

Live On Mission

Book 1

*“Go therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20a)*



HARVEST BIBLE CHAPEL

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INTRODUCTION

It is our hope that by the end of this study that you will have drawn closer to the Lord and begun to see him work in and through you in new ways. With that in mind, we want to challenge you to keep a few thoughts at the forefront as you work your way through this material.

God's Word is powerful. It will change the way you think, speak, and act.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ~ 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ~ Hebrews 4:12

God promises to answer you when you pray. Expect Him to do just that.

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. ~ Jeremiah 33:3

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ~ Matthew 7:7

God will give you everything you need in order to do all that He is asking you to do. Trust Him and follow Him.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us. ~ Ephesians 3:20

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. ~ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God has given you a church family. Work together to help others find and follow Jesus.

And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. ~ Acts 2:47

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

MAKE DISCIPLES

DAY 1 — What is our Mission? (Part 1)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

In Luke 19:10, Jesus tells us why He came, “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*” He came to rescue us from our sins, freeing us from the power of sin and death while also giving us eternal life including freedom and victory in the power of His Spirit now. One of the many additional things that He has done for us is to give us the privilege of being on mission with Him. Jesus wants to use you to tell others the Good News about Him and then to disciple them once they come to know Christ. This book is designed to equip you and help you get started living on mission with Christ.

READ: Matthew 28:18-20 ← MEMORIZE

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What is our mission? _____

What does Jesus say about Himself that gives you courage to go and make disciples? _____

Notice that it is a commission as opposed to a suggestion. It was, and is, a command...for every follower and disciple of Jesus Christ. If I am His disciple, I am commanded to go and make disciples of others. If I am not making disciples of others, I'm not really being the disciple He wants me to be!

~ Greg Laurie

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 2 — What is our mission? (Part 2)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Acts 1:8

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What do we receive from the Holy Spirit? _____

What does the Spirit's power help us be? _____

What does it mean that we are witnesses? _____

Where are we to be witnesses? _____

Jesus didn't say, "Go into the world and be a really nice, likable, kind person." He said, "Go...*and make disciples.*" By the way, this is not meant to be something separate from the rest of our lives. The idea behind this command is that as we go about our daily business, that we would make

disciples. Whatever time of day, wherever we might go, make disciples. Not only that, but Jesus has given us everything we need to make disciples. In addition to His Word, He is with us always, and He's given us His Spirit to go forth in His power to make disciples.

Personal Mission Statement

We don't need a life coach to figure out what we're here for or what our purpose in life is. Jesus gave us a purpose and a mission for our lives. Simply put, it is **to glorify God by making disciples.**

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

***Unless the church makes making disciples its main agenda,
world evangelism is a fantasy.²***

~ Bill Hull

DAY 3 — What is a disciple?

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Matthew 28:19-20

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: Answer the questions about the passage you read.

What are the two things that we should do with our disciples? _____

What does baptism represent? _____

In your own words, what are we to teach our disciples? _____

What should the disciples be doing with what they are learning? _____

So we see from the Great Commission that a disciple is someone who has made a commitment to follow Christ as evidenced in their baptism. We also see that a disciple is someone who is growing to be more and more like Christ as they are taught to obey God’s Word. A disciple learns, not just for the sake of gaining head knowledge, but with the intention of being transformed. Lastly we see that the Great Commission applies to every disciple regardless of how long you’ve been a Christian. Just like the woman at the well, in John 4, they say anyone comes to Jesus they can begin to witness about Him. Another way of saying this, is that as we continue to follow Jesus, we learn from Jesus how to live like Jesus.

There is a reason that Jesus did ministry this way and that the early disciples followed His example. We’re not supposed to just attract a crowd and add people to the church. We’re called to follow Christ’s example, leading people to Him, and helping them to follow Him, be transformed by Him, and be on mission with Him. This is known as spiritual multiplication, and as you can see by this table, it’s the most effective way to reach people with the Gospel. Not only that, but let’s not forget that we are called to make disciples, not just lead people to Christ, but to help them to follow Him in every way.

Spiritual Addition	Year	Spiritual Multiplication
1 person leads 1 person to Christ every month.		1 person disciples 1 person every 12 months.
13	1	2
25	2	4
37	3	8
49	4	16
61	5	32
73	6	64
85	7	128
97	8	256
109	9	512
121	10	1024

What is a disciple?

A disciple is someone who is following Christ, being transformed by Christ, and on Mission with Christ.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 4 — Concentrate On a Few (Part 1)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

We can't just hope for disciples, we must make disciples. We must make it a priority and be intentional and purposeful, remembering that Jesus is with us every step of the way.

READ: Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 17:1

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in these passages? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passages you read.*

How many disciples did Jesus have? _____

Who did Jesus take with Him up on the mountain? _____

In addition to this, Jesus took Peter, James and John when He healed Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51), and while he prayed in the garden (Matthew 26:37; Mark 14:33).

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 5 — Concentrate On a Few (Part 2)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: John 29:26-27

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

How is John described in this verse? _____

What did Jesus ask John to do? _____

What does this reveal about Jesus' relationship with John? _____

Jesus had twelve disciples and from within that He chose three that received more of His time and teaching, and from within that He chose one that received even more of His time and attention. Just as Jesus concentrated on a few disciples, so should we. We also need to remember that it's not a race or a rush, but a commitment over time. Jesus took three years with these men. It was intentional and purposeful, just as it should be for us.

Jesus chose to include us in His mission. This is one of the great privileges in life and it's a gift from our Creator and Savior that we get to participate with Him as saves those who don't know Him. We get to make disciples. How do we do that? Well, thank God for His word that teaches us how, and we'll unpack that in the remainder of this study.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

PRAY

DAY 1 — For the Lost

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

In 2nd Timothy 1:8-9 we are reminded that it is God *who saved us*. Just as God used other people who worked in conjunction with Him for our salvation, He will use us to help other people find and follow Him, but ultimately He is the one who saves them. Therefore, first and foremost we must be faithful and persistent in our prayers for those who don't know Him, that He would save them. We need to pray for the lost.

READ: 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Luke 6:12-13

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in these passages? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passages you read.*

How persistent should our prayers for those who don't know Christ be? _____

According to this passage, what does God desire? _____

What did Jesus do before selecting His disciples? _____

How long did He pray? _____

Even though the twelve were already a part of a larger group that was following Jesus, He demonstrates for us the priority and persistence of prayer in making disciples. We can't pray too much when it comes to praying for God to save those who don't yet know Him. If you also take time to read verses 14-16, you'll notice that each of the disciples are named. It's important to remember to pray specifically for the people around us by name to be saved.

Ask Them

In addition to praying for their salvation, ask them how you can pray for them. You might find that they are looking for a job, in a time of need, or have a loved one who is sick. This is a great way to show them that you care for them and might also present opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 2 — For the Spirit to Work (Part 1)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

As we pray for the salvation of the people around us, we need to also be specific in praying for the Spirit to work in them.

READ: John 16:8-9 ← MEMORIZE

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What will the Holy Spirit do? _____

Why will He convict people about sin? _____

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 3 — For the Spirit to Work (Part 2)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: John 6:44; Titus 3:5

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in these passages? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: Answer the questions about the passages you read.

What needs to happen for people to come to Christ? _____

Why did God save us? _____

What role does the spirit play? _____

*Salvation is purposed by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit's agency in salvation, all that Christ has accomplished brings no value to us. As Scripture uniformly presents, the Spirit graciously, effectively, and permanently gives us Christ Jesus and every blessing he has secured. Our salvation is **in** Christ alone. Our salvation is **by** his Spirit alone.³*

This is why we must pray persistently for those who don't yet know Christ. Without the Spirit we are all lost. He is the one who convicts people of sin, draws people towards Jesus, and regenerates people giving them new life in Christ. Jesus died making salvation possible, but it's the Spirit who does the work of saving.

REACT: What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?

The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts.

~ Westminster Confession of Faith, 1647

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.

DAY 4 — For Boldness

PRAY: Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.

READ: Acts 4:29; Ephesians 6:18-19

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in these passages? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passages you read.*

What did they pray for? _____

According to Acts 4:31 what did the Spirit help them to do? _____

According to Paul, how frequently should we be in prayer? _____

Where is Paul when writing this letter? _____

What is he asking them to pray for, for him? _____

Jesus has given us the privilege of being His ambassadors. We get to share the Good News of salvation in Christ with those who don't yet know Him. As great of an opportunity as this is, it can be intimidating, even scary, so we should pray regularly for the boldness to share the Gospel.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 5 — For Compassion

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Matthew 9:35-38

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What did Jesus do in the various cities and villages? _____

How did Jesus react when He saw the crowds? _____

What does Jesus tell the disciples to pray for and why? _____

We are surrounded by people who don't know Christ. Jesus' heart broke for them because they were lost, harassed, and helpless. We need to pray that our heart, like Christ's, would break, would overflow with compassion towards them, moving us to share Jesus with them.

Jesus, Friend of Sinners by Casting Crowns

Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy, Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners, break our hearts for what breaks yours

In Matthew 4, Jesus told the first disciples that He would make them *fishers of men*. We are called to do the same thing. If we are to help people find and follow Christ the first thing we need to do is pray for the people in our ***fishing pond*** (our neighborhood, town, place of employment, local gym, etc.). We need to pray for the Spirit to move in them giving the ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart to understand the Gospel.

REACT: On the space below write the names of 3 people in your fishing pond who you will commit to praying for, that the Spirit would convict them, draw them, and save them. Also, begin praying for the boldness to share the Gospel with them.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

ENGAGE

DAY 1 — Build Relationships (Part 1)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

Jesus didn't just come to connect with us or to be an acquaintance of our ours. He came to seek us out and to save us. He came to engage fully with His creation and do everything necessary in order to save us. More specifically, He fully engaged with His disciples. He didn't wait for them to come to Him. He went into the community and met them where they lived and worked, He shared His life with them.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

~ Luke 19:10

Like Jesus, we too need to be actively and intentionally involved in our community in order to make disciples. If we are to help others find and follow Christ, we too must engage fully with them. We can't just wait for and hope for them to come to us, we must go to them, we must know them. We need to proactively engage the people in our ***fishing pond*** while being Jesus' hands, feet, and voice.

READ: Matthew 4:18-22

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What were Peter, Andrew, James and John doing? _____

What two things did each pair of the brothers do in response to Jesus' invitation? _____

What does this passage teach us about Jesus' commitment to His disciples? _____

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 2 — Build Relationships (Part 2)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

The most effective way to make disciples is through relationships. We are called to help the lost to find and follow Christ, so we need to be *fishers of men* where we live, work, and play. We need to build relationships with people who don't know Jesus with the hope of helping them to find and follow Him.

READ: Acts 1:8; ← MEMORIZE Matthew 9:9

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

Where were the disciples supposed to start being witnesses? _____

Who initiated the conversation? _____

What was Matthew's responses? _____

As we look to introduce others to Jesus, the best place to start is where we live. God has placed us in our towns and neighborhoods for a reason, to reach the men, women, and families around us with

the Gospel. This is our Jerusalem and the place we should start ***fishing*** for people. It's not about trying to reach everyone. Follow Jesus' example and select a few people that you will intentionally and purposefully begin to get to know.

Jesus made a practice of being with them.

~ Robert Coleman

In doing this we need to remember that life and ministry aren't meant to be two separate things. In fact, as a Christian, they should be inseparable because being "*On Mission*" is an every day thing. We cannot wait for people to come to us, we must go to them just as Jesus did.

REACT: Take a few moments and list some ways that you can meet and get to know your neighbors. As you do this, think about how you can use your interests, hobbies or abilities in getting to know them. Additionally, consider people who might show an interest in spiritual things.

As we read through the Gospels we know that large crowds often followed Jesus, but when it came to His disciples, He sought them out. When we show that kind of interest, people often feel valued and loved and it opens the door for God to work in their life. In Matthew's case he had never felt this valued. In fact, he was so overwhelmed by Jesus' attention, that he had a party with all of his friends so they could meet Jesus too (see Luke 5:27-32).

As you look for more ways to connect with people, check out the **APPENDIX** for the following.

- **Ideas for Connecting with Neighbors**
- **Ideas for Getting Involved in Town**

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 3 — Prayer

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: John 17:9; Luke 23:33-34

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

In John 17:9, Who is Jesus praying for? _____

In Luke 23:33-34, Who is Jesus praying for? _____

We saw last chapter in Luke 6 that Jesus began His ministry by praying for which disciples to choose. Here He is on the night before His crucifixion praying for these same disciples. We can be confident that He prayed for them throughout His time with them. We need to do the same.

We can start by asking God who we should connect with. We need to also pray in specifics and not generalities, praying for people by name, asking God to work in them. As you get to know them, you can ask them how you can pray for them, or offer to when they share about any challenges they are facing.

Even amidst his suffering, while on the cross, Jesus was praying for the lost, He was asking the Father to forgive them. In this moment we see the heart of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. No wrath for these men, no destruction. Instead, Jesus dies for their sins and prays for their forgiveness. We will only know in heaven whether any of these men came to Christ, but we do know that the lost matter to God and so they should matter to us. As we build relationships with those who don't know Christ, we must pray continually for them.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 4 — Care

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: John 13:12-15

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What did Jesus just do for the disciples? _____

Why is it important to show people that we care? _____

Jesus exemplifies what it means to care. His entire life was based around saving the lost. His death on the cross met our greatest need. Not only that, but while He was here, He regularly cared for people by providing food, comfort, healing and more. As Matthew 9:36 tells us, *he had compassion for them*, which means he cared for them, not just about their eternal destiny, but also about their current state of being.

For us, this means that we need to pro-actively look for ways that we can be Jesus' hands and feet, actively showing the people in our ***fishing pond*** the love of Christ. This might start with asking them questions and listening to discover their needs. Another great place to start is by offering to pray for them when they share a need, not just later on, but right there with them. As you learn of their needs, offer to help, and if it's a bigger task, offer to get some friends to lend a hand and invite people from your small group to help. Here are a few ideas to help get you started.⁴

1. Meet new neighbors with a small gift and a card with your name, address, and phone number, and invite them to reach out if they every need anything.
2. Provide a meal for a neighbor who is home sick or recovering.
3. Watch your neighbor's children to give the parents a chance for some time alone.
4. Visit people who are housebound. Bring them something to read or something of practical value they can't get because they are ill.
5. Help someone with chores or projects around their house or in their yard.
6. If you are cooking something special, make some extra to give to a neighbor.

7. Offer to give someone a ride to school, the train station or airport.
8. When you make a grocery run, offer to pick up something for a neighbor.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 5 — Stay Committed

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Mark 14:50

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What was the disciples reaction to Jesus' arrest? _____

This wasn't the first time the disciples failed in following Christ. They got it wrong quite a bit during His three years with them, but He never gave up on them. This same group that fled during His arrest would be the same group He would appear to post resurrection. They would also be the ones who would launch the Church and all of whom, except John, would give become martyrs for Christ.

The lesson from all this is the reminder to stay committed to the people you are trying to reach for Christ. It takes time and it's about relationships, not transactions. People are not projects, they are friends whether they know Christ or not. It's not just about sharing the Gospel, but also about showing the Gospel and being the Gospel while engaging with the people in our ***fishing pond*** with the hope that they will find and follow Christ.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

The New Testament practice of discipleship includes a life-to-life sharing process in a variety of life situations over a long period of time.

~ Allan Coppedge

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

SHARE

DAY 1 — Share Your Life

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

As we engage with people in our fishing pond we must also share our lives and our stories with them. When Jesus invited the disciples to follow Him, it was an invitation to share life with Him. The 12 weren't His projects, they were His friends, His inner circle who shared everything with Him.

READ: Mark 6:1-2; Luke 9:18; John 2:1-2

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

In these passages, who was with Jesus? _____

In these passages, what was Jesus doing? _____

Who was invited to the wedding with Jesus? _____

We see from these three passages that the disciples were with Jesus at celebrations, during His public teaching, and with Him in private. Time and time again in the Gospels we read stories of Jesus sharing His life specifically and intentionally with these men.

Care is more than just helping to meet someone's needs. Care might start with seeing a need and lending a hand, but genuine care flows from a life that has been shared with others. It's about inviting others into our lives and being willing to be authentic and vulnerable with them over time. Often our own authenticity will open even more doors to share the love of Jesus with people.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 2 — Write out Your Story (Part 1)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Luke 5:29-32; Acts 26:4-23

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

In Luke 5, which Apostles house is Jesus at? _____

According to Luke 5, why has Jesus come? _____

In Acts 26, who is Paul sharing his story with? _____

We first read of Paul's story in Acts 9 when He comes to know Christ. Later, he would share his story in Acts 22, and again here. Though Paul is not sharing with friends and neighbors, we can learn from him how to share our story with the people in our ***fishing pond***. In fact, Paul demonstrates three simple steps for sharing your story that we can do with anyone.

In Acts 26:4-11, what is one part of Paul's life before Christ? _____

REACT: When we share our story with those who don't know Christ we can follow Paul's example and start by talking about our life before we knew Christ. Use the following questions to begin writing out your story on page 29.

- What did you believe about Jesus?
- What did you live for?
- What did you believe about heaven/hell/eternity?
- What, if any, spiritual beliefs did you have?

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 3 — Write out Your Story (Part 2)

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Acts 26:12-18

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

According to verses 12-18, how did Paul meet Christ? _____

REACT: Paul moved from talking about his life before Christ to talking about how he met Christ. Use the following questions to continue writing out your story on page 29.

- What made you realized you needed Christ?
- Who shared the Gospel with you?
- When did you pray/commit to follow Him?

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.

DAY 4 — Write out Your Story (Part 3)

PRAY: Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.

READ: Acts 26:19-23

REFLECT: What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?

RESPOND: Answer the questions about the passage you read.

In verses 19-23 what was different about Paul's life with Christ? _____

REACT: Paul moved from talking about how he met Christ, to talking about His life with Christ. More specifically Paul talks about how His life was different because of Christ. Use the following questions to complete writing out your story on page 29.

- How you need Him Daily.
- In what ways do you find security in Christ?
- How have you experienced the hope and joy that Christ brings.
- How has life changed since you've met Christ?
- What is one key verse that has impacted you most since coming to Christ?

The more connected you are to Jesus, the more natural it will be to share your story.

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.

DAY 5 — Learn Their Story

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Acts 17:22-23; 10:29-33

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

In Act 17, What did Paul learn about the *Men of Athens*? _____

In Acts 10, What did Peter ask Cornelius? _____

According to Acts 10:33 what does Cornelius want to hear? _____

Learning someone's story is part of caring for them and sharing your life with them. We learn peoples stories through observation, listening and asking questions. Paul learned a lot about the people in Athens by observing the things around him. Peter learned by asking questions and listening. As a result they were both able to share the Gospel and connect it to their listeners lives in a personal way because they better understood their stories. In the end they both saw people come to trust in Christ and it started with their willingness to share their lives with them by being with them.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

PROCLAIM

DAY 1 — Share the Good News

Just as we can't just hope to make disciples, we can't just sit back and hope people ask us about Jesus. Not only must we be willing and ready, but we also need to work to create opportunities to share the Good News with the people in our ***fishing pond***.

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Matthew 9:35-36 ← MEMORIZE

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

Where did Jesus proclaim the Gospel? _____

In addition to proclaiming the Gospel, what else did Jesus do? _____

What happened when Jesus saw the crowds? _____

Proclaiming the Gospel involves our hands, feet and mouth. It's about showing people how much they are loved through our actions, while also telling them with our words. At the core of this is a heart that genuinely cares for the people we are ministering too. Jesus didn't just come to proclaim the Good News. He met peoples needs and cared for them. It was his compassion that drove Him. He proclaimed the Gospel all the while healing people, feeding people, and loving people.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 2 — Use Questions

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Matthew 8:26, 16:15; Luke 10:26; John 5:6

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in these verses? What commands or promises did you notice?*

When it comes to actually proclaiming the Gospel, we need to remember that it is not about 4 spiritual laws or 10 steps to peace with God. **It's about unfolding the mysteries of the Gospel with my friend over time that I spend with them.** Asking questions is a great way to do this.

RESPOND: *What questions did Jesus ask in the verses listed below?*

Matthew 8:26 _____

Matthew 16:15 _____

Luke 10:26 _____

John 5:6 _____

Jesus was the master at asking questions. We learn from Him that questions don't just get people talking but it's also a great way to teach people the truth about Him without actually teaching. A great place to start is with questions that simply help you get to know someone.

- Tell me about your family?
- What do you do for work?
- What do you like to do for fun?
- Where did you grow up?

Jesus asks questions to provoke transformation..

~ Matt Tebbe

REACT: What are some additional questions you could ask?

From here you can move on to questions that will help you to learn more about your friends spiritual beliefs while also creating spiritual conversations. For a list of more questions like the ones below check out the **Transition Questions** in the **APPENDIX**.

- What do you think happens to people after they die?
- Has church ever played a part in your life? To what extent?
- What do you believe spiritually?
- What do you know about Jesus?

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 3 — Listen & Look

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

READ: Matthew 4:1-3

REFLECT: *What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?*

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

What aspects of being human did Jesus experience? _____

REACT: **Listen for and discover where your friends story connects with Jesus' story.**

Temptation, Hunger, Thirst, Suffering, Rejection, Betrayal

What other aspects of being human did Jesus experience? _____

Look for an entry point to talk about Jesus.

An entry point for the Holy Spirit to show people their need for God and His ability to meet that need. For example, *fear of hell, hope of Heaven, guilt, or acceptance.*

Consider current events and when spirituality is in the news. You can ask what people think about it (i.e. new Pope, religious holidays, pastor freed from prison)

What are some additional entry points that come to mind? _____

Another great thing about questions is that **there is nothing for them to argue with** as they've done all the talking. You've just simply listened.

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

DAY 4 — Proclaim the Gospel

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.*

Transition questions and entry points will hopefully open the door to sharing the Gospel, with our friends. We need to not just be ready and willing to share, but ready and willing to initiate the conversation. **We cannot wait for them to ask**, we need to share the key points of God's Story (The Gospel) with them.

READ & REFLECT: For each of the key points listed below, look up the corresponding verses and write out one summary statement for each point.

GOD'S LOVE — John 3:16; Romans 5:1

MAN'S PROBLEM — Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2

GOD'S REMEDY — 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 Peter 3:18

MAN'S RESPONSE — John 1:12; Romans 10:9-11

For a more detailed explanation of the Key Points of God's story, along with some tips on how to share God's story, check out **Sharing the Gospel** in the **APPENDIX**.

RESPOND: *Answer the questions about the passage you read.*

When is the last time you shared the Gospel with someone? _____

How did it go? _____

REACT: *What will help you to share the Gospel more often?*

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.

DAY 5 — Give Them a Chance to Respond

PRAY: Ask the Lord to meet with you and make known to you His Word and His will.

READ: Acts 2:37-38, 16:30-31

REFLECT: What stood out to you in this passage? What commands or promises did you notice?

RESPOND: Answer the questions about the passage you read.

In Acts 2:37-38, what happened to the crowd? _____

What did they ask Peter and the apostles? _____

What did Peter tell the crowd to do in order to be saved? _____

In Acts 16:30-31, what did the Jailer ask Paul and Silas? _____

What did the Jailer need to do in order to be saved? _____

Though we hope and pray that our friends will just ask us how to become a Christian, this isn't always the case. This is why it is crucial for us to **give our friend a chance to respond to the Gospel** by asking a few more questions.

- What do you think about all of this?
- Do you see any need for Christ in your life?
- Would you like to receive Jesus Christ right now?

If they want to receive Christ, it's important that we help them take the first steps of confession, repentance, and belief. Be sure and utilize the steps in **Here is how you can receive Christ**, and the the **sample prayer** at the end of **Sharing the Gospel** in the **APPENDIX**.

When someone says yes to Jesus, it's just the first step in making a disciple. We'll cover what to do next in Book 2. However, if someone you know does come to know Christ before then, we have plenty of resources to help you now, so be sure and tell your small group leader or pastor.

Here are two last things to remember.

- **PRAY** before, during, after, always while communicating the Gospel.
- **TRUST** God to do His part. We plant and water and He is the one who saves.
- **People are not projects.** Love your friends whether they follow Christ or not.

REACT: *What changes will you make, what lesson will you apply based on today's lesson?*

PRAY: *Ask the Lord to help you apply what you've learned today and to transform you according to His Word.*

APPENDIX

IDEAS FOR CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS

- Give them your phone #, telling them to call if they ever need help with something.
- Host a barbecue or pool party
- Host a Christmas open house
- Help organize a block party
- Host “happy hour” in your driveway once a month.
- Invite them to join you on your normal weekend activities (hiking, boating, fishing, golf, etc.)
- Host a game night.
- If someone shares a struggle — offer to pray for them in that moment.
- Help them with yard work or home improvements.

IDEAS FOR GETTING INVOLVED IN TOWN

- Join a group — bridge, mahjong
- Join a club — running, disc golf, garden, golf
- Play pickle ball
- Coach youth sports
- Participate in activities through Town Hall or Community Center
- Volunteer — at community center, library, schools, Boys & Girls club
- Mentor — through local school district
- Frequent certain establishments and get to know people — coffee shops, restaurants, gym
- Go for walks in the same neighborhood/park frequently on same days at same times.
- Go to the dog park frequently on same days at same times.
- Join an organization — Rotary, Kiwanis, Chamber

TRANSITION QUESTIONS

- What are some of your experiences with God/Church in the past?
- Does any of God’s story make sense to you?
- Who is Jesus to you?
- Do you think there is a heaven or a hell?
- Do you consider yourself a spiritual person? Where would you say you are in your spiritual pilgrimage?
- What kind of role, if any, does your faith/spirituality play in your work, day, marriage, relationships, perspective on life?
- Where do you go for spiritual guidance?
- What do you think makes someone a Christian?
- Has church ever played a part in your life? To what extent?
- Most people in America say they believe in God. Who/What is God to you?
- When you have no one to turn to where do/would you go?
- Do you think religion/spirituality should play a role in politics
- What do you think happens to people after they die?
- Can I tell you how God helped me in a similar situation.
- We’ve been friends for a while, can I tell you about what’s most important in my life?

SHARING THE GOSPEL

The time will come in every relationship in which we need to share God's story with our friends. It may happen in one moment, it may happen over time through a series of discussions. Therefore we need to be sure that we know God's story so we can most effectively share it with our friends.

Open your Bible and turn it toward your friend and let them read the verses.

- It gets them reading the Bible, maybe for the first time.
- After they read a verse, ask them what it means. (Luke 10:25-26)
 - If they don't understand, ask them to read it again.
 - You're not telling them what to believe, they're figuring it out on their own.
 - They can't argue with you because you haven't said anything.
 - Conviction comes from God and not something you said.
- In advance, write the next verse reference upside down at top of page for you to see, so you know where to go next.

The Key Points of God's story.

GOD'S LOVE — God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life eternal. The Bible says...

- Romans 5:1 = *"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- John 3:16 = *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*
- John 10:10 = *"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?

MAN'S PROBLEM — God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and a freedom of choice. We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. **This results in separation from God.** The Bible says...

- Romans 3:23 = *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- Isaiah 59:2 = *"but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."*
- Romans 6:23 = *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

People have tried many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God.

The Bible says...

- Proverbs 14:12 = *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death."*
- Isaiah 59:2 = *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear."*

No bridge reaches God...except one.

GOD'S REMEDY — Jesus Christ died on **the Cross** and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people. The Bible says...

- 1 Timothy 2:5 = *“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*
- 1 Peter 3:18 = *“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.”*
- Romans 5:8 = *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
- John 14:6 = *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice.

MAN'S RESPONSE — We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and **receive Him** in repentance and by faith. The Bible says...

- John 1:12 = *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*
- Romans 10:9 = *“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

Give them a chance to respond!

- What do you think about this?
- Do you see any need for Christ in your life?
- Will you receive Jesus Christ right now?

Here is how you can receive Christ:

1. Admit you are a sinner.
2. Believe Jesus died to pay for your sin.
3. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
4. Through prayer, receive Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior.

Sample Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for creating me and for loving me as much as you do. I realize now that I am a sinner and I'm sorry. Please forgive me. I believe and I know that Jesus suffered, died and rose again so I could be forgiven. I now trust Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I want to know you as well as you know me, so please come in to my life Jesus and show me how to live the way you want me to. Amen

TIPS FOR SHARING YOUR STORY

Plan to Share Your Story

1. Write out your story.
2. Begin practicing your story. Be prepared to share it in 3 minutes or less.
3. Be ready to share at any moment when someone might ask you, or God might open the door for you to step through.
4. Don't just wait, be proactive and schedule times to share your story with your friends on your prayer list in chapter 2.
 - A good transition might be... *We've been friends for a while now; may I tell you about the most important thing in my life?*

Additional Tips for Sharing Your Story

1. Be real
 - Don't make things sound worse or better than they are
 - Tell the truth but edit out the gory details
 - Tell your story and don't make excuses
 - Admit what you still struggle with and that you haven't arrived yet
2. Talk about Jesus
 - Most people believe in "God" but not Jesus; it's important that they hear about Him
3. Remember that no one can argue with your story
 - It's your story, they can't argue about it, they can't disagree with it
4. Remember that no one's story is boring!
 - Even if you came to Christ as a child, you've lived life with Him and overcome struggles, avoided pitfalls, and been changed by the power of the Spirit. You have a great story to tell!

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¹ Greg Laurie, *Discipleship: The Next Step in Following Jesus*, page 83.

² Bill Hull, *The Disciple Making Church*, page 11.

³ David Garner, The Holy Spirit: Agent of Salvation, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-holy-spirit-agent-of-salvation/>

⁴ This is adapted from a list that was developed by Cru and can be found on page 16 of their *Prayer, Care, Share* manual.