

GLOCAL MISSION DISCIPLESHIP HANDBOOK

LEADER GUIDE



GLOCALMISSION.ORG

Introduction....

Dear Friend,

We are very excited that you have this discipleship booklet in your hands and that you have made a commitment to disciple others! After Jesus rose from the grave, he gave his final marching orders to his disciples, “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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

This command should be the primary task of every church and every Christian today. Unfortunately, for many that is simply not the case. Christians are busy doing many, many things, but few have committed their lives to making disciples.

Before Jesus commanded us to make disciples, He was the master discipler Himself! The Scriptures give us a beautiful view of how He spent the majority of His public ministry years pouring Himself into His disciples and how he commissioned those same disciples to go into all the world to make more disciples. His method was not just informational; it was also relational and experiential. In other words, He disciplined them by teaching them, living with them, and showing them how to be fruitful citizens of the Kingdom of God. His method worked and the outcome changed the entire world! His disciples went into all the world and made disciples that made disciples that made more disciples, etc. How exciting it is for us to have been found, to have been disciplined and now to make disciples of others!

Glocal Mission believes that if we are to make a difference in our world today, we must fully embrace discipleship the way Jesus did. We believe in Holistic Discipleship that helps a person to grow in what we call the 4H's -- Head, Heart, Hands, and Habits. This booklet is designed to help you accomplish exactly that. We want to encourage you to carefully read the remainder of this introduction before you begin to meet with your disciple.

Keys to Fruitful Discipleship

- **You must be a disciple** - Even though it appears obvious, we still need to say that we can't make disciples if we are not disciples. We can't ask another to grow in their faith if our faith is not vibrant and growing. We can't ask a disciple to be accountable and available if we are not currently committed to the same ourselves. We certainly can't ask some one to pray for the lost in their life, if we are not doing the same. You must actively be a disciple in order to effectively disciple others.
- **Effective Discipleship must be Relational** - Jesus' method of discipleship was highly relational. He taught them truth as they lived life together. He taught them by the sea, on a mountainside, in the temple, along the road as they traveled, and in houses. We believe that without an investment in relationship, the teachings of this booklet will only lead to information transfer and not real transformation and growth (1 Thessalonians 2:8). That is why this booklet is called CONVOS. We want you to have 11 personal conversations with the person God is allowing you to disciple.
- **Effective Discipleship must be Intentional** - Discipleship must begin with the end in mind. The goal of discipleship is for the individual to become more like Christ in their head (knowledge), heart (passions), hands (skills) and habits (lifestyle) (Ephesians 4:13).



A Glocal Mission disciple is one who has a clear understanding of who Jesus is, why He came to earth, and what He has commissioned us to do. Intentional discipleship requires accountability and must include clear expectations of the discipler and the disciple.

- **Effective Discipleship must be Spirit-Empowered**- Effective discipleship cannot be done with our own strength (Galatians 3:1-3). The Holy Spirit is needed in order to have a proper revelation of Jesus Christ, to learn the Scripture, to break the power of sin in our lives, and to embolden us for God’s mission. Spirit-empowered discipleship is marked by humility and saturated by prayer.
- **Effective Discipleship must be Selective** – Jesus did not attempt to disciple the crowd that followed Him. After a great amount of prayer, He chose the men He would invest His life into (Luke 6:12-16). The following characteristics of a disciple will help you as you prayerfully chose those that you will disciple: spiritual brokenness, humility, accountability, availability, teach ability, capable of teaching others, and loyalty.

How to use this booklet:

- Meet Weekly** - If possible, meet weekly with your disciple. Pick a location that is comfortable and where you can openly discuss the weekly teaching and pray together. Avoid meeting in a classroom.
- Don’t preach during your meetings or provide all the answers** - Allow your disciple the opportunity to ask questions, share spiritual struggles, and discuss related topics as they work through the booklet. Strive to make your meetings conversational and not a series of lectures.
- Pray** - Pray daily for your disciple and pray together every time you meet.
- Prepare thoroughly before you meet** - Make sure you know the intended outcome of the session and not just the material contained in the session. Study the material and answer the questions for yourself.
- Be accountable to your discipler during this process** - Report back to them what you are seeing and how your disciple is growing. Share with them challenges that you are facing. Don’t be afraid to ask questions of your discipler. Always remain coachable.
- Don’t be in a hurry!** - Keep in mind that Jesus spent three years with his disciples. Work through the booklet at the disciple’s pace.
- Encourage them to do their homework every week** – Remember this is not just about information transfer. It is vital that you and your disciple live out each teaching with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Our prayer is that God will empower and encourage you by His Spirit as you labor with Christ to make disciples that make disciples locally and globally. May He be glorified as you seek to obey Him. Thank you for your faithfulness to His call!

“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, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. David Kim and the Glocal Mission Team | March 2016



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Who Is Jesus?

████████████████████ *“Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16:17*



Big Idea: A question that will change your life.

Whether you are Christian or not, at some point this is an inevitable question you must ask yourself: Who is Jesus? You are here in this moment because something in you or someone in your life has led you to ask yourself this question. Everyone is asking it. In every arena of our culture, this guy from Nazareth keeps coming up. In sports he is there. In politics he is there. In education he is there. In government he is there. Everyone is asking some form of this question that is really...Who Is Jesus? Allen Hirsch says it this way, “The Paradox of Jesus: the most written about and the least followed.” In other words everyone has their own opinion on who Jesus is.

Eventually you will have to ask and answer this question. In fact, if this is not the question you desire to ask, you should consider putting this down and go no further. But if you are still here then this is where you need to start. Your answer will determine everything else in life and the next step that you take. It is the most simple and difficult question you will ever ask yourself. Honestly, the answer will either drive you to him or drive you away from him. BUT here is the deal. It will change you. You cannot start asking about Jesus and remain the same. If you are open this is the moment where everything changes.

What the Culture says: Jesus is...

We need to come to terms with the fact that the culture already has its own answer. You have heard it already haven't you? It is around Holidays like Christmas and Easter centered on the idea of what he can do for me. For most people in our culture, Jesus is no different than a genie in a bottle waiting for us to rub and ask for our three wishes. Our culture doesn't really want Jesus, just his stuff. He is simply someone to be admired and followed if there is something / can get out of him. This is the primary version of Jesus that we see in the culture, and it is largely based on our own idea rather than what Scripture says about who Jesus is. In this chapter, we want you to look close enough to see that the Jesus of our culture and the Jesus of the Bible are entirely different. In fact, if you have struggled with who Jesus is, it probably in large part due to the confusion that comes from the stark contrast between the Jesus of our culture and the Jesus of Scripture.

CATALYST TIP: Ask what their idea of Jesus has been so far. Some people have grown up in the church and Jesus has been taught as someone to admire but not someone to follow and obey. For others, their only idea of Jesus has been what they see in the Christians in their life. Ask how this has impacted them. Good or Bad. It is important to know their starting point.

What the Scriptures says: Jesus is...

The interesting thing is that we are not the first ones to ask this question. In fact, Jesus thought this was such an important question that He even asked His own disciples this same question. First, He asked them who the crowd thought He was.

1. Read Matthew 16:13-16

- a. How did Jesus refer to Himself in vs. 13? What did He mean by that term?
- b. Who did the crowd think Jesus was vs. 14?
- c. Why do you think people would think that Jesus was one of the options mentioned in vs. 14?

CATALYST TIP: During this time there were many opinions of who Jesus was among the teaching of the religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees. Others thought Jesus was the coming conqueror who would save them from the oppression of the Roman Empire.

- d. What was Peter's response in vs. 16?
- e. What does Peter's response tell us about who Jesus really is?

2. Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is fully human.

- a. Why did Jesus need to be fully human? Read Philippians 2:8
- b. How does this compare to what the crowd expected Jesus to be?

3. Jesus is the Son of the living God. Jesus is God.

a. Read Colossians 2:9. What does this text say about who Jesus is?

b. Why does it mean that Jesus was fully God? Read the following verses and write down your observations:

- John 4:29 _____.
- Acts 18:10 _____.
- Matthew 8:26–27 _____.
- Matthew 28:18 _____.
- Colossians 1:16 _____.

CATALYST TIP: The accusation that led to the crucifixion of Jesus was made by the religious leaders who accused Jesus of blasphemy by identifying himself as God.

Read Isaiah 7:14 - what does this say about Jesus as God?

CATALYST TIP: This is a good place to speak about the difference between religion and Christianity. Christianity is the only teaching that reveals that God actually came down to man instead of man trying to find his way to God.

Why was Jesus called Immanuel?

What is the significance of God coming down to humanity?

4. Who Do You Say Jesus Is: Jesus Is...

- a. What is one of the main differences you see in who the culture thought Jesus was and who the Scriptures reveal Jesus to be?
- b. If you were asked the same question as Peter, knowing what you do know now, how would you respond? Who is Jesus to you?

“...It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God—"Jesus is my Master"—embracing, body and soul, God's work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That's it. You're not "doing" anything; you're simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That's salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud: "God has set everything right between him and me!" Romans 10:4-10 MSG

”

- c. How important is your confession of who Jesus is?

Reflection and Prayer:

Has there been a moment in your life where you have confessed Jesus as the one who makes everything right between you and God? If not, pray this with your discipler right now.

How do you see Jesus differently than you did before you began this study?

Prayer: Write a prayer below asking Jesus to forgive you for not honoring him as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

This Week

- ✓ Let someone else know that you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- ✓ Gather together with other people who have made this same confession for worship.
- ✓ Set a time to pray every day asking God for direction on this new confession.
- ✓ Set a date and time to continue meeting.



I am saved. How can I be sure?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" Eph 2:8



Big Idea: What does it mean to be Saved?

Whenever a person is drowning and pulled from the water then they are rather clear about the event that just took place if you sat down and asked them what had happened. "I was drowning and someone saved me." Likewise, when a person is rescued from a burning fire, if you sat down and asked them what had happened it would be pretty clear. "The house was on fire and someone pulled me out and saved me." Crystal clear.

Unfortunately, this is much less clear among those who call themselves Christians. Few people ever say, "I am saved or I was saved". What you will hear is, "I am Lutheran", or "I am Catholic", or "I am Baptist, etc." Most people are more comfortable identifying with a label rather than an event. This is why a lot of Christians find themselves questioning their salvation and wondering whether they were ever saved in the first place. The sad part is this is happening among Christians who should be clear about one thing...Salvation!

What does the culture say: What does it mean to be saved?

If you want to have an interesting conversation all you have to do is walk the street and ask anyone this question, "What do you think it takes to be in a relationship with God?"

Or "If there is a God, how would you know for sure you have a right relationship with him, her, or it?". You can almost guarantee that somewhere in the conversation you are going to get to the part where the answer will come pretty close to, "be a good person".

The goal for our culture is to be as good as possible in hopes that God will accept us.

We know this to be true because even in the moments when we get a glimpse of how bad we are, we immediately look to other people who we think are worse and say, "at least I am not as bad as that person." Why? Because our hope is to get God to love us by showing Him how good we are.

So the goal becomes simple. Behave just good enough to be accepted by God.

There is a gigantic problem with this approach. It is tiresome. It is depressing. It is enslaving. It is never ending. It is not the message of the Bible.

What the Scriptures teach: How can I be sure I am saved?

1. Read Genesis 2:15a and answer the following questions:

- a. What did Adam have to do in order to be placed in the garden?
- b. What does that teach us about how a relationship with God is established?

2. Read Ephesians 2:8

- a. What does this text teach about how we are saved?
- b. What is the difference between grace and works?
- c. What does it mean that salvation is a gift of God?

3. Read Ephesians 2:4-5

- a. What was God's motivation for saving us?
- b. What was our condition prior to being saved?
- c. What does it say God did for us?
- d. How does this describe how we are saved?

4. Read Romans 5:8 -- What does it say God did for us?

CATALYST TIP: Some important things to point out are that the Gospel is not about making bad people good. It is about making dead people alive. The Gospel is not about behavior modification. It is recognizing that you were dead and made alive.

You may need to teach that the Gospel literally means "Good News." In order for there to be Good News there must first be "Bad News." It is not Good News unless there is first Bad News.

Another helpful pointer is to mention if you begin describing your relationship with God with the word "I" then you have gotten the Gospel wrong. If you begin describing your relationship with God with "God" then you have gotten the Gospel right.

5. Read Genesis 2:15b

- a.** After Adam was placed in the garden, and a relationship with God was established, what are the two things he was told to do?

- _____
- _____

- b.** How does that relate to man's salvation?

6. Read 2 Timothy 1:14 and comment on what Timothy is told to guard:

7. Read Philippians 2:12 and comment on what Paul encourages the Philippian church to do in regards to their salvation.

CATALYST TIP: It is important to explain that salvation is given freely and it is all God's work. At the same time we are called to guard it and work it out. God is responsible for salvation and we are responsible to walk in that salvation by the power of the Holy Spirit.

8. Read Ephesians 2:10

- a.** How does Paul describe someone who has been saved?
- b.** What does Paul mean by "walk in them"? What is he referring to?

CATALYST TIP: According to Genesis 2:15 we understand that Man did absolutely nothing to establish a relationship with God. It was all God's work and it was a free gift. We also understand that man was responsible for walking in the salvation he was given. He was saved and given a purpose and calling. It is not enough to know you are saved. It is also important to walk in the salvation you have been given. We were created and saved for good works.

It is important to note that man was so caught up in his relationship with God that he didn't even know he needed a woman. God doesn't create woman until man is fully satisfied in his relationship with God and walking in it (ref. Genesis 2:18). Man's first call is his Call to Salvation and everything else flows from that and is determined on whether he is walking in his salvation.

Reflection and Prayer:

Do you think that being a good person or good Christian is the basis on which God accepts someone?

Has there been a moment in your life when you received this free gift of God?

If you are saved, do your friends and family see evidence that you are walking in your salvation?

Prayer: If you have assurance of your salvation, write a prayer of thanks to God for saving you from your sins. If you are not sure, pray right now with your discipler to receive the free gift of salvation through faith, based on the merit of Jesus, for the forgiveness of your sins.

“*Repentance is included in believing. Faith and repentance are like two sides of a coin. Genuine faith includes repentance, and genuine repentance includes faith. The Greek word for repentance (metanoia) means to change one's mind. But to change one's mind about what? About sin, about one's adequacy to save himself, about Christ as the only way of salvation, the only One who can make a person righteous ("Kindred Spirit," a quarterly publication of Dallas Seminary, Summer 1989, p. 5).*

”

This Week

- ✓ Write out a 3-5 minute testimony of how Jesus has saved you.
 - o What was life like before you were saved?
 - o What did God use to bring you to him?
 - o What is life like after Jesus saved you?
 - o What is different now that you are saved?
- ✓ Tell at least one person what has happen to you.
- ✓ Gather with people who are saved for worship.
- ✓ Pray about being baptized.
- ✓ Set a date and time to continue meeting.
- ✓ Read next week's scripture and answer these questions.
 - o What does this text tell me about God?
 - o What does this text tell me about what God has done?
 - o What does this text tell me about man/me?
 - o What does this text tell me to do?



Jesus is Lord. What does this mean?

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11



Big Idea: Is Jesus the Lord of your life?

In this chapter, we continue our discussion about who Jesus is. We have established that He was both God and man. We saw in Scripture that He is clearly our Savior and because of His death and resurrection, we can be saved. This week we want you to look at what role Jesus should have in your life as a believer and follower of Jesus. I'm certain you are thankful that He loved you enough to die for you and call you into his family. Once you are saved, what comes next?

The good news of God's love is not only that he died for your sins. The good news is that when we trust in Jesus as our Savior, we begin to walk in relationship with him, and he becomes our Lord. He doesn't leave us as orphans, but rather we are born into his family and he is our Father, our leader, our Master and our Lord. As you will see in this study, when Jesus becomes our Lord, we become his disciple. We are set free from the tyranny of living for ourselves, and we find the joy of following him and living for him!

What the Culture says:

Today many people have lots of different opinions about Jesus.

Some see Him as a wise teacher. He is often quoted and the Bible, which contains His words and teachings, is the best known and influential book of all time.

Some think of Him as a doer of good to the down and out. Loving, caring and giving are often words used to describe Him.

Some simply see Him as a historical figure much like Napoleon or George Washington. He certainly had an incredible impact on history, as all of history is measured from the time of His birth.

If you ask people what they know about His life, they might tell you that He was Jewish and the son of a carpenter. They probably know about His mother Mary. Most of the religions in the world acknowledge that He died a horrific death as an innocent man on the cross. All of these things are true, but they leave out an essential part of who He was. In this next section, you will discover who the Bible says he is.

What does the Bible say?

- 1. Romans 10:9 speaks about our salvation having to do with a declaration we make with our mouth, and a truth we believe in our heart.**

What is the declaration we make?

What is truth we believe?

- 2. In Acts 2:36 how does God refer to His Son, Jesus?**

- 3. Read John 13:13-14 and write down how Jesus refers to Himself.**

CATALYST TIP: It is important to note here that Jesus is Teacher (one who offers us wisdom and instruction) and Lord (one who must be obeyed).

- 4. 2 Peter 3:18 speaks of Jesus' role in our lives as Christians. Write these two roles in the space below:**

- 5. Most people today who are believers in God call themselves Christians. The first believers who walked on the earth actually referred to themselves as disciples. Disciples are learners, pupils and most importantly, followers.**

- a.** Read Acts 11:26 and write down if his followers were first called disciples or Christians.

- b.** What did Jesus call those that believed in him in John 8:31-32?

6. The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is not someone who we should simply admire, but rather someone we should follow and obey. Think about how Twitter has redefined what it means to be a follower. In the Twitter world, a follower is someone who likes you, and is interested in knowing what you think and what you do. If we get tired of 'following you' we can 'un-follow' you whenever we want. Look at the verses below to discover the Biblical idea of being a Follower of Jesus.

a. What does Luke 14:33 say about being a disciple of Jesus?

b. Read Luke 9:23

- What does it mean to deny ourselves?
- What does it mean to take up our cross?
- How often should I carry my cross?

c. What does John 8:12 teach us about following Jesus?

d. Read John 12:26

- What does this verse teach us about following Jesus?
- What does God promise if we follow Jesus?

e. After reading these verses, what do you think is the difference between being a follower on Twitter and a follower of Jesus?

7. Based on what you have studied in this section, how would you summarize the teachings of Scripture on the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

Is Jesus your Lord?

1. Question: Who is on the throne of your life? You or Jesus?

It is easy to say that Jesus is the King of the universe, but that is not enough. His rule over the universe must also rule over our lives in a very special and real way.

We must yield to His Lordship in every area of our life. This, in no way, will nullify our personality or our ability to make decisions. On the contrary, we make an intentional decision to give Him the control over every area of our lives.

Jesus is not looking to be Lord in 50% of your life. He is looking to take the reigns of control in every area. Our response to His great love for us is to surrender every area and every aspect of our lives to Him. We must open every part of our heart and allow him to enter and fill us with His light. Are you willing to ask Jesus to show you how to surrender every area of your life to Him?

2. Take a few moments and analyze your life. Would you say that Jesus is Lord over your life? Is he Lord over the following areas?

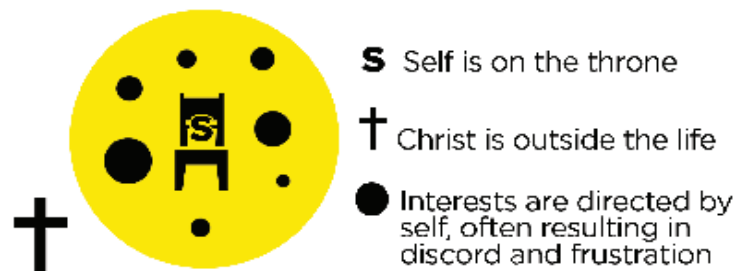
- Your relationships
- Your Time
- Your Treasures (money and possessions)
- Your Talent
- Your Temple (your body)
- Your Technology

3. Campus Crusade for Christ has created a couple graphics that help illustrate what it means to have Jesus on the throne of our lives.

a. The Life controlled by Self

- My ego on the throne.
- Jesus in outside of my life.
- All my desires are controlled by me.
- There is confusion and frustration in my life.

Self-Directed Life



b. Life controlled by Jesus.

- Jesus is on the throne of my life.
- My ego and I are dethroned.
- My desires are controlled by God.
- There is fruitfulness and abundance of God's presence in my life.



S Self is yielding to Christ

† Christ is in the life and on the throne

● Interests are directed by Christ,
resulting in Harmony with God's plan

Which of these best illustrates where you are right now?

Reflection and Prayer:

Which areas of your life do you need to submit to Jesus authority and control? List them here:

Prayer: The Bible acknowledges that we will sin as Christians and God offers us forgiveness and cleansing when we confess that sin and ask for His forgiveness.

- Read 1 John 1:9 and say a prayer of confession to God with your discipler.
- Specifically name those areas that you have not surrendered yet to Him and ask Him to forgive you by His mercy and grace. Write your prayer below:



The Bible is the word of God. How do I read It?

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” 2 Timothy 3:16



Big Idea: The Bible is a book about Jesus and the Mission of God.

The Bible is a big deal. No book has ever impacted as many people from as many backgrounds and cultures as the Bible!

No other book can claim to be written like this!

It was written over a period of 1,600 years by more than forty different writers, on three different continents, and in three different languages—and every book of the Bible has a unified message and points us to Jesus Christ.

No other book has been printed more and read more!

Close to 5 billion copies of the Bible have been printed. The entire Bible has been translated into 531 languages and portions have been translated into 2,883 languages.

No other book is as historically reliable as the Bible!

- There are 7 copies of manuscripts of the writings of Plato
- There are 643 copies of manuscripts of the Homer's *Iliad*.
- There are 5,600 copies of New Testament manuscripts!

Did you know that right now all over the world, Bible translators are in remote, dangerous places risking their lives to translate the Bible into hundreds of languages for over a billion people who still do not have it in their native language? That's amazing!

In this section, you will discover that the Bible indeed is the Word of God and that God provided it for us to reveal who Jesus is, what His mission is, and how we can be a part of that mission.

What does Culture say?

Very few people in today's culture have actually read much of the Bible. Nevertheless, most feel it is a good book with good teaching, though they might respect it, they feel it is sorely outdated, has very little to do with their daily lives and very few feel the need to obey its teachings.

While we live in a nation that is founded on God's word, the Bible has become merely a bookshelf ornament. The average American has four copies of the Bible and yet they only read it a couple times a year. Christians, who claim that it is the very word of God, aren't much better with nearly fifty percent of church goers who read the Scripture once or twice a month.

What makes the Bible so unique?

1. The Bible is a Living Book!

Hebrews 4:12 – states that God's Word is living and active. It claims to be much more than words on a page.

2. The Bible was Written by God for You!

Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and write where Scripture came from and four purposes of the Bible.

a. Where did Scripture come from? All Scripture is _____.

b. All Scripture is profitable for:

- .
- .
- .
- .

3. What do these Scriptures tell us about the purpose of the Bible?

a. Luke 24: 27, 44

b. John 5:39, 46

4. What do these Scriptures tell us about God's Mission?

a. Mark 10:45

b. John 3:16

c. Matthew 28:18-20

5. How should I read the Bible?

a. Pray before Reading the Bible. Read the following Scriptures from Psalm 119 and write things to pray for before you read God's Word.

- vs. 18
- vs. 28
- vs. 36
- vs. 38
- vs. 68

b. Read from the Bible Every Day. Read the verses below and write what the benefits are of reading the Bible every day:

- Psalm 19:7-11
- Psalm 119:9-11
- Matthew 4:4
- Matthew 24:35:
- John 8:32:

**c. Ask yourself 4 questions about the text you are studying in the Bible:
What does this text tell me about Jesus?**

What does this text tell me about what Jesus has done?

What does this text tell me about man/me?

What does this text tell me to do?

Reflection and Prayer:

Has reading the Bible been a priority in your life?

How has your understanding of the importance of God's Word changed since beginning this study?

Read Psalm 119:8 and write a prayer in your own words for God to open your eyes to treasure His word.

This Week

This week, find a time to read the Bible everyday. Pray before you read, and ask yourself the four important questions. During one of your devotional times, read Luke 15:1-10 and record your answers below:

What does this text tell me about Jesus?

What does this text tell me about what Jesus has done?

What does this text tell me about man/me?

What does this text tell me to do?



Praying is talking with God. How do I do It?

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Phil 4:6



Big Idea: Through prayer, I can have a personal relationship with God.

Through prayer, I can talk with God. Have you ever been told that before? If so, how often do you do it? Maybe you knew it in your head, but it hadn't made its way down to your heart. If I told you that God was going to be in town tomorrow and that you could make an appointment with Him if you wanted, what would you do? I know what you would do. You would stand in line for a hundred miles, if needed, to have the chance to talk to God. Well, that's what prayer is: an intimate conversation with God. What a bold statement that the God of the universe would want to talk with me through prayer.

In this session, you will discover that God does desire a relationship with us and wants us to speak to Him through prayer. The Bible calls us to approach Him boldly as a child would approach a loving father. You will also learn in this session how to pray. Many don't pray because they don't think they know how to pray right.

What does Culture say?

There are those that say prayer doesn't go any higher than the ceiling. When facing hardship and pain, they feel that no one is listening to them at all. Others feel that God will listen, but you can't approach Him directly. They believe that they have to pray through a mediator such as Mary, an angel, or a saint. Their hope is that one of these will intercede for them. Some feel that prayer is a waste of time because God is not interested in the small details of my life. Some only pray when things get tough. Others only pray for others because they feel unworthy to pray for themselves.

What does the Bible say?

1. There is only one mediator between us and God. Read 1 Timothy 2:5 and write the name of the only mediator.

a. Read John 14:13-14. What does this verse say about praying in the name of Jesus, our Mediator?

b. Read 1 John 5:14. What does the Scripture say brings us confidence in prayer?

2. Jesus modeled a life of prayer. Read the following verses and write what you learn about prayer from his life:

a. Luke 5:16

b. Mark 1:32-35

c. Luke 6:12-13

3. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and answer the following questions:

a. What emotion should prayer replace in my life?

b. When should I pray?

- c. How should I pray?
- d. What will God do when I pray?

4. Read Matthew 6:9-13 and answer the following questions:

- a. How does it change your view of prayer when God asks you to address him as Father in prayer?
- b. What kind of things should you pray for?

5. The ACTS model of Prayer. This acrostic is very useful to guide you in your times of prayer. As you pray, begin with adoration, then confess your sin, speak thanksgiving, and bring your supplications (requests) to him.

Adoration:

Confession:

Thanksgiving:

Supplication:

- a. Adoration is praise focusing on who God is. Look up the following Scriptures and write what these verses say about God and why he is worthy of our adoration.

- Psalm 145:3
- Psalm 147:1, 5

- b. Confession is acknowledging your sins before God in order to receive forgiveness. When you received eternal life, an unbreakable relationship with God was established but our daily fellowship with God can be hindered by unconfessed sin.**

What do the following verses teach you about confessing sin and how unconfessed sin affects our prayers?

- I John 1:9
- Psalm 66:18

- c. Thanksgiving is expressing gratitude to God for specific acts that He has done. Thanksgiving has great power in our lives. Gratitude is an important part of our prayer life.**

- How often should I give thanks? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- What does God say about me being thankful? Psalm 50:23
- Why should I be thankful for? Psalm 98:1

- d. Supplication is making requests and expressing desires to God. They may take the form of personal petitions or intercession.**

- Petition is asking God for your needs. Read John 15:7 and Philippians 4:6-7 and write your thoughts below.
- Intercession is praying for the needs of others (read Exodus 32:30-34 and Romans 10:1).

Reflection and Prayer:

- ✓ If we had a transcript of your last month of prayers, what would we see?
- ✓ How has your understanding of prayer changed after finishing this study?
- ✓ Prayer: Spend 5 minutes with your mentor right now and pray through ACTS.

This Week:

Find someone else you can teach to pray with the ACTS model. Teach them what you have learned about this and help them pray this way at least once.



I belong to the Church. Why and what for?

“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18



Big Idea: You are part of God's amazing family!

The day has finally arrived. It is a day he has been waiting for, the day he is going to marry his high school sweetheart. It is a big day for both of them. The church is packed and the moment has arrived for the pastor to announce them as husband and wife for the very first time. Everyone stands and applauds and the flash of cameras begins. It is exactly as he had dreamed it would be.

As he makes his way down the aisle with his new bride, they both come to a stop as they exit the church doors, and they wait to greet those that have come to celebrate with them. Then it happens. As they are greeting, a family friend comes up to congratulate them, shakes the groom's hand, and whispers something into his ear. "Hey congrats. You are a great friend and I am so proud of you. But to be honest, I can't stand your wife." What? Did he really just say that? How can anyone say that to a groom on his wedding day? Wouldn't those be fighting words?

Can you imagine hearing those words? Can you imagine saying those words? Now imagine for a moment that the groom is Jesus and the bride is the Church.

How the culture feels about the Church

Something has happened in our culture. This culture no longer honors and respects the bride of Jesus. How many times have you heard it said, "I don't mind Jesus, but I can't stand Christians or the church." Some people feel hurt by the church. Some people believe all the church wants is money. Some people believe the church is full of hypocrites and others believe those in the church have all been duped or brainwashed into believing something that just helps them make sense out of life.

Now that is just outside the church. Inside the church, there is a culture too with very specific opinions concerning Jesus' bride. People inside the church believe that the church exists only for them. Only for the insiders. In other words, Jesus has his wife but his wife can have no friends. Especially friends who sin, friends who don't value what insiders value, and friends who don't behave like insiders behave. They insulate themselves from friends that are different demographically, socially and economically. To these insiders, church has become a place to consume. There is no commitment. Just consumption. For them, it is far easier to be entertained than to commit.

So basically, one gossips about Jesus' wife and the other uses Jesus' wife. That is our culture.

What Scripture says about the church.

1. What does Jesus think about the church? Read Ephesians 5:25-27 and answer these questions:

- a. What does Paul relate husbands and wives to?
- b. What does Jesus think about the church?
- c. What did Jesus do for the church?

CATALYST TIP: The fact that Jesus is to present the church without spot or blemish means that the church is not without spot or blemish. It is important to explain that the church is full of sinners that are saved by grace. There is no perfect church. We are all hypocrites. The church is a mess and is messy and that is a reminder that we need Jesus even more. He loves us and is willing to be with us in our mess.

“

“It is no accident that human marriage provides language to explain Christ's relation to the church (2 Cor. 11:2). For human marriage is the copy, not the original.” –
FEBRUARY 12, 1984, A Metaphor of Christ and the Church Article by John Piper

”

2. Who is the head of the church?

- a. Who does Scripture say the head of the church is? Colossians 1:18
- b. Who is the one who builds the church? Matthew 16:18
- c. Who is the foundation of the church? 1 Corinthians 3:11

3. How does Paul describe the church in Romans 12:3-8?

- a. Write in your own words Paul's description.
- b. How do you and I fit into this?

4. How does Peter describe the church in 1 Peter 2:4-10?

- a. Write in your own words.
- b. What is the responsibility of every believer in the church? (vs.9)

5. What did the first church look like in Acts 2:42-47?

- a. Describe in your own words the qualities of the first church that stand out to you in this passage.
- b. How does it look like compared to what the church today looks like?

6. What should our commitment to the church be? Read Hebrews 10:24-25

- a. What are some ways you can "stir up" your brothers and sisters in Christ to "love and good works"?
- b. What do you think the phrase, "not neglecting to meet together" means?

- c. What do you think the Scripture means by, “and all the more as you see the Day drawing near?”

CATALYST TIP: The word neglect means ‘to turn away’. So, it is not about church attendance or skipping the gathering. It is about turning away from the family of God.

1. What is the mission and purpose of the church as seen in Matthew 28:19-20?

- a) What did Jesus command us as his church to do in this passage?
- b) How is the church to do this?
- c) Where is the church to do this?
- d) Who are to carry out this mission to?

“ *The local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to Scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of Baptism and Communion, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scattered to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God’s glory and their joy.* – Vintage Church: Timeless and Timely Methods (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009), 35-61

”

Reflection and Prayer:

Everyone belongs to something. You will either belong to this world or you will belong to God’s family. You can’t belong to both. What do you belong to?

What does it mean to you to be committed to the purpose and mission of Jesus church?

How has your idea of church changed as you have studied this material?

Prayer:

- ✓ Pray with your mentor that the church you currently attend will become all that God intended it to be and will fulfill the mission God has declared in Scripture for it.
- ✓ Pray for the more than 4,000,000 in Houston that are unchurched.
- ✓ Pray for your brothers and sisters who live in parts of the world.
- ✓ Pray for those 4 billion people in the world who have never heard the great Gospel of Jesus and have never been to church.

For Next Week

- ✓ Gather with your church family for Worship.
- ✓ If you are not baptized, ask about being baptized.
- ✓ Participate in Communion the next time it is offered.
- ✓ Share with at least one person what you have learned in this conversation.



The Holy Spirit lives in me. What does that mean?

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.” John 14:16



Big Idea : The Holy Spirit is given to every believer to teach us, lead us, help us change, and empower us for God’s mission.

One of the most amazing statements of Jesus is found in the Gospel of John 16:7 when He says to His disciples, “It is better for you that I go away..” What? How could there be anything better than walking with Jesus while he was on earth. He continues on in that verse to tell us why, “..because when I go away I will send the Helper to you.” Wow! Who is this Helper? The Holy Spirit. He is God’s gift to His children, and through him God reveals Jesus to us, helps us live the Christian life and empowers us for His mission!

Some Christians completely ignore the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives while other Christians tend to make Him the primary focus of their walk with God. Our desire with this chapter is to help you discover the joy and power of walking with the Spirit as God outlines in his Word. Our prayer is that in this chapter you will discover why he gave Him to you as a gift.

What does Culture say about the Holy Spirit?

Our secular culture has very little to say about the Holy Spirit. Christians typically have many misconceptions about Him such as: He is a lesser member of the Trinity, His work always has to be loud and spectacular, He only works through a select few, His main purpose is inside the church. None of these statements are accurate and they all reflect an incomplete understanding of God’s Holy Spirit as taught in the Scriptures.

What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit?

Read thee verses starting on the next page and write how Scripture describes the person and the purpose of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit is God and a member of the Trinity

Read these verses and write how each Person of the Divine Trinity are mentioned:

- Matthew 28:19
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 1 Peter 1:2

He has attributes that only God can have. Read these Scriptures and write the attribute of God you see:

- John 14:16
- Hebrews 9:14
- Psalm 139:7-10
- Psalm 104:30
- Luke 1:35

2. He is a gift sent from God. Read the scriptures below and write what you see about this beautiful gift from God.

- John 14:26
- John 16:12-15
- 1 Corinthians 6:19

3. He sanctifies us (helps us to change) so that we can become mature Christians. Read the scriptures below and write what you learn about how the Holy Spirit sanctifies us:

- John 16:8
- Romans 8:13-14, 26
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Romans 5:16-17

4. He empowers us for God's Mission. Read the scriptures below and write what you learn about how the Holy Spirit empowers us:

- Acts 1:8
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- Luke 4:18-19
- Luke 24:49

5. How do I walk in the Spirit? "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

- a.** Acknowledge that you need Him .
 - John 15:5
 - Ezekiel 36:27
- b.** Ask Him to fill you and lead you to do God's will.
 - Galatians 5:16-18
 - Ephesians 5:8

c. Thank Him and trust that He is leading you.

- Romans 15:13

- John 16:13

d. Be bold and courageous because of the Holy Spirit in you.

- Acts 4:31

- Acts 13:52

Reflection and Prayer:

How has your view of the Holy Spirit changed after this study?

What is the area in your life where you feel you most need the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Have you felt boldness in your testimony of Jesus and strength in your fight against sin? If not, write a prayer below asking God's Holy Spirit to empower you this week. Be specific about your need for His help in your life.

This week:

This week we want you to practice the steps above of How do I walk in the Spirit. Ask God to make you sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to make you bold in your witness of Jesus because the Holy Spirit lives in you!



In Jesus Christ I have the victory. What does that mean?

“Sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.” Romans 6:14 NIV



Big Idea: Jesus helps me overcome the sin in my life through the Word of God, discipleship, and Christian community.

In this session, we want to further explore the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how it affects the life of a Christian. One of the great truths of Scripture is found in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” What an incredible statement! When I am born again, I become new! This doesn’t mean that all my struggles, weaknesses, wounds, fears, and vices simply disappear. It does mean, though, that I have entered into a brand new relationship with the God of the universe, and He has washed my slate clean. Isn’t that amazing? It certainly wouldn’t be good news if, after becoming a Christian, you and I were left on our own to struggle with all that we have done, all that has happened to us, and all we will face in the future.

In this session, we want you to discover what it means to have victory in Jesus, and how to walk in the victory that Jesus won for His Church. We want you to learn how the Bible, discipleship, and walking in an accountable relationship with other believers can help you break the hold your past has on you and empower you to overcome your current struggles and sin.

What does culture say?

Culture generally finds great joy in the struggles of a Christian. Many are lying in wait hoping we will slip up and do something that contradicts our faith. Whether that comes from their own frustrations or from encounters they have had with self-righteous Christians who have judged and condemned them, it is a reality that young Christians must face. They expect to see change in us after we become believers. Others in culture are less philosophical and much more fatalistic. They feel that a person can never really change. They feel that we will always be prey to our dark nature and remain a victim for life when others have abused or wronged them.

What does the Bible say?

1. There is no condemnation for believers. Read Romans 8:1-2 and answer the following questions:

- a. What does the word condemnation mean? (vs. 1)
- b. What does it mean to be 'in Christ Jesus'? (vs. 1)
- c. Why is there no condemnation for a believer? (vs. 2)

2. I am no longer defined by my past.

- a. Write 2 Corinthians 5:17 in your own words.
- b. Rick Warren says, "Can a butterfly go back into a cocoon after it's come out as a caterpillar? Of course not. It can't happen. Once the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, it is what it is — a butterfly. When you become a believer, you're like that butterfly — you come out of your cocoon. It may take you some time to fly spiritually, but once you become a new creation in Christ, you are what you are. You are a new creation." Write below how this helps you understand the fact that although you have become new, you still need to grow and mature.

3. Sin is no longer my master.

- a. According to Romans 6:14 why is sin no longer my master?
- b. Read Romans 6:12 and write one of the key things I need to do to become free from sinful habits and behavior.

4. Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted. Read Hebrews 4:15 and answer the following questions:

- a. In what areas was Jesus tempted?
- b. Jesus was tempted and did not sin. This means there is a difference between temptation and sin. What do you think that difference is?
- c. How does this Scripture help you?

5. God helps me in the midst of temptation. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and answer the following questions:

- a. "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man". What does that mean to you?
- b. "God is Faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability..." What does that mean to you?
- c. "But with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." What does that mean to you?
- d. Now that you have worked through this verse, rewrite it in your own words in the space below.

CATALYST TIP: It's important here to talk through the fact that Christians are not perfect. That does not mean that God takes our sin lightly, but it does mean that we will all struggle until we get to Heaven. It is important to talk through the difference between sin and temptation and highlight that God gives us a way out of temptation.

6. The Bible is one of the keys to helping me overcome temptation and sin in my life.

a. Read Matthew 4:1-11

How did Jesus fight off temptation and the Devil in this passage?

Do you think Jesus pulled out His Bible here and began to desperately search for a Scripture to help him fend off temptation or do you think He had those Scriptures in his heart already?

b. How does Paul refer to the Bible in Ephesians 6:17?

c. How does David say the Bible helps Him to not sin against God in Psalm 119:9-11?

- What do you think he means by, “I have stored up your word in my heart”? Think about the Scripture you read about Jesus and His temptation.

CATALYST TIP: This is a great place to discuss with your disciple the importance of memorizing Scripture and meditating in Scripture.

7. Being discipled is paramount to maturing in my faith and to becoming strong enough to resist sin.

a. We are called to grow and mature in our relationship with God. What do the following verses teach you about being discipled? Notice and write down why discipleship is important.

- Philippians 4:9

- Proverbs 13:20

- b.** We need to be in relationship with people who are more mature than us so that we can follow their example. Read the following verses and write your observations.

- Philippians 3:17

- Hebrews 13:7

8. Living in close relationship with other Christians is key to you becoming a strong, mature Christian.

- a.** Read these verses and write down how important community is to God:

- Psalm 133:1-3

- Matthew 18:20

- 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

- b.** Because He knows how much we need it, God commands we live in Christian community. Write your observation beside each of these verses:

- Hebrews 10:24-25

- Galatians 6:2

- c.** Read the following Scriptures and write down the amazing things God does when we are in Christian community:

- Proverbs 15:22

- Acts 4:32-35

- Proverbs 17:17

d. Strength to say no to sin and the healing of our past wounds is found in Christian community. Write your observations beside each verse below.

- 1 John 1:17
- James 5:16
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Galatians 6:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Reflection and Prayer:

How have you been growing in your faith in the last weeks and months?

What are areas in your life that have been the hardest to change?

Who are you allowing into your life to disciple and mentor you?

Prayer:

Pray and ask God to allow you to grow as a disciple so that you can become mature enough to begin to disciple others.



Problems. Where is God?

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28 NASB



Big Idea: God loves you and is faithful to you at all times!

Being a growing, mission-driven Christian does not mean that my life will be easy. When God saved me, He didn't promise a life without trouble, pain, failure, and adversity of all shapes and sizes. Many think that living a godly life will incubate me from hardship. If that was the case, then what in the world happened to Jesus? Years before He went to the cross for us, He suffered rejection from His family, betrayal from one of His closest associates, persecution from His enemies and ultimately almost all of His followers (with the exception of His mother and a few others) left Him completely alone in His time of greatest need. He certainly lived a life that pleased God, but that did not mean He would live an easy life.

In this session, we want you to discover what kind of trials you might face as a Christian, how God uses trials, and what you should do when you find yourself in a trial. The number one thing we want you to see is that God loves you and is perfectly faithful no matter what kind of storm is raging in your life!

What does Culture?

Secular culture has this one all messed up. Society basically believes that good people deserve a good life and bad people deserve a bad life. If you are going through a tough time, they put you in the 'bad person' category. "Man, I don't know what that person did wrong, but there is a reason they never catch a break." Have you ever heard that said? Or how about this one, "I can't imagine how God would allow that person to go through this or that. He is such a good person." Society has two little boxes that everyone fits into: good people have good things happen to them and bad people have bad things.

What does the Bible say trials?

In the Scripture, God never hides. He doesn't have a 'good person' category or a 'bad person' category. In fact, He clearly states in Scripture that none of us are good. We have all sinned and fallen short of his glory. (Romans 3:23)

1. Trials, pain, and adversity are unavoidable in the Christian life.

- a. John 16:33 - How did Jesus describe our lives in this world?
- b. What does 1 Peter 4:12-13 say to us about the possibility of us facing trials?

2. As a Christian, you will face the trial of persecution. What do the following verses teach you about suffering persecution?

- a. 2 Timothy 3:12
- b. John 15:18
- c. Luke 6:22
- d. Psalm 34:19

3. Some hardships I face come from God's discipline. What do the following verses teach you about why God disciplines us?

- a. Hebrews 12:5-11
- b. Revelation 3:19
- c. Proverbs 12:1

4. The Bible teaches that some of my trials are the result of Satan's attacks. Read the following verses and write what they teach you about our adversary, the Devil.

- a. 1 Peter 5:8
- b. Ephesians 6:11-12
- c. John 10:10
- d. According to James 4:7, what two things can I do when the devil is attacking me?

5. The Bible teaches that some of our pain and suffering is because we live in a world that is decaying due to sin and inhabited by fallen people.
 - a. Read Romans 8:19-22 and rewrite it in your own words.
 - b. What does Romans 5:12 teach us about the devastating effect sin has had in our world?
 - c. How does Ephesians 5:16 describe the days we live in today?
6. God promises to use all pain and suffering that we experience for our good!
 - a. Read Romans 8:28 and rewrite it in your own words. Make it as personal as possible.
 - b. What benefit does God promise us during our trials in James 1:2-4?
 - c. What does God promise us that suffering will produce in us in Romans 5:3-5?
 - d. What is the promise of God in our suffering that is found in 2 Corinthians 4:17?
7. The Bible gives us clear direction for how we should live when we are suffering trials.
 - a. During trials we need to continue to trust Him.
 - 1 Peter 4:19 - Why should I trust Him?
 - Psalm 27:5 - What does He provide for me during trials?
 - Why do you think the Scripture calls me to be joyful when I am going through trials? James 1:2; 1 Peter 1:6

b. You need to pray when going through trials.

- When should you pray? Psalm 20:1
- How should you pray? Philippians 4:4-7

c. Keep my mind and heart fixed on the promise of Heaven.

Romans 8:18 - What should I compare my problem to?

d. I need to endure when trials don't end quickly.

- What does James 1:12 teach you about staying steadfast during trials?
- What attitude does Romans 12:12 say I should have during tribulations?

Reflection and Prayer:

How has your view of trials and adversity changed after this study?

Which Scripture from this study will be the most helpful for you during future trials?

What one thing can you share from this study with someone who is suffering right now?

Prayer: Pray with your discipler that God will help you not lose faith in Him, no matter what you face in the future.

Ask your discipler what trial they are facing right now and how you can pray for them.

This Week:

Store up in your heart 3-5 verses from this study that can keep you in peace when you face trials. Write those verses on a note card and read them every day this week.



My life is God's. What does He expect of me?

“For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord” Romans 14:7,8



Big Idea – God has given me all that I need in order to live for His mission and His glory!

Many of the religious leaders who lived when Jesus walked on the earth were jealous of Him, and would often devise questions for Him that were intended to trip Him up and disqualify Him in the eyes of his followers. On one of these occasions, they sent a lawyer to ask Him which of all the commandments in the Old Testament was the most important. Jesus answered unapologetically and without hesitation that the greatest and most important command was to, “love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” He followed that by saying that loving your neighbor as yourself is the second great commandment, and that on these two commandments, “depend all the Law and the Prophets”. Have you ever read that before? Nobody had ever really said that before! Religious people had always looked at being a God-follower as living according to a list of rules, but here He’s saying that God wants all of you! He wants you to love Him with everything, single fiber of your being.

In this session, we want you to discover the amazing joy of learning to love God with your time, talents, treasures, temple (your body) and your technology. That’s right, God is not looking to see you at church on Sunday and then watch from a distance as you live your life the rest of the week. The amazing thing about Christianity is that God desires to live in a beautiful, intimate relationship with us! It would be unthinkable to be married to someone, say we love them, and then only visit them once a week. Or to say, “honey I really love you but I don’t want to share my time, abilities, money, etc. with you”. How long would that relationship last? Our relationship with God starts with Him giving everything to us when He sent His Son to the cross and us responding to this great love by giving ourselves to Him!

What does culture say?

To say that this is a foreign concept to our culture today is a gigantic understatement. Very few people outside of the church know that God desires a relationship with them. They think of Him as demanding from us without giving anything at all. As hard as it is to comprehend for us who understand his incredible sacrifice on the cross, a person without Christ sees Him as take, take, and take. They see Him as demanding, unreasonable authority figure. We know that He gave more to us than we could ever give Him. We know that we love Him, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

What does the Bible say?

1. My time is God's for his mission and his glory. Read Psalm 24:1

- a. According to this passage what belongs to God?
- b. Who does this passage say belongs to God?
- c. Matthew 6:33 - What priority should the kingdom of God have in my life?
- d. Colossians 4:5 - What is my responsibility as a Christian as it pertains to my time?
 - What do you think it means to make the best use of my time?
- e. Do you feel you are using your time for God's glory and mission? What changes do you need to make?

2. My talent is for God's mission and glory!

- a. According to the following verses, what should I do with my talents?
 - 1 Peter 4:10-11
 - Romans 12:6-8
 - 1 Timothy 4:14

- b.** Read Matthew 25:14-30 and answer the following questions:

Who is the giver of talents?

Was everyone given a talent?

What did the giver of the talent expect from the recipients?

- c.** What are the talents that God has given you? How can you use them for God's glory and mission?

3. My treasures (money) belong to God for his glory and mission!

- a.** What do the following Scriptures teach about money?

- Matthew 6:19-21

- Matthew 6:24

- Acts 20:35

- Proverbs 3:9-10

- b. What do the following verses teach about being generous with our money?

Luke 6:38

1 John 3:17

2 Corinthians 9:6

Proverbs 19:17

- c. Do you consistently give to God and to others? Are you a generous person?

4. My technology belongs to God for His mission and glory! – We have added this because of the gigantic role that technology plays in our world today.

- Colossians 3:17 – how much of my activities should be for God.

5. My temple (body) belongs to God for His mission and glory!

- a. How much should I love God? Matthew 22:37

- b. Why can God claim ownership of my body? 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- c. What do the following Scriptures teach us about our responsibility with our bodies?

- Romans 12:1

- 1 Corinthians 6:13-18

- Genesis 1:27

- d. Is God glorified by the way you treat and use your body? What do you need to change?

Reflection and Prayer:

How has your view of your relationship with God changed after this study?

Which of these areas (time, talent, treasure, temple, and technology) is the most out of alignment with what you saw in Scripture this week? What do you need to do immediately to change it?

Prayer: All of us have regrets for how we have spent our lives. God's forgiveness is available to you today. Pray with your discipler a prayer of repentance. Be specific about the areas you need to ask forgiveness for. Also, say a prayer of surrender. Offer Him everything you have!

This week:

Take steps to serve Him with every area of your life. Focus on loving Him and walking in relationship with Him much like spouses are supposed to do.



God is at work. How do I join Him?

“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20



Big Idea: God is a Missionary God who is on a Mission Today!

If someone asked you the question, “What is God doing today”, what would you answer? What is His priority today? What concerns Him? Are there things in our world today that please Him? What about things that displease Him? In this session, you will learn that God is very active in our lives and in the world today. You will discover without a doubt that He is a missionary God and exactly what His mission is. He continues to seek the lost and make disciple makers of the found. He will continue on this mission until there are representatives from every tribe and every tongue standing before the throne of God.

In addition to discovering what God is doing today, you will see exactly how He accomplishes His mission. The answer might surprise you. When you see this answer, you will face a cross roads. You will have to make a decision. We are confident, with God’s help; you will make the right one!

What does Culture say?

Many today believe that God simply exists to make our lives better. This group sees Him as a butler of sorts who waits on us and never expects anything in return. Others feel that the world has spun so far out of control that God has angrily turned his back on all of us. Some might feel that God simply does not want to intervene in the happenings of this world. Human opinions on this subject vary as much as the colors of a rainbow, but the Bible is very clear about this missionary God who sent His one and only son to the cross to save us from our sins and to create a people for His pleasure and purpose.

What does the Bible say about the purpose and mission of God?

1. Read the following Scriptures and write down what you observe about God's Purpose:

- a. 1 Chronicles 29:11
- b. 2 Chronicles 20:6
- c. Psalm 115:3

2. Read the following Scriptures and write down your observations about God's Mission:

- a. 1 Timothy 2:3-4
- b. Psalm 72:19
- c. Luke 19:10
- d. Revelation 7:9

3. Read the following Scriptures and write your observations about God's Invitation to join Him in His great work.

- a. John 20:21
- b. Psalm 96:3
- c. 2 Corinthians 5:20

4. How do I participate?

a) **INTERCEDE** for those in my life who don't know Christ. Read the Scriptures below and write down how we should pray for those who don't know Christ.

- Colossians 4:2-3

- Acts 26:17-18
- 2 Corinthians 4:6
- Isaiah 45:8

b) **IDENTIFY** three people in your life who don't know Christ. List here the names of those three people:

- _____
- _____
- _____

c) **INVEST** time in building a relationship/friendship with each of them. "We were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us." I Thessalonians 2:8

- Be a good neighbor. Weed a neighbor's garden. Help someone move. Provide a meal for someone ill.
- Be friendly. Say hi to people. Be courteous and kind. Be a good listener.
- Invite a neighbor or coworker to your home for a meal.
- Write 5 more ways you can share yourself or your life with people around you. In order to help you with this, fill out the table below listing the places you go and the people you see in those places.

Example:	
Places I go	People I see
Class	Classmates, Professors
Work	Co-workers, my boss, other people who work in the building
Home	My neighbors, my roommates, my family

Your Life:	
Places I go	People I see

- d) **INVITE** them to Christ. See below different ways to invite a person to know more about Christ.
- **Invite them to church.** Giving opportunities for non-Christians to participate in activities with a body of believers, so that they can learn about and experience Christ through that community. Ex. Acts 2:42-47
 - **Sharing Christ through words and actions with people you have close relationships with** (like friends, family, and roommates) or with those you have ongoing interactions with whom you can intentionally develop a relationship (like classmates, teammates, coworkers)

Biblical Examples:

- Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus (John 1:40, 41)
 - Philip found his friend Nathaniel, and brought him to Jesus (John 1:43-45)
 - The Samaritan woman brought her villagers to meet Jesus (John 4:28-30)
 - A group of friends brought the paralytic to Jesus (Mark 2:1-5)
- **Learn how to share the message of Salvation**

God created us to be with Him.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Eccle. 3:11 NIV

“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.” Col. 1:16

Our sins separate us from God.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“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.” Isaiah 59:2

Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Eph. 2:8-9

“He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.” Titus 3:5

Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

“Who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” Rom. 4:25

Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

“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 3:16

Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” 1 John 5:11-12

Reflection and Prayer:

What an incredible lesson! How AWESOME to know that our God is a missionary God who still has a mission today! Because of his mission, I am a Christian today. And how incredible to know that He uses ordinary people like me to accomplish His mission!

Has there been a time when you have seen God use your life for his glory and purpose? Please give details:

Prayer: Say a prayer with your discipler and offer your life to this great Missionary God. Hold nothing back. Give Him all your heart, soul and mind. Ask Him to use you and that by the power of His Spirit, your life would cause ripple effects throughout all of eternity.

This week:

Pray and identify the three non Christians that you will be investing your life in. Bring those names to the next meeting with your mentor.