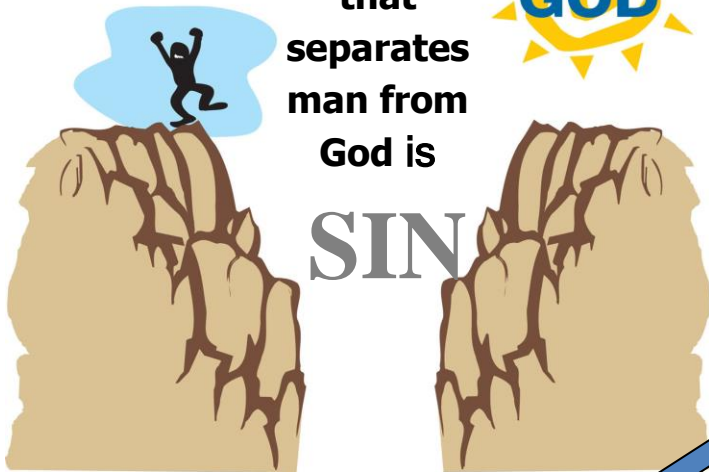
is that Christ died on the cross
for our sins and rose again
from the dead.



The Barrier
that
separates
man from
God is

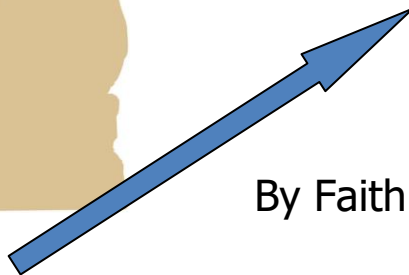


SIN



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 for Reconciliation

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 historical proof, He really is God. 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.

Are You Ready to Follow Christ?

Are You a Faithful Believer? 2 Tim 2:2

How do you demonstrate that you are Faithful?

Consider the following examples as you "count the cost."

Matt 4:17-22

Luke 5:1-11

Matt 16:21-27

Luke 14:25-35

Record your observations:

vs 25 Large crowds were following Christ

vs 26 If you really want to follow Me:

1)

Family

vs 27 2)

Plans

vs 28-33

3) It must cost you _____

Possessions

Illustrations:

the cost of _____

the cost of _____

vs 34-35 One Distinctive Purpose:

Salt is used to _____ the food around it.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first born from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. Col 1:17-18

Jesus is to be pre-eminent in My Life.

Section 1: Jesus Is Lord!

How does the Lordship of Jesus relate to my life?

What is Jesus doing now?

Memorize
Eph 1:20-21

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is one of the most talked about sung about, and debated truths in all of Scripture. Yet few of us have really allowed the reality of the Lordship of Jesus to transform our lives. As we begin a series about "serving the Lord," it will do us well to stop and reconsider the Lord whom we serve.

God has Revealed Himself

God is invisible. Yet He has taken the initiative to reveal Himself to us through three venues. What do the following passages say about how God has revealed Himself? Record your observations:

Ps 19:1-4

Rom 1:18-32

vs 18 What are ungodly men doing?

vs 19-21 What does Paul claim about all men?

vs 20 How has God revealed Himself?

Is there really any such thing as an Atheist? Why or why not?

vs 22-23 Having rejected God, what does man do?

Ps 19:7-14

John 1:1, 14; 14:7-11

Heb 1:1-3

vs 1 How did God speak to mankind in the OT?

vs 2 How has God spoken to us *in these last days*?

What does the writer say about Jesus?

vs 3 Having completed His work on the cross, What has Jesus done?

The Current Session of Jesus

After Jesus completed His redemptive work on the cross for the purification of our sins, He died, was buried, raised on the third day, ascended into heaven, and restored to His eternal glory. On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood before thousands of people in Jerusalem who were trying to make sense of what had just happened.

vs 1-4 The sending of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues

vs 5-13 The amazement of the crowd hearing their own native languages

vs 14-21 Peter's explanation as prophesied in Joel 2:28-32

vs 22-32 Peter presents the evidence that Jesus is God through miracles and the resurrection.

This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

What does Peter say next about Jesus?

Acts 2:33-36

vs 33 Where is Jesus now?

Ps 110:1-7

Heb 10:12-13

What is Jesus waiting for?

Jesus is in a position of ultimate authority at the Right Hand of God the Father, yet for now, He is not exercising the full extent of that authority. Rather He is waiting... Why is Jesus waiting? Peter adds some insight:

2 Pet 3:8-9

Acts 17:30-31

Is 30:18-19

Just as Jesus is waiting for the unfolding of the Father's Plan, so are we to wait on the Lord.

Ps 37:7-11

Is 40:27-31

The Current Authority of Jesus

Jesus Christ is in a position of ultimate authority. Paul in the beginning of his letter to the Ephesians (vs 18-23) prays that the eyes of their hearts might be enlightened to understand the surpassing power that God has worked on our behalf. Then Paul illustrates how that power has been expressed. What does he say about the authority of Jesus?

Eph 1:20-23

vs 20 He _____ Him from the dead, and _____ Him

vs 21 Far above...

Stop!
and absorb this verse

vs 22 All things in _____ under His feet
and gave Him as _____ over all things to the church

1 Cor 15:25-28

vs 25 For He must _____ until...

Col 1:15-20

vs 16 By Him, all things were _____ visible & invisible
all things have been created _____ Him and _____ Him

vs 17 He is _____ all things, and in Him all things _____ together

vs 18 so that He Himself will come to have _____ place in everything

In Your Own Words

Restate with a few sentences, in your own words, the current state of Jesus, and the extent of His authority.

The Current Work of Jesus

What is happening during this Waiting Period?

Near the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus told His disciples that while He was gone, He would be doing two things:

John 14:1-6

vs 2 I go to _____ a place for you...

vs 3 I will _____ again and _____ you to Myself
that where I am, there you may be also.

Imagine that! For 2,000 years, Jesus has been preparing our eternal home.

Matt 16:13-18

Jesus and His disciples were standing before the massive pagan temple complex located in Caesarea Philippi. Standing before the "gates of Hell" Jesus asks his disciples...

vs 15 Who do you say that I am?

vs 16 The declaration of Peter:

vs 18 Upon this reality, I will _____ My Church
and the gates of Hades will not over power it

This is the first mention of the church in the Bible. Beginning on the Day of Pentecost with the sending of the Holy Spirit, Jesus began to build His church. From that day forward, until He returns, every person who trusts in Christ, Jew or Gentile, slave or free, is baptized into His Body by the Holy Spirit.

Gal 3:26-28

1 Cor 12:13

The Current Work of Believers

Jesus, seated at the Right Hand of God the Father, is waiting... UNTIL His enemies be made His footstool. He is waiting for the Redemptive Plan of the Father to play out. During this waiting period, He has given believers, who bear His name, the privilege to continue His work.

Record what Jesus said to His disciples:

John 14:12-17

vs 12 What are believers to be doing?

vs 13-14 What is the provision that is vital to the task?

vs 15 What is the most basic demonstration of our love for Jesus?

John 17:18-21

vs 18 As You sent Me into the world,
I also have _____ them into the _____

vs 20 Who is Jesus praying for?

vs 21 What is the primary prayer of Jesus for believers?

What is the intended goal?

John 20:19-21

vs 21 As the Father has sent Me, I also _____ you.

Acts 1:8

You will receive _____

and you shall be _____

Managing “Our” Lives

Sometimes we view our lives as a great big balancing act. We have multiple priorities and activities all competing for our time and attention. We each have different spheres of responsibility:

- Church & Serving the Lord
- Marriage and Family
- Work (or School) Responsibilities
- Things we do for Fun

If Jesus is Lord of All
 How does that translate into
 how we manage our lives?

Each area of our life demands our attention.

But there is another way to view our lives:

I am a Steward of My Life

What does Paul say:

Gal 2:20 *It is no longer I who live, But Christ lives in me...*

1 Cor 6:19-20 *Do you not know... that you are not your own?
For you have been bought with a price...*

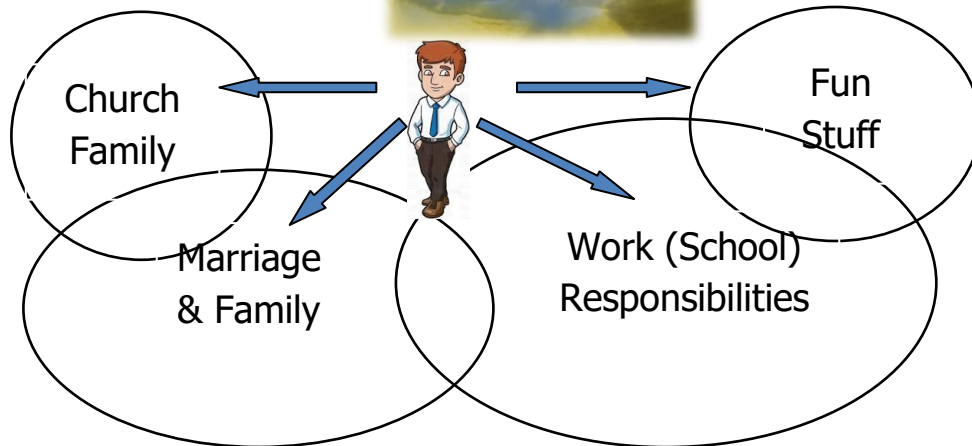
Col 3:1-4 *Keep seeking things above, where Christ is,
seated at the right hand of God.
Set your mind on things above, not on things that are on earth.*

Rom 14:12 *So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.*

I have been “sent” into each
area of my life



Jesus is Lord!
Eph 1:20-23
Eph 2:4-7



When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Last time in the introduction, we did an overview of the Gospel.
Practice presenting a clear and accurate Gospel in about 3-4 minutes.

Looking Up:

Share your observations from your study this week.

Discuss any lingering questions that came up.

Discuss the areas or spheres of your life. How does the Lordship of Jesus apply?

Who do you know within each sphere of your life, who needs a personal relationship with Jesus?

Where you Live:

Where you work:

Where you play:

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Each week we want to foster a life rhythm of consistent time in God’s word.
You can continue with an existing reading plan, or use the plan in the Appendix.
(Write down your observations for each day.)

Preparation for Section 2

Complete Section 2: “The Mission Outside the Church.” Read through the entire section, look up all the Bible verses, and record your observations in this booklet.
Further Study: a classic: *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert E. Coleman

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?

The Groups of People in My Life

_____	_____
_____	_____

People I know who need Jesus:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Section 2: The Mission Outside the Church

How to Start a Spiritual Conversation

Telling Your Story

<p>Memorize Acts 1:8</p>

In the next two sections we are choosing to distinguish between the words *Mission* and *Ministry*. Obviously in the context of the church, the words are closely related, but in normal use, they seem to carry a different emphasis or focus. *Mission* usually causes us to look outside the church. *Ministry* typically directs our attention to the work we do within the church. This distinction can help us stay balanced as we seek to serve the Lord.

In the last section we noted that Jesus has sent every believer into the world, just as the Father sent Him into the world. In Luke 19, Jesus is passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem and His final week.

Luke 19:1-10

vs 1-4 What is the situation?

vs 5-6 What did Jesus do?

What was the response of Zaccheus?

vs 7 How did the other people respond?

vs 8-9 What happened in Zaccheus's life?

vs 10 Why did Jesus Come?

To _____ and to _____ the Lost

<p>God the Father sent Jesus into the world to seek and to save the Lost. Jesus has sent us into the world to seek and to save the Lost.</p>
--

In its most basic form, the mission of Jesus, and the mission Jesus has entrusted to every believer is: *To Seek and to Save the Lost.*

Manage the Business

Jesus, seated at the Right Hand of God the Father, is waiting... UNTIL His enemies be made His footstool. He is waiting for the Redemptive Plan of the Father to play out. During this waiting period, He has given believers, who bear His name, the privilege to continue His work.

While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. vs 11

To address this expectation, Jesus taught the parable of the Nobleman:

Luke 19:12-27 Parable of the Nobleman

vs 12 What was the nobleman going to do?

vs 13 What were the servants to do while the nobleman was gone?

Do _____ until I come back.

vs 15 What did the nobleman do when he returned?

vs 16-26 the evaluation of each servant

The main point of the Parable:

Jesus has gone away to receive the kingdom.

Until He returns, He has charged us, as His servants to

"manage the business."

We are to be Salt & Light	Matt 5:13-16
We have been Sent	John 17:13-18
We are to Make Disciples	Matt 28:16-20
We are Witnesses	Acts 1:1-11
We are Ambassadors	2 Cor 5:13-21

The Business of being an Ambassador

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.

Take a moment to unpack what it means to be an ambassador. An ambassador is commissioned by the king and sent to a foreign country to represent the king and his policies.

- 1) To prepare, the ambassador must know the "message," policies of the king.
- 2) The ambassador must build credibility and relationships with the people in the foreign country.
- 3) Finally, the ambassador communicates the message of the king to the people in that country, in a way they will understand, and with the intent to influence them in some way.

We are ambassadors of Jesus Christ!

What are the character qualities of an effective ambassador?

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?

How do we view ourselves?

vs 18-19 What has God done for the world?

What has God given us to do?

vs 20 Therefore we are _____ for Christ!

What is our basic invitation message?

"We Beg you on behalf of Christ, be _____ to God."

vs 21 What made all this possible?

What has Happened?

In America, Christianity historically has been the predominant religion. Over the last 100 years, believers have drifted from our primary mission. We have degenerated into "country club" Christians. We attend church for the same reason we would join a country club...

We go to church, we sing our songs, we greet everyone, we read our Bibles, and we try to be good people. We focus on the things that benefit us and our families. That is all very nice, and necessary, but it does not begin to fulfill our calling.

In the mid 70's, church leaders realized the church was losing ground. In response, what followed was the "Church Growth Movement." Radical changes were made in how we do church, all in an attempt to attract people back to church. The attractional church model has dominated America for the last 50 years. We do church better than it has ever been done.

Much has been accomplished to refocus the church to reaching the lost and to make church more relevant to those who attend. Many have been saved. However, the fundamental flaw has been the shifting of the mission of reaching the lost to the church as an organization - through attractional events. This is not what we read in Scripture. Jesus has given the business of reaching the lost to each believer, not to an organization.

Jesus has called every believer to make disciples, starting with reaching the lost people in our lives. As we are faithful to do that, Jesus has promised to do His work of building the Church.

1 Pet 3:13-16

What does Peter tell us?

DM Begins through Building Relationships

We ended Section 1 with a transformative view of our life. Rather than “balancing” the different spheres of our life, we view each sphere of life as another group of people to whom we have been sent. Who are the people in each sphere of my life who need Jesus? How can I build a relationship of trust with each person?

The Apostle Paul had a very intentional approach to his relationships.

Paul’s Approach

1 Cor 9:19-23

vs 19 How does Paul view himself? For what purpose?

vs 20-22 What three types of people does Paul mention?

For each people group, what does Paul do? What is the goal?

What word picture does he use? (he develops the picture next)

1 Cor 9:24-27

vs 24 What level of intensity is expected?

vs 25 What is the promise?

Vs 26-27 How does this effect Paul’s daily rhythms?

Give examples of different “types” of people in your life:

For each person, What can you do to “*become all things to all men?*”

Principles from Paul's Plan for Relationships

Paul does not expect people to become like him. Lk 19:10

Just the opposite, He changes his manner to conform to others.

Paul seeks to Add Value to lost people. Matt 5:16

He puts them first, he limits his liberty, and life preferences.

He seeks to be accepted by them, to gain their respect and trust.

He is looking to earn the right to share his faith.

Paul seeks to reach Everyone, a wide range of people. Acts 17:30-31

Jesus values all people, Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, rich & poor.

Paul seeks to Connect rather than Correct lost people.

Paul looks to find Common Ground.

Paul does not Compromise who he is.

I do not have to be like them, but I have to like them.

I am so confident in who I am, I can go where they are.

Be salt & light in their environment. Make them hungry for what you have.

Paul Enters their world. Matt 9:35-36 "Jesus was going..."

Jesus came to enter our world. We expect the lost to enter our world.

We expect the lost to come to church. We have it backwards!!

Most believers have left the world of the lost. Leave the 99 and go seek the 1.

Try to experience things from their point of view.

Why does God send people to hell? NO! He does not do that.

Actually, God has done everything to keep people out of hell!

Discover Creative ways to move people toward God. Col 4:5-6

Plant curiosity seeds: Ask timely questions.

"What question do you want people to ask you?"

Acknowledgement: John Maxwell

Starting 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 through Relationships

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.

Within each sphere of our life, we have different types of relationships.

Give some examples where you have "earned the right."

Asking Good Questions

It is fascinating to note the number of times Jesus began a conversation by asking a question. A good question communicates genuine interest in the other person.

Explore if there is any spiritual interest or background.

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

Ask if they have heard about Jesus.

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 more sample questions in the Appendix.)

Telling Your Story

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?

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*

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on last week's I WILL statement.

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.

Apply the Parable of the Nobleman to your life.

Give an example of what the "business" looks like in your life.

Discuss the analogy of being an Ambassador.

Have everyone role play asking good questions.

Practice reciting from memory: Acts 1:8

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Each week we want to foster a life rhythm of consistent time in God's word.

You can continue with an existing reading plan, or use the plan in the Appendix.

(Write down your observations for each day.)

Preparation for Section 3

Complete Section 3: Ministry Inside the Church

Further Study: Develop, or obtain a list of the ministries in your church.

Give a short description of the goal of each ministry.

Disciple Maker Assignment

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

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

Look for an "open door" to ask a question. "Throw out some bait."

Practice presenting Your Story as clearly as you can.

Before Christ

How I Found Christ (or He found me)

After Christ

.

Section 3: Ministry Inside the Church

What happens in Church?

What is my ministry?

Memorize
Rom 12:10

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

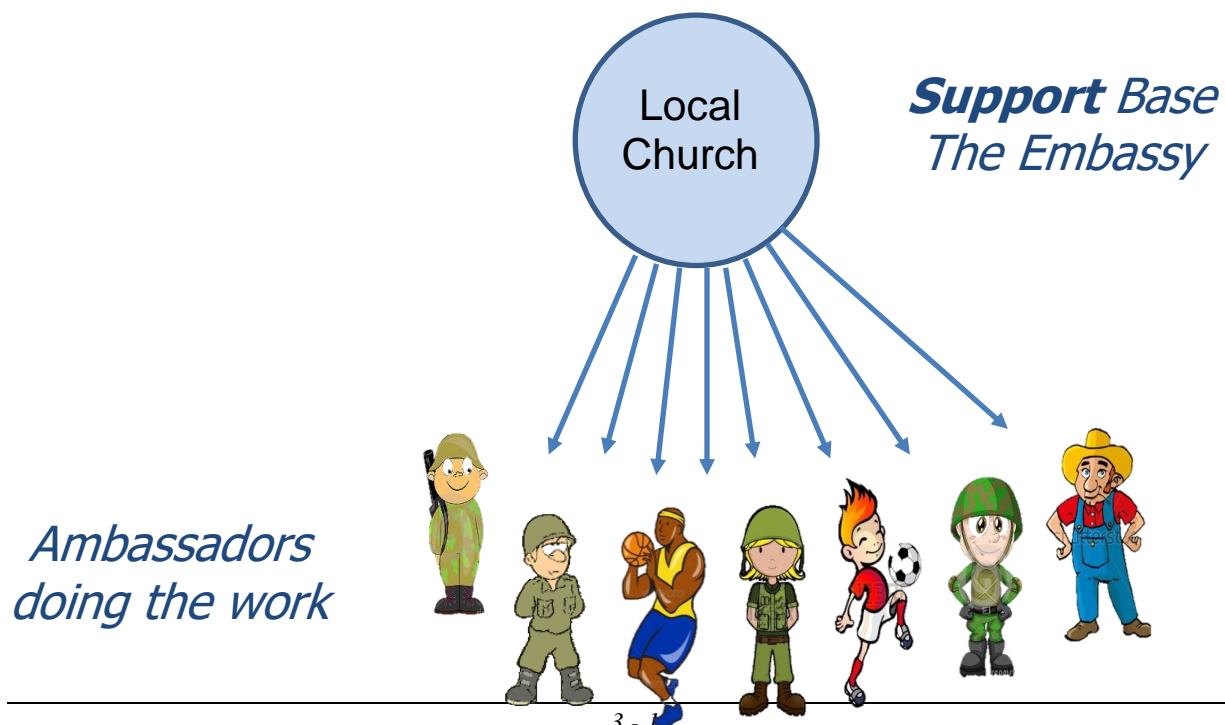
The first days of the church in Acts 2 give us a good example of the functions within a local church. What do the following passages tell us about the local church?

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

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

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?



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

Rom 12:9-13

vs 13 *Contributing to the needs of the saints,*

Take some time to write out specific examples:

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

What is Ministry?

We are choosing to distinguish between the words *Mission* and *Ministry*. Section 2 presented Mission to be the effort outside the church. **Mission** is the effort we expend to function as Ambassadors, who represent Jesus in the world. All of our Disciple Maker assignments each week are designed to improve our skill and effectiveness as an Ambassador.

Ministry addresses our work within the church, our efforts to support one another and contribute to the smooth function of our local "embassy."

Ministry is that specific area of service where God has led me to serve Him, through the enablement of my spiritual gift, to support and meet the needs of my fellow ambassadors.

Stated another way: Ministry is Embassy Work (Inside the Church)
 Mission is Ambassador Work (Outside the Church)

Ministry and the Local Church

The primary word picture of the local church is the Body of Christ. One Body, made up of many members, each working together, uniquely contributing to the overall function of the Body. What does Paul say, Summarize your observations:

1 Cor 12:12-27

vs 12-13 _____ Body, _____ Members

How did we become one body?

vs 14-19 (What attitude is expressed by this member?)

vs 20-25 (What attitude is expressed by this member?)

vs 26-27

How important is each member of the body?

What is the impact of one member not functioning correctly?

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 pastors and teachers.

Eph 4:11-16

vs 11 Those with leadership/communication roles

vs 12-13 What is their purpose? For the _____ of the saints
Who does the work of service?
What is the Goal?

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?

Principles of Ministry

The principles of ministry, of serving the Lord, of serving others, goes all the way back to the original creation mandate of God, subdue the earth. Mankind was made to work, to be a steward over God's creation. Included in that stewardship, is the care of others.

Eph 2:10

We were _____ to Minister. God has created us to fulfill a Ministry Profile that He has prepared for us, a path for us to walk.

Titus 2:11-14

Jesus gave Himself for us in order that:

- 1) To _____ us from sin
- 2) To _____ us for Himself
- 3) To become a people zealous for _____

1 Pet 2:9-10

We are now in a _____ to serve

1 Cor 3:10-15; 4:1-5

We will be held _____ for our work.

The example of Archippus: *And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."* Col 4:17

Col 3:23-24

We will be _____ for our work.

Parables of
Accountability:
Matt 25:14-30
Luke 12:35-48

The Fundamental Question in Life: Why are We Here?

*For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Eph 2:10

What will bring us fulfillment in life?

What can we expect if we chase after the things of this world?

Service vs. Ministry

Serve One Another

Every believer is to maintain a servant's heart. This should be our mindset. We are others focused.

... with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interest, but also for the interest of others. Phil 2:3-5.

This attitude will manifest itself in action. We should be always ready to meet the needs of others. All believers, young and old, should be engaged in serving others as the opportunities arise.

... And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful. Titus 3:14.

There are all kinds of needs within any church body, individual needs, family needs, church needs. Whatever the need, we are to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit to meet these needs. We are all to serve one another.

Gal 5:13

Ministry to One Another

Ministry is a specific area of service that God leads us to fulfill. As we maintain a servant's heart and are obedient to serving others, God will begin to burden us, uniquely equip us, and provide opportunities for us to serve Him in a specific area. (just like each of our unique body parts, a hand serves as a hand)

The heart of ministry is a Servant's Heart – others focused – love for one another. It is only as we develop a servant's heart, that we are ready for ministry. Servanthood is a core value of Christlikeness, of becoming great in God's Kingdom.

Mark 10:43-45

Our study next week is on Spiritual Gifts. God has uniquely enabled each believer to minister to the local body through the exercise their spiritual gift.

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on last week's I WILL statement.

Share any opportunities you had to begin a spiritual conversation.

Pray for the people you listed in the DM Assignment on pg 1-8

Looking Up:

Share your observations from your study this week.

What are some specific examples of "Contributing to the Needs of the Saints?"

What is the role of our pastors? Who does the work of service? Give examples.

Discuss the difference between "Service" and "Ministry." Give examples.

What is your area of ministry?

Have everyone tell their story.

Practice reciting from memory: Rom 12:10

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Continue with your Bible reading plan each day
(Write down your observations for each day.)

Preparation for Section 4

Complete Section 4: Spiritual Gifts

Further Study:

Disciple Maker Assignment

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

What are some good questions that may start a spiritual conversation?
Pray the Lord would open a door of opportunity to ask a question.

Practice presenting Your Story as clearly as you can.

Before Christ

How I Found Christ (or He found me)

After Christ

Section 4: Spiritual Gifts

What are Spiritual Gifts?

How do I determine my Spiritual Gift?

Memorize
1 Peter 4:10

We established last session each believer has a ministry area within the local church, a “sweet spot” where we are uniquely designed by God to serve the Lord. God always provides the means for us to fulfill His will. The focus this session is Spiritual Gifts. God has given to every believer, at least one spiritual gift to enable us to fulfill our unique role within the Body of Christ.

Definition: A Spiritual Gift is a God-given ability, sovereignly distributed by the Holy Spirit to each member of the Body of Christ, enabling them to fulfill their unique ministry to their fellow believers. God gives each believer the supernatural ability to serve Him.

Major Passages on Spiritual Gifts

Every Believer has a Spiritual Gift.

1 Cor 12:7, 11

I Peter 4:8-11

vs 8 It all starts with a mental attitude of _____ for one another

vs 9 Be _____ to one another, Invite others into your life

vs 10 Each believer has received a spiritual gift.

We are to _____ it. We are to use it in serving one another.

Peter sees our spiritual gift as a grace gift from God, that carries with it stewardship responsibilities.

vs 11 Peter outlines two general categories of gifts. What are they?

And what does Peter say (or warn) about using each category of gift?

1st Category of Gifts: _____ Gifts

2nd Category of Gifts: _____ Gifts

What is the Ultimate Motivation?

From the following passages, identify the gifts that are listed, the purpose of spiritual gifts, and any other principles or instructions related to spiritual gifts.

Romans 12:3-13

What Gifts are Listed:

What is the Purpose of the Gifts:

Principles or Instructions related to the Gifts:

Ephesians 4:11-13

What Gifts are Listed:

What is the Purpose of the Gifts:

Principles or Instructions related to the Gifts:

... so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

Principles on Spiritual Gifts

1. All believers receive at least one spiritual gift. 1 Cor 12:7,11; Eph 4:16
1 Peter 4:10
2. There is a diversity of gifts. (members of a body) Rom 12:4-6
1 Cor 12:4,8,10, 12-30
3. Gifts are sovereignly given by God.

the Father	1 Cor 12:18,28
the Son	Eph 4:7-8,11
the Holy Spirit	1 Cor 12:11
4. The controlling principle in the use of spiritual gifts: _____. 1 Cor 13:1-3
5. The main purpose of gifts: to minister to others.

to _____ the church to maturity	Eph 4:11-12
to _____ one another	1 Pet 4:10
for the _____	1 Cor 12:7

While addressing guidelines to prevent the misuse of sign gifts in 1 Cor 14, Paul continues to remind the believers that the goal is **to** _____.

1 Cor 14:12,17,26
6. The priority of spiritual gifts is according to their value in building up the Body of Christ, not in drawing attention to ourselves. As a church, we are to desire, be enthusiastic about the best gifts. 1 Cor 12:28, 31
7. Gifts are exercised under the control of the gifted individual. 1 Cor 14:26-35
8. Gifts are to be used so that God may be glorified. 1 Peter 4:11
We are not to neglect our gift(s). 1 Tim 4:14

Going Deeper

The Corinthian church was riddled with divisions, 1 Cor 1:11-13; 3:1-9. The believers in Corinth were abusing their spiritual gifts. They were using the supernatural aspect of the sign gifts, specifically the gift of tongues, to draw attention to themselves. In 1 Cor 12 Paul teaches on the value of each member, and in chapter 14, Paul "regulates" the use of tongues and prophecy during their public assembly. The heart of these passages is in chapter 13, our motivation must be love for God, and love for other believers.

A Listing of the Gifts

It is important to note that no one passage includes a comprehensive list of the gifts. Rather each passage describes broad representative examples of gifts to illustrate a principle. Also, there is little or no detail given about each gift, other than the characteristic that can be drawn from the name of the gift.

Communication Gifts

Evangelist	Eph. 4:11 (Acts 8:36)
Pastor	Eph. 4:11 (1 Pet. 5:2, 3; Acts 20:28-31)
Teacher	Eph. 4:11 (Rom. 12:7; Col. 1:28; Acts 19:9, 10)

Ministry (Service) Gifts

Administrator	Rom. 12:8, 1 Cor. 12:28 (Acts 6:1-4)
Exhortation	Rom. 12:8 (Rom. 15:30, Acts 11:23, 2 Cor. 1:4)
Faith	1 Cor. 12:9 (Acts 27:25)
Giving	Rom. 12:8 (Acts 4:36, 37; 2 Cor. 8:1-6)
Helps, (Service)	Rom. 12:8, 1 Cor. 12:28 (Rom. 16:2)
Mercy	Rom. 12:8 (Acts 6:1-6, James 1:27)
Discernment	1 Cor. 12:10 (1 John 4:1-3, 2 Cor. 11:4)
Word of Wisdom / Knowledge	1 Cor. 12:8

Gifts that were used to establish the Church

Apostle	1 Cor. 12:29, Eph. 4:11, 2:20
Prophet	Rom. 12:6, 1 Cor. 12:29, Eph. 4:11, 2:20

Sign Gifts:

Miracles	1 Cor. 12:10
Healings	1 Cor. 12:9
Tongues	1 Cor. 12:10
Interpretation of Tongues	1 Cor. 12:10

The emphasis of using our spiritual gifts is always on ministering to others.

Discovering My Spiritual Gifts

Two Approaches:

1. Take the Accredited, Personality/Skills/Likes-Dislikes/Experience Spiritual Gift Test OR
2. Begin Serving God as you have opportunities.

We are all instructed to serve the Lord by:

Evangelist	Sharing the gospel	1 Pet 3:15; Acts 1:8
Pastor	Caring for one another	1 Cor 12:25
Teacher	Teaching one another	Col 3:16; Eph 4:15
Exhortation	Encouraging one another	Heb 3:13, 10:22-25; Rom 15:14
Faith	Trusting God - (Prayer)	Phill 4:5-6; Col 4:2
Giving	Giving to the Lord's work	2 Cor 9:6-9; 1 Cor 16:2
Helps	Serving one another	Gal 5:13-14; 6:10
Mercy	Comforting one another	1 Thess 5:9-11

As we are obedient to serve in these ways, the Holy Spirit will help us identify areas where we are most effective, have a burden, and have a passion to serve.

Most likely, this will be an indication of our spiritual gift.

Guidelines

1. Be aware of the spiritual gifts in the Scriptures. Rom. 12:3-8
2. Listen to the Holy Spirit in you. 1 Cor 2:12
3. Listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the counsel of others. Acts 13:2

People in the church will tell you how much your ministry or gift blessed them.

Church leaders will ask you to help in certain areas.

You may recognize that others are blessed as you are serving in a particular way.

4. Look at the spiritual ministry the Holy Spirit has already given you to do. 1 Peter 4:10

Sometimes we don't know our gifts, but the Holy Spirit knows which gift He has given us and so moves us into the area of ministry where we can use that gift.

My Spiritual Profile

Name _____

Date of Spiritual Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____

Spiritual Gift
Hearth
Abilities
Personality
Experience

What the Holy Spirit urges me to do, what I love to do.

-
-

What others in the Body encourage me to do.

-
-

What I have already done.

-
-

Area of Ministry to which I believe the Holy Spirit is leading me.

Gift / Passion / Personality

Spiritual Gift: _____ *"What I do"*

My Passion: _____ *"Where I do it"*

My Personality: _____ *"How I do it"*

Consider My Local Church

Service Opportunities:

Ministry Opportunities:

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on last week's I WILL statement.

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.

Some believers spend their entire lives bouncing around the church, serving in different ways. They never figure out where they really fit.

What is your spiritual gift. (your what)

What is your passion? (your where)

How are you using your gift? (your how)

Practice reciting from memory: 1 Pet 4:10

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Continue with your Bible reading plan each day
(Write down your observations for each day.)

Preparation for Section 5

Complete Section 5: The Enemy

Further Study: *Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels*, Renald Showers

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. Revisit the Sample Questions in the Appendix.

Practice telling "Your Story." (See pg 2-6)

Before Christ

How I Found Christ (or He found me)

After Christ

Pray for an opportunity to share Your Story.

Section 5: The Enemy

Angels and Demons, are they real?

Why is the Christian life so hard?

<p>Memorize 1 Pet 5:8-9</p>

Angels are mentioned nearly 300 times in the Bible, in 34 of the 66 books. There is a spiritual, invisible realm of God's creation that includes millions of angelic beings. Angels are described as intelligent, powerful beings that faithfully serve God, and carry out specific aspects of the Plan of God. They are especially present during significant events in God's Plan like the birth, resurrection and return of Jesus Christ.

The Nature & Activity of Holy Angels

The word angel means messenger. Take some time to reflect on what the following passages reveal about angels.

Angels are spiritual beings, invisible to the human eye, but are able to reveal themselves. Ps 148:2; Ps 103:20-21; Lk 20:36; 2 Kgs 6:15-17

Different terms are used to describe different levels of angelic power and authority. Col 1:16; Ez 10:1-22; Is 6:1-7; 1 Thes 4:16; Jude 9

First and foremost, angels live to honor God. Rev 4:5-9; 5:11-14

Angels communicate the Plan of God. Matt 1:20-21; 2:13, 19-20
Lk 1:11-20, 26-38; 2:8-14

Angels carry out the judgement of God. Ps 78:49; Rev 8-11

Angels serve Jesus. Mat 4:11; Lk 22:43

Angels are watching, and involved with the Church. Eph 3:10; 1 Tim 5:21

Angels guard and protect individual believers. Ps 91:11-12; Gen 19; Dan 6:22
Acts 5:19-20; 12:7-10

Angels assist in answering the prayers of believers. Rev 8:3; Dan 10:10-14

Angels apparently lead departed believers to heaven. Lk 16:22

There is literally an Army of Angels who are serving God, engaged in every aspect of the Plan of God, including our daily lives.

Spiritual Warfare

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 1 Peter 5:8-9

As believers, we are in the midst of a spiritual war. Our enemy is the devil and his forces of demons, all of which are in rebellion against God. Their goal is to destroy the believer, to render the believer useless and unable to carry out God's purposes. However, God has provided everything we need to be victorious. Consider the following examples of the spiritual war, record your observations:

Job 1-2

2 Kings 6:15-19 Elisha prayed that the servants eyes be opened to see the angelic hosts that were protecting them

Dan 10:10-14 Daniel

Lk 22:31-32 Peter

The Current Rule of Satan

Satan is currently trying to "make his case" of worthiness to rule the world.

Rev 12:9 (note the names of Satan)

1 John 5:19

Eph 2:1-2

2 Cor 4:3-4

But the Ultimate End of Satan has been decreed:

Matt 25:41

Rev 20:10

The Capabilities & Strategy of the Enemy

The believer who depends on his own strength is no match for Satan.
 Note the influence of Satan over very godly people:

- 1 Chron 21:1 David moved to disobey God
- 1 Thess 2:18 Hindered Paul
- Acts 5:3; John 8:44 Prompted Ananias to lie

The power of Satan is far beyond any human ability:

- Mt 9:32-33; Mk 9:17 Inflicts physical illness
- Mk 5:1-4; Lk 8:29 Gives great strength
- Deut 32:17; 1 Cor 10:19-21 The power behind idols
- Dan 10:10-14, 20-21 Influence over nations

The Strategies of the Enemy

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| In heaven: _____ Believers | Job 1:6-11; Zech 3:1 |
| Jesus is our Defense Attorney | 1 John 2:1 |
| Primary Strategy: _____ | Rev 12:9-10 |
| Appears as an angel of _____ | 2 Cor 11:14 |
| False _____ | 2 Cor 11:13-15 |
| False _____ | 1 Tim 4:1; James 3:15 |
| False _____, _____ | 2 Thess 2:9 |
| Shift Focus to _____ the _____ | 1 John 2:15-17 |
| To Love _____ | 1 Tim 6:6-10 |
| Move Believers to _____ God | 1 Tim 5:14-15 |
| To worship idols/_____ | 1 Cor 10:19-21 |
| Promotes pride and _____ | 1 Tim 3:6 |
| Exploits _____ in our lives | Eph 4:26-27; 1 Cor 7:5 |
| Sets Traps to _____ the Believer | 2 Tim 2:26 |
| Discredits one's _____ | 1 Tim 3:7 |

The Armor of God

The Promise of God

*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them,
because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4*

The Provisions of God, Prepare Yourself for Battle

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all, to stand.*

*Stand therefore,
having **girded your waist** with truth,
having put on the **breastplate** of righteousness, and
having **shod your feet** with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
above all, taking the **shield** of faith with which
you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
And take the **helmet** of salvation,
and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God; Eph 6:13-17*

Walk through each of the six pieces of armor. How can you apply each one?

The Battle Tactics of the Believer

Eph 4:26-27 Do not give the devil a beach head or foothold

James 4:7 Be _____, _____ to God

1 Peter 5:6-9 Be _____, Be _____

1 John 4:1 Be _____, test the spirits

Prayer!

*With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit,
and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and
petition for all the saints. Eph 6:18*

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on last week's I WILL statement.

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 about spiritual warfare?

What schemes does the enemy use against you?

What specific provisions of God do you need to employ?

Share prayer requests and commit to pray for each other.

Practice reciting from memory: 1 Pet 5:8-9

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Regarding the strategy of Satan: A believer who had moved to the US from the Middle East made this observation: "The Western Church is being seduced by a satanic lullaby, and all the Christians are falling asleep." "Persecution keeps you clean – you are constantly leaning into God for refuge and strength." That believer moved back to the Middle East rather than be lulled to sleep.

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Continue with your Bible reading plan each day
(Write down your observations for each day.)

Preparation for Section 6

Complete Section 6: Our Motivation

Further Study: Give yourself a Personal Motivation Assessment
(See the Appendix for some thoughts)

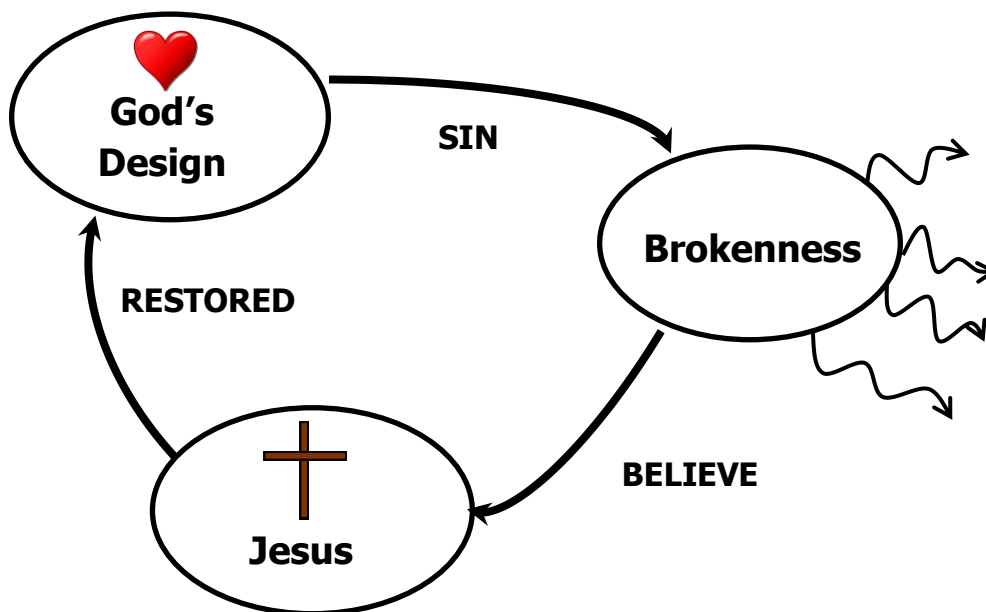
Disciple Maker Assignment

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.

The 3 Circles Diagram



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

Section 6: Our Motivation

What motivates me?

Why do I do what I do?

Memorize
2 Cor 5:14-15

Everything we do and say, begins on the inside with our thinking. Our motives and priorities shape our thoughts, leading to decisions, leading to words and actions. In the following, Samuel is tasked by God to identify the next king.

1 Sam 16:1-13

vs 3 What did God promise Samuel?

vs 6 What did Samuel conclude, Why?

vs 7 How did God respond?

Do not look at his _____

Man looks at the _____ appearance

But the Lord looks at the _____

Jesus also addressed the inner man, our thoughts and motives:

Matt 5:21-22

Matt 5:27-28

Matt 6:19-24

vs 19-21 Summarize the life principle in your own words

In this section we want to dig down deep. Look into the depths of your soul. Where do your allegiances really lie? What is the prime motivator in your life?

If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Col 3:1-2

The False Motivation of Legalism

In the Old Testament, the nation Israel lived under the Mosaic Law. The Law outlined God's standard of living for every area of life.

Moral Code -	Commandments Ex 20:1-17, Deut 5:6-21
Social Code -	Social Life Ex 21:1-24:11, Lev 11-15, 18-20 Diet, Sanitation, Taxation, Military Service Marriage, Divorce
Spiritual Code -	Ordinances of Religious Life Ex 24:12-31:18 Levitical Feasts Lev 23-25 Levitical Offerings Lev 1-10

The Purpose of the Law

God gave to Abraham a promise of blessing to his descendants. Gen 12:1-3
Gal 3:15-19

vs 19 Why was the Law given?
How long is the Law in effect?

Rom 3:19-20

vs 20 By the Law comes the _____ of _____

Therefore the law was our tutor to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal 3:24-26

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. Rom 6:14

The Believer in Christ is not under the Law! The living out of the Christian way of life is not by trying to keep the law. (that is Legalism) The Christian way of life is now lived out by utilizing the supernatural grace provisions of God.

Legalism is any external system of behavior, (list of Do's and Don'ts) lived out by human effort, in an attempt to please God, (and impress men).

The Other Extreme, Licentiousness

The enemy is masterful at pushing our buttons, pushing us to one extreme or the other. The believer caught in legalism is under the bondage of rules, always trying to measure up to an external standard of behavior. Most often, after years of effort and failing, the end result is frustration, despair and guilt which may even result in giving up, "I quit, the Christian life doesn't work for me." OR the watering down of the standard so that it is obtainable within our level of effort. ("For me, the Christian way of life will be going to church once a week, and trying to be a good person.")

The Other Extreme is the misappropriation of God's Grace – leading to licentiousness. This is the twisted logic that since I have been forgiven of all my sin, I am free to live any way I want. Paul used this logic as a rhetorical question at the beginning of Romans 6.

Rom 6:1-7

vs 1 Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase?

vs 2 May it Never Be!!

vs 3-7 Why not?

vs 4 What is the expectation of God for the believer in Christ?

To _____ in _____ of life.

Both Extremes are Off the Path

There is a common thread in both of these extremes. I am at the center, attempting to live life on my own terms and by my own strength, either by:

- 1) following a set of external rules that I have embraced, OR by
- 2) concluding I am free to do anything I want since the punishment of sin has been paid by Christ on the cross.

Legalism,

I can do this myself.

I have my list of
do's & don't's.

Phil 3:1-6

Passive Grace,

I am free to live as I
want, God will make
it happen.

Gal 5:13

The Priorities & Pursuit of Christlikeness

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul warned of both of these extremes, and gave us the center point of focus and motivation. Chapters 1-2 lay the groundwork, a proper mental attitude.

Phil 1:27 *Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ...*

Phil 2:2 *Being of the same mind, maintaining the same love,
united in spirit, intent on one purpose,
(1:27 striving together for the faith of the Gospel)*

Phil 2:3 *With humility of mind
regard one another as more important than yourselves*

Phil 2:5 *Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...*

It all starts with the proper mental attitude, humble obedience to God's Plan.

*If we fail to cultivate the attitude which was in Christ Jesus,
we will default to putting confidence in the flesh.*

Paul's Very Stern Warning

Phil 3:1-6

vs 1 Paul has written this before, and he calls this passage a *safeguard* for them

vs 2-3 Beware of the _____

Defining characteristic: Those who put _____ in the _____

vs 4-6 Paul's resume of Legalism

What is your resume of Legalism?

What are the things in your life which could become areas of your
"confidence in the flesh?"

Paul's Priorities of Christlikeness

Phil 3:7-11

vs 7 All my past legalistic credentials, I have counted as _____

Priority #1 _____ Christ

vs 8 I count all things to be loss, (present tense continuous action)
in view of the surpassing _____ of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...

I count them but _____ VERY strong expression, 1 John 2:15-17

Priority #2 Resting in the _____ of Christ

vs 9 Two types of Righteousness:

1) Good Works Righteousness, *of my own derived from the Law*

Is 64:6 Our righteous deeds are like a _____ garment

2) Imputed Righteousness of Christ, *which is through faith in Christ*

Priority #3 Experiencing the _____ & the _____ of Christ

vs 10 Jesus was raised from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit,
Rom 1:4 Paul prays for believers to experience that power, Eph 1:18-29

Eph 3:16

The Worthy Walk is lived out through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

We can expect to share in the suffering of Christ. John 15:18-19

Priority #4 Looking to our _____ in Christ

vs 11 Maintaining an eternal perspective, Looking to our future destiny.

Rom 8:18

The Motivation to walk in a manner NOW that is consistent with my future
destiny. We are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. Eph 2:6

Take each priority, and specify how you might implement them into your life:

#1

#2

#3

#4

Paul's Pursuit of Christlikeness

Phil 3:12-19

vs 12-13 Get the proper _____

I have not obtained it, the standard is Christ, Eph 4:16

vs 14-16 I _____ On

There is an intensity & intentionality of Paul's focus

He is looking to his **Reward** (Our topic next week)

vs 17 Join in following my _____

Follow the example of other like minded believers

vs 18-19 Warning of those who have fallen off the path into licentiousness

Those who set their _____ on earthly things

Col 3:1-4

1 John 2:15-17

Staying on the High Road of Grace

We saw in Section 5, the believer has an enemy that is very good at leading us off the path of God's Plan. We must be diligent to keep our eyes on Christ in order to stay on course.

The Abundant Life

Abiding in Christ

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Mind Set on Things Above

Looking to our Future Destiny

John 15:1-11

Eph 5:15-21

Col 3:1-4

Phil 3:20-21

Legalism,

I can do this myself.

I have my list of do's & don't's.

Phil 3:1-6

Passive Grace,

I am free to live as I want, God will make it happen.

Gal 5:13

Our Motivation

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Cor 5:14-15

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on last week's I WILL statement.

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.

What is Legalism, Why is it so dangerous?

Walk through the 4 Priorities of Christlikeness presented by Paul.

What are practical steps to live out each priority?

Practice reciting from memory: 2 Cor 5:14-15

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes or Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Continue with your Bible reading plan each day
(Write down your observations for each day.)

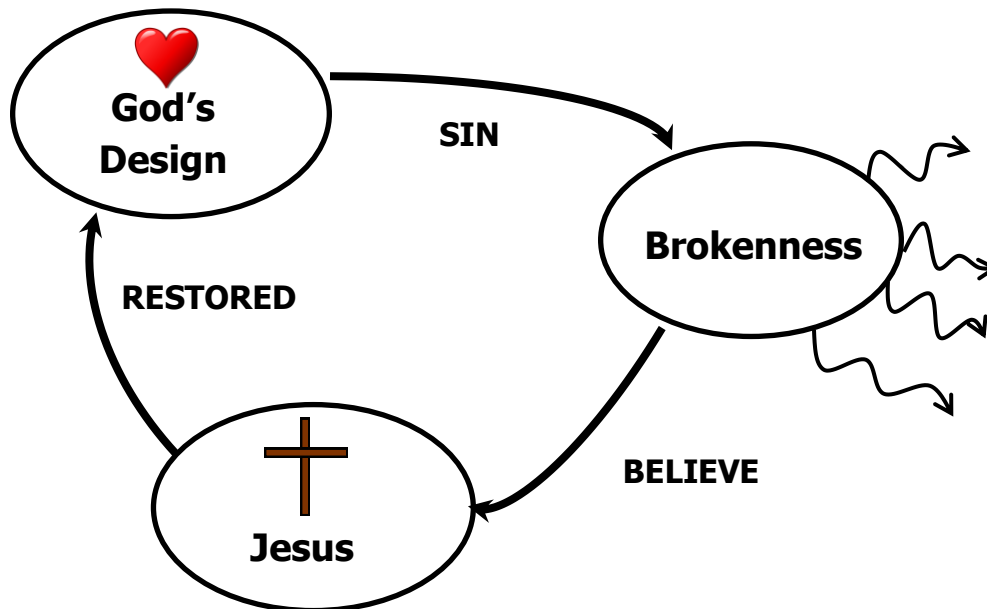
Preparation for Section 7

Complete Section 7: The Reward of a Faithful Servant
Further Study: *Your Eternal Reward*, Erwin W. Lutzer

Disciple Maker Assignment

Continue to pray for the people in your life who need Jesus.
Practice presenting the Gospel as clearly as you can.
Pray for an opportunity to have a spiritual conversation this week.
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: The Reward of the Faithful Servant

What is the Judgment Seat of Christ?

Does Jesus promise rewards?

Memorize 2 Cor 5:9-10

We must start here: Eternal Life is a free gift, made possible by the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. The gift of eternal life is received by faith, not by works, it is offered by God to us, by grace.

Eph 2:8-9

Yet, the next verse goes on to say that believers who have received the gift of eternal life, are created by God to do good works.

Eph 2:10

This basic distinction has profound doctrinal and lifestyle implications. The doctrinal issue is the distinction between passages in Scripture that address **salvation** and justification, vs. passages that address the **Christian walk** and God's sanctification process.

To be saved, one condition, faith alone in Christ alone, receive God's gift
 To live out the Christian life, hundreds of conditions, daily commands
 to follow Jesus.

When the believer is faithful to follow those daily commands, Jesus has promised Eternal Reward.

Jesus Teaches on Investment & Reward

It is common practice for us to invest our current material wealth with the aim to receive benefit in the future. Every wise adult is making some sort of investment to prepare for their retirement years. Jesus spoke to that principle:

Matt 6:19-24

vs 19 What does Jesus say about earthly treasure?

vs 20 What is said about treasures in heaven?

vs 21 How does this verse tie into our study of *Motivation* last week?

The Bema Seat of Christ

In 1 Corinthians, Paul is writing to a church riddled with conflict and divisions. His plea to those believers is expressed in chapter 1, vs 10:

Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgement. *1 Cor 1:10*

In chapter 3 Paul addresses head on the nature of their divisions, everyone was loyal to their own personal camp. They were acting like unbelievers.

1 Cor 3:1-4

In response Paul admonishes them to value the different gifted believers in their local church and work together in building up the Body. Summarize these verses in your own words:

1 Cor 3:5-9

Paul then goes on to further develop the "Working Together as Builders" analogy.

1 Cor 3:10-15

vs 10-11 What was Paul's part in the building process?

What is the role and warning given to every believer?

vs 12 Paul lists six building materials that fall into two categories.

vs 13 What is going to happen? How?

vs 14-15 The results: If a man's work remains, _____

If a man's work is burned up, _____

Do the burning up of our works affect our salvation?



Historical Background

The Bema Seat was a specific, elevated place in the city where officials sat to render judgments. It included not only legal judgments, but also the place of reward after athletic competitions. Matt 27:19; Acts 18:12

Paul took this cultural term and used it in a technical sense for the Bema Seat of Christ, a judgment/evaluation of every believer before Christ.

Rom 14:10-13

vs 10 What is the issue Paul is addressing?

vs 11 Quote from Is 45:22-24; Also quoted in Phil 2:9-11

vs 12 Restate the main point:

2 Cor 5:9-11

vs 6-8 What is the issue Paul is addressing?

vs 9 What is to be our Motivation?

vs 10 Restate the main point:

Indirect References to the Bema Seat

John 15:1-11 We are to “*Abide in Christ*” and bear much fruit

1 John 2:28 When He Appears:

Every believer will either respond with _____

OR

_____ away from Him in _____

Eph 6:5-9

1 Cor 4:5

The Bema Seat of Christ is the defining event where all of the references to our accountability before Christ will be realized.

The issue will be Reward for faithful service.

A person’s salvation is not the issue.

Types of Rewards

Throughout Scripture, the writers were limited to words and examples within the realm of our human experiences to describe the unseen realities of heaven and future events. (the examples are numerous, here's one, Rev 10:1-3)

To describe rewards, writers primarily use the descriptions of crowns and positions of responsibility in reigning with Christ. Consider the following:

Crowns

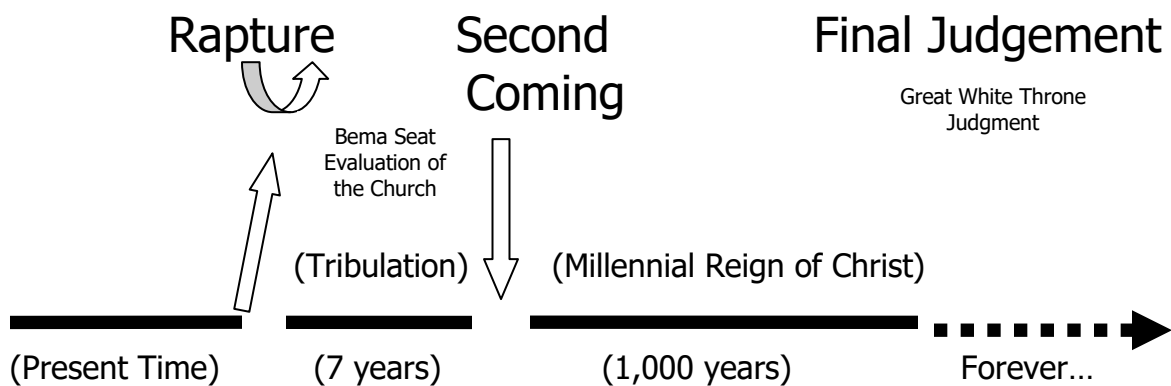
- James 1:12; Rev 2:10
- 1 Pet 5:4
- 1 Cor 9:25
- 2 Tim 4:8
- Rev 3:11

Positions of Responsibility

- Matt 19:28-30
- Luke 19:11-27
- Luke 22:28-30
- 2 Tim 2:11-13 *“reign with Him”*
- Rev 2:26-27
- Rev 20:4-6

When is the Bema Seat of Christ?

Most likely, believers in the Church will be evaluated after the Rapture.



Faithful Actions that will be Rewarded

In the Great Commission, Jesus gave two aspects of the process of making disciples. First the process of leading a person to trust in Christ, bringing them to a point where they make a public declaration of their faith through baptism, and second, teaching them to observe ALL He has commanded.

Jesus said the ultimate expression of love for Him is by keeping His commandments, John 14:15,21. It follows then, that following the commands of Jesus is the primary criteria by which Jesus will reward believers.

Enduring Trials	James 1:12; Rev 2:10	(Crown of Life)
Enduring Persecution	Matt 5:11-12; 2 Tim 2:12-13; Heb 10:32-36	
Diligently Seeking God	Heb 11:6	
Perseverance	2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26-27; 1 John 5:4-5	
Faithful in Ministry	1 Pet 5:1-4	(Crown of Glory)
Longing for Christ's Appearing	2 Tim 4:6-8	(Crown of +R)
Leading Others to Christ	1 Thess 2:19; Phil 4:1	
Faithfulness to Christ	1 Cor 4:1-5; John 12:26	
Diligence in the Christian Walk	1 Cor 9:24-27; Heb 6:11-12; 2 Pet 1:10-11	
Good Stewardship	Lk 19:11-27	
Generosity toward the Poor	Mk 10:21; Lk 12:32-33; 1 Tim 6:17-19	
Ministering to the Saints	Heb 6:10	
Abiding in Christ	1 John 2:28	

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

For Further Study, Eternal Salvation vs. Rewards

Eternal Life is a gift through faith. Rewards come through faithful service. The Bema Seat of Christ is the defining event where believers works are evaluated.

(Ref: Thomas Stegall)

Salvation is an instantaneous, once for all transaction the moment a person believes, placed "in Christ." Ephesians 1-3

Salvation cannot be lost. Rom 8:38-39 Eph 1:13-14

Salvation is offered to unbelievers, Acts 4:12; 5:31; 11:14; 13:23; etc

Rewards are offered to believers. Rom 14:10; 1 Cor 3:8-15; 2 Cor 5:9-10

Salvation is received by grace apart from works, Eph 2:8-9; Rom 4:4-6

Rewards are obtained through on-going faithfulness to Christ

Salvation is received in a moment in time, John 5:24

Rewards are given in response to faithfulness over one's lifetime

1 Cor 9:24-27; Phil 3:12-14; 2 Tim 4:6-8; Heb 12:1-2

Salvation is a matter of being fully accepted by God, Eph 1:6

Rewards is a matter of God's approval Heb 11:6

Salvation determines a person's eternal destiny,

Rewards determine the believer's privilege and function in the kingdom

Matt 25; 2 Pet 1:11

Salvation is the same for all believers, secure in Christ Eph 1:3; Col 2:20

But there will be a varying degree of rewards for believers 2 John 8

When You Meet Together

Looking Back:

Follow up on last week's I WILL statement.

Share any opportunities you had for a spiritual conversation.

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.

Clarify the distinction between what one must do to be saved, and the criteria to receive reward?

How should Paul's "Working Together as Builders" example affect our view of other believers in our church?

How has your understanding of Rewards changed through this study?

Practice reciting from memory: 2 Cor 5:9-10

Looking Forward:

As a result of this study, I Will _____

Additional Notes & Questions

Assignment for Upcoming Week

Bible Reading

Continue with your Bible reading plan each day
(Write down your observations for each day.)

Preparation for Section 8

Complete Section 8: What next?

Further Study:

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?

Following Jesus

The Commands of Christ

Jesus as our Savior, has given to believers the gift of eternal life. As our Lord, He invites us to be part of His Kingdom Work. Beginning the moment we were born again, we enter into a life long journey of following Jesus. We demonstrate our love for Jesus through keeping His commandments.

John 14:15-21

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 three commands that set the course of our lives.

Matt 22:37-40

Love _____

Love _____

Matt 28:19-20

Make _____

Love God

How do you demonstrate your love for God? (privately & within the Church)

John 15:1-11

Heb 10:23-25

Love People

How do you demonstrate your love for people?

John 13:34-35

Rom 12:9-13

Gal 5:13-14

Make Disciples

What intentional steps do you take to disciple others?

1 Cor 9:19-23

2 Tim 2:2

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 2-7).

BLESS the People in your Life

Be in prayer for them. 1 Tim 2:1

Listen to them. What are their questions? Acts 17:22-23

Eat with them, spend time together. Mark 3:14

Serve them. Be a good friend. Matt 5:16

Share 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?

Now Go and Disciple Others:

This booklet is the fourth in a series of booklets to equip believers to disciple others. The goal is reproduction. As you have been trained, now go and train others. Become a *Fisher of Men* (Matt 4:19)

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey. As you continue your journey, stay healthy, stay balanced, stay on track.

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:** The transformative process to become like Jesus is a lifelong pursuit. Take full advantage of the wealth of training material that is available within the Body of Christ.

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

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>
Rewards	Lutzer, Erwin W. <i>Your Eternal Reward</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?

Answers to Blanks

Intro Section Notes

Pg v God Created heaven

God Loves us, a relationship with us, All have sinned

The penalty of sin is death

Pg vi Jesus Christ died for our sins, and was raised on the 3rd day

Pg vii He who Believes has eternal life

Section 1 Notes

Pg 1-3, He raised Him... and seated Him

All things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as Head over all

For He must reign until..

By Him, all things were created.. have been created by Him and for Him

He is before all things

He Himself will come to have first place in everything

Pg 1-4, I go to prepare a place

I will come again and receive you to Myself

I will Build My Church

Pg 1-5, I also have sent them into the world

You will receive power... and you shall be My Witnesses

Section 2 Notes, The Mission

Pg 2-1, To seek and to save the Lost

Pg 2-2 Do business until I come back

Pg 2-3 Therefore we are Ambassadors for Christ!

We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Section 3 Notes, Ministry

Pg 3-3, One Body, Many Members

Pg 3-4 For the equipping of the saints

Pg 3-5 We were created to minister

1) To redeem us from sin, 2) To purify us for Himself

3) a people zealous for good works

We are now in a position to serve

We will be held accountable for our work, we will be rewarded

Section 4 Notes, Spiritual Gifts

Pg 4-1, starts with a mental attitude of love for one another

Be hospitable to one another

We are to employ it

1st Category: Communication/Equipping gifts

2nd Category: Serving Gifts

Pg 4-3, Controlling principle, Love

to build the church to maturity

to serve one another, for the common good, to edify others

Section 5 Notes, The Enemy

Pg 5-3, In Heaven, Accuses Believers

Primary Strategy: Deception

Appears as an angle of light, False teachers, False doctrine,

False signs, wonders

Shift Focus to Love the World, to love money

Move believer to Disobey God, To worship idols/demons,

Promotes pride and conceit, Exploits sin in our lives

Sets traps to Snare the believer, Discredit's one's reputation

Pg 5-4 Be humble, submit to God

Be humble, Be alert, Be discerning, test the spirits

Section 6 Notes, Our Motivation

Pg 6-1, Do not look at his appearance

Man looks at outward appearance

But the Lord looks at the heart

Pg 6-2, By the Law comes the knowledge of sin

Pg 6-3, To walk in newness of life

Pg 6-4, Beware of the dogs, Those who put confidence in the flesh

Pg 6-5, Priority #1: Knowing Christ, #2: Resting in the Righteousness of Christ

#3: Experiencing the Power & the Suffering of Christ,

#4: Looking to our Future in Christ

Pg 6-6, Get the proper Perspective

I Press On, Join in following my example, set their minds on earthly things

Section 7 Notes, The Reward of the Faithful Servant

Pg 7-2, If a man's work remains, receive a reward

If a man's work is burned up, suffer loss, but...

Pg 7-3, will respond with confidence OR

shrink away from Him in shame

Section 8 Notes, What Next?

Pg 8-1, Love God, Love People, Make Disciples...

Pg 8-3, As a soldier, As an athlete, As a hard working farmer, As a hiker, (runner)

As a branch

Bible Reading Plan

The following verses provide a weekly reading plan that correspond to each section of this booklet.

Week leading to Section 2: Mission Outside the Church

Day 1	Lk 15	Day 2	Lk 16
Day 3	Lk 17	Day 4	Lk 18
Day 5	Lk 19		

Week leading to Section 3: Ministry Inside the Church

Day 1	Eph 4	Day 2	Eph 5
Day 3	Titus 1	Day 4	Titus 2
Day 5	Titus 3		

Week leading to Section 4: Spiritual Gifts

Day 1	1 Pet 1	Day 2	1 Pet 2
Day 3	1 Pet 3	Day 4	1 Pet 4
Day 5	1 Pet 5		

Week leading to Section 5: The Enemy

Day 1	Dan 10	Day 2	2 Cor 10
Day 3	2 Cor 11	Day 4	2 Cor 12
Day 5	2 Cor 13		

Week leading to Section 6: Our Motivation

Day 1	1 Sam 16	Day 2	Gal 1
Day 3	Gal 2	Day 4	Gal 3-4
Day 5	Gal 5-6		

Week leading to Section 7: The Reward of a Faithful Servant

Day 1	1 Cor 3	Day 2	James 1
Day 3	James 2	Day 4	James 3
Day 5	James 4-5		

Week leading to Section 8: What's Next?

Day 1	1 Cor 15	Day 2	Rev 19
Day 3	Rev 20	Day 4	Rev 21
Day 5	Rev 22		

Prayer Journal

Why do we do what we do?

My Motivation Self Assessment

Personal Gain (IN)

Honorable

Taking Personal Responsibility
Being Self Reliant
2 Thess 3:6-13

Damaging

Self Centered,
Total **Selfishness**
"It is all about me."
Motivated to obtain
personal benefit

*Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from
selfishness or empty conceit*

My Relationships (OUT)

Honorable

The Well Being of Others
1 Thess 2:7-12; 5:14-15

Teach the Commands of Jesus
Appeal to **Duty**,
the Authority of Christ
2 Tim 4:2; Matt 28:18

Admonish those sliding off the
path, Appeal to **Guilt**
1 Thess 5:14; Col 1:28

Rebuke those in Rebellion,
Appeal to **Shame**
1 Tim 5:20; 2 Thess 3:14-15

Damaging

Legalism, Approbation
Matt 6:5, 16

A Love Response (UP)

Honorable

For all that God has done
and will do...

*For the love of Christ controls us,
having concluded this, that one
died for all, therefore all died;
and He died for all, so that they
who live might no longer live for
themselves, but for Him who died
and rose again on their behalf.
*1 Cor 5:14-15 John 14:15**

Gratitude, for all God has done

↙
Empathy, for others

↘
Compassion

Matt 20:34; Mk 1:41; 6:34

Staying on Track

Strategy: How we Do what we Do:

Matthew 22:36-40; Matthew 28:18-20

LOVE GOD → **LOVE PEOPLE** → **MAKE DISCIPLES**

Abide in Christ

John 15:1-11

Our individual, personal, private, relationship with the Lord, maintained through time with Him.

Connect

John 13:34-35; Rom 12:9-13

Efforts to build one another relationships. Living out the *one another's* of the church family.

Prepare & Grow

Phil 3:12-14; 2 Pet 3:18

A lifelong pursuit of becoming more like Christ, better equipped to carry out His Work.

Assemble Together

Acts 2:42; Heb 10:23-25

Our Sunday morning corporate gathering together to encourage and build up one another.

Serve One Another

Gal 5:13-14; 1 Pet 4:8-11

Our devotion to *one another* demonstrated through the faithful exercise of our spiritual gifts.

Establish DM Relationships

2 Cor 5:20-21; 2 Tim 2:2

Intentional effort to help those within our sphere of influence to take one step closer to Jesus.

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

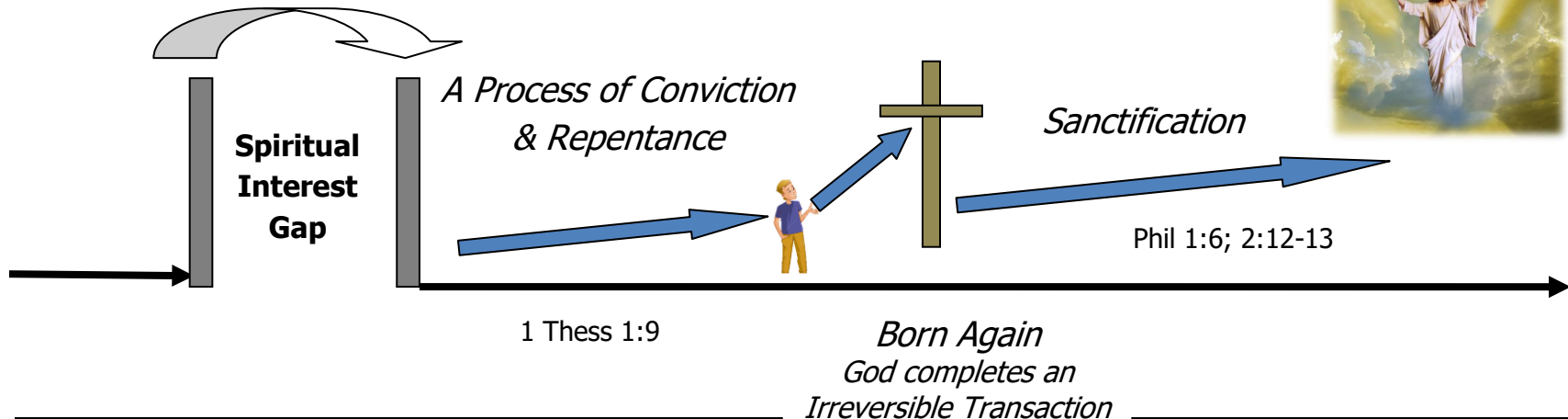
**Follower
 A New Believer**
 Has Trusted in Christ
Establish

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

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.

Making Disciples, Series 4, Serving the Lord, an 8 week study addressing our fundamental calling - to serve the Lord, our mission, our ministry enabled through spiritual gifts, our motivation, and the Lord's promised reward.



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