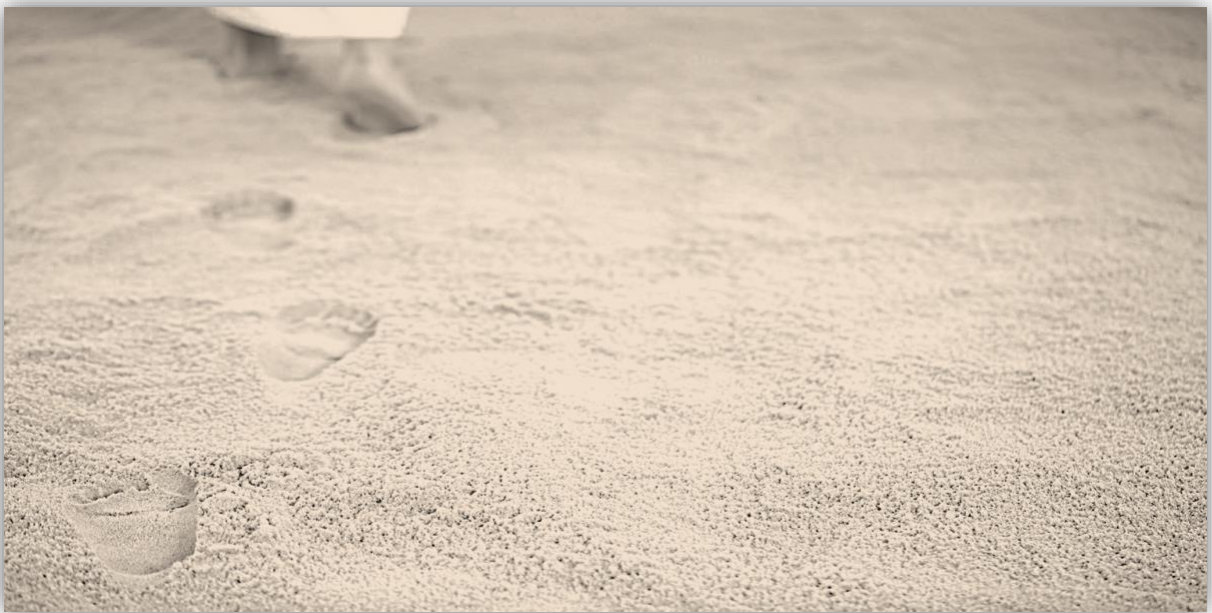


# FOLLOWING JESUS

**Leader's Guide: Making Disciples**



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### **Who we are**

We are a group of like-minded Christians dedicated to enlarging the Kingdom of God globally through empowering leaders and strengthening local churches.

### **What we do**

We provide ways for the Kingdom of God to impact unreached nations by mobilizing believers and churches. This is accomplished through relational mentoring, cultural engagement, and Christ-centered, Spirit-filled, and Bible-based training and resources.

### **What makes us unique?**

We believe the only way growth in the Kingdom is sustainable is through strengthening healthy churches. Our goal is to equip indigenous churches in unreached nations to become self-supporting and self-propagating.

Once churches are equipped, we continue our support through seminars, training programs, prayer partnerships, and resources that help churches achieve greater ministry effectiveness.

Kingdom Building International (KBI) also offers specialized retreats and conferences that reignite passion and purpose in the lives of Christian Leaders so that when they return to their perspective fields of service, they are refreshed and refocused on their mission.

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## **Making Disciples**

Something did not look right. My daughter had tried to bake a cake, but the middle was sunken, and the edges looked hard. It was her first attempt to bake a cake on her own and she was trying to follow the recipe without any help. I explained the recipe before she started. I shared how recipes are like instructions — it is important to follow the instructions if you want the cake to turn out correctly. But something had gone terribly wrong. Since my daughter was upset, we decided to try eating it. Big mistake. As we took our first bite, a horrible flavor of salt coated our mouth. We were all choking and trying to spit out the offensive piece of cake. When I went over the recipe again with my daughter, we realized that she had accidentally used salt in place of sugar in the recipe. She had not followed the instructions, so she did not get the expected result.

There are many instructions provided by God in the Bible. Sometimes they are given as commandments. However, we must follow His instructions to achieve the expected plan of God. Just like following instructions making the cake was important to get the desired results, it is also important to follow God's instructions in order to achieve the results expected — to fulfill God's plan on this earth.

One of the most important instructions provided by Jesus to fulfill God's plan on this earth was given right before He returned to His Father in Heaven. We will spend some time learning about this instruction because it is important to making disciples.

## **Why make disciples?**

Imagine you lived at the time of Jesus. You have followed Jesus for about three years. You have seen Him perform miracles. You have seen people healed by His hand. You have heard His compassionate, powerful teachings. You are hoping that He will bring Israel back to the glorious kingdom similar to what was seen at the time of King David and King Solomon.

Suddenly, He is arrested, beaten and hung on a cross to die. How could this be happening? All of your hopes and dreams as you followed this man may seem broken. However, after He was removed from the cross and buried in a tomb, something miraculous takes place. After three days, the large stone that was blocking the tomb has been rolled aside and the tomb is empty! People are whispering about what could have happened. The authorities are claiming that people stole His body.

Then, Jesus started appearing to His disciples. After resurrection Sunday, Jesus was on the earth for forty more days teaching and talking to His followers. He was ALIVE. Jesus was seen here on the earth. He visited people and talked with them. He ate with them and taught them. Many, many people saw Him alive again. Death and the tomb could not keep Him. In fact, He shares a world-wide vision.

***Read Matthew 28:19 (The Great Commission)***

During this time, He gave His Disciples a new job - The Great Commission. Their new job was to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” That’s a BIG job!! He wanted them to go out into the WHOLE WORLD and make disciples. That means that He wanted them to go around talking to people about Jesus! This job is SO BIG that we call it the Great Commission. Guess what? That is still the job of believers today!

One day, right in front of His Disciples, Jesus was taken up into heaven.

***Read Acts 1:1-11 (The Ascension of Jesus)***

The disciples and Jesus were up on the top of a hill talking. Jesus started going up into the sky as the disciples were all watching Him — probably with their mouths hanging open. Then, He was gone! Imagine you are a follower of Jesus and standing there watching Jesus as He ascends into heaven. He goes up and up and up. . . finally, He is completely out of sight. And what do you do? You keep standing there — probably with your mouth still hanging open. You just saw the most amazing thing! You keep watching to see what will happen next.

Suddenly, two angels appeared in the sky and told them, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into Heaven.” In other words: why are you standing there looking to heaven? Perhaps you have forgotten what Jesus said a little earlier: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” You have a lot to do... get busy! You don’t want to just be standing around here doing nothing when He comes back!

What happened to Jesus after that? Where is He now? Is He ever coming back? And what are we supposed to be doing in the meantime? These are things that a Disciple Maker must think about. Before He left the disciples, He gave them their marching orders.

***Read Acts 1:8***

Jesus had given the disciples a job. They were to be His witnesses in all the world, starting in Jerusalem. They couldn’t just stand around waiting forever on top of a hill. They had a job to do. The angels told the disciples that Jesus was in heaven and that one day He would come back. One day Jesus will come back. Until then, we are to be busy doing the job He gave us. What is that job? Jesus told us that it is to go make disciples in all nations.

As we embark on this disciple journey, we are never meant to do it alone. After we achieve a certain level of maturity, we are to bring others along with us. We are to walk beside others, support them, and mentor them in their Christian walk just as others have done for us. Why? Because Jesus told us to. The main reason we are to make disciples is because Jesus commanded it.

We can sometimes make the mistake of thinking that Christianity is only about going to heaven when we die and that the Great Commission is only about converting people to Christianity. Eternity in heaven is part of salvation, but salvation has implications for our lives now. Jesus called us to make disciples, not just converts. Sharing the good news of eternal salvation is the first part of becoming a disciple, but making disciples also includes "teaching [people] to observe all that [Jesus] commanded" (Matthew 28:20). Making disciples includes teaching others ALL that Jesus commanded including being a doer of the Word, fellowshiping with their Heavenly Father, and eventually becoming a Disciple Maker themselves. It is important that people learn from Jesus and follow Him—become His disciples—because true life is found in Him.

### **Stages of Spiritual Growth**

If you are going to be a Disciple Maker, you will also need to understand the stages of spiritual growth. What we see demonstrated in the life of each disciple reflects where they fall in this spiritual growth continuum. The purpose of this understanding is not for judgement. Rather, it will help us to better guide everyone along their pathway to discipleship and guide them into the next level. For instance, we cannot expect a brand-new convert to act like a mature believer. They may still say or do many things that don't align with God's Word. However, God changes people from the inside out. As they grow in their relationship with Christ, God will do a work in them which will impact their outward actions. Our job as Disciple Makers is not to judge but to encourage, love, support, and guide. Especially for new converts, it may be necessary to help them to forgive themselves when they miss the mark and mess up.

There is no shortcut to spiritual growth. It takes time and effort. Below are the stages of spiritual growth. We will spend some time describing each stage so that you will be able to clearly identify where people are on the way to where they are going. God's purpose is to produce disciples who reflect the perfect humanity of His Son on this earth. By understanding the stages of spiritual growth, you will be better equipped as a Disciple Maker to guide others to the next stage with the help of the Holy Spirit.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Greatest Need</b>
<b>Unbeliever</b>	An unbeliever is a person who either rejects Jesus Christ or doesn't believe in Him as his personal Savior.	To hear the truth about what Jesus did for him/her through His death, burial, and resurrection so that they can have the opportunity to accept Him as their personal Savior (Matthew 28:19; Galatians 6:10).



<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Greatest Need</b>
<b>New believer</b>	<p>The Bible compares new believers to newborn infants (1 Peter 2:2), children (Hebrews 5:12-14), and little children (Galatians 4:19). Spiritual growth is similar to physical growth. As a newborn baby must continue to grow after birth, new believers must continue to grow in faith, wisdom, and holiness to become more like Jesus. Just as we grow physically at different rates and in different ways, new believers will grow differently as well. But, all birth results in growth — growth is the evidence of life. When a person is born again (accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior), the only thing that changes is their spirit-man. Their spirit is recreated, but their soul (mind, will, and emotions) and physical body do not change.</p>	<p>To learn the truth of God’s word so that they can apply it to their thoughts and daily conduct. For this reason, not only does the new believer need to know the truth (or what the Bible says), but they need to understand the following as a priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>How God sees them</u> – it is critical that every new believer understands who they are in Christ (what Christ has provided through His death, burial and resurrection to every believer). They need to understand how God sees them so that they can see themselves as God sees them. Without this basic truth, it will be difficult for them to grow and pursue God fully.</li> <li>• <u>How to renew their mind to God’s truth</u> (or change the way they think) — it is critical that every new believer understands how to change the way they think in order to align with the truth of their new spiritual reality. This is the starting point of discipleship for every believer. This means that the new believer will need to learn God’s truth so that they can align both their soul and physical body with the truth in an ever-progressing manner. Upon exercise of faith, God will transform their thoughts, attitudes, and desires to align with His. God works on us from the inside out.</li> </ul>



<b>Stage</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Greatest Need</b>
<b>Mature believer</b>	<p>True maturity is demonstrated in the life of the believer. However, it does not mean that a mature believer will act perfectly or won’t miss the mark sometimes. But, a mature believer will know truth and act on the truth that they know to get back on track and align themselves with God’s Word. They will be open to the truth and remain teachable. They are motivated to seek God and His Truth without prompting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand that complete spiritual maturity is never fully achieved on this earth. We must always keep growing and progressing — constant progress.</li> <li>• To understand his/her place and purpose in the Kingdom in order to fulfill their purpose on this earth. Mature believers are not only supposed to continue in their own growth continually, but step fully into the purpose God designed for them in order to produce disciples that are also able to fulfill their purpose (in other words, take other believers with them on their journey of discipleship).</li> </ul>



God intends for us to always pursue spiritual growth so that we may be “confirmed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29) or to be more Christ-like. We are supposed to “press on to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1). While spiritual maturity is similar to physical growth, spiritual maturity is not about age, academic achievement, or appearance. Just because someone appears older or dignified does not mean that they are spiritually mature. Spiritual maturity is not the accumulation of Biblical information. Just memorizing or knowing scripture does not make a believer mature. While this has great value, it is only when the principles of Scripture are worked out daily in the life of the believer that spiritual growth is advanced. You don’t get mature by comparing yourself to other Christians. Spiritual maturity is measured by comparing a person’s words, life, and actions against the Word of God. James notes that faith without works is dead (James 2:26). A mature believer will consistently demonstrate the fruit of the spirit in their lives (see Galatians 5:22). They will be quick to repent and get back on track, when needed. The Bible is our measuring stick of maturity. The book of James provides some description regarding what a spiritually mature Christian looks and acts like:

- **Joyful under pressure** (James 1:2-4): *just because someone is a Christ follower does not mean that they will not face trouble. The question is not whether you will face troubles. We are even told by Jesus Himself that we can expect to face troubles (John 16:33). The question is how you will respond to them. A mature Jesus-follower can be under stress and still be joyful. If they are tempted to be negative or have a bad attitude, they know the steps to take to restore joy and act on them. A mature believer understands that happiness may be dependent upon circumstances, but he/she can be joyful regardless of current circumstances.*
- **Shows love to other people — not always self-focused** (James 2:8): *Similar to physical growth and maturity, when children are immature (or young) they are completely self-focused and primarily only see their own needs. But, as children mature, they start to recognize and see the needs of others. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells us that we will be judged by how we treat others — not how many Bible Verses we know or even how often we attend church (although these are important things for a believer as well).*
- **Mastering your mouth — or the words you speak** (James 1:26; James 3:2): *When we go to the doctor, many times he will have us stick out our tongue and say “Ahhh” to check our physical health. However, the Bible says that our tongue (or what we say) can be an indication of our spiritual health and growth. James 3 gives several illustrations regarding the tongue (or what we say). Earlier in the book of James, he states “if a person thinks that he is religious but can’t control his tongue, he is fooling himself” (James 1:26). Gossip, spreading rumors, and constant negative talk is a sign that someone is immature in their faith. However, refusal to gossip, talk negatively about situations, and say instead what God says about situations (despite what you see) is a sign of a mature believer.*
- **Peacemaker, not a troublemaker** (James 4:1): *Causing conflict isn’t a Christian virtue. In fact, the opposite is true. It is a sign of immaturity if believers regularly act in ways that cause conflict. James tells us that being selfish and judgmental are some of the main sources of conflict in the life of a believer. Both of these things prevent Christ-like maturity in our lives. They encourage trouble instead of peace. This is not to say that we will never face conflict, but how we address conflict is a direct reflection on our maturity. As much as we have the ability, we are to pursue peace (Romans 12:18). Christian maturity means learning to say no to a selfish (proud or “I have to be right”), judgmental attitude that regularly causes conflict.*

- ***Patient and prayerful*** (James 5:7-8): *Patience and prayerfulness express an attitude of dependence upon God in the daily conduct of life. This dependence is a mark of a mature believer. Both a life of patience and prayerfulness are key elements of maturity.*

It is important to note that there is no exact timeframe for each stage. Spiritual maturity is not instantaneous or final. It is something that believers must continually pursue all of their days on this earth. Some people may progress more quickly than others. But, our job as Disciple Makers is to plant and water God's truth so that God can give the increase in their lives.

### ***Read Colossians 1:28-29***

In addition, we need to support, encourage, and mentor newer believers as they pursue God in their daily conduct. As we do this, we are not alone. It is His working (or the Holy Spirit) which works in us mightily to support our efforts. The ultimate goal of discipling is to help others become more Christ-like and become co-laborers with Christ in His work on this earth. Believers that accept their assignment don't just add to the Kingdom of God, but multiply themselves.

### **Who do I disciple?**

The simple answer is any believer. Anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior has connected with their purpose and is ready to enter the discipleship journey. We recommend that you find 7-10 people to disciple.

However, the disciple will need to be a willing participant. We cannot force people to enter this journey after they receive salvation. It is willing participation and motivation to become more Christ-like that will produce results. The process of helping someone become a disciple of Jesus moves quickly with some people and takes longer with others. Each encounter can be seen as a step that moves someone closer to Christ. That should be our goal. We should help people take as many steps as they are ready and willing to take.

Our responsibility is simply to share the message as clearly and lovingly as we can in the power of the Holy Spirit, asking the Spirit to apply it in His own way and time.

### **How do I disciple?**

Discipling is a ministry to which all believers are called in some way. What are the qualifications of a Disciple Maker? To make disciples, you must be a disciple yourself. This doesn't mean that you need to be a perfect disciple or a Bible scholar, only that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, are committed to Jesus as Lord, and are seeking to follow Him in your daily walk. You should be reasonably well-grounded in Scripture and established in your spiritual life. You should also be willing to share your own testimony of what God has done in your life and how He is currently working in your life.

Making disciples of Jesus begins with going out to help nonbelievers learn more about who Jesus is, what He did on the cross, and how that applies to their lives with the goal of helping them come

to saving faith. But it doesn't end there. It is also encouraging and assisting those who repent and believe the Gospel to be baptized and then teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded His disciples to do. Failure to do the last part has had disastrous consequences for the Church. A Disciple Maker is a co-laborer with God in His complete work of redemption which includes teaching others and encouraging them to be doers of the word of God by walking in the truth that they know.

In seeking to make disciples, we should look at how Jesus disciplined others. Jesus' followers walked alongside Him. They lived with Him, watched how He made decisions, saw how He interacted with others, and sat at His feet and learned. They studied everything about Him. As Jesus' disciples, we should seek to know Him and to follow Him that closely. As Disciple Makers, we share our lives with others. We help teach people to devote their lives to Christ, and we walk alongside them as they do. We pray for them and do things like Bible study with them. We also do things like meet for coffee, go fishing, play games, etc. Discipling is not just about teaching, but it is about doing life together. It is important to find a group of people that you can live life with and spend time with them outside of training meetings. Disciple making is investing in the life of another with the intent of both people getting to know Jesus better and follow Him more closely. When we learn from Jesus and get to know Him, we come to love Him and want to share His great love with others. We learn His truth and delight to share His Word so others can know true life in Him too.

You may be asking, "How can I do this? I don't have the training or ability." It can be helpful to remind ourselves that Jesus' first disciples were ordinary men with no special education or training other than knowing Him and learning from Him. They didn't have college degrees or even high school diplomas, but He used them to turn the world upside down. There is nothing wrong with education, but it is not a requirement to be a Disciple Maker. You don't need a degree in religion or theology to disciple people effectively. You just need to know Him and His teachings, be filled with His Spirit, and be obedient. As you step out in faith and obedience, you will learn by doing. The longer you do it, the more effective you will become.

Ultimately, the most important thing you need is provided by Jesus Himself. He told His first disciples, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). The promise of His presence (through the Holy Spirit) remains in full force for all who follow in His steps. He will be with you and me every step of the way as we seek to do the work of making disciples — work we could never do in our own strength. As you disciple people, remember that simply learning Jesus' teachings doesn't make one a disciple. The true disciple *obeys* Jesus' commands. How well the disciple engages in this process largely determines whether he or she will be a good disciple or a poor one.

Another important point to remember is that there is both a spiritual and a practical side to discipleship.

***Read Matthew 28:18-20***

***Read Mark 16:15-18***

You will see in these scriptures both sides of discipleship. We are told to go. That means that we must have a plan to take action and actually go. It also means that we must intentionally identify opportunities throughout our day to carry out this Great Commission. However, you will also

notice that there is a spiritual side to discipleship. As we go out into our world to share the Gospel, the power of the Holy Spirit is available to confirm His Word with signs and wonders. We need both the practical and the spiritual side to be effective Disciple Makers. In order to facilitate this process, we have provided a “Leader Connect” section for every lesson to address both the spiritual and practical side of discipleship. This leader section can be used as follows:

<b>Main Points</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Application</b>
<p>Each lesson has an outline with the main teaching points and key scriptures. This provides a framework to review the lesson during the weekly meetings. Review this lesson outline prior to each meeting and write down thoughts and notes that you want to highlight or share.</p>	<p>Each lesson has discussion questions included to start discussions and sharing about the lesson. Encourage participation from different people to share. Many of the questions are designed to encourage action steps for practical application of the lesson truths.</p>	<p>Each lesson has some suggestions for practical application either during the meeting itself or a challenge for the participants to complete before the next meeting. It is encouraged to provide either practical application during the meeting or some assignment or action steps to do the word that they learned. For instance, in the lesson “What is a Disciple,” a key point is that a disciple believes and does God’s Word. In order to do this, a disciple must know what God’s Word says. So, a practical application is to encourage participants to develop a plan to intentionally commit to find time in their schedules to read the Bible and pray each day.</p>

### **The Practical Side of Disciple Making**

First, we will discuss the practical side of discipleship. What does it look like to meet, mentor, model, and send? If you have been identified to lead a discipleship group, then you may be asking “How do I start?” We will discuss how to schedule meetings, how to support the discipleship process, and how to encourage people in their walk with Jesus by meeting, modeling, mentoring, and sending.

#### **Meet**

1. *Set up weekly meetings — Identify 7-10 people that you will disciple. Decide on a place and time to meet weekly. For instance, you can meet for one week per lesson or you may consider spending more than one week on each lesson. You can adjust the number of meetings to what works best for the group of believers that you are discipling. But you will need a minimum of seventeen weekly meetings to complete the lessons (one introductory week to share the expectations and review the material, then sixteen weeks to review the*

lessons). During the introductory meeting, you should share the following expectations with the group to get maximum benefit:

- They should read and complete the lesson in advance of the weekly meeting
- They should keep notes of any questions that they have about the lesson
- They should complete any application challenges as described by the leader

It is suggested to plan for about 90 minutes for each session. It is also recommended to allow some time for fellowship. Part of the discipleship journey is to support each other in the pursuit of Christ-likeness. This can only happen when we encourage and develop relationships with other Christian believers.

2. Share Truth — The main goal of these weekly meetings is to share God’s truth. The Bible is the main authority of God’s truth. Each lesson in this discipleship program is created to share foundational Bible truth. An example of how to structure the weekly meeting to share truth could look as follows. However, you can also adjust this to the needs of the group:

- Open in prayer
- 30 minutes of fellowship
- 30 minutes for teaching/reviewing the main points of the lesson
- 20 minutes of discussion
- 10 minutes to conduct and/or review application
- Close in prayer and/or pray together for prayer requests

3. Provide examples/illustrations — Be prepared to share illustrations and/or examples from your own life (if possible) when teaching each lesson. Jesus shared examples through parables to help people understand spiritual truths. We can do the same. When we see spiritual truths exemplified with illustrations or life experiences, it is easier (especially for new believers) to see the way of application for their own lives. But ensure that the examples point to the hope of Christ. It is not a time to focus on how horrible of a person you were, but rather focus on how Jesus has changed you (how He has worked in your life). The illustrations and examples should point to hope — to help others along their journey to see the reality and hope of the Gospel applied in their own life.

### Model

1. Share application — Be prepared to share ways that they can apply the truth taught each week in their own life. Provide some action steps that they can take in the coming week to apply the truth so that they can step out immediately to be doers of the word. A disciple is a doer of the Word, not just a hearer only. In order to assist with this, we have provided some suggestions for practical application as part of the “Leader Connect” section for each lesson.
2. Provide opportunities — Another way to encourage application of God’s truth is to intentionally provide opportunities to be a doer of the Word. For instance, if the lesson is about prayer, then plan a time of corporate (united) prayer at the end of the lesson to apply some of the truth that was learned. In order to assist with this, we have provided some



suggestions for providing opportunities as part of the “Leader Connect” section for each lesson.

3. Testimony – A powerful way to model the way is personal testimony. Allow time for people to share their testimonies of how God is working in their life as they grow in Him. If you have prayed for a situation in the discipleship group, then share a praise report when God’s hand is shown in the situation. If someone has had a breakthrough in their own life, encourage them to share with the Group. God is in the business of changing people’s lives from the inside out. As believer’s share their testimonies of God working in their lives, other believers are provided both encouragement and hope.
4. God’s Word as the authority – Always share the truth and encourage all conversations to seek out what the Bible says. If people in the group start to share their opinions, redirect the conversation to see what the Bible says about it. Our measuring stick for any opinion is the Bible (or the truth in God’s Word). So, don’t allow vain conversations or arguments based on people’s opinions. It is encouraged that you share this “rule” at the beginning of the discipleship program — that everyone agrees to refer to God’s Word as the measuring stick and find the answers in the Bible. Our opinions are only that — our opinions — if they are not in alignment with the Word of God. Model this during each lesson especially during the discussion time.
5. Continuous learning — Recognize that we are also still disciples and are continuously learning. As a leader, it may be uncomfortable to admit that you don’t know the answer to a question asked. You may also feel like you need to have all the answers. But, we won’t ever have all of the understanding and answers this side of Heaven. Paul said, “... now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12). It is important to not only recognize that we will spend our entire life on this earth in the discipleship journey, but also model this to others by being willing to learn from them as well. Yes, mature Christians can even learn from new believers. It is important to be humble enough to admit that you don’t know everything and model a key aspect of discipleship — a life of continuous learning and revelation knowledge.

### **Mentor**

1. Encourage — A mentor is someone who acts as an advisor to a less experienced individual. One of the key aspects of a mentor in discipleship is to encourage or enable others in their disciple journey — in their own personal spiritual growth. As a mentor, you can both encourage new believers by reinforcing truth and helping them to seek out for themselves what the Word says. However, it is important to remember that the Holy Spirit is their ultimate teacher. One of the easiest ways to remember your role as a mentor in the discipleship journey is to ask the following questions:
  - What are your options?
  - What does the Word say?

By following this simple formula, you can encourage newer believers to look to the Bible for their answers with the help of the Holy Spirit. Your goal as a mentor is not to constantly

*tell others what to do, but rather to help them grow in their confidence to find the truth for themselves, be led by the Holy Spirit, and act in obedience to His Words — it is to help them rely on God and the Holy Spirit and not a specific person.*

2. Restoring a fellow believer — *What do you do when a disciple misses the mark? Just as small children will fall sometimes as they learn to walk, believers will also fall as they pursue this discipleship journey. This is a critical time for newer believers as followers of Jesus. Christians are commanded to assist believers and restore them (Galatians 5:21). The believer that messed up is commanded to confess sin and seek restoration (James 5:16). Restoration is the act of returning something to its former condition. So, how do we restore a believer who has missed the mark and messed up? We find some of the answers in Galatians 6:1-2 — we (as “spiritual” or mature believers) are to help with the process of restoration. How?*
  - Intentionally: *This verse implies that it is our responsibility to look for those who are struggling with sin to assist in restoration. It is saying that we need to be intentional about seeking out believers that have missed the mark and carry each others burdens. In doing this, we graciously, patiently, and kindly fulfill our obligation to love one another as Christ loved us (John 13:34).*
  - In gentleness: *If someone breaks a leg, we wouldn't lecture them or rebuke them for not paying attention. This won't fix or correct the broken bone. What would fix it? Setting it so that it can restore and heal. We assist in the restoration by helping them get back on their feet, not rebuking them or condemning them for messing up. We are not to judge or condemn, but rather use discernment and wisdom from a place of compassion. Paul said in Romans 2:4 that it is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance — it doesn't say the judgment of God. That doesn't mean that we cannot provide words of correction as sometimes correction may be necessary. But our assistance must come from a place of love and not judgment or condemnation. We can see an example of Jesus' restoration in John 21:15-17. Rather than condemn Peter for denying Him three times, He reminded Peter of His love for him and showed him compassion. This is the example that we are expected to follow as well. Our gentleness must flow from the knowledge that we must treat other believers as we would wish to be treated — and that none of us is above falling and requiring similar consideration and treatment from our fellow believers (Romans 3:23; Proverbs 24:16).*

**Send**

All believers should do the works that Jesus does. Jesus has commissioned or sent us to do His works. As Disciple Makers, we must also send others by encouraging them to be doers and do His works.

***Read John 14:12-14***

These words spoken by Jesus are both powerful and perhaps a little overwhelming. He is saying that all who believe in Him will carry on with His work and do something greater than the works of Jesus. This promise was not just made to the original disciples, but to all believers — everyone who believes in Him. He is saying that we will be co-laborers with Him and join in and do the

works that He does. We will be His hands and feet on this earth. But, what does He mean that we will do greater works?

First, we will do works greater in quantity because He went to the Father and enabled us to become one with Him. When He was on earth, He was the only body of Christ — just one man. But, through His death, burial, and resurrection, we have the ability to be one with Christ — meaning that He resides in us. The Church (believers) is now the body of Christ. So, instead of just one body, He has multiple bodies — the body of every believer is Christ’s presence on this earth. His body is multiplied through the new birth in every believer that is living on the earth.

Second, He had not yet ascended into heaven when He spoke these words. At that point, nobody could be born again because He had not completed His redemptive work. He had not yet taken His blood to the Heavenly Holy of Holies and applied it to the mercy seat to reconcile man to Himself. He said that we will do greater works than Him “because I go to My Father.” There is a spiritual implication here as well. How can we do greater works? Because the spiritual world is the more real world (see Hebrews 11:3). Jesus provided healing to physical bodies and cast demons out of people. We can do these works as well through the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us. But when we co-labor with Him on this earth, we are able to share the good news of the Gospel (what Jesus has accomplished through His death, burial, and resurrection) because it is now past tense (already been accomplished). He has now gone to His Father and accomplished the purpose for which He was sent to earth. When we share this truth and someone accepts it, their spirits are re-created and they become new creatures. They have passed from spiritual death into spiritual life. They have passed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light! Our ministry of reconciliation as the body of Christ today on this earth has eternal spiritual significance.

The Gospel is not meant to be hoarded or kept to ourselves. The Church was not created to only benefit itself — it was created to go to the world with the Gospel. From the time Jesus called His first disciple, He was preparing them for the task that He originally called them to.

***Read Mark 3:13-15***

They hadn’t started this work yet, but Jesus told them that they were set apart for this work and purpose. He didn’t call them to just sit at His feet and be continuous learners only. His teaching was preparing them to be sent — to go out and share the things they were learning. After spending time with Jesus, He determined that they were trained enough to send them out to share with others.

***Read Mark 6:7-13***

We see that Jesus is finally sending out the twelve disciples to practice or act on what they had learned. Do these words sound similar to the words we read in Mark 16:15-18 (the Great Commission)? Jesus doesn’t just want us to sit and learn our entire lives. He wants us to go. He has sent us just like He has sent His original disciples.



The role of a Disciple Maker is not just teaching, encouraging, mentoring, and modeling, but also sending. As we pour into people, we also need to send them and encourage them to go into a lost and dying world that needs to hear and experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

***Read 2 Timothy 2:2***

Paul shared something similar with Timothy. He told Timothy to take the things He had learned and share them with others. Jesus sent His disciples. Paul sent Timothy. We must do the same.

## **The Spiritual Side of Disciple Making**

The spiritual side of discipleship is about providing truth encounters. As a Disciple Maker (or leader), we are to preach and teach the Gospel (or God's Word) to connect people to Jesus and help them to be followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and makes the Bible come alive to each of us so that we can apply it to our lives. This is called revelation knowledge. The Holy Spirit will also show up with power to confirm God's Word.

***Read Mark 16:17-18***

***Read Acts 1:8***

Jesus assures us that He will confirm His Word as we go into the world and share His Gospel. However, the last words of Jesus before He ascended to Heaven are not found in the Gospels. His last words are recorded in the first chapter of Acts. The "Great Commission" declares our assignment. But, Acts 1:8 gives us the ability to carry out this assignment. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to be witnesses for Him. He provided us the Holy Spirit to help us carry out this assignment on the earth. As we read the Gospel, it is like He is saying "I said all of that to say this . . . I now have an assignment for you as my disciples. It is to continue to share the Gospel with the world. But I won't leave you alone. I will provide a helper. This helper will empower you (or provide the power/ability) to carry out this assignment."

***Read Romans 15:19***

Paul assures the Roman church that he has fully preached the Gospel. So, what does it mean to fully preach the Gospel? Fully preaching the Gospel requires not just actions, words, or knowledge of the truth, but POWER. Paul also shares with the Corinthian church that he came to them not with his own words or power, but in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4). The Holy Spirit helps us with what to say and when to say it. Paul said the words, but the Holy Spirit provided the power for the words to have impact. That means that you can't do this work apart from God. We are co-laborers. That is the difference between Christianity and other "religions." We are not alone. God has sent the Holy Spirit to help us. He shows up with the power to confirm our words, prepare people's hearts, reveal truth, and reveal the power of God. The Holy Spirit will help and empower us. As we make disciples, God gives us the words and God gives us the power. All we must do is SHARE. We are not responsible for the results of our sharing, God is.

## Leader Commitment

Accepting the assignment as a Disciple Maker comes with both responsibility and reward. One of the greatest rewards as a believer is not only to see someone accept Christ, but also to see them grow in their faith. However, being a Disciple Maker requires a certain level of commitment of both time and energy — both at a personal level in your own discipleship journey as well as towards those people you have committed to disciple.

### ✓ *Personal relationship with Jesus (your own discipleship journey)*

In order to be effective as a Disciple Maker, you must be committed to your own discipleship journey. As previously mentioned, we are always continuously learning. We have never arrived this side of Heaven. For this reason, it is critical that Disciple Makers are diligent to pursue their own personal discipleship journey outside of teaching others and preparing for the weekly meetings. Disciple Makers must be committed to their own personal Bible reading, devotions, meditation on Scripture, and prayers. Preparation for the weekly meetings does not replace personal devotions and prayer. It will be important to commit to additional preparation time in addition to your personal Bible reading and prayer time.

### ✓ *Modeling the lessons*

Instruction in the scripture is important. The purpose of this discipleship program is to provide resources to teach foundational Bible truth to new believers. However, if we want to see new believers empowered for service and not just have head knowledge, we also need to model the lessons just as Jesus did.

Jesus spent time intentionally teaching both His twelve disciples as well as a broader community of followers. We see an example of this in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). However, part of becoming a disciple was to be with Him (Mark 3:14). Throughout the Gospels, Jesus models for His disciples what He expects from them — healing the sick, casting out demons, prayer, service to others, etc. When Peter and John boldly testified in front of the Jewish leaders, it was evident that “they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). Jesus also says that our discipleship will be evident to the world as we love others in the way that He loved us. In other words, we are to love as He demonstrated or modeled love.

Paul also shares that disciple making includes modeling or living by example.

***Read 1 Corinthians 4:17***

***Read Philippians 3:17***

Paul taught the Scriptures wherever he went, but he expected Church leaders and members to become imitators of him. He modeled for them what he expected them to do just as Jesus modeled the way for His disciples. What was the purpose of this modeling? So, that they could become examples to others. In order to be effective Disciple Makers, we must model the lessons — or model the way.

✓ *Praying for the disciples*

Prayer is critical in the life of a disciple. As part of this discipleship program, each person is challenged to pray the prayer found in Ephesians 1 for themselves daily. However, mature believers are expected to not only pray for themselves and their own needs, but also for the needs of others (both believers and unbelievers).

*Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3*

*Read Ephesians 6:18*

We have learned that mature believers are not self-focused, but sensitive to the needs of others. This includes praying for others. Paul also provides examples of discipleship prayers — prayers for the spiritual growth of others.

*Read Ephesians 1:15-22*

*Read Galatians 4:19*

Paul prays for the believer's spiritual growth, knowledge, and strength. He travails for the believers in Galatia that Christ be formed in them. He wasn't praying for their salvation, he was praying for their spiritual growth. As Disciple Makers, we can also support the spiritual growth of new believers by praying these prayers for them.

As you embark on this journey as a Disciple Maker, I would encourage you to follow the model provided by Paul and pray for spiritual growth — both for yourself and for others.

**Do not be discouraged!**

Finally, remember that you are not alone in the journey as a Disciple Maker. You are not responsible for the results — God is.

*Read 1 Corinthians 3:6-9*

Paul was speaking to the Corinthian church regarding their spiritual growth. While He was warning against divisions and arguments related to following specific teachers, he also made a very important point regarding teaching others. We are responsible to plant and water the seed of God's Word, but it is God that will give the seed increase in the life of the believer. Just remember that you are responsible to share the truth, model the way, and pray. But, it is God that gives the increase. As well, the individual believer has a significant part to play in their own spiritual growth. If someone is not progressing in their discipleship journey as you would hope, remember your responsibility as a Disciple Maker. Resist becoming discouraged. You plant, you water, and God will give the increase to the degree that the individual believer will allow in their own life.



## Leader Connect

### Lesson 1: What is a Disciple?

#### Main Points:

#### *What is a disciple?*

- *Key scriptures:* John 13:34; Jeremiah 1:5; Ephesians 2:10
- *General Purpose:* We are to love God and love people. We can do this by carrying out the Great Commission in alignment with the Great Commandment
- *Specific Purpose:* We are recreated for a specific purpose. God has prepared “good works” of eternal significance for us to walk in. Nobody else can fulfill our specific plan in the body of Christ like we can.

#### *What does a disciple believe?*

- *Key scriptures:* Matthew 28:20; John 8:31; Joshua 1:6-8
- *A disciple believes the Bible (God’s Word)*
- *A disciple must have continuous truth encounters*
  - *Read Bible daily*
  - *Christian Community (going to church and interacting with other believers)*

#### *What does a disciple do in his personal life?*

- *Key scriptures:* Isaiah 54:13; 1 Corinthians 13:14; John 10:3; Joshua 1:8
- *A disciple gives God’s Word first place in their life*
- *A disciple communes or has fellowship with the Lord*
- *In addition to reading the Bible daily and Christian Community, following are ways that disciples commune or fellowship with the Lord:*
  - *Pray*
  - *Praise and Worship*
  - *Meditate or think on God’s Word*

#### *What does a disciple do in the world?*

- *Key scriptures:* John 15:8; Ephesians 5:1; John 15:5; Acts 17:6; 1 John 4:17
- *There is a divine purpose to our relationships*
- *We do His commandments not to prove we love Him, but to express our love to Him and to express His image of love to the world around us*

- *The spiritual legacy that we leave behind promises a continuation of our relationship with those we love beyond this life into eternity.*
- *How do we leave a spiritual legacy in our world?*
  - *Sharing the Gospel*
  - *Living in Christian Community*
  - *Loving others*
  - *Be the example – walk in the truth that you know*

**Discussion:**

1. *What is one area of becoming a disciple that I need to grow?*
2. *What is my plan to grow in this area? Be specific.*
3. *What am I going to do differently to ensure that I follow this plan?*
4. *Do I have someone that I can be accountable to? (i.e., a mentor, etc.)*
5. *How committed am I to this discipleship journey?*

**Application:**

There is a practical side to the discipleship journey which includes setting aside specific time to spend with the Lord. Share your own plan for communing and fellowshiping regularly with the Lord in your personal time. Stress that this is not a formula, and that each person must commit to a plan that works for them. But it is important to have a plan in place. If we plan for nothing, that is what we will get – nothing or no change.

Review **Appendix 3** together and discuss possible application of this commitment for each person. Encourage each person to complete this commitment statement. Encourage them to write it out and even sign and date it.

## Lesson 2: Our Bible

### Main Points:

#### *About our Bible*

- Key Scriptures: John 1:1
- There are 66 books and Two Testaments (Old Testament and New Testament)
- There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament
- The Old Testament (or Old Covenant) shows God establishing a relationship with a spiritually dead people and preparing for the coming of Jesus
- The New Testament (or New Covenant) reveals the fulfillment of the prophecies in the Old Testament through the person of Jesus Christ including all that He accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection.
- The Bible was written by over 40 authors from different walks of life. However, it is extremely cohesive and unified because it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible was written over about 1500 years.
- The Bible as we know it today was canonized (or formally confirmed as the standard accepted Scriptures) by 375 A.D.

#### *God's Word is Truth*

- Key Scriptures: John 1:14, John 1:1, John 8:31-32, Hebrews 4:12-13
- The Bible is simply the living, written, absolute truth and Word of God

#### *Principles of Bible Interpretation*

- Key Scriptures: Hebrews 4:12-13
- The Bible is God's infallible, inerrantly inspired Word. There are no mistakes in the Bible.
- Interpret the Bible in the light of its historical background including personal circumstances of the writer, culture and customs, and historical situations and events.
- Interpret the Bible according to the purpose and plan of each book.
- Always interpret the Bible according to the context of the verse including the verses and passages immediately before and after
- Interpret the Bible according to the correct meanings of words.
- Interpret the Bible according to parallel passages that deal with the same subject (i.e., according to the message of the entire Bible)

#### **Discussion:**

1. Why is the Bible the most important tool of a disciple?
2. What is the difference between the messages of the Old and New Testament?
3. What does John 1:1 tell us about Jesus and the Bible?
4. What does Hebrews 4:12-13 tell us the Word of God does?
5. What are some important principles to Bible interpretation? Why is it important to follow these principles?

### **Application:**

A Topical Bible study is the study of a topical teaching in the Bible. You may limit the topic to a single book or trace the topic throughout Scripture. The topic can be narrow (such as prophecies about Jesus' birth) or it can be broad (such as prophecies in the Bible). The goal of a topical Bible study is to focus on ways you can apply the topic to your life. Topical Bible study is important because it provides a logical and orderly method of studying the Bible regarding a specific subject to provide balanced understanding of the Biblical teaching.

Review the Bible interpretation principles. Also reference **Appendix 6** "How to study the Bible." Then, encourage everyone to perform a topical Bible study over the coming week on the **Word of God**. What does the Bible say about the Word of God? They should come prepared to share at least one thing they learned at the next meeting. Below is some additional guidance to share regarding doing a Topical Bible study:

1. *List related words:* this list can include synonyms, phrases, or ideas that have something in common with your topic. For instance, some other phrases and/or synonyms for the Word of God include Scriptures, Book of the Law, the Word, Word of Truth, and Oracles of God. Some additional ideas used to represent or describe the Word of God in the Bible include "Seed" and "Two-edged Sword."
2. *Find Bible references to your topic:* As you use a concordance and find topical Bible references, be careful to collect only verses that relate to your topic.
3. *Write an observation or a question about each reference:* Be certain that your comments accurately reflect the context of the verses. For instance, you may notice that the word "truth" is used consistently when referring to God's Word. You may also notice that John 17:17 equates God's Word with Truth — God's Word and the Truth are interchangeable or the same.
4. *Group Scripture references under sub-topics:* As you review the verses you have gathered, a logical division will become clear to you. Ensure that you have 2-3 scripture references under each sub-topic to let Scripture interpret Scripture on the topic. For example: when studying the Word of God, one of the sub-topics may be "Truth." Under this sub-topic, you may have the following scriptures: 2 Timothy 2:15, John 17:17; Romans 10:14-17, Psalm 119:160
5. *Summarize your study:* your notes provide an overview of what you have studied. A summary helps to condense what you have learned into a few words.
6. *Write applications:* List ways you can apply your topical study to your relationship with God, to your life, to your relationship with others, and to church.



## Lesson 3: What We Believe

### Main Points:

#### **Foundational Truths:**

- *Key Scriptures:* Luke 1:4; Ephesians 4:14-15
- *The Scriptures* — *The Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)*
- *The Godhead* — *Our God is one, but manifested in three persons — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:6; John 1:1; John 14:16)*
- *Man, His Fall and Redemption* — *Man is created in the image of God, but through Adam's transgression, sin came into the world. Jesus was manifested to shed His blood and redeem and restore man back to God (Romans 3:10; Romans 5:12-15)*
- *Eternal Life and the New Birth* — *Salvation is a gift of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The New Birth produces eternal life and is necessary to all men (Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 5:12)*
- *Water Baptism* — *Water Baptism is full immersion in water and is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 28:19; Colossians 2:12)*
- *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* — *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift and is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues (Acts 2:1-4)*
- *Sanctification* — *Sanctification means to be set apart from sin and set apart to God. It is living a life of holiness (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Philippians 3:12-14)*
- *Tithing* — *To tithe is to give ten percent of our income to God for His work (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6)*
- *Divine Healing* — *Healing of the body is a privilege of every member of the Church today provided through Jesus' death on the cross (James 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24)*
- *Hell and Eternal Retribution* — *The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of eternal fire (Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 19-20)*
- *Resurrection of the Just and the Return of the Lord* — *Jesus will return and the dead in Christ shall rise first followed by the Christians which are alive. Following the Tribulation, He shall return to earth to become King of Kings and Lord of lords along with His saints and will reign a thousand years (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 5:10; Revelation 20:6)*

#### **Three Guidelines for Determining Proper Doctrine:**

- *Key Scriptures:* 2 Timothy 3:16; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11



- *Does it agree with Scripture?*
- *Does it agree with the Holy Spirit?*
- *Does it agree with your spirit?*

**Discussion:**

1. *What is our main tool that we need to use to determine God's Truth?*
2. *Why is it so important to understand the foundational truths of the Bible?*
3. *Which of the foundational doctrines do you want to study more about? Why?*
4. *What does Paul expect mature Christians to do in relation to doctrine?*
5. *What three guidelines can we use to determine proper doctrine?*

**Application:**

Doctrine means “teaching.” The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand the basic foundational teachings of the Bible. As Christians, we should know what we believe and why we believe it. With any Bible subject, there is a road to divine truth that presents a balanced perspective of God. We must approach any subject from the standpoint of God's Word. In order to ensure that we are getting a balanced perspective of God's Word, we should find at least 2-3 scriptures that speak to the subject. This lesson contained foundational teachings that every Christian should know. However, the list of doctrines and the list of scriptures provided for each doctrine is not exhaustive. Encourage each disciple to pick one of the foundational teachings in this lesson and find at least 2-3 additional scriptures on the topic. Have them prepare to share what they found at the next meeting.

## Lesson 4: How God Made Us

### Main Points:

#### ***Spirit, Soul, and Body***

- Key Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Genesis 2:7; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 4:16
- God created us as three-part beings — spirit, soul, and body
- Spirit – we are a spirit. Conscience is the voice of your spirit.
- Soul – we have a soul (mind, will, and emotions). Reason and emotion are the voices of your soul.
- Body – we live in a body. Feeling is the voice of your body.

#### ***What happened when you became a Christian?***

- Key Scriptures: John 3:3-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Our spirit is recreated at the New Birth
- The sin nature is taken away and recreated with God's nature. God comes to live in our spirit
- When we are born again, our physical body doesn't change and our soul isn't recreated

#### ***What do we need to do?***

- Key Scriptures: John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12
- We have two natures to consider — spiritual nature (spirit) and human nature (soul and body)
- We must bring our soul and physical body into alignment with what has happened in our spirit at the New Birth
- We must change the way we think by feeding our spirit on God's Word
- We must act on God's Word
- We must pray in the Spirit to build up or strengthen our spirit and make it more sensitive to the Holy Spirit

#### ***Developing the Fruit of the spirit***

- Key Scriptures: Galatians 5:22-25; John 15:5
- Fruit is the by-product of the nature of a tree. The fruit lets you know what kind of tree it is
- The fruit of the spirit is a by-product of God's nature in us
- Our new spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

- *We must live our life dominated by our recreated spirit — we should be more spirit-conscious than body-conscious*
- *The Holy Spirit helps us by guiding us into these actions — He is always speaking these actions to our spirit. We just need to listen and follow*

**Discussion:**

1. *Why is it important to understand how God made us?*
2. *What was recreated when you became a Christian? What didn't change?*
3. *What do we have to do?*
4. *What is one thing that you think or do that is not in agreement with God's Word?*
5. *What do you plan to do about it this week?*

**Application:**

We must understand how we are created to correctly understand the Bible. We must understand how we are created so that we can be true disciples — taking accurate information about ourselves into consideration when we determine our role as followers of Jesus. In order to do this, it is very important that we become more spirit-conscious and less body and mind conscious. Challenge each disciple to write out and speak this confession based on Bible truth — to establish in their hearts how God made them, who they are, and what their nature is.

*I am a spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body. My spirit has been recreated with God's love nature when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I have God living on the inside of me. Greater is He that is in me than He that is in the world.*

## Lesson 5: How God Sees You

### Main Points:

#### *New Creation Truths*

- *Key Scriptures:* 1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- *We must establish our identity by saying what God says about us and our circumstances*
- *When we become a Christian, God comes to live in our spirit — God's love nature resides in our heart (or spirit)*
- *We are legally made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus — we are positionally righteous (or have a good position with God)*
- *God sees us as righteous from the very moment that we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior*

#### *Righteousness Mentality*

- *Key Scriptures:* Romans 5:17
- *We cannot improve God's standard of righteousness — only our understanding (sense or awareness) of what God has done for us can grow*
- *We cannot fully step into our full potential until we have a sense or awareness of our righteousness*
- *The opposite of righteousness is guilt and condemnation — which will keep us from growing spiritually and from experiencing the fullness of our spiritual inheritance*

#### *How do I get Righteousness Mentality?*

- *Key Scriptures:* 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 14:17; 1 John 1:9
- *See what the Bible says — our greatest tool in getting righteousness mentality is our Bible*
- *We must spend time reading and meditating on God's Word and what He says about us*
- *We need to become convinced of what He says about us*
- *Maintain Unbroken Fellowship — when we mess up, immediately ask for forgiveness and then forgive ourselves*

### Discussion:

1. *How does the Bible say that God sees us?*
2. *How is this different than how I have seen myself?*
3. *What is one area that I need to align my thinking with God's thinking about my identity?*
4. *What is my personal plan to change the way I think about myself?*
5. *What do I need to do when I mess up?*

**Application:**

We need to see ourselves as God sees us. The only way to do this is to change the way we think about ourselves and align our thinking with God's thinking in this area. Changing the way we think starts with putting God's Word in us. Refer to **Appendix 5**. Encourage everyone to review these scriptures and write them in a notebook or in the front of their Bible. Challenge them to read them out loud every morning and evening.

## Lesson 6: God Kind of Love

### Main Points:

#### *God Is Love*

- Key Scriptures: 1 John 4:8; 1 John 4:16; John 3:16; Romans 5:5
- *God is love unveiled. Love isn't just what He does, but it is who He is*
- *The ultimate expression of His love occurred when He was willing to give His only Son so that we could have our sins forgiven and restored fellowship with Him*
- *When we become Christians, His love nature is imparted to us in our spirit*
- *God wants us to apply and experience the love of God as the incredible ability working in us*

#### *Goodness of God*

- Key Scriptures: Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Psalm 23
- *God is good and seeks relationship with us. He wants to be OUR God*
- *God wants to "cause to be" good things in the lives of His children (us)*
- *He is continually chasing after us with His great love*
- *God's love is represented by His loyalty, intense love, unfailing kindness, compassion, mercy, and steadfast persistence for us*

#### *What is the God Kind of Love?*

- Key Scriptures: Romans 8:38-39; John 21:15-17
- *The God kind of love referred to in the Bible is AGAPE*
- *AGAPE love is unconditional, sacrificial, giving, serving, intentional, spiritual, and a one-way flow that is not dependent on the one receiving it. It is a choice*
- *PHILEO love is human or brotherly love. It is taking, emotional, and a two-way flow toward someone who also returns the same emotion. It is usually based on feeling*
- *Since AGAPE is a one-way flow; nothing can separate us from God's love because it has no dependence on us*

#### *Walking in Love*

- Key Scriptures: Matthew 5:44; John 15:12; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 4:32; Galatians 5:22-25
- *AGAPE involves action; Since we have AGAPE in our recreated spirits (God's love nature), we also have the ability to AGAPE (or to love others with His kind of love)*
- *Walking in love means that our outward conduct (or actions) reflect our inward reality (or love nature)*

- *We are motivated by love because that is who we are*
- *The key steps to walking in AGAPE are: Getting God's Word in us, prayer and worship, acting on the truth that we know (regardless of how we feel), and yielding to the Holy Spirit as He will always guide us into the way of love*

**Discussion:**

1. *How does God express His love to us?*
2. *What does the God kind of love look like?*
3. *What is the difference between the God kind of love and natural/human/brotherly love?*
4. *What steps can we take to successfully walk in God's love?*
5. *Is there a specific area of your life that God is showing you that you need to make some adjustments?*

**Application:**

One of the most common areas that Christians miss it in their love walk is un-forgiveness. 1 Corinthians 13:5 says that love does not dishonor others or keep a record of wrongs. Matthew 5:44 tells us to bless and pray for our enemies (or those who have hurt us or even continue to hurt us). Challenge each person to honestly ask themselves if they have un-forgiveness towards someone. Are they keeping a record of wrong for that person? Do they speak negatively or badly about that person? Then, encourage each person to do the following:

1. *Read **Appendix 7** which is a personalized daily confession of their love nature. Tell them to confess this scripture daily over themselves*
2. *Read **Matthew 5:44** and intentionally pray blessing for that person every day (regardless of how you feel)*
3. *Refuse to speak negatively or gossip about that person or what they have done to you. Refuse to allow others to speak negatively about that person to you. In fact, find something nice to say about that person.*

## Lesson 7: Change the Way You Think

### Main Points:

#### *Where do we find God's thoughts?*

- Key Scriptures: John 1:1-5; John 14:6
- *The primary place we can discover God's thoughts is in God's Word or the Bible*
- *God and His Word are one. God's thoughts are God's will*
- *Believing in God's Word is the same as believing in Jesus Himself*
- *Right believing leads to right living. What we allow in our eyes and ears will impact our thinking*

#### *Defining Moments*

- Key Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11; John 10:10
- *What we think on dictates what we allow to become our defining moments or how we act in a situation*
- *How we act in a situation impacts the outcome of the situation*
- *Wrong thoughts can keep us from acting out God's plan*
- *God's defining moments for us are amazing and full of hope*

#### *Do God's Word*

- Key Scriptures: James 1:22-25
- *What we believe is what we act upon. What we act upon becomes reality for us*
- *When Peter was focused on Jesus/the Word for his answers and ACTING ON THEM, he was overcoming his circumstances*
- *When Peter started looking to the storm around him, he began to sink*
- *We must act on the truth of God's Word that we know*

#### *How do we change our thinking?*

- Key Scriptures: Romans 12:2; Isaiah 55:8; Philippians 4:8; Isaiah 55:11
- *God's thoughts are higher or better than our thoughts*
- *Meditating on God's Word plays an important role in changing our thinking*
- *God's Word doesn't accomplish anything until it comes out of our mouth*
- *When we confess God's Word, we are affirming to ourselves what we believe*
- *We cannot resist evil thoughts, but we must replace them with God's thoughts through meditating on His Words and saying them...repeatedly*

### Discussion:

1. *Do you believe that God's Word is truth or reality in your life?*



2. *Are you allowing His Words to be your defining moments?*
3. *Do you have an area of struggle or frustration in your life? This may be a circumstance or it could be a thought/feeling. If so, what is it?*
4. *What part of the struggle are you focusing on? Are you focusing on how it makes you feel (angry, afraid, worried...)? Are you focusing on what your senses are telling you (you don't feel well, your bank account is low...)? Be completely honest with yourself here.*
5. *Do you need to readjust your focus?*

### **Application:**

Do you believe that God's Word is active and powerful and can change both you and your circumstances? If you do, you will act on it. Romans 10:17 says "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." We build our faith in the reality and truth of God's Word by reading and speaking His word regularly. Below are just a few scriptures regarding God's Word (you can find more if you would like). Review them frequently and settle the truth/reality of God's Word in your heart and life:

- **Matthew 24:25** — *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*
- **Hebrews 4:12** — *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** — *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
- **John 1:1** — *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- **Isaiah 55:11** — *So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*
- **Psalms 119:160** — *All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.*

After you are convinced in your heart that God's Word is true, you need to align and focus your thinking on the truth. If you need to readjust your focus, find 2-3 scriptures that apply to your situation. For instance, if you are dealing with fear and anxiety, you may choose the following Scriptures: Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7, 2 Timothy 1:7. You must choose to act on the truth of the scriptures that you have found that apply to your situation. A simple way to start acting on these truths is by speaking them. Write these scriptures down on note cards and keep them with you. Challenge yourself to read these scriptures out loud every morning as you start your day. Read them (speak them out loud) every time an opposite thought tries to come into your head.

## Lesson 8: God's Covenant Promise

### Main Points:

#### **What is Covenant?**

- *The word “covenant” is found over 300 times in the Bible*
- *The Greek word “diatheke” is translated as both “covenant” and “testament”*
- *The entire Bible is divided into the Old Covenant (Testament) and the New Covenant (Testament)*
- *Covenant is a solemn promise between two parties that also implies obligations or requirements that each party is required to meet.*

#### **Why do we need Covenant?**

- *Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 2:14*
- *God is honor bound to respond to us in certain ways due to the Covenant*
- *Through the Covenant, God has taken the needed steps to provide restoration of fellowship and relationship with Him*
- *We need the Covenant to have a relationship with God as Father, which also results in a clear understanding of our expectations within the relationship as provided through His promises*

#### **Covenant Ritual**

- *Key Scriptures: Proverbs 18:24; John 15:15*
- *The covenant making ceremony was a significant part of Hebrew culture — it declared the covenant relationship between two parties:*
  - *Parties — all ceremonies had two covenant parties that would enter into covenant. If one party was a group, then they would designate a representative for the group*
  - *Covenant terms — the terms would clearly define how the covenant would be expressed between the parties in terms of promises, obligations, and responsibilities of each party*
  - *Significant exchanges — Covenants also included up to five exchanges: robes, belts, weapons, names and sons to signify complete commitment to the other party using everything at their disposal*
  - *Cut covenant — the shedding of blood was a necessary part of the covenant ceremony and signified dying to self*
  - *Oath or vow — they would ask God to help them keep the covenant*
  - *Make a scar — the scar was a permanent testament to their covenant*

- *Eat a memorial meal — they would eat a meal to commemorate the covenant*
- *Plant or build a memorial — this memorial was built or planted so that they could look at it and continually remember the covenant*

### ***Old Covenant vs. New Covenant***

- *Key Scriptures: Hebrews 10:16-18; Galatians 3:13-14, 29; Hebrews 8:6*
- *Under the Old Covenant, people's sins were not taken away — they were only temporarily covered (or atoned)*
- *Under the New Covenant, our sins are not just covered but completely forgiven and taken away forever*
- *The Old Covenant was connected with laws to be followed as well as blessings and curses (based on whether the law was followed or not). The curses fell into three main categories: spiritual death, sickness and disease, and poverty*
- *The New Covenant was enacted through Jesus who redeemed us from the curse of the law. Jesus became the curse for us so that we might receive the blessing*

### ***Applying the Covenant***

- *Key Scriptures: John 5:39-40; Psalm 25:14; Romans 8:16-17*
- *The story of the Bible is that God has entered into covenant with man through the Lord Jesus Christ*
- *Anyone can choose to enter into covenant with Him — a new and better covenant based on better promises*
- *These promises include relationship with Him and access to a spiritual inheritance*

### **Discussion:**

1. *What is Covenant?*
2. *What did God provide through the New Covenant?*
3. *What part of the covenant ritual reminds you of the communion ceremony that we do today?*
4. *What curses described in the Old Covenant has Jesus Christ redeemed us from?*
5. *What does this mean for us?*

### **Application:**

We need the covenant to have a relationship with God as Father, which results in a clear understanding of our expectations within the relationship as provided through His promises. God is always faithful to honor His promises to us. We can expect God to perform and keep His promise to you. Refer to **Appendix 4** for a list of Scriptures which assure us of God's faithfulness. We must establish ourselves in His faithfulness by meditating on Scriptures regarding His faithfulness.

## Lesson 9: Setting Yourself Apart

### Main Points:

#### **What is sanctification?**

- *Key Scriptures:* Romans 5:8-11; Romans 3:28; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:21
- Sanctification means to be separated from sin.
- God has set us apart to Himself for His purpose
- Positional sanctification is the same as justification. It is the act whereby God declares a sinner righteous because of their faith in Jesus Christ. It is a one-time act that puts us into good standing with God (or just as if we never sinned)
- Experiential sanctification refers to our progressive transformation into Christ-likeness. This is a continuous journey while we live on the earth. Although believers have been sanctified (or made righteous) at the new birth, we must change or transform our thinking, lifestyle, and conduct with the help of the Holy Spirit to align with the truth of our position

#### **Why do we need to pursue sanctification?**

- *Key Scriptures:* Ephesians 4:1; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Colossians 1:9-10
- Our position is secured when righteousness is imparted at the New Birth. You cannot be any more or less righteous than you are when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Our spirit is made alive.
- We must get our soul and body in alignment with the truth (righteousness) that has already been imparted to us through the New Birth
- You break fellowship with Jesus to the degree that you are not aligned with the truth of God's Word.
- We are to awaken to righteousness so that we do not sin — knowledge of His will and acting on it play an important role in sanctification. If we aren't doers of the Word, we can continue to practice unrighteousness even though we have been made righteous

#### **Putting off and putting on**

- *Key Scriptures:* Ephesians 4:22; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 6:5-14
- Our old man's actions included things like anger, jealousy, filthy speech, etc. However, these things are not part of our new identity
- The things that do not agree with God's Word no longer belong to us
- We have a responsibility to put off these things that no longer belong to us

- *Below are ways that we put off the old things that no longer belong to us and put on the new things that have been imparted to us through the New Birth:*
  - *Truth Encounters —by renewing our mind (or setting our mind on) God’s Words and not on earthly things*
  - *Pressing towards the goal — don’t keep looking to the past and reliving our mistakes but look to the present and future to press toward the goal of aligning our thinking and actions with God’s truth*
  - *Yield to the Holy Spirit — The Holy Spirit will always lead us into all truth*
  - *Christian Community — We provoke (or encourage) each other to good works*
  - *Restore broken fellowship immediately — if we mess up, immediately ask God to forgive us then forgive ourselves*

### ***Avoiding the trap of performance-based Christianity***

- *Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:9*
- *We cannot be saved by our own effort or works—it is a free gift*
- *Our relationship is the result of what God did for us through Christ*
- *We don’t do good works to earn His favor, but because we already have His favor*

### **Discussion:**

1. *What does positional sanctification mean?*
2. *What does experiential sanctification mean?*
3. *What are some ways to put off the old man and put on the new man?*
4. *What is one area that I need to grow in?*
5. *What steps can you take in the next week to take steps to grow in this area?*

### **Application:**

When we live for righteousness, we submit even our thought life to what is righteous: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Philippians 4:8). To live for righteousness means to desire God to transform our minds (Romans 12:2) and conform us “to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29) or His will. Pursuing righteousness means that we need to be in alignment with the Word of God in our words and actions. There are a few specific scriptures that are very clear about God’s will. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 – “Rejoice always, pray continually, **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you** in Christ Jesus.” Being thankful in ALL circumstances is the will of God FOR YOU. Thankfulness in all things is something that every believer can do without further seeking out God for His will in the matter. Encourage everyone to think of something or someone in their life that they have been complaining about. Challenge them to find 3-5 things they can be thankful for in that situation — every time the negative thought enters their mind, encourage them to think instead on the thankful thought. Thankfulness is God’s will for us—so we need to pursue it and act on it!

## Lesson 10: Faith

### Main Points:

#### **What is Faith?**

- Key Scriptures: Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:17-21
- Bible faith is a firm persuasion, to be fully persuaded, to be convinced, to trust, to be totally confident, and to be certain that God's Word is true
- Two kinds of faith: spiritual faith and natural faith
- Natural faith is controlled by our physical senses (see, taste, touch, hear, smell)
- Spiritual faith is controlled by what God says —either written or spoken

#### **Why do we need Faith?**

- Key Scriptures: Hebrews 11:6; Mark 11:22; Romans 1:17; Philippians 3:20
- Without faith, it is impossible to please God
- When we are born again, our citizenship is in heaven
- We live according to God's promises as a citizen of heaven and not according to the natural world
- We must access these promises through the God kind of faith since they are spiritual

#### **How does Faith come?**

- Key Scriptures: Romans 10:8-10; 2 Corinthians 4:13; Romans 10:17
- Every person receives a measure or portion of the God kind of faith when they become a Christian
- Faith is like a muscle. It is what you do with it that makes it strong or weak
- Faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing the Word of God
- Bible faith is developed from hearing and meditating on God's Word — then, putting it into practice

#### **How is Faith released?**

- Key Scriptures: James 2:26; Proverbs 18:21
- Faith is perfected, or brought to completion, through corresponding actions
- The number one way to release faith is with words — speak what God says about our situation
- God is ready to perform His Word in our lives!

### Discussion:

1. What is spiritual faith?

2. *Why is faith so important in our discipleship journey?*
3. *What is the main way that we grow or develop our faith?*
4. *Why is the Bible the basis for our faith?*
5. *What is the main way that faith is released?*

**Application:**

The main way that faith is released is through our words. But we can't just say anything. We must speak words that align with God's Words. For instance, 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." Jesus has provided physical health and healing through His redemptive work on the cross. To release our faith for this promise, find 2-3 Scriptures that promise our healing. Then, we release our faith by speaking them out loud. Below are some Scripture examples (but look for more):

- *Romans 8:11*
- *Psalms 103:2-3*
- *3 John 1:2*
- *Exodus 15:26*

Every Christian has access to physical healing through God's promises. If you need physical healing in your body, it is critical you start releasing your faith in this area immediately. Spend time focusing, developing, and releasing your faith at your point of need. If you don't need healing for your body today, don't wait until you need it. Release your faith for healing and health in your physical body by speaking healing Scriptures daily now — set this spiritual law of physical health and healing into motion in your life.



## Lesson 11: Prayer

### Main Points:

#### Why Pray?

- *Key Scriptures:* Luke 11:2-8; Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- *Prayer is talking with God. Through prayer, God gives us comfort, guidance, reassurance, direction, purpose, and assurance of His love*
- *When Jesus instructed His disciples how to pray, the assumption is that we will pray — “when you pray”*
- *Through prayer, we are fighting a spiritual battle, not a physical battle*
- *We have a responsibility to assert our delegated authority in situations — one way we do this is through prayer*

#### Different Kinds of Prayer

- *Key Scriptures:* Ephesians 6:18
- *There are different types of prayer based on our purpose*
- *It is important to understand the different kinds of prayer so that we can apply the appropriate rules to that type of prayer*
- *Different types of prayer:*
  - *Prayer of faith/petition—asking God for things that are promised to us in the Bible or that belong to us because of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection (John 15:7)*
  - *Prayer of submission/consecration—a prayer for submitting our life and ministry to the will of God (Luke 22:39-42)*
  - *Prayer of agreement— it is similar to the prayer of faith expect for the fact that it includes more than one person (Matthew 18:18-20)*
  - *Prayer for intercession/prayer of supplication— intercession is a prayer to withhold judgement or prayer on behalf of another person (Genesis 18:17-33). Supplication is a prayer on behalf of another person (primarily Christians) to make a humble entreaty or to ask for something humbly and earnestly (Galatians 4:19)*
  - *United prayer—it involves a group of individuals who come together for the specific purpose of prayer. It is usually a time of planned prayer with a purpose (Acts 4:23-31)*
  - *Praying in the Spirit—praying in the Spirit is being under the influence of the Holy Spirit when we pray (Ephesians 6:18)*



- *Prayer of praise/worship—it is a prayer that is focused on worshipping and praising God (Acts 16:25)*
- *Prayer of commitment—it is casting our cares on the Lord. There is a combination of the prayer of faith and the prayer of commitment involved in casting our cares on the Lord (Philippians 4:6-7)*

### ***Fasting and Prayer***

- ***Key Scriptures:*** 2 Corinthians 3:8; 1 Corinthians 7:4-5
- *The New Testament describes four reasons to fast:*
  - *To lay hands on ministers to ordain them and commission them*
  - *To draw close to God during a time of danger*
  - *To minister to the Lord*
  - *To become more spiritually perceptive*
- *There is a time and place for fasting as a disciple of Jesus. However, we should follow the New Testament guidelines for fasting and ensure that we have a purpose, the right motives, and avoid extended fasts*

### ***Things that hinder your prayer***

- *Below are some common things that hinder our prayers:*
  - *Un-forgiveness (Mark 5:23-24)*
  - *Relationship problems (1 Peter 3:1-7)*
  - *Not walking in love (1 John 2:10-11)*
  - *Doubt (James 1:6-8)*
  - *Unbelief (Mark 6:1-6)*
  - *Wrong intent (James 4:2-3)*
  - *Pride (James 5:6)*

### **Discussion:**

1. *Why is it so important to pray?*
2. *What are we battling against when we pray?*
3. *What does the prayer of faith have to be based on?*
4. *What are some things that hinder our prayers?*
5. *Are there any things that you recognized in your own life that may hinder your prayers? If so, what are some actions you can take to make a change in this area?*

### **Application:**

One of the types of prayer we learned about is United Prayer. The Bible tell us in 1 Timothy 2:1, “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable

life in all godliness and reverence.“ Spend some time praying together based on this Scripture. Pray together for leaders and people in authority in your village, city, country, nation, and the world. One person can start and lead the prayer and everyone else can come together praying — following and supporting the person leading the prayer so that there is unity. The key to United Prayer is not how many people we can gather to pray, but how unified we can get everyone in prayer—praying with a specific purpose.

## Lesson 12: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

### Main Points:

#### ***What is Baptism in the Holy Spirit?***

- *Key Scriptures:* Acts 8:15-16
- *Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit are two different works of the Holy Spirit*
- *If you are saved, you are born again by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit takes residence in your heart*
- *The second work of the Holy Spirit is called the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*

#### ***Why do we need the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?***

- *Key Scriptures:* Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:4
- *The Holy Spirit wants to empower us to do His work on this earth*
- *The evidence of the second work of the Holy Spirit (Baptism in the Holy Spirit) is speaking in other tongues*

#### ***Different Kinds of Tongues?***

- *There are at least three different ways tongues can be manifested:*
  - *Devotional/private — the initial evidence that is also a devotional gift primarily used for personal edification and prayer (Acts 2:4)*
  - *Public demonstration—this is sometimes called the Gift of Tongues. This manifests as the Spirit wills for the benefit of the assembly (1 Corinthians 12:16)*
  - *Ministry Gift—this demonstration of tongues is listed as a Ministry Gift. It is also a public gift as the Spirit wills for the edification of the Church (1 Corinthians 12:28)*

#### ***Are Tongues for Today?***

- *Key Scriptures:* Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8
- *God never changes. He works the same way now as He did in the early Church*
- *Part of the New Covenant according to Acts not only includes being born again with the Holy Spirit, but being filled or Baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues*

#### ***Who Speaks in Tongues?***

- *Key Scriptures:* Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 14
- *At the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit, everybody in the upper room received the Baptism and started speaking in other tongues*
- *According to Paul, everyone in the Corinthian church was speaking in tongues.*

- *Who speaks in tongues? We do.*

### ***Purpose of Speaking in Tongues***

- *There are a number of purposes for speaking in tongues in our Christian life:*
  - *Pray out mysteries for our life and for other's lives (Romans 8:26)*
  - *Edify or strengthen ourselves spiritually (Jude 20)*
  - *To speak to God and magnify and glorify God supernaturally (1 Corinthians 14:2)*
  - *Bring the tongue under subjection*
  - *Protect us from contamination from the world*
  - *Doorway to the supernatural/Spiritual Gifts*
  - *Receive power to walk out our Christian life*
  - *Ability to pray perfect, God-directed prayers*
  - *Ability to make ourselves more sensitive to the Holy Spirit*
  - *Ability to offer God pure and perfect praise*

### ***How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit***

- *Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 14:14; Acts 2:4*
- *Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is similar to receiving salvation—by believing in your heart and acting/speaking in faith*
- *It is not something we wait or “tarry” for. The Holy Spirit has already manifested Himself on earth.*
- *We must do the praying—the Holy Spirit will not force us*

### **Discussion:**

1. *What is the main evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?*
2. *What is the main purpose for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?*
3. *What are some other reasons/purposes for speaking in tongues?*
4. *How does speaking in tongues help you in your personal devotions and prayer life?*
5. *What actions do you plan to take to take advantage of this gift?*

### **Application:**

We read in the Bible that after believers accepted Jesus in the New Testament church, they would pray for them to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (refer to the book of Acts). Usually this is done by laying on hands, but people can receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit even without laying on hands. While it is not necessary to receive this gift to go to heaven, it is important for living an empowered Christian life. Ask if there is anyone that has not received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that would like to receive. If yes, then pray with them to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Below is a sample prayer.

*I am a Christian—a child of Almighty God! I am saved! You also said in Your Word, “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13). I’m also asking You to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4). In Jesus’ Name. Amen!*

## Lesson 13: Spiritual Authority

### Main Points:

#### ***What is authority?***

- *Authority is delegated power—it is not something you earn*
- *Jesus has delegated spiritual authority to us*

#### ***Our authority in Jesus***

- *Key Scriptures: Luke 10:19; John 14:12-14; Ephesians 1:19-23*
- *Jesus said that whatever we demand in His name, He will do it*
- *How? Through His death, burial, and resurrection, He triumphed over Satan and all his evil spirits*
- *When we allow Him to be Lord of our lives, we reign with Him*
- *Jesus provided us the power of attorney to act on His behalf on this earth (just as if we are Him)*

#### ***How do we receive our authority?***

- *Key Scriptures: Mark 16:17; Matthew 16:19*
- *Our one-ness with Christ establishes our position with Christ*
- *All we must do is to understand our position and learn to use the authority Christ has already provided us*

#### ***How do we use our authority?***

- *Key Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3; John 8:32*
- *We exercise our authority through our knowledge and practice of God's Word*
- *We also exercise our authority by using the name of Jesus in both our prayers and declares—in alignment with God's Word*
- *All the power of God is placed in Jesus' name—it has the power to overcome circumstances and destroy the works of the devil*

#### ***What do we have authority over?***

- *Key Scriptures: Ephesians 4:27; 1 Peter 5:8-10*
- *There are limits and boundaries to our spiritual authority—the purpose of Jesus' redemptive work was to give back to the Christian the spiritual authority that was lost because of Adam's sin*
- *Adam's authority was what was under his control—his life, the life of his family, and those things that are under his personal control (i.e., property, etc.)*

- *We can only exercise authority over demonic influence in the lives of others when we have their permission OR specific areas that Scripture tells us we have authority for the purpose of expanding the Kingdom of God (i.e., intercessory prayer)*

**Discussion:**

1. *What is authority?*
2. *What did Jesus accomplish through His death, burial, and resurrection?*
3. *Who did Jesus delegate His authority to?*
4. *How do we use our authority?*
5. *What do we have authority over?*

**Application:**

In Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, He obtained the key to our spiritual authority. Jesus said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Revelations 1:18). At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow in all three kingdoms (heaven, earth and under the earth) and every tongue will confess Jesus as Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).

Jesus obtained the keys to hell and death (or authority). Then, Jesus gave us the key (Ephesians 1:22-23). The one who holds the key has the authority. He gave us the authority to do His works in His Name. The Church has possession of that Name. The church is not a building, but a body of believers —those who are born again by the blood of Jesus. We have the authority and power in Jesus' Name. He gave it to us. He gave us the key. How do we exercise the authority Jesus gave us in His Name? We have to say something! We have to speak God's Word. We have to say, "In the Name of Jesus, I have the victory. In the Name of Jesus, every demon, every sickness, every bit of poverty, and anything with a name that's hindering me has to flee, because it is all under the authority of the Name that's above every name!"

Encourage everyone to write down this confession and speak it over their lives regularly.



## Lesson 14: How God Guides Us

### Main Points:

#### *God in us*

- *Key Scriptures:* 1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; 1 John 4:4
- *God lives in the life of the Christian through the person of the Holy Spirit*
- *Once we become Christians, we must change our thinking to be “God-inside” minded*
- *If we are constantly conscious of God living in us, then we will acknowledge God in every situation of life*

#### *Who is the Holy Spirit? What has He come to do in your life?*

- *Key Scriptures:* John 14:26; John 16:13
- *The Holy Spirit is a person — He is **not** just an influence, force or power*
- *He has come to renew our spiritual life, to give us strength, comfort, peace, joy, to guide us in life, to help us understand the Bible, to help us discover God’s will for our life*
- *The four distinct ways that the Holy Spirit will help us include:*
  - *Teach us all things as God knows them*
  - *Bring to our remembrance the things of God*
  - *Guide us into all truth as God knows it*
  - *Show us things to come concerning our personal life*

#### *The Inward Witness*

- *Key Scriptures:* John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14; Colossians 3:15
- *The Holy Spirit will help us know what is right and wrong and make the right decisions in life*
- *God is Spirit so He will communicate with us in His realm*
- *The Holy Spirit will reveal things of God to our recreated spirit*
- *The inward witness can act as a source of confirmation after a decision has been made or is about to be made — it is a peace that cannot be shaken or changed regardless of circumstances*
- *The inward witness can also be negative or not peaceful if something is wrong, incorrect, or we are moving in a wrong direction*

#### *Practicing the Word*

- *Key Scriptures:* Luke 6:47-49
- *Knowing and hearing the Word is only the first part—we must also practice the Word by doing it.*

- *We must act on God's Word. We must say God's Word. Then, the Holy Spirit can operate in and through our lives*

### **Recharging our spirit**

- *Key Scriptures: Galatians 6:9; 2 Corinthians 4:16; Jude 20*
- *The problems and challenges of life can affect us and cause us to become weary and discouraged*
- *We must keep our spirits strengthened and refreshed every day*
- *We recharge our spirit by waiting on the Lord (taking time to talk/listen to Him and taking time to praise/worship Him)*
- *We also recharge our spirit by praying in other tongues—our spirit is strengthened, fortified, and sensitized to hear from the Holy Spirit*

### **How can we be led by the Spirit of God?**

- *We need to be more spirit conscious and less body conscious—as we do, we will find it easier to be led by the Spirit of God*
- *Below are keys to being led by the Spirit of God:*
  - *Give the Word of God first place in our life*
  - *Meditate on the Word of God*
  - *Practice the Word of God*
  - *Pray in the Spirit*
  - *Instantly obey the voice of our spirit*

### **Discussion:**

1. *What are ways that the Holy Spirit will help us?*
2. *What does this mean for you?*
3. *How does God communicate with us? Why?*
4. *What can we do to be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's help and guidance?*
5. *Why is practicing God's Word an important part of God's guidance for us? How does the Holy Spirit help us practice God's Word?*

### **Application:**

When we spend time with God, fellowship with Him, and praise and worship Him, our spirit is recharged. Two specific ways the Bible tells us that we can recharge and strengthen our spirit include:

1. *Waiting on / Ministering to the Lord (Isaiah 40:31)— this includes not only praying and reading / meditating on His Word, but also praise and worship*
2. *Praying in Tongues (Jude 20)*

Commit to praying in tongues and/or praying and worshipping Him at least 10 minutes every day. As we do this, we will recharge, strengthen, and sensitize our spirit. We will become more spirit conscious. As we become more spirit conscious, we will find it much easier to be led or guided by the Spirit of God.

## Lesson 15: God's Supernatural Gifts

### Main Points:

#### *What are Spiritual Gifts?*

- *Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:1-14*
- *Another way the Holy Spirit works in the public setting is Gifts of the Spirit*
- *The manifestations of the Spirit are given to the body of Christ or Church (body of believers)—any believer can function in Spiritual Gifts*
- *The manifestations of the Spirit will contribute to the common good of the body of believers and will glorify and exalt Jesus/God*
- *The manifestations of the Holy Spirit are supernatural and as the Spirit wills—not as man wills*
- *The nine Gifts or Manifestations of the Spirit can be grouped into three categories:*
  - *Revelation Gifts (gifts that reveal something): Word of Knowledge, Word of Wisdom, Discerning of spirits*
  - *Power Gifts (gifts that do something): Gift of Special Faith, Working of Miracles, Gifts of Healings*
  - *Utterance/Inspirational Gifts (gifts that say something): Prophecy, Different Kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues*

#### *What is the Purpose of Spiritual Gifts?*

- *Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12-14*
- *Spiritual Gifts are one important way that God wants to reveal Himself or “shine forth” through the believer*
- *God has provided Spiritual Gifts for the benefit of the Church to understand God's will through manifestations:*
  - *To help the church realize that the Holy Spirit is always present and working*
  - *To help the church understand that all life and power comes from God*
  - *To demonstrate the love and compassion of God to the world*
  - *To bring men and women face to face with the reality of God*

#### *How do Spiritual Gifts work?*

- *Many times, Spiritual Gifts operate together (like the fingers of a hand)*
- *Below are some basic definitions so that we can understand how they work and what they look like:*
  - *Word of Knowledge—a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts (past or present) in the mind of God*

- *Word of Wisdom—a supernatural revelation (future) of the mind and purpose of God communicated by the Holy Spirit*
- *Discerning of spirits—a supernatural insight (seeing or hearing) into the spiritual world*
- *Special Faith—faith given by the Spirit of God beyond what a believer personally possesses from his own walk with God (i.e., for miraculous manifestations)*
- *Working of Miracles—a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit through which a person works a miracle*
- *Gifts of Healings—a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the healing of sickness and disease (without natural means)*
- *Prophecy—a supernatural utterance in a known tongue*
- *Kinds of Tongues—a supernatural utterance given by the Holy Spirit in languages never learned by the speaker nor understood by the mind of the speaker*
- *Interpretation of Tongues—a supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit to show the meaning of what was said in other tongues*

***What is our responsibility?***

- *The purpose of these manifestations is to glorify God and gather in the harvest to enlarge the Kingdom of God*
- *We must learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit so that He can work through us with Spiritual Gifts to accomplish His purpose:*
  - *Pray in tongues in our personal prayer time—it is the doorway to the supernatural and Spiritual Gifts*
  - *Do not be ignorant—Study what God’s Word says about Spiritual Gifts*
  - *Desire Spiritual Gifts—When the body of believers desires them, the Holy Spirit will divide the manifestations as He wills*
  - *Yield to the Holy Spirit—We must yield to the Holy Spirit with boldness and humility and allow Him to work through us in the manifestation of Spiritual Gifts*

**Discussion:**

1. *What is the purpose of Spiritual Gifts for today?*
2. *What is the difference between the Word of Wisdom and the Word of Knowledge?*
3. *How are the Spiritual Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues different from our devotional prayer language (i.e., when we pray/speak in tongues in our private devotional time)?*
4. *Should Tongues spoken in a public setting always be interpreted? Why?*

5. *What is our responsibility to see Spiritual Gifts manifested in our Church? What is God's (i.e., Holy Spirit) responsibility?*

**Application:**

The Bible tells us to desire Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1). If the church doesn't desire these things, then we won't have them. The Holy Spirit is a perfect gentleman, and He won't force something on us that we don't desire. However, when the church desires them, the Holy Spirit will divide the manifestations as He wills. Mark 11:24-26 tells us that if we desire something, we should pray for it. The Bible tells us to desire Spiritual Gifts and it also tells us to pray for the things that we desire.

***Read Zachariah 10:1***

The Bible also tells us to pray for the rain. Rain in the Bible is a type of the Holy Spirit. We understand that this verse can refer to praying for rain (or pouring out) of all manifestations of the Holy Spirit—but it also includes Spiritual Gifts since this is one of the ways that the Holy Spirit manifests on earth.

Therefore, we need to pray for the manifestation of the Gifts of the Spirit so that His purpose and plan go forward on this earth. As a group, spend time praying together (i.e., United Prayer) for the rain to pour down from heaven—for a manifestation of Spiritual Gifts.

## Lesson 16: Sharing the Gospel

### Main Points:

#### *The Great Commission*

- *Key Scriptures:* Mark 16:15-18; John 5:17; 1 Corinthians 5:16-20
- *Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave an assignment to His disciples that we call the “Great Commission”*
- *We are co-laborers with God in His redemptive work—to seek and save the lost, restore fellowship to Him, and give abundant life. He cannot do it without us*
- *We are to go into all the world, preach the Gospel (good news) of what Jesus accomplished through His death, burial, and resurrection, and make disciples of all nations (teaching them to know and do all that the Bible teaches)*

#### *How do I share?*

- *Key Scriptures:* Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 3:16; Romans 10:14-15
- *We all have a specific place in the Great Commission that uses our unique gifts, callings, and talents*
- *Share the Gospel with our actions by doing “good works” and living the truth that we know for others to see*
- *Share the Gospel with our words*

#### *What do I share?*

- *Key Scriptures:* 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10
- *God’s word is incorruptible seed—every time we share the Gospel with our words, we are planting incorruptible seed into people’s hearts*
- *Share our testimony—our testimony is one of our greatest witnesses (what amazing thing did God do in our life?)*
- *Share the good news of what Jesus did for them through His death, burial and resurrection*
- *Ask them if they would like you to pray the prayer of salvation with them*
- *If they pray the prayer, share about Water Baptism and ask them if they would like to be baptized*
- *Be ready to lay hands on them, when needed—including to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (they don’t have to wait for this second work of the Holy Spirit after they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior!)*



- *Expect the Holy Spirit to show up to help you (provide the power/ability) to carry out this assignment*

### **Follow-up**

- *After you have prayed the prayer of salvation with someone, follow-up with them:*
  - *Get them connected to a church or home group*
  - *Get them a Bible to read for themselves*
  - *Check in on them regularly*

### **Discussion:**

1. *What is the assignment of every Christian after they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior?*
2. *What are the two main ways that we share the gospel with people? Is it possible to just share with our actions only?*
3. *What are the main things we need to share with people when we share the Gospel?*
4. *Can you think of anyone that needs to hear the Gospel? Who?*
5. *Do you have plan to share the Gospel with this person? Be specific.*

### **Application:**

Sharing the Gospel is not necessarily trying to change the whole world, but about changing the world one person at a time—making a difference in OUR WORLD (or sphere of influence). How can we prepare to do this? There are two simple things we can do.

1. *Memorize the following Scriptures and think about what they mean so that you are prepared to share them. God's Word is the incorruptible seed. It never withers, dies, decays, or goes away after it is planted. When we share God's Words, we are planting seed that can change people's lives for eternity:*
  - a. **Jeremiah 29:11**—*God has an amazing plan for our life*
  - b. **John 3:16**—*God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life*
  - c. **Romans 3:23**—*Everyone has sinned. Nobody can measure up to God's standard of perfection*
  - d. **Romans 6:23**—*When you sin, the payment you get is death. But God has given us the gift of eternal life because of what Jesus did for us through His death, burial, and resurrection*
  - e. **Romans 10:9-10**—*All you have to do is believe in your heart what Jesus did for you and say with your mouth that you accept it for yourself.*
2. *Be prepared to share your testimony. One of your most powerful tools to share the Gospel is to share what God has done for you. Think about ways to share it clearly and*

*simply. You may want to write it out—not so that you can read it, but to help you organize your thoughts so that you can be prepared to share it clearly with others.*

Then, refer to **Appendix 1**. We have shared an example prayer to pray for salvation. We can use this as a guide to pray with others. We need to be prepared so that when we have the opportunity, we can share the Gospel and change our world!