

## **Answering the Call**

Institute for Prison Ministries  
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[www.prisoninstitute.com](http://www.prisoninstitute.com)

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# Preface

The Institute for Prison Ministries at the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College created *Answering the Call* to equip incarcerated Christians to live focused lives of witness and discipleship within their spheres of influence. We believe the Christians “behind the walls” are the best ones to reach the corrections community. God may use volunteers and chaplains from the “free world” to come inside the correctional facility to share the gospel and disciple. A healthy church behind the walls, however, will see many more in the community become committed followers of Christ.

This training equips participants to develop relationships and communicate the gospel naturally, with gentleness and respect, and to disciple Christ followers toward maturity in Christ.

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

- Describe the call to make disciples
- Define what it means to be spiritually lost, a disciple, a witness, and an evangelist
- Describe the model of prayer, care, share, and stay there
- Be motivated and confident about sharing the gospel and their personal transformation story
- Assist other Christ-followers to grow in their faith

## Certificate

To earn a certificate, participants must a) attend the training, and b) complete the Bible studies.

We are grateful to the corrections staff and chaplains who have granted us permission to offer this training and to the volunteers who serve with us.

We pray that every follower of Christ will be *Answering the Call* to join the work of the Holy Spirit in reaching the mission field that God has set before them to make disciples.

Karen Swanson, Ed.D. Director  
Institute for Prison Ministries

# Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr. Lon Allison, evangelist, pastor and author, who taught me to live a focused life of witness through introducing me to the model used in this training. A special thanks to the incarcerated who submitted stories (indicated by their first name) and illustrations for this workbook.

## **Institute for Prison Ministries (IPM)**

IPM exists to bring expertise to correctional ministry through training, convening, and support for Christians evangelizing and discipling those impacted by crime. Visit us at: [www.prisoninstitute.com](http://www.prisoninstitute.com)

# Endorsements

*Answering the Call not only opened my eyes, but **helped me to understand that God has called me** to preach, teach, and show his love and undeserved mercy to those who are lost.*

—Texas participant

. . . .

***I am one of three hundred men in God's army here in this facility.***

*This seminar reminded me that holding onto parts of my old life will prohibit me from moving forward in my new life.*

—South Dakota participant

. . . .

*I learned that **my relationship with God doesn't end with me** and my journey. I have been able to make the valuable connections that part of the joy in loving God is sharing him with others and loving them so much that I want them to feel his love, too.*

—Arizona participant

. . . .

*I recently visited two facilities where Answering the Call (ATC) was offered. The men greeted me with, "**When are you going to have another ATC seminar?**" Many were amazed when they began to map their "faith journey" and document their sphere of influence to bring others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Many shared their Spiritual journey and the wonderful work Jesus Christ had done in their lives. **The seminar provided these men the tools they needed** to witness to others—from family to fellow prisoner. I highly recommend this seminar to engage the Christ-centered leaders behind the walls.*

—Mary Engle, Prison Fellowship

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# Trainer Notes

Thank you for your interest and passion to train Christ followers to live focused lives of witness and discipleship. Once you successfully complete the *Answering the Call* (ATC) training you are eligible to obtain participant workbooks for trainings you lead.

## Participant Book Requests

Please complete the request for participant manuals located at [www.prisoninstitute.com](http://www.prisoninstitute.com). Contact the Institute for Prison Ministries at [ipm@wheaton.edu](mailto:ipm@wheaton.edu) or 630-752-5727 with any questions.

## Trainer Notes

The Trainer Manual includes the same text as in the participant workbook. **Q:** = questions which can be asked participants; **N:** = notes; **A:** = suggested activities. When you ask a question to participants, listen to their answers and then fill in what is missing. The notes will provide answers.

## Training Time Needed

The Training is an 11-week training. Each lesson is estimated to take an hour. The time will vary depending on the length of discussions and if additional activities are used. If the Bible Study is not completed in the class, it may be assigned as homework.

## Class Size

- Small Group—One teacher and 8-15 participants.
- Large Group—If more than 15 participants, it is helpful to have one lead trainer and then group leaders for times of small group exercises and discussions. Group leaders can be volunteers or participants.

## Teaching Strategies

1. Read through the entire Trainer Manual and add your own examples. Please do not change any content so as to maintain the integrity of the material.
2. Practice teaching the lesson prior to actually teaching the class. This will help you to monitor your time and be better prepared.
3. Keep participants engaged.
  - Ask participants if anyone would like to open the class in prayer. Don't call on anyone unless you know they are comfortable praying out loud.
  - Ask participants if anyone would like to volunteer to read. Let them read the material out loud, taking turns. Do not ask someone to read unless you know they can read.
  - Ask for their answers to questions listed in the material or develop your own questions. Use a combination of partner, small group and large group exercises.
  - Ask participants to complete activities in the material. Feel free to create activities which support their learning.

4. If you assign some or all of the Bible Study as homework, be sure to review their work at the beginning of each class. Without accountability, there will be little motivation for participants to complete the lessons.
5. "Parking Lot technique." If someone asks a question which will lead down a different path away from the lesson, have a paper or place called the Parking Lot and write in the question or topic. Go back to the question at the end of the lesson or speak with that person about it outside of class.
6. If a participant dominates the discussion, say, "Let's give others a chance to answer a question, read a verse, etc."
7. If two participants are talking during the lesson, you can move toward them as you talk, ask them not to talk when others are talking, move them to a different seat, or remove them from the class.
8. Establish ground rules such as: 1) respecting others (not talking when others are talking, no criticism); 2) complete homework; 3) participate in class; 4) keep confidentiality. Review ground rules at the beginning of each class.

## **Certificate**

Participants who attend the training and complete the Bible Studies earn a certificate. Use the template provided by the Institute for Prison Ministries to create certificates or participants can mail the certificate request form including their transformational story and spiritual life map to IPM. Their story and life map are returned to the participant along with their certificate.

Thank you for helping equip the "church behind the walls" to share their faith and disciple others. We will be praying for you and the participants to answer God's call to make disciples. Please feel free to contact the Institute for Prison Ministries with any questions, comments, or feedback at [ipm@wheaton.edu](mailto:ipm@wheaton.edu)

# Outline

## I. Lesson 1: Called to Make Disciples

- a. Key Concept
- b. The Great Commission
- c. What is a Disciple of Christ?
  - i. Relationship
  - ii. Transformation
    - 1. Heart
    - 2. Mind
- d. Marks of a Disciple
  - i. Assured of salvation by God's grace alone
  - ii. Daily surrender
  - iii. Life of obedience
- e. Review
- f. Bible Study: Spiritual Transformation
  - i. Our Position
    - 1. In Adam
    - 2. In Christ
  - ii. Spiritual formation and the power of the Holy Spirit
  - iii. Action steps

## II. Lesson 2: Our Model, Approach, Terms and Definitions

- a. Key Concept
- b. Our Model
  - i. Prayer, Care, Share, Stay There
- c. Our Approach
  - i. Spiritual travel guide
  - ii. Without proselytizing
  - iii. With gentleness and respect
- d. Terms and Definitions
  - i. The spiritually Lost
  - ii. A Witness
    - 1. Marks of a witness
  - iii. An Evangelist
    - 1. Marks of an evangelist
- e. Recommended Readings
- f. Review
- g. Bible Study: Developing a Passion for those Spiritually Lost
  - i. God's Heart
  - ii. Paul's Heart
  - iii. My Heart
  - iv. Action steps

## III. Lesson 3: Witnessing: An Expanded Definition and Barriers

- a. Key Concept
- b. An Expanded Definition
  - i. Witnessing
    - 1. To cooperate with the Holy Spirit

- 2. To cooperate with others
- 3. To bring one or more persons
- 4. One step closer to Christ
- 5. Conversion is not
- 6. Conversion is
- c. Our Barriers to Witnessing
- d. Review
- e. Bible Study: Spiritual Gifts and Witnessing
  - i. Spiritual gifts
  - ii. Spiritual gifts lists
  - iii. Spiritual gifts inventory
  - iv. Partner and team witnessing
  - v. Personality
  - vi. Interests
  - vii. Conclusions
  - viii. Action steps

## IV. Lesson 4: Prayer

- a. Key Concept
- b. Prayer List
- c. Pray for ...
  - i. A deeper understanding of God's love and to have that same love
  - ii. The work of the Spirit in the hearts and minds of those around us
  - iii. That they will seek to know God
  - iv. For open doors in our relationships so we will have opportunities to make Christ known
  - v. For courage to share and for the words to say
  - vi. For clarity in what is spoken and what is heard
  - vii. For the spiritual battle
- d. Review
- e. Bible Study: Prayer
  - i. Parable of the Soils
    - 1. First soil erosion
    - 2. Second soil erosion
    - 3. Third soil erosion
    - 4. Fourth soil erosion
  - ii. Actions steps

## V. Lesson 5: Care

- a. Key Concept
- b. Build Genuine Friendships
- c. Love Others
- d. Be Good Listeners
- e. Ask Good Questions
- f. Walls Unbelievers have Toward Christians and the Christian Faith
  - i. Broken trust
  - ii. Pain and suffering
  - iii. Perceptions about Christians and the Christian life

- iv. Perceptions about God
- g. Caring Cautions
- h. Review
  - i. Bible Study: developing caring relationships
  - i. Caring and loving others
  - ii. Breaking down barriers
    - 1. Build trust
    - 2. Develop humility
    - 3. Know God
    - 4. Answering tough questions
  - iii. Ways to help non-Christians take their next step in their spiritual journey
  - iv. Action steps

#### **VI. Lesson 6: Share: Your Transforming Story**

- a. Key Concept
- b. Spiritual Life Map
- c. Transforming Stories
- d. Bible Study: Your Transforming Story
  - i. Create your spiritual life map
  - ii. Write your transforming story
  - iii. Action steps

#### **VII. Lesson 7: Share: God's Story**

- a. Key Concept
- b. The Gospel
  - i. Example 1: Summary
  - ii. Example 2: Steps to Peace with God
    - 1. God loves you and has a plan for you
    - 2. The problem: man is sinful and separated from God
    - 3. God sent His son to die for your sins
    - 4. Would you like to receive God's forgiveness
  - iii. Gospel sharing stories
- c. Bible Study: Sharing God's Story
  - i. Select a gospel tool or create one of your own
    - 1. Steps to Peace with God
    - 2. Bridge to Eternal Life
    - 3. One Verse Evangelism
  - ii. Jesus witnessing
  - iii. Actions steps

#### **VIII. Lesson 8: Share: Strategies**

- a. Key Concept
- b. Our Approach
  - i. With gentleness and respect
  - ii. Grace
  - iii. Humility
  - iv. Courage
- c. Witnessing Strategies
  - i. Art of asking questions
  - ii. Addressing resistant people
- d. Review
- e. Bible Study: Sharing Strategies

- i. Approach
- ii. Questions
- iii. Resistance
- iv. Actions steps

#### **IX. Lesson 9: Stay There: Discipleship, Part I**

- a. Key Concept
- b. Discipleship
- c. Goals of Discipleship
- d. Discipleship Strategies
  - i. Spiritual friendships
  - ii. Role model
  - iii. Encourage
  - iv. Equip
- e. Review
- f. Bible Study: Who I am in Christ
  - i. I am loved by God
  - ii. I am forgiven by God
  - iii. I have become a child of God
  - iv. I am secure in God
  - v. I am God's creation
  - vi. I am God's dwelling place

#### **X. Lesson 10: Stay There: Discipleship, Part II**

- a. Key Concept
- b. Spiritual Practices
  - i. Reading and reflecting on scriptures
  - ii. Prayer
  - iii. Listening
  - iv. Corporate worship
  - v. Service
  - vi. Breath prayer
  - vii. Celebration
  - viii. Examen
  - ix. Fasting
  - x. Meditation
  - xi. Memorization
  - xii. Sabbath
  - xiii. Simplicity
  - xiv. Solitude and silence
  - xv. Submission
- c. My Commitment as a Christian
- d. Bible Study: Spiritual Plan
  - i. My Spiritual Plan
  - ii. The Nature of discipleship
  - iii. Action steps

#### **XI. Lesson 11: Celebration**

- a. Our prayer for you

# Lesson 1

## Called to Make Disciples

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Welcome the participants and describe the curriculum. *Answering the Call* is designed to equip Christians to live focused lives of witness and discipleship. People of all faiths are welcome. This training will help you better understand the Christian faith.
2. Explain how to receive a certificate. To earn a certificate, you must:
  - a. Attend the training.
  - b. Complete all the Bible studies (which may be completed with others or individually).
  - c. Complete the Certificate request form and send it to the Institute for Prison Ministries (Page 79-80) or get it from the trainer.
3. Explain the Colson Scholarship on the back of the workbook. The Colson Scholarship is for those with a felony record to attend Wheaton College (A Christian Liberal Arts College in the west suburbs of Chicago) as either an undergraduate or graduate student or for an online certificate program for those called into chaplaincy or reentry ministry. Once released, visit the website on the back cover of this book for more information.
3. Introduce yourself. Give your first name and how long you have been a follower of Christ.
4. Ask if someone would open in prayer.

### Introduction

- ‡ **Q:** *Have you ever wondered about your purpose in life?*
- ‡ **N:** *Today, we are going to look at one of the purposes God has for His followers—known as the Great Commission.*
- ‡ **Q:** *Has anyone ever heard of the Great Commission?*
- ‡ **N:** *(If yes, ask them to tell you what they know about it.)*

**KEY CONCEPT:** Christians are called to make disciples—not converts.

- ‡ **Q:** *What is a convert?*
- ‡ **N:** *A convert is someone who makes a decision to receive Christ. Conversion is the beginning of the Christian life, but not the end.*



## The Great Commission

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he gave this final command, referred to as the Great Commission:

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

All disciples of Christ are called to “go and make disciples.” But followers of Christ often feel guilty, fearful, or inadequate when it comes to how and when to share Christ and disciple others. Some Christians believe they must be a famous evangelist or a trained religious professional to effectively share their faith. Some think their job is finished once someone places their faith in Christ.

The *Answering the Call* training is designed to help Christians understand how God uses them just as he created them—within their personality, gifts, strengths, and relationships—to share the gospel naturally, and to assist other Christians to grow deeper in their faith.

## What is a Disciple of Christ?

Disciples are those with a personal **relationship** with Jesus Christ as evidenced through a **transformed** life.

A disciple may also be called a follower of Christ or a Christian.

- ▶ **Q:** The term “Christian” means different things to different people. What are some of the reasons people believe they are Christians?
- ▶ **N:** Go to church, baptized, born into a Christian family, etc. Point out how there are many “definitions” for the term “Christian” which is why we want to clarify what it means as we go through this study.

## Relationship

There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing someone. Knowing someone implies there is a relationship—you know them and they know you. God created us and knows us. Having a personal relationship with God begins the moment we realize our need for Him, admit we are sinners, and in faith receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

- ▶ **Q:** Name a famous person who is alive today.
- ▶ **N:** Potential answers include Oprah, a TV or Sports star.
- ▶ **Q:** Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ personally?
- ▶ **N:** You may know all about \_\_\_\_\_, but don’t know them personally. That is how it is with many people and Christ. They know about him but don’t know him personally.
- ▶ **Q:** What does it take to get to know someone personally?

- ▶ **N:** Spending time with them, learning about them—what they think, feel, etc.

*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)*

The Apostle Paul recognized the value of knowing Christ and being known by Him.

*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. (Philippians 3:8-9)*

- ▶ **Q:** What do you know about Jesus?
- ▶ **N:** He died for my sins, was perfect, rose from the grave, lives in heaven, loves me, etc.
- ▶ **Q:** How do you have a personal relationship with Him?
- ▶ **N:** You ask Him to be Savior and Lord of your life—He comes to live in you and you spend time with him through reading the Bible, prayer, fellowship, etc.

*Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers.’” (Matthew 7:21-23)*

- ▶ **N:** Obeying God is evidence of knowing him.

## Transformation

It is the Holy Spirit who transforms disciples into being more like Christ. The disciple’s role is to give permission and put themselves in a place where the Holy Spirit can change them.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation** has come: the old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

## • A transformed heart

A transformed heart leads to changes in behavior, which are more like Christ.

‡ **N:** *For each of the changes listed below, if time, you may assign verses to be read by participants (those who volunteer).*

1. From self-absorption to concern for God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33)

‡ **Q:** *What is God's kingdom? (Listen to a few participant responses and fill in what is missed.)*

‡ **N:** *God's rule and His will on earth and in our hearts. A world of peace, love, joy, justice.*

2. From defiance to submission (1 Samuel 15:19-22)

‡ **Q:** *What are examples of submission in this community?*

‡ **N:** *Doing what staff ask you to do, following the rules, obeying God*

‡ **Q:** *What are examples of submission in the free world?*

‡ **N:** *Obeying laws, doing what your boss asks you to do, obeying God*

3. From self-reliance to God-reliance (Jeremiah 17:5-8)

‡ **Q:** *What is an example of how you have moved from self-reliance to God-reliance?*

‡ **N:** *Prayer, waiting on God rather than making things happen my own way.*

4. From wasting resources to stewarding them (Matthew 25:14-30)

‡ **Q:** *What resources do you have?*

‡ **N:** *money, experience, skills, talents, education, time, relationships*

5. From expecting and taking for granted to accepting and gratitude (Luke 17:11-19)

‡ **Q:** *What is an area of entitlement you struggle with?*

‡ **N:** *People to visit, accept calls, put money on books*

‡ **Q:** *How can you develop a heart of gratitude?*

‡ **N:** *Say thank you to others and to God, request, don't demand*

6. From spiritual indifference to spiritual growth and vitality (2 Peter 1:3-8)

‡ **N:** *You may have not thought much or at all about God prior to coming to prison—your faith was not a priority in life.*

7. From concern with how you look to others to concern for character (1 Samuel 16:7)

‡ **N:** *This is about the kind of person you are on the inside—your character—not your physical appearance.*

8. From conformity with the culture to conformity to God (Romans 12:1-2)

‡ **Q:** *What are acceptable behaviors of those living in this community?*

‡ **N:** *Potential answers: hanging with your own race, not being a snitch, gossiping, gambling, swearing, etc.*

‡ **Q:** *What are acceptable behaviors in the "free world"?*

‡ **N:** *Potential answers: Get all you can, while you can. Hoard your material possessions. Sex has no boundaries. Tolerance is the highest virtue. Work hard only when the boss is around, etc.*

‡ **Q:** *Give an example of a way Christians should be different from the culture they live in?*

‡ **N:** *Being honest—not stealing from your employer.*

9. From concern for self to concern for others (Philippians 2:3-4)

‡ **Q:** *Share a specific way you have been transformed in this area?*

‡ **N:** *Asking others how I can help them.*

10. From lording it over others to serving others (Mark 10:42-45)

‡ **Q:** *What is an area where you have leadership and or power over others and what does it look like to serve them rather than lording it over them?*

‡ **N:** *Parents—loving, teaching, encouraging children.*

11. From quarreling to cooperation (James 3:13-17)

‡ **Q:** *What are areas where Christians quarrel rather than cooperate?*

‡ **N:** *Minor belief issues, worship styles, women in leadership*

12. From independence to community (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

‡ **Q:** *What does living in Christian community look like?*

‡ **N:** *Fellowship with others, caring for those in need, all the one another verses in the Bible*

13. From envy, competition, and self-protection to love (1 Corinthians 13:4-13)

‡ **Q:** *Identify which area you struggle with the most and a step you can take to move toward love.*

‡ **N:** *Envy to confessing when feeling envy; helping others be successful, not seeking the credit; being vulnerable—sharing feelings with others*

14. From harboring hurt and resentment to extending forgiveness and seeking reconciliation (Ephesians 4:32-5:2)<sup>1</sup> **(on page 8 of Participant book)**

- ▶ **Q:** *What does reconciliation mean?*
- ▶ **N:** *Reconciliation is when the two individuals or groups become friends again. Forgiveness is asked by the person or group which caused harm and forgiveness is given by the person or group which was harmed.*
- ▶ **N:** *Work in pairs to write two other examples of transformation you can think of on the following lines. After 2-3 minutes ask for examples.*

Write two other examples of transformation you can think of in the lines. From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
**(on page 8 of Participant book)**

### • **A transformed mind** **(on page 8 of Participant book)**

A transformed mind includes what you think, believe and your worldview. A Christian worldview is seeing all of life through the lens of Scripture.

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)*

List two examples of beliefs or ways of thinking which have changed in your life as a result of the work of the Holy Spirit living in you. For example: I used to believe it was okay to blame others when I got in trouble. Now I take responsibility for my actions.

- ▶ **N:** *Give them 1-2 minutes to answer the question. They can work individually or in pairs. Ask if anyone would like to share what they wrote. Now let's look at some topics in life and what the Bible says about them.*

What does the Bible say about...

### **Money?**

- ▶ **N:** *Let participants respond based on their biblical knowledge. Potential answers: tithe, give to the poor, take care of family, can't worship God and money, pay taxes, don't be greedy, don't go into debt. If they don't have Biblical knowledge on the topic ask Participants to volunteer to look up and read to the group, the following verses: 1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 13:11; Matthew 6:24; Matthew 22:21. Feel free to add other verses. Fill in what they left out.*

### **Work?**

- ▶ **Q:** *Who created work?*
- ▶ **N:** *God—Adam and Eve were to care for the garden and animals. (Genesis 1:26-28).*
- ▶ **Q:** *Who do you work for?*
- ▶ **N:** *The Lord, not man (Colossians 3:17 & 23)*
- ▶ **Q:** *How should you work?*
- ▶ **N:** *Hard.*
- ▶ **Q:** *How much should you work?*
- ▶ **N:** *Take a Sabbath rest (Mark 2:27).*
- ▶ **N:** *Work is good and created by God. When we work in our areas of giftedness, we feel a sense of purpose and satisfaction. But we take something good that God created and mess it up because of sin. We can become a workaholic (not taking a Sabbath rest) or lazy (don't work, you don't eat). Anything outside of God's plan is sin.*

### **Sex?**

- ▶ **Q:** *Who created sex?*
- ▶ **N:** *God (Genesis 2:24).*
- ▶ **Q:** *When is sex to be carried out and by whom?*
- ▶ **N:** *In marriage between a husband and wife. Sex is good when kept within the boundaries of God's plan. Everything outside of God's plan is sin and has consequences. Matthew 15:19; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:13, 6:18, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3 (you may add other verses).*

## **Marks of a Disciple of Christ**

### **Assured of Salvation by God's Grace Alone**

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:4-7)*

What does grace mean?

**Grace means unmerited favor. Being given what we don't deserve. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.**

Why is being assured of your salvation by grace alone important?

**If we forget that we are saved by grace, we begin to try to earn or work to keep our salvation which cannot be earned because it is a gift from God. (▶ Q: & ▶ N: on page 10)**

‣ **Q:** What does God owe us?

‣ **N:** He owes us death—because of our sin/ rebellion against him. Everything He gives us is because of His love for us and his grace and mercy.

## Daily Surrender

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.” (Mark 8:34-35)

What does it mean to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus?

**When Jesus says, “Come after”, he’s describing a passionate pursuit of someone you love. Deny means total daily surrender of every area of your life. Take up your cross means come and die—die to self. It is a symbol of humiliation, suffering and ultimately death. It is to follow Jesus wherever, whenever, however**

‣ **N:** Christ says: “Give me all. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you.” (C.S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*)

## A Life of Obedience to God

*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* (James 2:17)

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desire; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.* (Ephesians 4:22-24)

*Biblical belief is more than something we confess with our mouths; it’s something we confess with our lives.*

—Kyle Idleman, *Not a Fan*

‣ **N:** Christianity is evidenced through our actions. It is not enough to say we are a Christian, we must demonstrate it by our character, priorities, and behaviors.

## Review

- ✓ All Christians are called to make **disciples**.
- ✓ Disciples are those with a personal **relationship** with Jesus Christ as evidenced through a **transformed** life.
- ✓ A transformed life includes changes in our **heart** and **mind** to be like Christ.
- ✓ Marks of a disciple are to be assured of salvation by **grace**, daily surrender, and a life of obedience to God.

# Bible Study 1

## Spiritual Transformation

**OBJECTIVES: By the end of this study you will be able to:**

- Contrast your position in Adam to your position in Christ
- Describe living out your position in Christ
- Define spiritual transformation

### Our Position

Becoming a disciple of Christ changes our relationship and position with God. Disciples are reconciled with God and given a “perfect” position in Him. We are seen as righteous because of Christ. We have changed from our position in “Adam” to being in “Christ.”

#### In Adam

According to the following scriptures, what was true of us in our position in Adam, before we knew Christ?

Ephesians 2:1-3: **Dead in our sins, followed the ways of the world and Satan**

John 3:36: **We rejected Jesus, and God’s wrath (anger and punishment) was on us**

Romans 5:12-19: **Sin entered the world through Adam and so did judgement and death**

#### In Christ

Read Ephesians 2:4-7

What is true about our new position in Christ?

##### **Alive with Christ**

What motivated God to take action on our behalf?

##### **His great love for us**

What did God do for us at salvation?

Romans 5:1-2: **Justified (just as if I never sinned), peace, access to his grace, hope**

Hebrews 10:11-18: **He forgives our sins and remembers them no more**

2 Corinthians 5:21: **We become the righteousness (free from guilt and sin) of God**

## Living out Our Position

If you are a disciple, you are born again and have the Holy Spirit living in you (1 Corinthians 6:19). The same God that created the universe and holds it together, lives in you. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, can be grieved, quenched, fill you (control you), give you spiritual gifts, and produce the fruit of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to live His life in and through you. This is the Christian life. You are saved from the power and effects of sin because of the work of Christ. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit, using the inexhaustible resources of the risen Christ for effective victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. *“But I say, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”* Galatians 5:16

God wants us (disciples) to focus on seeing ourselves “in Christ” and not in our condition as sinners. Satan wants us to focus on our thoughts and behaviors trying to earn acceptance by God. When we do this, we fall into the trap of thinking we have to clean up our life or get our act together before coming to God. We are tempted to try to earn God’s approval and acceptance which cannot be earned because we already have it “in Christ.”

What are some ways that you try to earn being seen as righteous (good) before God?

### **Pray, read my bible, good works, give money**

When you sin, instead of claiming God’s forgiveness and acceptance by faith based on His grace, what are some things you do to try to work your way back into believing that God loves and accepts you?

### **Obeying Him, good works, etc.**

In what ways have you begun to see God change your heart, thinking and behavior toward what you already are positionally “in Christ”?

### **Positionally, I am in Christ—righteous, without guilt and without sin. I have power and peace to live an obedient life.**

If you fail to understand what God has already accomplished for you through Christ, you are doomed to attempt to live life on your own. You will try to have an obedient life and make life work. You will rely on your own will power and strength. You will be filled with anxiety and fear wondering if you are “saved.” The truth is you have the power to live an obedient life and persevere in your faith, through Christ.

## Spiritual Formation and the Power of the Holy Spirit

Spiritual transformation is:

- **NOT** information overload but ongoing renewal of the heart
- **NOT** behavior modification but Christlike behavior follows belief
- **NOT** optional but required as followers of Christ

*Spiritual formation is the process by which Christ is formed in us...for the glory of God, for the abundance of our own lives, and for the sake of others.* (Ruth Haley Barton)

Spiritual transformation:

- **DOES** impact our relationship with God and others
- **DOES** make us more like Christ
- **DOES** bring God glory

**Transformation happens through the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit.**

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6)*

What does John 14:16-20 say about the Holy Spirit?

**The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth, guides us and lives in us forever.**

Read Galatians 5:13-26. What does it mean to walk or live in the Spirit?

**To live in the Spirit is to consciously chose by faith to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide in thought, word and deed. Failure to rely on the Holy Spirit will result in not living up to the calling and standard that salvation provides. We know we are walking in the Spirit when we show the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is not giving into our sinful nature such as addictions and corrupt moral behavior.**

## Action Steps

1. When I begin to doubt my standing before God, I remind myself of the truth that I am now seen as righteous in Christ. Memorize and meditate on: Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
2. The power to make changes in my life is not by my will but through the power of the Holy Spirit. My responsibility is to live in the Spirit by abiding in Christ and being obedient to Him.

## Lesson 2

# Our Model, Approach, Terms and Definitions

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review any of the Bible study lesson which was assigned as homework.
3. Ask if anyone is able to quote Romans 8:1
4. Read the review from lesson one (p. 10 Participant).

**KEY CONCEPT:** Making disciples can be accomplished through the model of praying and caring for those spiritually lost, sharing the gospel, and staying there to disciple. Our approach is one of a spiritual travel guide for others on their faith journey.

## Our Model

Our model for relational witnessing and discipleship is:



▶ **N:** We will take a closer look at each of these areas in future lessons.

## Our Approach

### Spiritual Travel Guide

Our approach of relational witnessing and discipling is being a spiritual travel guide for others on their faith journey. The spiritual travel guide helps those who are spiritually lost to take steps toward a committed relationship with Christ and helps other Christians take steps toward maturity in Christ.

### Without Proselytizing

Every correctional facility has a “no proselytizing policy.” The following is an example:

*Chaplains, contract chaplains, religious program volunteers, other staff, members of the community, and offenders may*

*not initiate unsolicited, unwanted, or forceful attempts to persuade another individual to convert from one religious belief to another religious belief or criticize the religious beliefs of others within the grounds of any department facility. Nothing in this provision will prohibit the sharing of information regarding an individual’s religious belief. (WA Dept. of Corrections)*

- No coercion – pressure, force, intimidation, bullying

▶ **N:** *There is no biblical support for coercing someone to accept Christ. Christ pursues us and loves us, but love does not force. For example, you won’t help them or give them something they need unless they become a Christian.*

- No criticism of other religious beliefs

▶ **N:** *Christians should focus on sharing the Truth not in criticizing others or their beliefs. Christians may not agree with other’s spiritual beliefs but must love, accept and respect others. Criticizing does not bring someone closer to Christ. It is okay to point out differences in faith beliefs in a respectful way.*

- Can share your faith

▶ **N:** *Christians are free to share their beliefs with others, but with gentleness and respect.*

### With Gentleness and Respect (on page 15 of Participant book)

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15-16)*

▶ **Q:** *What does it mean to set apart Christ as Lord?*

▶ **N:** *He is first, tops, in charge of your life, that you have submitted every area of your life to Him.*

▶ **Q:** *Does your life demonstrate hope? Do others see a difference in your life compared to those without hope?*

- ‡ **N:** *Our hope comes from our relationship with Christ. We have hope for each day—knowing God loves us and will never leave us. We have hope for the future spending eternity in heaven with Him.*
- ‡ **Q:** *Are you prepared to give the answer for your hope?*
- ‡ **N:** *That is what this training is about. To help prepare you give the answer for your hope.*

### Ways to share with gentleness and respect:

- Ask for **permission**.

‡ **N:** *Can I share a verse with you? Can I pray for you? Can I share with you how God helped me \_\_\_\_\_? Can I share with you about the hope that I have in Christ?*

- Go at their **pace**. Respond to where they are in their journey.

‡ **N:** *If I wanted you to give me directions to Disney World in Orlando, FL and you started to give me directions from here but I was starting in Chicago, IL, would I get there? No. We have to listen and learn where the person is in their spiritual journey to help them take their next step. If they don't know who Jesus is, then that is where you start.*

- Don't back unbelievers into a **corner**. Allow them time to **process** what they have heard.

‡ **N:** *After sharing the gospel, you may want to ask, if they are ready to accept the free gift of eternal life and give their life to Jesus or if they want to think about it and get together tomorrow and talk more.*

- Don't treat the lost like your **project**. Be their friend, even if they reject the gospel.

‡ **N:** *Some people are only friends with non-Christians with the motivation to evangelize them and when they reject the gospel, they move on to someone else. But God calls us to love our neighbor as our self—continue to be a friend even if they don't show interest in the Gospel—it doesn't mean they won't ever be interested.*

- Don't **force** conversations, but don't run from open doors.

‡ **N:** *Every conversation is not about Jesus or a spiritual conversation, but at some point you must verbally share the gospel for someone to come*

*to Christ. There may be times when the person is more open to hearing than others. Be attentive to God working in their heart and looking for open doors to help them take their next step toward a relationship with Christ.*

- Don't have a **pre-set** agenda but be ready to share.

‡ **N:** *This is when you determine in your mind that the next time you are together, you are going to share the gospel. It then becomes about you and your agenda rather than the person. Again, always be ready to share and look for opportunities.*

- Make sharing a **dialogue**, not a monologue.

‡ **N:** *Rather than reading a tract or doing all the talking, ask questions along the way of sharing the gospel to check for understanding. By engaging the person, you will be more effective in communicating the gospel than if you did all the talking. We will provide examples of how to do this in a future lesson.*

## Terms and Definitions

**The Spiritually Lost** (Non-Christians, Unbelievers) are those **separated** from God, without a **relationship** with Christ and destined for eternal **death**.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (John 3:36)*

### Marks of the spiritually lost

- **Alienated from God, an enemy of God and characterized by evil behavior**

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (Colossians 1:21)*

All those who have NOT put their faith in Christ, to save them from their sins, are dead in their sins and will spend eternity separated from God in hell. Their only hope of salvation is through Christ.

‡ **N:** *At one time all of us were alienated and an enemy of God because we are born sinners. When talking with those who are spiritually lost, use the term non-Christian since they may not see themselves as spiritually lost because they have a different religious faith.*

**Witness** is one who claims to follow Christ and is **called** to **testify** to the work of God as he or she reaches out to a lost world. All disciples are called to be witnesses for Christ.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

‡ **N:** What does it mean to be “called?” It simply means to receive specific instructions from a higher authority. Think of getting a call on your phone with caller ID. Sometimes we screen our calls, but if it is someone important we answer it. What if God had a way to call you directly? He does, you know. Some of you want to believe that you have an unlisted number with God. I have news for you. He not only knows your number, but he has it on speed dial. He is calling all believers to be witnesses.

*The reality is that all believers are witnesses of the gospel either positively or negatively depending if we are walking in the Spirit or the flesh. Our life and testimony should clearly communicate that God is the source of who we are and all we have in life.*

## Marks of a Witness

- **Reflects the heart of God**

‡ **N:** By having a genuine concern for spiritually lost people and their salvation

*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)*

- **Is salt and light to the community**

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16)*

‡ **Q:** What does it mean to be salt and light?

‡ **N:** If we reflect a little on these two images of salt and light, it is evident how closely our putting

*Jesus’ words into practice is related to the task of evangelism/witnessing. Jesus teaches us that if we live in obedience to God’s commandments, loving Him and loving our neighbor, then people will see the beauty of our lives, the acts of kindness, the daily life of integrity and faithfulness, and their response will be to glorify God. The attitudes of unbelievers toward God are changed by genuine righteousness in the lives of believers. Conversely, if we live in a way that dishonors God and Christian truth, and if we are hypocrites who say one thing and live another, then unbelievers will reject us, and they will also reject the gospel. They will throw it out and “trample” it underfoot.*

*Jesus also challenges us in these words to live our lives in the world, where unbelievers can see how we live. He does not want Christians to retreat from the world and from non-Christians; he wants us to live “before men.” Many of us are tempted to hide our light, to make ourselves secure and comfortable by surrounding ourselves with Christian friends and “Christian culture.” But this is clearly not what Jesus has in mind for us. His two images, “salt” and “light,” demand a life that is to be lived in the world and applied to the world, out in the darkness where there is no light, out where the savoring salt is needed to make the food tasty. These images require Christians to be in the world, and not simply in the church. They require us to be with non-Christians, and not simply with fellow believers. Faithful, biblical evangelism cannot take place unless Christians take these words of Jesus to heart.<sup>2</sup>*

What are specific ways you are salt and light in your community?

**Potential answers: Being honest—telling the truth, doing what you say you will do, respecting others, being kind, any of the fruits of the spirit, obeying staff.**

- **Is fully committed to the work of God**

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)*

**Evangelist** is one **called** and **gifted** by the Holy Spirit for a lifelong focus on the ministry of evangelism in the life of the Church.

It was he (Holy Spirit) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. (Ephesians 4:11)  
**(on page 16 of Participant book)**

- ‡ **Q:** What do you know about Spiritual Gifts? Who has them?
- ‡ **N:** All Christians.
- ‡ **Q:** Where do they come from?
- ‡ **N:** Given by the Holy Spirit according to His grace.
- ‡ **Q:** What are examples?
- ‡ **N:** Teaching, pastoring, leading, prayer, giving, evangelism, etc.
- ‡ **Q:** What is the purpose?
- ‡ **N:** To glorify God and to build up the body of believers—Ephesians 4:11-13.

### Marks of an evangelist (on page 16 of Participant book)

- **A consuming passion for spiritually lost people to know Christ**

‡ **N:** The issue here is the degree of the passion that is felt for lost people. One gifted in this area will see people as being spiritually lost before they notice other areas of need in their lives.

- **A strong ability to convince and invite**

‡ **N:** The gospel message is one of persuasion to change one's world view. People highly gifted in this area are able to make a very compelling case for others to accept God's view.

- **An anointing from God to call people to a decision**

‡ **N:** God gives evangelists a special anointing to accomplish his work. In this case it is an anointing of the ability to invite a response. Billy Graham is a prime example of one with a special anointing in this area. When he gave an invitation to respond to the gospel, people readily received Christ. Others who use the same words often do not illicit the same response.

- **Effective in multiple forms of evangelism**

‡ **N:** People with the gift of evangelism will be more readily able to utilize many different styles of sharing the good news with positive results.

Different forms include preaching to a group, sharing on a personal level, sharing with a stranger, or using apologetics. Apologetics is using proven information to argue/support Christian beliefs.

- **A passion to train others in evangelism**

- ‡ **N:** A significant part of the calling of evangelists is to train up the body of Christ in communicating the gospel. This will grip the heart of the evangelist if they understand God's call upon their lives.
- ‡ **Q:** Who thinks they may have the gift of evangelism? (Pause as they raise their hand.)
- ‡ **N:** Typically this is a small number of participants. Since 1995, the proportion of born again adults claiming the gift of evangelism dropped from 4% to 1%.<sup>3</sup>

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

## Review

- ✓ Our model for making disciples is **prayer, care, share and stay there**.
- ✓ Our approach is as **a spiritual travel guide**, without proselytizing, and sharing with gentleness and respect.
- ✓ The spiritually lost are those **separated** from God, without a **relationship** with Christ and destined for eternal **death**.
- ✓ A witness is one who claims to follow Christ and is **called** to **testify** to the work of God as he or she reaches out to a lost world.
- ✓ An evangelist is one **called** and **gifted** by the Holy Spirit for a lifelong focus on the ministry of evangelism in the life of the Church.

## Recommended Readings

- *The Masterplan of Evangelism* by Robert Coleman
- *Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World* by Rebecca Pippert
- *Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message* by Ravi Zacharias

## Bible Study 2

# Developing a Passion for those Spiritually Lost

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Describe God's desire for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others
- Evaluate your level of passion for spiritually lost people

♥ **GOD'S HEART:** What is God's heart for people who do not know him?

Read John 3:16-18. Why did God send his one and only Son into the world?

**Because God loves us and sent Jesus to save us from eternal death. By believing in Jesus, we can have eternal life.**

Read Romans 5:8-10. What words are used in this passage to describe the people God reached out to?

**Sinners, recipients of God's wrath, enemies of God**

What was God's motivation for sending his Son to die so people can be saved? (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)

**His love for us**

Read 2 Peter 3:9. How does God feel about lost people?

**God is patient and does not want anyone to perish—go to hell.**

Summarize God's heart for spiritually lost people

**God was motivated by his love for people to send his one and only Son as a sacrifice to bring people to him. Lost people matter to the Heavenly Father. Saving all people who do not have a relationship with God is central to his heart.**

♥ **PAUL'S HEART:** How did Paul view his calling from God?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-27. What was Paul's calling and how did he accomplish it?

**Called to live and share the gospel. He became all things—learned the culture and how best to fit in so that there would be opportunities for people to come to Christ.**



## **Action Steps**

1. Evaluate your life. Do you see God's calling upon your life to be his ambassador (representative)? If not, ask God to confirm that calling and to show you how to live it out.
2. Pray that God would increase your passion for spiritually lost people.
3. Ask God for more faith-sharing opportunities and discernment to see where the Holy Spirit is working.
4. Find a disciple who can encourage you and pray with you for witnessing opportunities.

## Lesson 3

# Witnessing: An Expanded Definition and Our Barriers

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review any of the Bible study lesson which was assigned as homework.
3. Read the review from lesson two (p. 24)

**KEY CONCEPT:** Christians are called to journey with the spiritually lost, helping them take the next step toward a relationship with Christ. Our barriers to sharing the good news of Jesus with others must be removed for effective witness.

## An Expanded Definition

**Witnessing** is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and others to bring one or more persons one step closer to Christ.

## To Cooperate with the Holy Spirit

We humbly play a part, along with the Holy Spirit, in bringing someone to faith in Christ.



- **God seeks lost people**

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10)*

- **God (not us) saves people**

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. (John 6:44)*

- **We are God's fellow workers, but God is responsible for the results**

*What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:5-6)*

♦ **N:** *God is actively working in the hearts of those around us. We are to join in His work. Don't believe the myth that people are not interested in the gospel. Paul reminds us to be humble about the part we play in bringing someone to faith in Christ. He has invited us to share in the task of helping others know him.*

## To Cooperate with Others

In addition to the Holy Spirit, a person's journey toward a relationship with Christ often involves a number of individual contributors whom they knew.

*Thus the saying, "One sows and another reaps" is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor. (John 4:37-38)*

### ACTIVITY:

On the path below, write the names of those who have contributed to your understanding of Christ and your personal relationship with Him.



▶ **A:** Share with someone next to you (or groups of 3-4) who you listed and how they helped you in your faith journey. (5 minutes)

What are common characteristics of those listed on your path?

- People we **knew**.
- People who did not have professional religious **training**.
- People who **cared** about us and **shared** Christ with us

▶ **N:** Most of the people you listed were those you had a relationship with, were like you and me, and who cared enough to share Christ with you.

### To Bring One or More Persons

Every encounter with another person is an opportunity to witness as you represent Christ.

*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20)*

*For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. (2 Corinthians 2:15)*

- **Targeting spiritually lost people**

You may have heard the saying, “If you aim at nothing, you are sure to hit it.”

We need to be intentional about targeting non-Christians. Think about all those in your sphere of influence who do not have a relationship with Christ.

**Activity:**

Place the groups on the target, starting with the center, naming the group you have the closest relationships with (family/friends) and then add other groups in the remaining circles.



♦ **N:** Group may include: coworkers, bunkies, neighbors, staff, etc. Each of us has a personal mission field. There are people in your life that you are best equipped and qualified to reach. Who is in your mission field? What are ways you engage with them?

*The words of the Lord through His apostles are clear. Evangelism is not simply the task of church leaders, pastors and evangelists who are especially called and gifted. (Though the New Testament does recognize the particular responsibility of leaders and pastors in this task and teaches us that God does indeed gift some for this work with special abilities; see, for example, Ephesians 4:7-12; 2 Timothy 4:1-5). But it is not only the teachers and evangelists who have this task set before them; rather, every believer is called to be ready “to give the reason for the hope that you have” and to “make the most of every opportunity.”<sup>4</sup>*

## One Step Closer to Christ

There are many steps along the spiritual journey which lead to placing one’s faith in Christ. As a spiritual travel guide, meet others where they are on their journey and help them take their next step toward making the decision to follow Christ.

♦ **N:** Approximately how many people are in this facility—including residents and staff? Every single one of them stand somewhere in relationship to God. Now I didn’t say they were all in relationship **with** God but they all stand somewhere in relationship **to** God. For example: What might be the first step for each of these individuals?

- \* Someone who doesn’t know God exists.
- \* Someone running from God—living a rebellious life.
- \* Someone seeking God—asking questions and interested in knowing more.
- \* Someone looking for answers in the wrong places—looking for love through immorality.

*God’s desire is for everyone to become a devoted follower of Christ. But those running away or who are far from God rarely immediately turn to Christ. It is a gradual process that involves many steps. The Apostle Paul talks about becoming all things to all men that he might win them. He will do whatever he can to help them move step by step closer to God understanding that it is all or nothing. It doesn’t matter how close you are to Christ—it only matters if you have a relationship with Christ. There are no points for getting close. For example: Your house is on fire and you are on the roof. The firefighters want you to jump for you to be saved and not to burn. You might be afraid to jump, and take steps closer to the edge but until you jump, you won’t be saved.*

*To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. (1 Corinthians 9:22)*

Accepting Christ as Lord and Savior is the beginning of a new journey of a life with Christ. This decision to follow Christ is often referred to as “conversion.” Conversion means to change or to switch. When individuals convert to Christianity, they are no longer following their own way or a false religion, but following Christ and trusting in him for salvation from their sins. What does conversion look like?

## Conversion is not:

- **Agreeing with a group of ideas**

*You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder. (James 2:19)*

♦ **N:** Salvation is more than acknowledging that God exists and Christ died for our sins.

- **Obeying a set of rules**

*For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

♦ **N:** Salvation cannot be earned by obeying a set of rules or doing good things. It is by grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone.

- **Fire insurance, paid upon death**  
(on page 23 Participant book)

A man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him... Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:4, 6)

‡ **N:** Salvation is much more than where we will spend eternity. It is about the life we now live. It is about living in the kingdom of God, here and now, where we surrender to his authority as King of our lives. It is also not about praying a "Prayer" and that is it. Our faith is in the person of Christ, not a prayer.

## Conversion is:

- **A heart decision to trust in Jesus**

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

‡ **N:** Conversion is much more than saying yes in your mind, it involves a change of heart from you ruling your life to God's rule. It is a transformed life.

- **Evidenced by a transformed life of obedience**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. (1 John 2:3)

‡ **N:** Dallas Willard in his book *The Great Omission*, describes a "vampire Christian" as one who in effect says to Jesus, "I'd like a little of your blood, please. But I don't care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won't you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I'll see you in heaven." But can we really imagine that this is an approach that Jesus finds acceptable?<sup>5</sup>

The evidence of conversion is obedience to God. If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? (Rhetorical question)

## Our Barriers to Witnessing

- **Fears**

‡ **N:** Potential answers: rejection, ridicule, not knowing

the answers to questions, not explaining the gospel clearly.

‡ **Q:** How do we overcome our fears?

‡ **N:** Pray for courage, remember it is not about us, don't worry what others think. Be honest if you don't know the answers. Be prepared by developing your skills in witnessing.

- **The holy huddle**

‡ **N:** This term refers to Christians who hang out together and don't have any relationships with spiritually lost people.

‡ **Q:** How do we get out of the "holy huddle"?

‡ **N:** Do the things you enjoy doing with non-Christians.

- **Poor evangelism role models**

‡ **N:** Aggressive, in your face witnessing. Be sure to witness with gentleness and respect.

- **An unhealthy spiritual life**

‡ **N:** Less motivated to share Christ with others when living in sin. Stay spiritually healthy.

- **Witnessing is not a priority**

‡ **Q:** What are ways you can make witnessing a priority?

‡ **N:** Verses or notes posted, accountability, prayer.

- **How Christians treat one another**

‡ **Q:** What are current issues among Christians (the Church) which hurts our witness for Christ?

‡ **N:** Lies, gossip, criticism, fighting.

- **Lack of skills and confidence**

‡ **Q:** How can you increase your skills and confidence level?

‡ **N:** Get equipped and practice sharing.

## Review

- Witnessing is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and **others** to bring one or more persons one **step** closer to Christ.
- Our barriers to witnessing include **fears**, the **holy huddle**, poor evangelism **role models**, how Christians **treat** one another, and lack of **skills** and confidence.

# Bible Study 3

## Spiritual Gifts and Witnessing

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this study you will be able to:

- Identify your spiritual gifts
- Describe ways to use your spiritual gifts for witnessing

### Spiritual Gifts

- Given only to believers by the Holy Spirit
- A gift—they cannot be earned
- An expression of God's grace to you
- Determined by God
- No single gift is given to everyone
- No individual receives all gifts

### Spiritual Gifts List

List the spiritual gifts identified in each of the scripture passages.

Romans 12:6-8

**Prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues.**

Ephesians 4:7-16

**Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers**

## Spiritual Gifts Inventory

Read each statement and evaluate on a scale of 0 to 3 to what extent it is true of your life. This is not a complete list of spiritual gifts. Verify your results with others who know you well.

3 = Strongly 2 = Moderately 1 = Little 0 = Not at all

Enter the numerical value of each of your responses next to the number of the corresponding statement. Then add up the five numbers that you have recorded in each row and place the sum in the "Total" column.

Value Statements					Total	Row
1	8	15	22	29		<b>1</b>
2	9	16	23	30		<b>2</b>
3	10	17	24	31		<b>3</b>
4	11	18	25	32		<b>4</b>
5	12	19	26	33		<b>5</b>
6	13	20	27	34		<b>6</b>
7	14	21	28	35		<b>7</b>

1. I have the ability to organize ideas, people, and projects to reach a specific goal.
2. I have led others to a decision for salvation through faith in Christ.
3. I tend to notice and approach those who are sitting or standing alone.
4. People have told me I have helped them learn biblical truth in a meaningful way.
5. I am conscious of ministering to others as I pray.
6. I enjoy caring for others when they have had material or physical needs.
7. I enjoy giving to those in need.
8. When a group I am in is lacking leadership, I usually step in and assume the role.
9. I enjoy spending time with seekers. It is my desire to tell them about Jesus.
10. I enjoy encouraging and giving counsel to those who are discouraged.
11. I have applied spiritual truth effectively to situations in my own life.
12. When I hear a prayer request, I pray for that need for several days.
13. I feel compassion for people who are hurting and lonely, and like to spend considerable time with them to cheer them up.
14. Giving money or possessions to the work of the Lord brings me deep pleasure, and I do it cheerfully.
15. I easily delegate significant responsibilities to others.
16. I get frustrated when others don't seem to share their faith with unbelievers as much as I do.
17. I enjoy meeting new people and introducing them to others in the group.
18. I enjoy helping young Christians grow in their faith.

19. Intercessory prayer is one of my favorite ways of spending time.
20. I enjoy serving others, no matter how simple or insignificant the task.
21. I don't mind living at a lower standard than my friends because it allows me to give more to God's work.
22. I can guide and manage a group of people toward achieving a specific goal.
23. I like to tell others how to become a Christian and invite them to receive Jesus as personal Lord.
24. I have a desire to effectively counsel the confused, the guilty, or the addicted.
25. I have helped Christians who have wandered away from the Lord find their way back to a growing relationship with him.
26. I see specific results in direct response to my prayers.
27. I am sensitive to the emotional needs of others; I seem to know when they are hurting.
28. I am so confident that God will meet my needs that I give to him sacrificially and consistently.
29. People respect my opinion and follow my direction.
30. I have a desire to train others to share their faith.
31. People tell me things they won't tell anyone else, and they say I am easy to talk to.
32. I can devote considerable time to learning new biblical truths in order to communicate them to others.
33. I am often asked to lead in prayer in a group.
34. I am very dependable for getting things done on time, and don't need much praise or thanks.
35. When I give money or possessions to someone, I don't expect anything in return, and often give anonymously.

Enter the totals for each row in the following chart which corresponds with the spiritual gifts. Your spiritual gifts are your tops scores. Verify your results with your own reflections and with those who know you well.

Row	Total Score	Gift(s)
1		Administration/leading
2		Evangelism
3		Hospitality/exhortation
4		Pastoring/teaching
5		Prayer
6		Service/mercy
7		Giving

God uses areas of gifting to reach our world for Christ individually and as we collaborate with other Christians for group witness. The following questions will help you identify ways to use your spiritual gifts and to collaborate with other Christians for living focused lives of witness and discipleship.

1. **Administration and leading.** How can I help the Christian community witness through my gifts of administration and leadership? (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8)

2. **Evangelism.** How am I using my gift in evangelism to get others excited about witnessing? (Ephesians 4:11-14)
3. **Hospitality and exhortation.** How am I reaching out to people outside the church through hospitality and encouragement? (Romans 12:8-13)
4. **Pastoring and teaching.** How am I using my relational and teaching gifts in the lives of seekers and skeptics? (Ephesians 4:11-14)
5. **Prayer.** How are my prayer gifts being used in ministry to seekers and skeptics? (Romans 8:26-27)
6. **Service and mercy.** How are my gifts of service and mercy helping to build trust for the gospel with those who don't know Jesus? (Romans 12:6-8)
7. **Giving.** How is my giving helping to meet the needs of unbelievers? (Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7)

List your top two spiritual gifts and answer the corresponding questions.

**This will be different for each person.**

‣ **N:** *You may go through the spiritual gifts list, asking who has the gift and how they answered the corresponding question.*

## Partner and Team Witnessing

Bringing spiritual gifts together as a group or with a partner can be a powerful witness to the community. It is often less intimidating to witness with others than alone.

Read Acts 2:42-47. What spiritual gifts were used in this community of believers?

**Teaching, prayer, miracles, giving**

What are your spiritual gifts? How can they be used to witness to those groups you identified in the target on page 23?

**This will be different for each person. Encourage participants to be specific in ways the gift can be used with those in their sphere of influence.**

## Personality

Are you an introvert (like to be alone, being with people drains you) or extrovert (love being with people, it energizes you)? What does witnessing look like in your life as an introvert or extrovert?

**Introvert—must be intentional about building relationships with unbelievers. Witnessing more through actions than words, but words must be used. Extrovert—easier to be with people and need to include unbelievers.**

## Interests

What activities do you enjoy doing which you can do with non-Christians?

**Playing cards, basketball, styling hair, walking, etc.**

What areas in life interest you that you can talk about with non-Christians?

**Sports, cooking, art, music, politics, etc.**

## Conclusion

God uses many people and different ways to reach non-Christians. Each Christian has a unique combination of gifts, personality, and interests. Witness in a way that is natural for you.

## Action Steps

1. Ask God to show you your spiritual gifts.
2. Partner with a friend or group of friends and identify ways that together you can witness to your community.

# Lesson 4

## Prayer

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review any of the Bible study lesson which was assigned as homework.
3. Read the review from lesson three (p. 24 Participant).

**KEY CONCEPT:** God wants us to pray for non-Christians. Prayer helps us live a focused life of witness and changes our hearts and their hearts.

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for (them) is that they may be saved. (Romans 10:1)*

♦ **N:** *Prayer is the first step in seeing someone come to Christ. The heart of the issue is that there is a spiritual battle for their soul taking place. How we view spiritually lost people will directly affect how we pray and reach out to them. They are described as blinded by the evil one, unable to see the Truth for themselves, which is why the Holy Spirit needs to open their eyes and for Christians to show them the way to Christ.*

### Prayer List

Using the people groups you identified in the target on page 23, list 5-6 unbelievers by name who you can pray for faithfully.

### Pray For

- **A deeper understanding of God's love for humanity and to have that same love.**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)*

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44)*

- **The work of the Spirit in the hearts and minds of those around us**

*No man can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. (John 6:44)*

♦ **N:** *We know that the Spirit can reach the parts of unbelievers, the inner workings of their minds and hearts, that we cannot reach. He can soften the hard heart, bend the stubborn will, open the closed minds, challenge the long-held prejudices, and heal the painful memories that are inaccessible to us.*

- **Unbelievers to seek to know God**

*God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from us. (Acts 17:27)*

- **Open doors** in our relationships so we will have opportunities to make Christ known

*Pray for us, too, that God will open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ. (Colossians 4:3)*

- **Courage** to share and for the words to say

*Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. (Ephesians 6:19-20)*

▶ **N:** Paul needed God's help just as much as you and I do. He was sometimes afraid, just as you and I are sometimes afraid. He sometimes wrestled with the effort of getting into a conversation with people. He needed prayer for courage. So do you and I.

- **Clarity** in what is spoken and what is heard

*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. (Colossians 4:3-4)*

▶ **N:** Even the apostle Paul needed to pray for help for clarity.

- **The spiritual battle**

*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)*

*The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. (Mark 4:14-15)*

▶ **N:** Remember there are four present when witnessing: the person sharing the gospel, the individual hearing the gospel, the Holy Spirit, and Satan's workers. It is a spiritual battle.

▶ **A:** In groups of 2-3, share the names of those you listed, your relationship with them and a little about where they are on their spiritual journey. Spend time praying for each person.

## Review

- ✓ **Prayer** helps us **focus** on sharing Christ with others.
- ✓ Prayer changes our **hearts** to be more loving toward those who don't know Christ.
- ✓ Prayer changes the non-Christian's heart to be open to the gospel.

# Bible Study 4

## Prayer

**OBJECTIVES: By the end of this study you will be able to:**

- Describe the spiritual battle for sharing the gospel
- Pray for those you listed who need a personal relationship with Christ

### **Parable of the Soils (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15)<sup>6</sup>**

Read the Parable of the Soils and the descriptions below on how this parable influences witnessing and discipleship.

#### **First Soil Erosion**

When the seed is sown in the first soil, it is quickly snatched away by Satan. The quickness of this attack is alarming. The listener seems to have little time to respond. The problem is that the listener doesn't understand the gospel (Matthew 13:19).

In all three passages, the evil one comes and snatches away the word: "The thief comes only to steal and to kill and to destroy" (John 10:10). We should not expect the enemy to sit passively by as we attempt to pull people from hell to heaven. In fact, he "has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see" or understand (2 Corinthians 4:4). When we are sharing the gospel with a person who seems genuinely interested but unable to understand, be aware that the evil one is active.

The first soil people have some degree of acceptance or at least interest in the gospel, but it is short lived. The Luke passage suggests that the word finds some residence in the heart, for "the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts" (Luke 8:12).

How do we fight against the devil's attacks on people who are seeking Christ?

**We must be clear and relevant in our communication. We must pray before, during, and after the gospel has been shared to keep Satan from snatching away the seed.**

#### **Second Soil Erosion**

Many readers know stories of people who respond to the gospel by walking forward or raising their hands acknowledging their desire to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. They pray the "sinners" prayer. It seems genuine, with at least some enthusiasm or wonder at what happened. But nothing happens after that. They don't show up at church or come back to Bible study. They don't read the materials or scriptures given to them. They don't respond to the invitations of Christians who wish to walk with them in the early stages of Christian life. There is no life; the blindness remains.

Second soil people show all the early signs of a new birth in Christ. But all too quickly they close up. In the sower parable, Jesus states that tribulation and persecution are the causes of the collapse (Matt. 13:21; Mark 4:17). Luke 8:13 calls it temptation or a time of testing. But the problems are because of “the word.” Something about the Christian message impacts the lives of the responders, and they choose to turn away.

If one’s new faith results in loss of relationships with family, in loss of career or in threats on one’s life, then we can understand the struggle. Jesus said he came to bring a sword and not peace; family systems will at times be torn apart (see Matthew 10:34-37). Rugged persecution causes many to fall away.

The word is sharper than a double-edged sword, cutting deeply into souls (see Hebrews 4:13). The word judges us, and we must respond rightly. Many new responders to the message of Christ desire the consolations of faith, but not the requirements. Because they do not immediately grow in the knowledge of faith, thereby understanding that even the requirements of the faith are actually beneficial for life and made possible by the indwelling Spirit, they are in danger of falling away.

It is interesting that Jesus places blame for second soil people directly on them. Satan receives no credit for the collapse, nor is the community of faith the culprit. The seeking people come up against the good requirements of the faith and, tragically, turn away. For example a person may come to Christ for the benefits of peace, eternal life, and hope for winning their case, early parole, favor in an appeal, but when they don’t get what they want regarding their case, their faith is gone.

### **Third Soil Erosion**

Third soil people hear the word, too. But, like second soil people, they do not mature. In fact, something happens that makes the word seem unfruitful. In reality, the problem is not the word, but other competing habits and loves that choke out the good news of the reign of Christ. All three Gospel texts state that worry is a major culprit. For a time, when the freshness of spiritual faith is intoxicating, some people may be drawn to the Christian life. But if such people do not learn how to “rest in the Lord” concerning the cares of life, they will fall away.

Worry, anger, or playing the victim in a hard world replaces Christian hope. Christians are not exempt from the struggles of life, but they learn to give their worries to the Lord of the universe and rest in him, knowing he is in charge and will save them. Unfortunately, people raised to be independent and self-made do not easily come to the point of absolute surrender. Until they do, worry dominates their souls. Soon, God is rejected as powerless.

The texts also state that delighting in riches and pleasure will choke out the word. It is those who are addicted to pleasure and wealth. For such people, an initial attraction to Christ is primarily because he is a delight and pleasure. There is a wonder that comes with believing in Christ. But the danger here is that this delight simply feeds an addiction. Such responders to the message desire Christ as another pleasure, another add-on to already pleasure-saturated lives.

Soon, however, the demands of the word confront the addiction and call responders to lives of sacrifices. Christ is never an add-on, never just another pleasure. He must become the center of one’s life.

Once again, Jesus places the problem of preservation squarely on the shoulders of the individuals who make the faith decisions. He does this because the resources of God, including the Holy Spirit, the angels, the word, and the church with its many graces are more than sufficient to “keep you from falling” (Jude 24).

This is an example of what is termed “prison religion.” Third soil people claim to have made a commitment to Christ while incarcerated but once released, their commitment to Christ disappears as they are pulled away by the cares of life. The pull of the street is strong and Christians must be prepared for the spiritual battle.

Write an example of a third soil person:

▶ **For example,** *Tony made a commitment to Christ while in jail, participated in a faith-based program, and grew in his faith for several years. Even after being declared “not guilty” for his murder trial, he continued to seek people and places that would encourage his faith to grow. But the longer he was in the world, the more the temptation for the pleasure of women and the desire for fast money replaced his desire for God. He quit attending church and hanging out with other Christians. He was rearrested within two years of his release. Tony may or may not be an example of the third soil. God may be disciplining him so that he will come back to God and produce a “harvest of righteousness and peace.” See Hebrews 12:11. Time will tell.*

## Fourth Soil Production

Thankfully, the story does not end without hope. There is a fourth soil. Those fitting this image “hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop” (Luke 8:15). Matthew (13:23) and Mark (4:20) add that these fourth soil persons become reproducers who bring in crops thirty, sixty, or a hundred-fold. Every Christian longs to see fourth soil Christians. The Parable of the Soils makes it clear that both Satan and especially the seeker (or responder) play significant roles in spiritual erosion.

Of the four soils in the story, only one produces a crop. It appears that only fourth soil people are true disciples. We cannot press this story too far by declaring that only one in four who make a faith decision will become a fully-committed Christ follower. Nevertheless, Jesus told this emphasizing that more fall away than follow. Other passages support this sad reality. Jesus said, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

In the parallel passage in Luke 13, a listener asks Jesus if only a few will be saved. The context is interesting. At least this listener senses this is Jesus’ meaning. As Jesus responds, he uses the image of doors and gates. The door or gate is narrow leading to life. Few find it. This is a sobering truth. If it were the only time he speaks in this vein, it would be easy to dismiss. But there is more.

Only two verses later he speaks of the same idea: “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them” (Matthew 7:17-20).

For more on this, see several of the kingdom parables in Matthew 13:30-50. Look also at Matthew 7:21-27. These words and others suggest that belief in Christ—true saving faith—requires more than a quick prayer or immersion in a pool. We are not advocating works righteousness. We are disallowing “easy belief” as saving faith.

Contrasting these demands of faith is the equal reality of the overwhelming grace of God and his abiding love for the whole world. So great is this grace that many devoted believers cannot imagine a loving God rejecting anyone. But it almost seems such theology rewrites Matthew 7 and Luke 13 to say, “The door and gate is wide, and many choose it.” We wish the text and the comprehensive testimony of Jesus said this. If one accepts that the way is narrower than we’ve imagined, we must never use this teaching as an excuse to become lazy or lax in helping inquirers come to saving faith that results in maturity. Jesus also said the poor would always be with us, but that

doesn't mean we are to disregard them. Rather, let us labor with all the more urgent diligence to feed the poor and fully assure the salvation of the seeking.

Kevin accepted Christ while incarcerated. After returning to society Kevin chose to get involved in a church, read his Bible, pray, and surround himself with other believers. He is a committed follower of Christ, and serving in the church and the community. No one can unmistakably verify saving faith, because it is the invisible work of God within the person, yet scripture suggest many marks of belief. It is important to note that none of these marks are necessarily identifiable at the moment of decision. They will occur if conversion occurred, but the timing of their appearance differs. It is, therefore, even more important for the new believer to be linked with God's people as soon as possible after the faith decision. Care-driven follow up is one way to assure that a faith decision is, or becomes, saving faith.

What stands out to you from Matthew 7?

**Answer will vary.**

How does this passage apply to your witness and discipleship?

**Pray before, during and after sharing. Be clear in sharing the message of the gospel. Disciple them so they can grow in their faith.**

## **Action Steps**

Find a prayer partner who you can pray with weekly for those you listed as needing to know Christ.

Prayer Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer time (Day and time): \_\_\_\_\_

# Lesson 5

## Care

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review the Bible study lesson which was assigned as homework.
3. Read the review from lesson four (p. 31 participant).

**KEY CONCEPT:** Relationships are built through loving and caring for others. To care for someone means to be their friend, know them, and guide them on their spiritual journey. It includes working to break down their barriers that keep them from taking the next step toward a relationship with Christ.

*The gospel is passed on most effectively through established relationships.—Lon Allison, Evangelist*

*Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you. (Mark 5:19)*

‣ **N:** *We need to be especially careful to care for people like Jesus would. It is easy to get caught in the trap of caring for people so that we have a chance to share with them. But Jesus did not model this; his love is unconditional. If we care in order to share we will quickly be discovered. If we care as Jesus did without conditions we will have a much better chance of seeing their life transformed.*

### Build Genuine Friendships

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)*

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died....So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. (2 Corinthians 5:14, 16)*

What are characteristics of a genuine friend?

**A friend loves and respects. Being kind. Serving others. Being unselfish. Respect. One way of showing respect and building relationships is to ask for help or receive something from the person you are befriending. This communicates that you value what they have to offer and who they are. A friend can be trusted—someone who has your back. A friend listens—demonstrates empathy.**

### Love Others

- Being **known**/accepted

‣ **N:** *There is something comforting about being in the presence of people who know you and accept you. You don't have to hold back or pretend, you can be yourself. You don't have to explain things because they already know. Acceptance is not having to hide anything but feeling loved unconditionally.*

- Words of **affirmation**

‣ **N:** *Words of affirmation can be words of encouragement—you did a great job. I am proud of you. I love you.*

- Quality **time**

‣ **N:** *Quality time is time spent listening and/or giving your attention to someone or doing what they like to do with them. For example, shopping, watching a TV show or sporting event.*

- Receiving **gifts**

‣ **N:** *Gifts can be purchased or made.*

- Acts of **service**

‣ **N:** *Any act which serves another —such as opening a door, tutoring, etc.*

- Physical **touch**

‣ **N:** *Sexual touch is only in a marriage. Non-sexual is a hug, high-five, fist-bump, pat on the back.*

## Be Good Listeners

What are characteristics of a good listener?

**Empathetic Listening: seeks to understand the feelings and perspective of another person —Look in the eye, does not interrupt, asks questions for clarification, nods, or gives verbal affirmation, reflects the emotion and the words, and does not give advice**

*I show care through the simple and kind act of listening to a problem, then encouraging the person to pray and have faith. I share scripture that relates to his or her problem and give my own personal testimony of how God picked ME out of a house full of people (a den of iniquities) to save me and to give me a second chance. I have been clean for three years with no desire to use crack cocaine anymore. —Charlotte*

▶ **A:** Reflective, empathetic listening. Find a partner. One person is the listener and the other the speaker. The speaker talks about something that makes them angry or frustrated or a topic of their choice. The listener listens. (2 minutes). Debrief. Ask the speakers: How did the listeners do? What did they do that was good? How did it feel to be listened to?

**Ask listeners:** What was the most difficult thing about listening for you? Switch, allowing the other person to listen, repeating the exercise.

## Ask Good Questions

There is a comfort in being with people who know you and accept you. One of the ways of showing love and care is to get to know them. Ask them questions to learn their story. Listen without judgment. Accept them for who they are.

What are sample questions you can ask others to help you learn about them?

▶ **A:** With a partner, brainstorm questions that could be asked. Start with public questions and move toward more personal questions.

**Where are you from? How did you happen to move to ( )? If they talk about a loss, demonstrate empathy and ask them to tell you more about it.**

What are sample questions you can ask to learn where they are in their spiritual journey?

**Did you grow up in a family of faith? If yes, did you go to church? If no, are you a person of faith today? How did you come to be a ( )? Have you ever considered Christianity? Why or why not? Tell me more about that.**

▶ **N:** Ask more probing and open-ended questions based on their responses.

## Walls Unbelievers Have Toward Christians and the Christian Faith

### Wall 1: Broken

▶ **Q:** Why don't people trust Christians?  
▶ **N:** Maybe hurt or abused by those who claimed to be "Christians."

- Breaking it down: Build **trust**

▶ **N:** Building trust takes time and consistent behavior. There must be more behavior/actions done to build trust than to destroy trust.

### Wall 2: Pain and **suffering**

▶ **Q:** What kind of pain or suffering do you hear unbelievers talk about or area where they are angry with God?  
▶ **N:** Death of a loved one, abuse, natural disasters, etc.

- Breaking it down: Empathetic **listening** and compassion

▶ **N:** When you are hurting, it isn't helpful for others to try and "fix" the pain, rather you want them to journey with you. Offering empathetic listening provides comfort and builds the relationship.

### Wall 3: Perceptions about **Christians** and the Christian life

‡ **Q:** *What are perceptions about Christians and the Christian life?*

‡ **N:** *Judgmental/holier than thou, bible thumpers, hypocrites, boring/no fun, weak, etc.*

- Breaking it down: be **humble**, loving, real, examine your life, teach and **live** the truth

‡ **N:** *Address each perception about Christians and the Christian life:*

- Be humble.*
- Be loving and accepting—non-judgmental.*
- Don't hold non-Christians to Christian standards—focus on where Jesus is in their life, not their character or behavior—the Holy Spirit will change that.*
- Be real—not all conversations are spiritual—ask the person why they call Christians Bible Thumpers.*
- Don't be a hypocrite. Help people understand that Christianity does not equal perfection—Christians will sin.*
- Explain that they hold a different definition of "fun" than Christians.*
- Yes, we are weak and need God—He is our strength.*

### Wall 4: Perceptions of **God**

‡ **Q:** *What do non-Christians believe about God?*

‡ **N:** *Loving, non-existent, wrathful, indifferent*

- Breaking it down: Teach **biblical** truth and share **personal** experiences

‡ **N:** *We must teach the full picture of God. God is love (1 John 4:8), God is holy (Psalm 99:9) and hates sin, God is our judge (Psalm 98:9), God is the creator (Genesis 1). If we only teach God's love than there is no motivation to stop sinning because we will be forgiven. If we only teach God's holiness and wrath for sin, we lose the hope we have in Christ. Both God's love and holiness—intolerance of sin must be taught.*

## Caring Cautions

- 1. Be wise. Avoid people like you.** People who struggle with the same temptations you do should not be the people you should hang out with. God will bring someone else in their life to witness to them.
- 2. Be with them, but don't sin.** Don't compromise your character or integrity.

## Review

- ✓ Caring means to build genuine **friendships**, **love** others, be a good **listener**, and ask good questions.
- ✓ Walls non-Christians may have toward the gospel are: broken **trust**, **pain** and **suffering**, and perceptions about **Christians**, the Christian life and **God**.
- ✓ Breaking down the walls includes building **trust**, **empathetic** listening, compassion, Christlike living, teaching Biblical truth and sharing person experiences.

# Bible Study 5

## Developing Caring Relationships

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this study you will be able to:

- Identify ways to care for and love non-Christians.
- Identify strategies for breaking down barriers non-Christians have toward a relationship with Christ.

While we need to be intentional about developing relationships with spiritually lost people, the goal is to love them, not convert them. For them to be our friend, not our project. Sharing Christ with others should be natural—not forced. We develop relationships by demonstrating care and loving others.

### Caring and Loving Others

Read 1 Corinthians 13. List the characteristics of love from this chapter.

**Patient, kind, does not envy, does not boast, not proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil, rejoices in truth, always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres, never fails.**

List two spiritually lost people in your life and specific ways you can demonstrate care and love for them.

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### Breaking Down the Barriers

#### • Build trust

How do you respond when people don't trust you?

**Get defensive, take it personally, avoid them, judge them, argue with them?**

List specific ways you can build trust with non-Christians.

**Learn about their distrust, show empathy, be genuine, be hospitable, be genuine, be faithful, non-judgmental, consistent, ask for forgiveness**

- **Develop humility**

Read Philippians 2:3-11 and reflect on the humility of Jesus. How can you be humble like Jesus?

**Put the needs of others before myself. Be willing to give up everything for Christ.**

*Pride is your greatest enemy and humility your greatest friend. —John Stott*

*True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. —C.S. Lewis*

Read Isaiah 6 and reflect on the holiness of God. How does this truth humble you?

♦ **N:** *Answers may vary. It reminds me of God's holiness and my own sinfulness, my gratitude for God's forgiveness and that He would use me in his work.*

- **Know God**

Read each scripture and write what it says about God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – **the God of all comfort and compassion**

Psalms 23:1 – **my shepherd**

Psalms 34:8 – **good**

Psalms 62:5-6 – **God is enough—he is all we need—our rock and salvation**

From your own life, how have you experienced God?

**I have found God to be loving, faithful, my comforter,**

- **Answering tough questions**

**If God love us, why do we suffer?** Explain where evil/pain come from.

♦ **N:** *Find out if they are going through pain and suffering or want to know the answer intellectually. If in pain they don't want an explanation but want you to love, care and reach out to them. If they are asking because they are curious, you can explain where evil and pain come from.*

1 Peter 5:8-9 – **The Devil seeks to devour us**

John 8:44 – **The Devil is our father and we carry out his desires**

Genesis 3:1-24 – **God created a perfect world but evil and death entered the world when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God.**

Romans 5:12 – **Sin and death entered the world through Adam. We are born sinners Romans 3:23. Satan wants us to rebel against God (John 8:44)**

**Why does a loving God send people to hell?**

Matthew 23:37b – **God gives us the freedom to choose if we will obey him or not.**

Romans 3:8-10 – **God does not send people to hell, people choose not to love him and choose to be separated from him for eternity. It is their choice.**

## Ways to Help Non-Christians Take the Next Step in their Spiritual Journey

Live counterculturally. What are three behaviors expected or accepted by those in your community which are NOT biblical and write the countercultural biblical behavior. Support your answer with scripture. For example, It is acceptable to steal from the kitchen—*You shall not steal* (Deuteronomy 5:19).

**These answers will vary. Gossip (2 Corinthians 12:20) don't gossip. Lying (Deuteronomy 5:20) don't lie. etc.**

‡ **N:** Put on a white board, 3 columns; Inmate Code, Christlike Behavior, Scripture and list out their answers.

### Action Steps

1. Identify one person in your sphere of influence who does not know Christ. Pray for them and identify ways you can care for them.
2. Identify an area where you want to be more like Christ. Ask God to help you make this change. Memorize a scripture verse to help in this area.

## Lesson 6

# Share: Your Transforming Story

### Materials:

- Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.
- Colored pencils or markers if possible.
- Extra 8.5" x 11" paper. DVD Player. You may also provide magazine images and glue if allowed.
- Billy Graham: The Cross DVD. Go to the bonus material and click on Defining Moments. You can choose a different video from the disc if you want.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review the Bible study lesson which was assigned as homework.
3. Read the review from lesson five (p. 38 Participant).

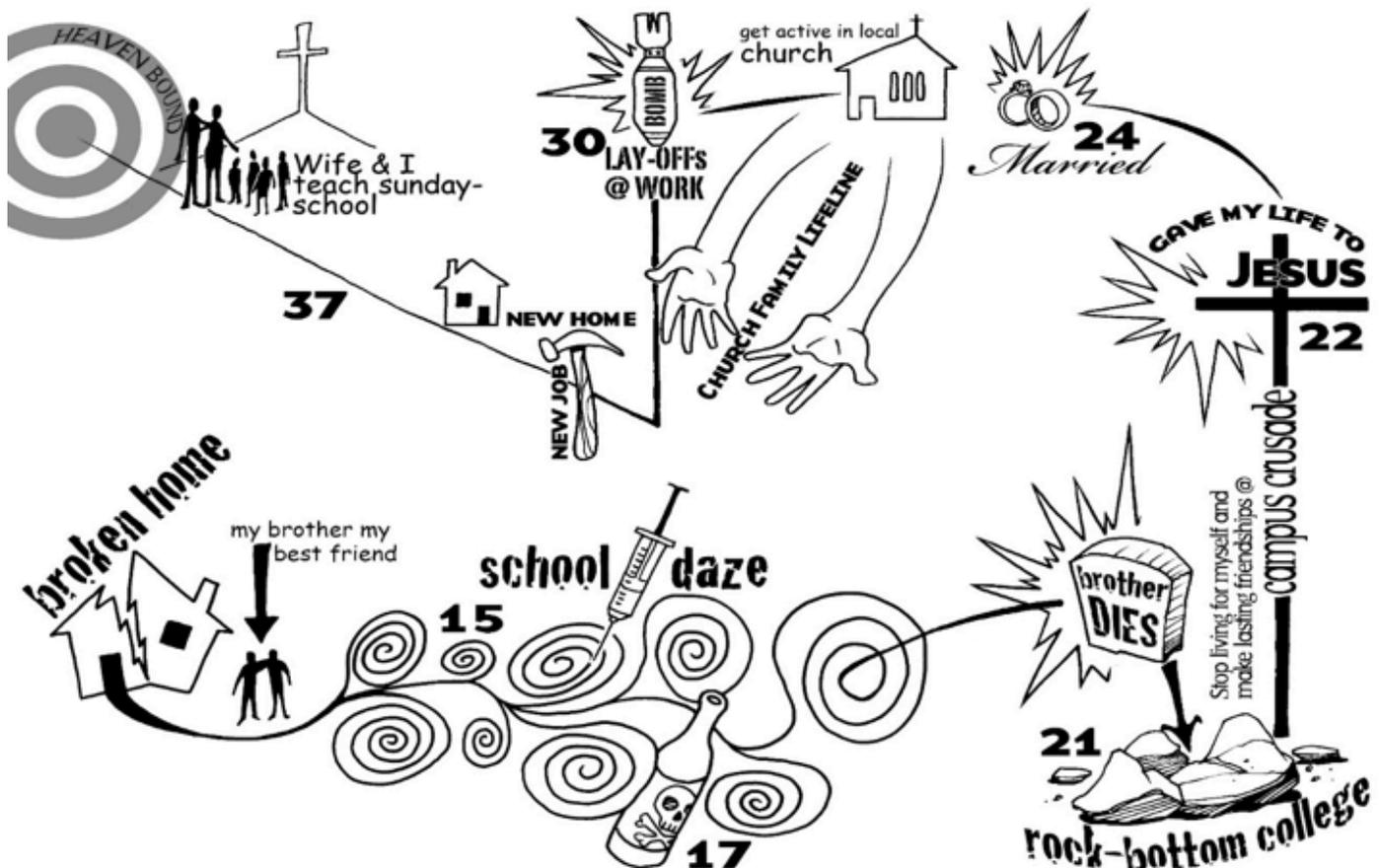
Every follower of Christ has a transforming story—a time when Christ entered his or her life. These stories are powerful examples of the saving and continuing grace of Christ in a believer's life and are often accepted or met with less resistance from non-Christians than stories from the Bible.

*...one thing I do know, I was blind, but now I see.*  
(John 9:25)

*If you've not discovered the value of telling others how God has rearranged your life, you've missed a vital link in the chain of blessing.* —Charles Swindoll

The spiritual life map is a tool which provides a picture of your spiritual journey. Much like a road map, spiritual life maps tell where you have come from, where you are now, and where you are going. Typically, the path proceeds from birth to present and then to death and the afterlife. The Sample Spiritual Life Map, begins in the bottom left with pictures and words from the person's life, and numbers representing his age at the time.

**KEY CONCEPT:** One of the most powerful tools for witnessing is your transforming story of how Christ has changed your life.



‣ **N:** *You will have an opportunity to create your Spiritual Life Map later in this lesson.*

In this map, he grew up in a broken home where his brother was his best friend. During the ages from 15-17 he was going to school in a daze because of drugs and alcohol. His brother died and he hit rock bottom while in college. He participated in a Christian college group called Campus Crusade where he stopped living for himself and made lasting friends. At 22, he gave his life to Jesus. At 24 he married and he and his wife became active in a local church. At 30, he was laid off from work and during that trial, his church family reached out as a lifeline and helped meet his needs. He now has a new job, a new home, teaches Sunday school with his wife, and they are heaven bound.

## Transforming Stories

Another tool for witnessing is to develop your transforming story. Your story should take 1-2 minutes to share to keep the attention of your listener. Here are a three examples:

**Example 1:** *I grew up living in the projects and gang banging. I thought life was about living for women, money, and drugs. I caught a murder case and while in jail, God spoke to me in a dream that I needed to give my life to him. I gave up my desire for revenge on another inmate and chose to leave the gang and become a follower of Christ. I no longer try to fill my life with the things of the streets, but with the word of God. My identity is not being a gang banger and a player, but a man of God.*

**Example 2:** *I grew up as an only child, who never received the affections or love that a growing child needs. I sought that love from others leading to drugs, abuse and incarceration. I was having sex at the age 11, pregnant at 13, married with two kids at 15, in prison for the first time at 17. My life continued to spiral downhill and was back in prison for a fourth time with a 15 year sentence. Realizing my way of life wasn't working, I called out to God. He met me where I was and transformed my life into something beautiful. I now know what true love is.*

**Example 3:** *I grew up in a home and church that taught me that Jesus loved me and I could spend eternity with him. At a young age I decided to accept the free gift of eternal life by placing my faith in Christ as Savior and Lord of my life. But being a Christian doesn't mean life is always easy. When I was engaged to Mark, he was diagnosed with cancer and asked me if I still wanted to marry him. I said, "yes" and we married between treatments. Mark continued to battle his cancer when I was diagnosed with cancer and we spent our second anniversary sharing a hospital room. God chose to permanently heal Mark by taking him home to heaven and to temporarily heal me. This is what I know to be true, that God loves me and provides a peace that is beyond understanding and I am excited to be a follower of Christ.*

‣ **N:** *You will have an opportunity to develop your transforming story in the Bible Study of this lesson.*

‣ **A:** *Show the video Defining Moments or another of the videos from The Cross DVD. Defining Moments weaves three people's story with God's story (29 minutes).*

### Debrief after the video.

‣ **Q:** *What connected or stuck with you from the DVD? Allow time for them to process and answer this question.*

‣ **Q:** *What were the main points of God's story?*

- *God met each person where they were in their journey to Christ.*
- *Each person had a crisis or hit rock bottom. They could respond by crying out to God or becoming angry, bitter and hopeless.*
- *Each person repented, accepted God's forgiveness and surrendered their life to Christ.*

# Bible Study 6

## Your Transforming Story

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this study you will be able to:

- Create your Spiritual Lifemap
- Write your one-two minute transforming story
- Share your transforming story

### Create your Spiritual Life Map

Draw or use magazine images to represent your Spiritual Life Map on page 80. Think about the people, places, events, and things (books, television shows, etc.) God has used to reveal himself to you and to shape your faith. Include major events in your life, along with spiritual resources, prayer, scriptures, music, etc. that helped you along your journey. Include what you want your life to look like in the future. This exercise is not about how well you can draw, but is a way to express and communicate your spiritual journey. Have fun!

‡ **A:** Allow 20 minutes to complete their Spiritual Life Map or assign it as homework. Provide additional sheets of paper for participants to use or they can complete it in their book on page 80. Provide colored markers, colored pencils or magazine images and glue when allowed by the institution.

### Write Your Transforming Story

Write your transforming story on page 79. Principles for writing your transforming story include:

- **Keep your audience in mind.** They may not be familiar with “Christianese”. Avoid phrases such as “accepted Christ,” “trusted Jesus,” “born again,” and “saved.” Possible alternatives are “received the gift of eternal life,” “found out I could be certain I was going to heaven,” and “received assurance that God was with me always.”
- **Avoid exaggeration.** The best stories are believable. At times, we want to make our story more exciting or try to connect with others so we may make it sound more dramatic. When we do that we are trying to be the center of attention rather than allowing God that position.
- **Be clear and concise.** Follow a natural progression of your need and God’s supply. Keep it to one hundred words so that it can be communicated in about one minute. Keeping it brief shows you respect people’s time, and it allows opportunity for questions if they want to know more. If your story is long, you will lose their attention before you get to the main points, and often lose the opportunity to expand the conversation.
- **Focus on Christ.** Make the essence of your story what Christ has done for you. Focus on a personal need or pain and how God met you (e.g., you lacked purpose and found it through a relationship with Christ). The goal of your story is not helping them to know you better, but to have them see where Christ has met you. Do not overemphasize how bad your life was or how great it is now. Keep it balanced.
- **Write it out, refine it, and rewrite it.** Share it with two Christian friends and get their feedback. Edit it again.

‡ **A:** Allow 10-15 minutes. Provide additional paper to write their story, edit and refine. If more time is needed, this may be assigned as homework. **An additional optional exercise** is to put participants into groups of 3-4, they select or you assign a Bible character and they create a Spiritual Life Map and/or transforming story for the character.

### Action Steps

- 1 Pray for opportunities to share your story with non-Christians.
2. Ask a non-Christian if you can share your transformation story. Let them know that it will only take 1-2 minutes.

# Lesson 7

## Share: God's Story

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant, video clips from [www.peacewithgod.net](http://www.peacewithgod.net)

### 1. Open in prayer (Participant).

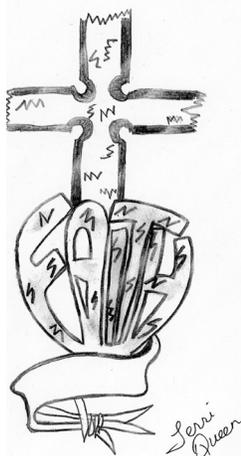
- ▶ **A:** In groups of 3-4, each person, who wants to, shares their Spiritual Life Map. (Allow 9-12 minutes). Create new groups of 3-4 and each person, who wants to, shares their transformational story (allow 9-12 minutes). You may need to let them know every three minutes to switch.

**KEY CONCEPT:** We need to know God's story, the gospel, so we are ready to share this good news with those we are traveling with on their journey toward a relationship with Christ.

## The Gospel

The "gospel" means "good news." The good news is that while we are sinners and deserve death, God has paid the penalty of our sins through Jesus Christ dying on the cross. Listed below are examples of sharing the gospel.

**Example 1:** *God is the creator of everything and he's made himself known so anyone can have a personal relationship with him—one that helps us in this life and one that will last forever, in heaven. Everyone has fallen short of any decent standard of goodness. In other words, we've all got some sin in us that's messed up a lot of things—friendships, consciences, relationship with God, things like that. But Jesus is the answer for all our problems. He not only taught us lessons on how to live so we don't have these problems, but he also died on the cross to take away the penalty that we deserve for the problems we've created. He desires that we come to the point where we follow him every day of our lives.*<sup>7</sup>



## Example 2: Steps to Peace with God<sup>8</sup>

### Step 1: God loves you and has a plan for you!

*The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, (Jesus Christ), that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16)*

*Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" —a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10).*

- ▶ **A:** Play the video clip—God loves you.
- ▶ **Q:** Debrief by asking: Do you believe that God loves you? Why or why not?
- ▶ **N:** We can trust the Bible, God's word, the truth. You may remember the kids song, "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so." It is helpful to remind yourself of the truth of God's unconditional love for you.

### Step 2: The Problem: man is sinful and separated from God.

*We have all done, thought or said bad things, which the Bible calls "sin." The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

*The result of sin is death, spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23).*

The good news?

- ▶ **A:** Play the video clip—Gospel graffiti (Bridge to Life). Debrief.
- ▶ **Q:** How do people try to bridge the separation between them and God?
- ▶ **N:** Trying to do more good things than bad things, going to church, giving money to the church and the poor, etc.
- ▶ **Q:** What is the only way to bridge the gap?
- ▶ **N:** The cross.

### Step 3: God sent His Son to die for your sins!

Jesus died in our place so we could have a relationship with God and be with Him forever.

*But God demonstrated his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)*

But it didn't end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives.

*"Christ died for our sins ... He was buried ... He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3-4).*

Jesus is the only way to God.

*"Jesus said, I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, except through Me." (John 14:6).*

- ▶ **A:** *Play the video clip—Whosoever. Debrief.*
- ▶ **Q:** *What were characteristics of the people in the video?*
- ▶ **N:** *Broken, desperate, crying out to God. Nobody had to change or do anything except come to God as they are. This is like a person working in a garden, when guests arrive and they try to clean up by washing their hands to greet them. There is still dirt under their nails. We don't need to clean up, because we will still be dirty from our sin, as we come before God. Come as we are.*

#### Step 4: Would you like to receive God's forgiveness?

We can't earn salvation; we are saved by grace when we have faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner, that Christ died for your sins, and ask His forgiveness. Then turn away from your sins—that's called repentance. Jesus Christ knows you and loves you. What matters to him is the attitude in your heart, your honesty.

- ▶ **A:** *Play the video clip—Should Not Perish. (Unreachable). Debrief.*
- ▶ **Q:** *Why is that so hard to believe that no one is unreachable?*
- ▶ **N:** *We may feel that we have done too many things wrong or what we have done wrong is unforgiveable, yet nothing is too big for God to forgive and no one is beyond His reach or He wouldn't be God.*

To receive Christ, pray something like this:

*"Dear Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. Thank you for sending your Son to die for my sins and that he rose from the dead so I can have eternal life. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life and change me. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior."*

- ▶ **A:** *Role play. One person is a non-Christian who*

*has never heard the gospel. The other person is a Christian who shares the gospel. Be sure to make it a dialogue, not a monologue. (Allow 10 minutes.) Debrief.*

- ▶ **Q:** *What went well? In what areas did you struggle?*

## Gospel Sharing Stories

Since coming to Christ, John has radically turned his life around (from gang violence, drugs, etc.) and uses every opportunity to share the gospel with those around him.

*Most recently a very close friend from the streets came into the system and I was able to speak to him and explain the loving kindness that our Lord and Savior has imparted to teach us to follow him. —John*

*About two days after arriving at a prison, a neighbor to my bunk said he wanted to discuss my peace with me. I was assuming he was referring to my tattoo, commonly called a "piece" in prison terminology. Actually, he was referring to the "peace" he noted during my stay. I let the Holy Spirit speak through me and I heard my voice tell him about the goodness of God and how he will guide us, how everything will work out to the good, and how I just have faith. That man then asked me to help him become saved so that he could have the same peace. I led him through the ABCs (admit he is a sinner, believe in Christ, confess his sins) and repentance. His face seemed to grow softer and he looked more at peace as we wrapped up our discussion. I then gave him the Bible and told him to read the Gospel of John. I shipped out the next morning. As I reflected on our conversation, I realized I did not need to know scripture inside and out to spread the message. I just needed to let God speak through me. —Thomas*

*Rachel was a pen pal. She believed in God, but did not fully place her faith in Christ crucified for salvation. One day it dawned on me to share scripture with her, even if it meant she'd not write back. Rachel not only accepted the truth of what the Bible said, but she became on fire for the Lord. She started a Bible study with her neighbors. Her letters showed so much faith in Jesus that it affected my own life. You see, I was living on both sides of the fence. Once I saw the change in Rachel, I stepped up and made real changes and commitments in my own life. —Paul*

- ▶ **Q:** *Would anyone like to share how another person responded when you shared the gospel with them?*
- ▶ **N:** *Encourage participants that we are called to share Christ, but He is responsible for the result.*

# Bible Study 7

## Sharing God's Story

### OBJECTIVES: By the end of this study you will be able to:

- Share God's story using a witnessing tool or create one to use
- Be confident in your ability to share the gospel
- Describe ways Jesus witnessed

There is a basic content to the gospel. Witnessing tools are very helpful and often give us confidence to share the gospel. The key is to become familiar with the gospel message and then be able to communicate it in a way that meets others on their spiritual journey.

1 Peter 3:15 tells us to "always be ready" to share about Christ with others. The first step is for you to become familiar with a way to share the gospel. This next section will help equip you and increase your confidence to share the gospel.

### 1. Select a Gospel tool or create one of your own

- **Steps to Peace with God from Lesson 7**
- **Bridge to Eternal Life**

<p>Because all of us have sinned (Romans 3:23), we are not only destined to die physically (Romans 6:23), but are presently in a state of spiritual death or separation from God (Ephesians 2:1-4)</p> <p>When Jesus died on the cross, he took our condemnation and paid the price for our sins (Romans 4:25; 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3). By suffering and dying as our substitute, Jesus provided a righteousness that God can credit to our account (2 Corinthians 5:21) and made reconciliation possible between sinners and a holy God (1 John 2:1-2).</p>	<p><b>Our Pardon: Turn &amp; Trust</b></p> <p><b>Man's Problem: SIN</b></p> <p><b>Sin's Penalty: DEATH</b></p> <p><b>Christ's Payment</b></p> <p><b>God's Purpose</b></p> <p><b>God's Promise:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has ETERNAL LIFE</li> <li>• No condemnation</li> <li>• Passed from death to LIFE</li> </ul> <p><b>Eternal Death</b></p>
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Many people run into a major hurdle when they get to the point of asking someone if he or she would like to become a Christian. It will help you to practice what you might say at that point.

If the person answers yes, have him or her pray to God about it. Let him or her use his or her own words or provide a simple prayer like the one following:

*"Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior."*

• **One-Verse Evangelism<sup>9</sup>**

Here's a brief look at how it works.

One-Verse Evangelism® is a simple, interactive way to share Christ's love conversationally and visually. It is based on asking questions and sharing truth simply. It's easy to learn because it uses just one verse. One-Verse Evangelism can be shared in just 10 or 15 minutes, but can have impact for a lifetime.

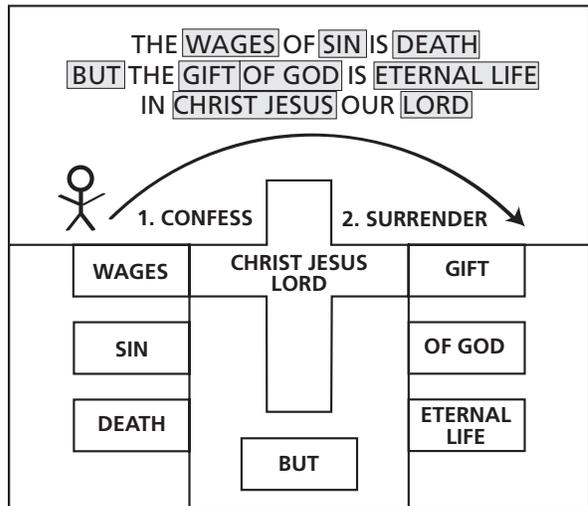
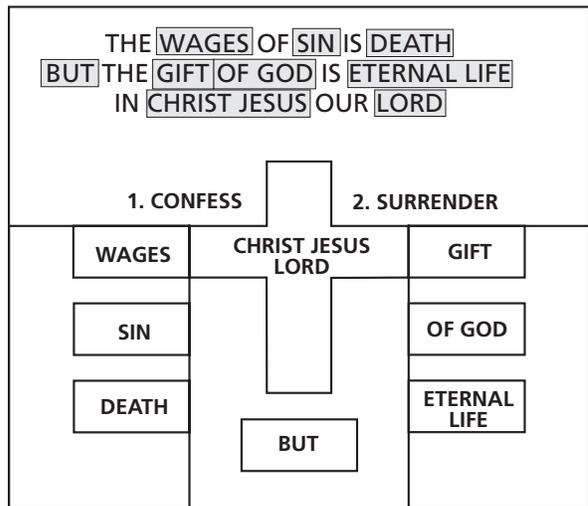
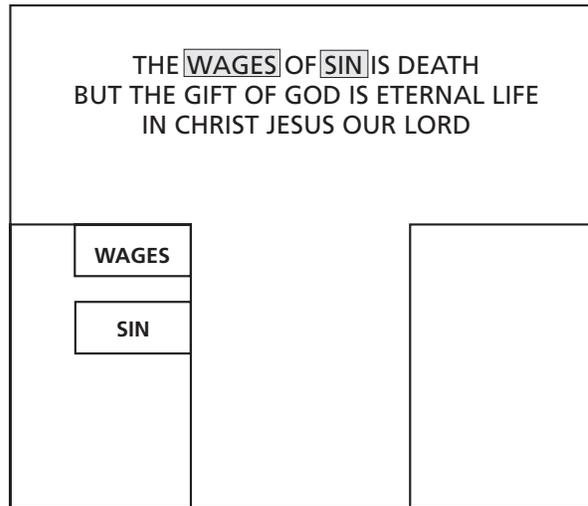
Let's say God is leading you to share the gospel with your friend, Chris. Write out Romans 6:23 on a piece of paper: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (NIV). All you need is contained in this single passage. Ask Chris if he would like to see a simple diagram based on this verse that will explain God's relationship with mankind (us).

**Wages** — Circle the word "wages" and ask, "How would you feel if your boss refused to pay you the wages that were due to you?" The answer, of course, is that he would want justice—in this case, the wages he had worked for. Deep down, we all know that it is only right that we get what we deserve. Similarly, we earn "wages" from God for how we have lived our lives.

**Sin** — Draw a circle around "sin," asking your friend Chris what he thinks when he hears this word. You might explain that sin is more an attitude than an action. It can be either actively fighting God or as simple as excluding Him from our lives. You can ask, "Has God ever seemed far away?" If he says "Yes," you can explain that that's one of the things sin does—it makes God seem far away. Now draw two opposing cliffs with a gap in between.

**Death** — Circle this word and ask what thoughts come to mind. Explain that death in the Bible always means some kind of separation—in its most basic sense, separation from life. Because God is the author of life, a spiritual death simply means separation from Him.

**BUT** — While circling this word, mention that it is important because it means that a sharp contrast in ideas is coming. What we have just looked at is the bad news; what comes next is the good news.



**Gift** — Draw a circle around this word. Ask, “If wages are what a person earns, then what is a gift?” Remind Chris that though every gift is free for the person receiving it, someone still has to purchase it.

**Of God** — Circle this and explain that the gift you are talking about is free. It is from God Himself. It’s so special that no one else can give it. Ask, “How do you feel when someone gives you a special gift?”

**Eternal Life** — Circle these two words next, and then ask, “How would you define these words?” Contrast one side of the cliff, death, with the other side, eternal life. Ask, “What is the opposite of separation from God?”

**Christ Jesus** — Write these words so they create a bridge between the two cliffs. Help your friend to consider that just as every gift has a unique giver, only Jesus Christ can give the gift of eternal life.

**Trust** — Write this word over the bridge you just drew. Explain that a true friend is a friend you can trust, and tell Chris that Jesus is offering to be a true friend to him. All Chris has to do is admit that he is responsible for his sin—either of fighting against God or excluding Him from his life. Trusting Jesus means believing that He has power to forgive us for rejecting God and that He will wash us clean from all that we have done wrong in life. At this point, you can ask him if he wants to start a relationship with God that will last forever. If he says “Yes,” invite him to pray a short prayer in his own words, asking Jesus to forgive him and make him new.

Close by reminding him that this simple illustration shows what God is like: Someone who really cares about people—especially him. Invite him to read all about it in the Bible—the Gospel of John is a great place to start.

## 2. Practice sharing the gospel out loud to yourself until you become familiar with it.

### Jesus Witnessing

Read Mark 10:17-31 or John 4:1-26. How did Jesus treat those he met and how did he make the gospel known?

**The Rich Young Ruler—Jesus answered the ruler’s questions with questions to help the ruler examine his heart. Jesus looked at him and loved him. Woman at the Well—Jesus treated her with respect. Asked for help. Crossed cultural boundaries—man talking with a woman, Jew and Samaritan. Spoke truth with love.**

**“Every conversation Jesus had was different, for Jesus treated the people He met as individuals. To Jesus, each person is unique. Each is made in God’s image and therefore he or she is of infinite value to him. Each is loved so much that Jesus died for him or her. Each is worth the Savior being patient and generous in the expending of his time. Each longs to be listened to and to receive the full attention that Jesus gives him or her. Each needs the same ultimate truths expressed in the particular way that he or she can hear them. Jesus is to be our teacher and our model in these matters.”<sup>10</sup>**

### Action Steps

1. Pray for a person you would like to share the gospel with.
2. Share. Ask him or her if you can share the gospel presentation as part of your assignment for the *Answering the Call* training.
3. Reflect on your experience. What was effective? What would you do differently next time? How did he or she respond?

# Lesson 8

## Share: Strategies

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Ask for volunteers to share about their experience of sharing the gospel with someone last week.

**KEY CONCEPT:** Our approach to the listeners influences their reception of the gospel. Developing witnessing strategies give us more ways to reach others for Christ.

### Our Approach

#### With Gentleness and Respect

*But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (1 Peter 3:15-16)*

‣ **N:** Review the examples of sharing with gentleness and respect from page 15.

- Ask for permission.
- Go at their pace. Respond to where they are in their journey.
- Don't back unbelievers into a corner. Allow them time to process what they have heard.
- Don't treat the lost like your project. Be their friend, even if they reject the gospel.
- Don't force conversations, but don't run from open doors.
- Don't have a pre-set agenda but be ready to share.
- Make sharing a dialogue, not a monologue.

#### With Grace

*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:5-6)*

- **Q:** How should we act toward outsiders?
- **N:** Love and care.
- **Q:** What does it look like to have your conversation always be full of grace, seasoned with salt?
- **N:** Useful and encouraging, savory, pleasant, and tasty.

#### With Humility

*In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." (1 Peter 5:6)*

*Sharing the gospel is like one beggar telling another beggar where to find food. —Paul Little*

- **Q:** What does sharing with humility look like?
- **N:** Like the quote—we come as a sinner helping another sinner have the peace of Christ.

#### With Courage

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)*

- **Q:** What is an example of what it means to not be ashamed?
- **N:** Speaking up when there is an opportunity to speak up for Christ or letting others know you are a Christian.

### Witnessing Strategies

#### The Art of Asking Questions

Learning to ask questions is a witnessing strategy to check for open doors to a spiritual conversation and to meet others where they are in their spiritual journey.

## • Interest-related Questions

Interest-related questions are questions about an area of interest to the non-Christian because of their circumstances.



### Example 1

- \* How are you doing being locked up? (Response: It's terrible)
- \* How are you dealing with the stress? (I am angry and get into fights)
- \* Have you found a way of dealing with the stress that doesn't make you feel worse or get you into trouble? (No)
- \* Do you think there is a God who can help you? (Maybe)
- \* Would you like to hear more about God and how he can help you? (Sure, why not?)

### Example 2:

- \* Do you have kids? (I have three kids, ages 3, 5, and 8)
- \* Do you get to see or talk to them much? (I talk with them on the phone once a month, but it is too far for them to visit.)
- \* How do you feel about being separated from your family? (It sucks and it's lonely.)
- \* How do you cope with the loneliness? (I get depressed and angry)
- \* Do you think there is a God who cares about your loneliness and the pain of missing your kids? (Maybe)

- \* Would you like to hear more about him? (Sure.)

What are other interest-related topics (struggles, feelings) could be used to ask someone in this community?

**Topics may include depression, hopelessness, anxiety, fear, loss/grief, etc.**

## • Open Ended Spiritually-related Questions

- \* Have you ever thought about God? What do you think He is like?
- \* What religious beliefs were you taught growing up?
- \* What do you believe happens to us after we die?
- \* What gives you purpose in life?
- \* What do you think about Christians or Christianity?
- \* Do you believe God loves you? Why or why not?

What are other spiritually-related questions you have used before or think would be effective when talking with an unbeliever from your community?

**Answers will vary.**

## Addressing Resistant People

Some people are resistant to discussing anything to do with Christianity.

How do you respond when someone challenges what you believe?

**Become defensive—“I’m not like those Christians.”**

**Take it personally— “Why don’t you trust me as a Christian?”**

**Avoid—“If that’s how they feel, then I don’t need to spend time with them”**

**Judge—Think, “I know I am right” and be arrogant.**

**Argue—“Let me explain why what I believe is right.”<sup>11</sup>**

How do you think God wants us to respond?

**Be a good listener. Be respectful and seek to understand them. The goal is to help individuals think about what they believe, why they believe it, and to help them take their next step toward a relationship with Christ. Avoid arguing or trying to “win” the conversation. When resistant statements are made, ask questions to dig deeper and to challenge their statements.**

Some people are looking to argue with you about your faith or make statements that are resistant to the gospel. Be a good listener. The goal is to help individuals think about what they believe, why they believe it, and to help them take the next step toward an understanding of Christ. Avoid arguing or trying to “win” the conversation. When resistant statements are made, ask questions to dig deeper and to challenge their statements rather than becoming defensive.

▶ **A:** *Role Play—Ask for two volunteers. One to read the Christian statements and one to read the non-Christian statements.*

## Example 1: All religions are right<sup>13</sup>

**Non-Christian (NC):** I don’t think anyone has the right to say that his or her religion is right and someone else’s is wrong. I think all religions are right.

**Christian (C):** Why do you think that?

**NC:** Because I think they all lead to God and that there are many ways to get to heaven.

**C:** Well, I used to believe that myself—that all religions were right and that no one’s faith was better than anyone else’s.

**NC:** So what happened to you?

**C:** Someone challenged me to think about it a little. I started finding out what different religions believed. I found that religions that disagree on such basic things can’t all be right.

**NC:** They don’t disagree about basic things. They just disagree about unimportant things like what kinds of clothes to wear or whether to worship on Sunday or Saturday or some other day.

**C:** I disagree. Different religions differ on major things.

**NC:** Like what?

**C:** Like what God is like or if there even is a god. Or what we humans are like, what the whole meaning of life is, whether we’re supposed to try to connect with God (or whatever) through action or by withdrawing. And then there’s the afterlife. Do we go to heaven, or do we just die and that’s it?

## Example 2: I don't believe the Bible

**NC:** It's great that you've found something that works for you. But I just don't believe the Bible.

**C:** Why not?

**NC:** It's just too farfetched to believe.

**C:** What about it is farfetched?

**NC:** All of the miracles...parting the Red Sea, healing crippled people...

**C:** How much of the Bible have you read?

**NC:** Oh, hardly any of it. I just know a lot of the stories.

**C:** But you haven't read it?

**NC:** I've read some of it.

**C:** But not a lot of it?

**NC:** No.

**C:** Well, do you think it's possible that, if there is a God, and he wanted to communicate with us, that he could inspire some kind of written revelation?

**NC:** Yeah, I think so.

**C:** I encourage you to read it. It's a best seller, and many people say that it's helped them more than any other book.

♦ **N:** Remember the goal is not to pick a fight or become defensive but to help them examine what they are saying/believing. Keep building your relationship with them for future conversations.

What are other resistant statements that you have heard from non-Christians about Christians or the Christian faith?

**Answers will vary.**

## Review

- ✓ Our approach to sharing the gospel is with **gentleness, respect, grace, humility** and **courage**.
- ✓ Witnessing strategies include the art of **asking questions** and addressing **resistant** people.

# Bible Study 8

## Sharing Strategies

**OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this study you will be able to:

- Describe how to share Christ with gentleness, respect, grace, humility and courage.
- Ask questions which progress toward an opportunity to share Christ.
- Respond to resistant statements with questions rather than becoming defensive.

1. Describe how you can share the gospel with....

a. gentleness and respect rather than with force

**Asking permission to share rather than just sharing and pressuring someone to pray to receive Christ.**

b. grace rather than with judgment

**Do not point out their specific sins and tell them they are going to hell. Rather, share the love and grace which are offered to them through Christ.**

c. humility rather than with pride

**Do not act self-righteous and better than them but state your own sin and need for Christ.**

d. courage rather than with fear

**Do not stay silent when there is an opportunity to speak up for Christ or do not be ashamed to let others know you are a Christian.**

2. Create a progression of questions based on a common interest or felt need which progresses toward an opportunity to share Christ.

▶ **N:** *This may be best answered in pairs or small groups*

**Answers will vary**

3. Select one of the resistant statements identified in Lesson 8. Write a list of questions that can be asked to help the person think about what they believe and why they believe it.

▶ **N:** *This may be best answered in pairs or small groups.*

**Answers will vary**

## **Action Steps**

1. Pray for opportunities to ask questions which leads to learning more about where the person is on their spiritual journey and to make Christ known.
2. Respond to those who are resistant to Christians and the Christian faith with love, care, gentleness, respect, humility, and grace.

## Lesson 9

# Stay There: Discipleship, Part I

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review lesson eight (p. 53, Participant).

**KEY CONCEPT:** Discipleship is not a program. When persons have placed their faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, we are fellow travelers, teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded.

*Most people come to Christ to meet a need. But they stay with Christ when they know that he is the truth. When they understand what they have entered into—the fullness of salvation. —Ajith Fernando*

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go 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 obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)*



List the names of those who have helped you grow in your faith after becoming a Christian.

**Answers will vary.**

- ▶ **A:** Share your answers with the person next to you.

## Discipleship

Discipleship is an intentional relationship in which we walk along-side other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ.<sup>12</sup>

## Goals of Discipleship

1. **Faith ownership.** Disciples must own their faith so it goes with them wherever they go.

▶ **N:** I grew up in a Christian home and went away to college. I had to decide if I would continue to go to church, read my Bible, pray, have friends who were Christians, obey the Bible, etc. I had to decide if my faith was my own or my parent's faith. You have to decide if your faith is your own, so that it goes where you go, or is it that of the prison.

2. **Prioritize Faith.** Disciples must keep their faith the top priority in their life

▶ **N:** The stuff of life will always compete with keeping our relationship with God as our top priority. If we stop reading our Bible, praying, going to church, being in fellowship, etc., our relationship with Christ will become less of a priority and may possibly become extinct.

3. **Self-initiating**: Disciples must take responsibility for their own spiritual growth.

‣ **N:** *Being a Christian requires you to be responsible to engage in spiritual practices and not engage with others and places where you are easily tempted.*

4. **Reproducing**: Disciples must be able to teach others.

‣ **N:** *We are called to make disciples, so we should be journeying with other believers to help them take their next step toward maturity in Christ. Be intentional about investing in others spiritually.*

5. **Fully devoted**: Disciples are to live Christ-centered lives where their relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in their life and Christ guides everything they do.

‣ **N:** *Fully devoted means no turning away, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus and living totally sold out for Him.*

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son. (Romans 8:29)*

## Discipleship Strategies

### • Spiritual friendships

Be there for others and invite others into your life.

\* Mentor or Life Coach

‣ **N:** *We all need mentors in our life. A mentor or life coach can help you transition back into society. They are there to encourage and support you spiritually, emotionally and socially.*

\* Discipleship/teacher

‣ **N:** *A disciple meets with you to study the Bible and/or talk about living the Christian life.*

\* Accountability

‣ **N:** *An accountability partner helps hold you accountable for meeting your goals, behavior changes, spiritual growth.*

\* Small group

‣ **N:** *Many churches have small groups. Join a group and build relationships with other group members.*

\* Friends

‣ **N:** *Friends are other Christians who you do life with—fun stuff, hang out, ministry, etc.*

*Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character. (1 Corinthians 15:33)*

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20)*

*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)*

‣ **N:** *Who you spend time affects your behaviors and the direction of your life. One of the risks for returning to incarceration is being friends with those who engage in risky and illegal behavior. Who you spend time with is KEY to your spiritual growth.*

*I had been at this particular facility for about eight months and met a younger man whose faith was lost. As we got to know one another better, I asked if he would like to begin to study the Bible with me. He agreed. His anger and interests in false religions had taken him off the true path of Jesus. The Holy Spirit began to deal with his heart. I have seen a marked improvement in his behavior. The Bible has humbled him and put the spirit of praise on his mind and in his soul. I encourage him to stay strong and I lead by example. I have been there and am here for him and it's great to see us both grow together in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus far it has been awesome to disciple him and I look forward to continuing our progress in the Word of God! —Marc*

How will you go about developing spiritual friends?

‣ **N:** *Watch those around you and look for those who are committed to Christ. Reach out to that person to get to know them. In the "Free world" take the initiative to meet with the Pastor, join small groups, and serve others. Take the initiative to invite someone to coffee, lunch, etc. Pray for God to bring safe, committed followers of Christ in your life.*

## • Role model

Model a life of obedience, how to grow spiritually, how to handle temptation and trials, and how to live in God's love for you.

*Therefore I urge you to imitate me...of my way of life in Christ Jesus... (1 Corinthians 4:16-17)*

‣ **N:** *Others can learn a lot from you as you faithfully abide in Christ through the ups and downs of life. Actions speak louder than words.*

## • Encourage

- \* Welcome and accept unbelievers into the family of faith
- \* Give words of encouragement and praise toward reaching the goals of discipleship
- \* Provide empathy and compassion when they are hurting
- \* Encourage to persevere in their faith and not give up when life gets hard
- \* Meet physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs
- \* Gently restore them back to the faith when they sin

*But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (Hebrews 3:13)*

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)*

‣ **Q:** *What are other ways you can encourage someone in their faith?*

‣ **N:** *Answers will vary.*

## • Equip

Discipling others includes teaching biblical truth, doctrines of the faith, and spiritual attitudes needed to grow in one's faith.

### \* Spiritual doctrines<sup>8</sup>

- Salvation by grace: "I believe nothing I do or have done can earn my salvation." (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- The Trinity: "I believe the God of the Bible is the one true God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (2 Corinthians 13:14)
- Personal God: "I believe God is actively involved in my life." (Psalm 121)
- Christ is first: "I desire Jesus to be first in my life." (Matthew 6:33)
- Authority of the Bible: "I believe the Bible has decisive authority over what I say or do. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Identity in Christ: "I exist to know, love, and serve God." (John 1:12-13)

‣ **Q:** *What available resources do you have to teach spiritual doctrines?*

‣ **N:** *You may request booklets from Our Daily Bread ministries which will help.*

### \* Spiritual attitudes

- Humility: "Without Christ I can do nothing." (John 15:5)
- Stewardship: "I believe a Christian should live a sacrificial life that is not driven by pursuit of material things." (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

- *Giving away my life:* "I am willing to risk everything that is important in my life for Jesus Christ." (Romans 12:1-2)
- *Giving away my faith:* "I pray for non-Christians to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior." (Ephesians 6:19-20)
- *Giving away my time:* "I give away my time to serve and help others in my community." (Colossians 3:17)
- *Giving away my money:* "My first priority in spending is to support God's work." (2 Corinthians 8:7)
- *Obedience:* "I desire to live a life of obedience to Christ." — *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* (James 1:22)
- *Christ is First:* "Christ is the priority in my life." — *You shall have no other gods before me.* (Deuteronomy 5:2)

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter*

*of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.* (Hebrews 12:1-3)

*Making disciples requires patient and careful instruction and prayerful and personal guidance of the individual over a considerable period. Disciples are not manufactured wholesale. They are produced one by one, because someone has taken the pains to discipline, to instruct and enlighten, to nurture and train one that is younger.* —J. Oswald Sanders

## Review

- ✓ Discipleship is an intentional **relationship** in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge one another in love to grow toward **maturity** in Christ.
- ✓ The goals of discipleship are: faith **ownership**, **prioritize** faith, **self-initiating**, **reproducing**, and **fully devoted**.

# Bible Study 9

## Who I Am in Christ<sup>14</sup>

♦ **N:** For questions that have personal responses—ask for a couple of participants to share their answers.

### Lesson 1: I Am Loved by God

God's love for us is greater than any human experience of love we have known. God made each of us to have a loving relationship with him, and he sent Jesus to die for us to show how much he loves us. As children of God, we can experience God's acceptance and love every day.

1. Circle key words or phrases in the following scriptures.

**Jesus said:** *God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

**Paul wrote:** *Here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8)

**John wrote:** *What is love, it is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* (1 John 4:10)

**The Lord answers,** *"Can a mother forget the baby who is nursing at her breast? Can she stop showing her tender love to the child who was born to her? She might forget the child. But I will not forget you."* (Isaiah 49:15)

**David prayed:** *Lord, remember your great mercy and love. You have shown them to your people for a long time. Don't remember the sins I committed when I was young. Don't remember how often I refused to obey you. Remember me because you love me. Lord, you are good.* (Psalm 25:6-7)

2. What do we learn about God's love from these five scriptures?

**He loves everyone. He loves us even though we are sinners. Christ died for us to show how much he loves us. He will not forget us because He loves us.**

3. Memorize John 3:16. Quote it to one of your friends.

4. Verse Study. Select one of the scriptures in Lesson 1. List two key words and define them. (Use a dictionary if needed.)

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does this scripture say? (Rewrite it in your own words.)

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6. What does this scripture say to me? (How can I apply the truth of this scripture to my life today? How can I put it into practice?)

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## Lesson 2: I Am Forgiven by God

God's love for us through Jesus has provided something every person wants and needs forgiveness of sin and freedom from guilt! How wonderful to know that when we confess our sins, God promises to forgive and cleanse us completely. We don't have to carry the burden of unforgiven sins. We are truly clean and "free on the inside!"

1. Circle key words or phrases in the following scriptures.

**John wrote:** *God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure. (1 John 1:9)*

**Paul wrote:** *We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Through his blood our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich. (Ephesians 1:7)*

**David prayed:** *I admitted my sin to you. I didn't cover up the wrong I had done. I said, "I will admit my lawless acts to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)*

**The author of Hebrews wrote:** *Let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it. (Hebrews 4:16)*

**David wrote:** *His love for those who have respect for him is as high as the heavens are above the earth. He has removed our lawless acts from us as far as the east is from the west. (Psalm 103:11-12)*

2. What do we learn about God's forgiveness from these five scriptures?

**If we ask for forgiveness God will give it. Christ's blood paid the penalty of our sins. Our guilt is gone when we are forgiven by God. We can boldly ask God for forgiveness. He doesn't bring up our sins again once they are forgiven.**

3. Memorize 1 John 1:9. Quote it to one of your friends.

4. Verse Study. Select one of the scriptures in Lesson 2. List two key words and define them. (Use a dictionary if needed.)

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does this scripture say? (Rewrite it in your own words.)

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6. What does this scripture say to me? (How can I apply the truth of this scripture to my life today? How can I put it into practice?)

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### **Lesson 3: I Have Become a Child of God**

We do not earn our relationship with God. We receive it as a gift from him. Paul wrote: God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it (Ephesians 2:8-9). Because of his love and our faith in Jesus, he accepts us as his very own sons and daughters!

1. Circle key words or phrases in the following scriptures.

**John wrote:** *Some people did accept him. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)*

**John wrote:** *How great is the love the Father has given us so freely! Now we can be called children of God. And that's what we really are! The world doesn't know us because it didn't know him.* (1 John 3:1)

**Paul wrote:** *Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.* (Romans 8:14)

**Paul continued:** *You didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear once again. Instead you received the Holy Spirit, who makes you God's child. By the Spirit's power we call God "Abba." Abba means Father. The Spirit himself joins with our spirits. Together they give witness that we are God's children.* (Romans 8:15-16)

**David wrote:** *A father is tender and kind to his children. In the same way, the Lord is tender and kind to those who have respect for him.* (Psalm 103:13)

2. What do we learn about being God's child from these five scriptures?

**When we place our faith in Christ, we become a child of God. Because of His love, we can be His child. Only those led by the Spirit are children of God. The Holy Spirit lives in us and reminds us we are God's children. God is our Father and loves us as His children.**

3. Memorize John 1:12. Quote it to one of your friends.

4. Verse Study. Select one of the scriptures in Lesson 3. List two key words and define them. (Use a dictionary if needed.)

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does this scripture say? (Rewrite it in your own words)

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6. What does this scripture say to me? (How can I apply the truth of this scripture to my life today? How can I put it into practice?)

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## Lesson 4: I Am Secure in God

Our thoughts, feelings, and desires can often change from moment to moment. Sometimes, Satan makes us doubt that we are God's children and that we have eternal life. John said: I'm writing these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. I'm doing it so you will know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13). Romans 8, written by Paul, is a great chapter that helps us know how secure we are in God's love.

1. Circle key words or phrases in the following scriptures.

**Romans 8:1-2:** *Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer under God's sentence. I am now controlled by the law of the Holy Spirit. That law gives me life because of what Christ Jesus has done. It has set me free from the law of sin that brings death.*

**Romans 8:28-29:** *We know that all things God works for the good of those who love him. He appointed them to be saved in keeping with his purpose. God planned that those he had chosen would become like his Son. In that way, Christ will be the first and most honored among many brothers.*

**Romans 8:31-32:** *What should we say then? Since God is on our side, who can be against us? God did not spare his own Son. He gave him up for us all. Then won't he also freely give us everything else?*

**Romans 8:38-39:** *I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.*

2. What do we learn about being secure in God from these four scriptures?

**Because of Christ, I am no longer punished by God for my sins. God wants what is good for me. God is on my side. Nothing can separate me from God's love.**

3. Memorize Romans 8:1-2. Quote it to one of your friends.

4. Verse Study. Select one of the scriptures in Lesson 4. List two key words and define them. (Use a dictionary if needed)

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does this scripture say? (Rewrite it in your own words)

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6. What does this scripture say to me? (How can I apply the truth of this scripture to my life today? How can I put it into practice?)

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## Lesson 5: I Am God's Creation

Every person is a creation of God, but every Christian is also a new creation of God! At times, we may have wished we could “start over” in living our lives. We want a new life. That is exactly what happens when we believe in Jesus. We are brand new people in Christ—God has given us new life, abundant life, and eternal life! We are very special people to God.

1. Circle key words or phrases in the following scriptures.

**Paul wrote:** *Anyone who believes in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone! The new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17) David wrote: You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. (Psalm 139:13-14)*

**Paul wrote:** *God made us. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good things. Long ago God prepared them for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)*

**Paul wrote:** *All things were created by him. He created everything in heaven and on earth. He created everything that can be seen and everything that can't be seen. He created kings, powers, rulers and authorities. Everything was created by him and for him. (Colossians 1:16)*

**John wrote:** *You are worthy, our Lord and God! You are worthy to receive glory and honor and power. You are worthy because you created all things. They were created and they exist. That is the way you planned it. (Revelation 4:11)*

2. What do we learn about being God's creation from these five scriptures?

**We are a new creation when we place our faith in Christ. God created us in his image and knows us. We belong to Christ. Because God is our creator, He is worthy of glory and power. We are not a mistake but carefully and intentionally made by God for Christ.**

3. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17. Quote it to a friend.

4. Verse Study. Select one of the scriptures in Lesson 5. List two key words and define them. (Use a dictionary if needed.)

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does this scripture say? (Rewrite it in your own words)

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6. What does this scripture say to me? (How can I apply the truth of this scripture to my life today? How can I put it into practice?)

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## Lesson 6: I Am God's Dwelling Place

The Bible tells us that if we believe in Jesus, we are "in Christ." We live in him. But another important Bible truth is that God lives within each Christian. Jesus said: Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you (John 15:4, The Message Bible). The God of the universe lives in you!

1. Circle key words or phrases in the following scriptures.

**Paul wrote:** *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple? God's Spirit lives in you.* (1 Corinthians 3:16)

**Paul wrote:** *Don't you know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? The Spirit is in you. You have received him from God. You do not belong to yourselves. Christ has paid the price for you. So use your bodies in a way that honors God. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

**Paul wrote:** *I have been crucified with Christ. I don't live any longer. Christ lives in me. My faith in the Son of God helps me to live my life in my body. He loved me. He gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

**Paul wrote:** *Because you belong to him, you too are being built together. You are being made into a house where God lives through his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)*

**Paul wrote:** *God has chosen to make known to them the glorious riches of the mystery. He has made it known among those who aren't Jews. And here is what it is. Christ is in you. He is your hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)*

2. What do we learn about God living in us from these five scriptures?

**God lives in me, I need to care for my body, and live for Christ. I belong to Him.**

3. Memorize 1 Corinthians 3:16. Quote it to one of your friends.

4. Verse study. Select one of the scriptures in Lesson 2. List two key words and define them. (Use a dictionary if needed.)

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

Key word: \_\_\_\_\_

Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does this scripture say? (Rewrite it in your own words)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does this scripture say to me? (How can I apply the truth of this scripture to my life today? How can I put it into practice?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson 10

# Stay There: Discipleship, Part II

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Bible, pen or pencil for each participant.

1. Open in prayer (Participant).
2. Review Lesson 9 (page 59, Participant).
3. Review the Bible study from lesson 9. You don't have to go over each question, but highlight 1-2 questions per lesson.

**KEY CONCEPT:** The goal of teaching spiritual practices to other believers is so they can learn to feed themselves spiritually.

## Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Practices (Disciplines) in and of themselves have no merit whatsoever. Just as we do not earn our salvation, we do not earn blessings from God. Training in the spiritual practices places us before God and is the God-ordained means for forming and transforming the human personality so that when we are in a crisis we can be “response-able”—able to respond appropriately.<sup>15</sup>

Following are a few spiritual practices. Teach not only what and how to participate in a particular spiritual practice, but why it is important.

## Reading and Reflection on Scriptures

**Definition:** Reading and thinking about what the Bible says and how it applies to every part of my life.

**Why:** It will help you learn more about God and deepen your relationship with him. It will help transform your thinking and lifestyle to be more Christ-like.

**Practices:** Read a book of the Bible, use a study guide, participate in a Bible study correspondence course, etc. Think about how what you read can apply to your life.

◆ Encourage participants to sign up for Crossroads Prison Ministry by completing the enrollment form which you can provide for them at <https://cpministries.org/resources/>

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16)*

## Prayer

**Definition:** To communicate with God my concerns and worries, to ask for forgiveness and to hear from God.

**Why:** Prayer helps develop a rhythm of turning to God. It reminds you of your dependence on God and to trust God. Confession gives you insight into your temptations and your need for God's grace. Confession helps you have compassion toward the faults of others.

**Practices:**

- Pray for help and guidance

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

- Pray for confession

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)*

## Listening (Solitude and Silence)

**Definition:** Creating space to hear God.

**Why:** Helps us better listen to God.

**Practices:** Enter into a time without distractions, breathe deeply and become aware of God's presence with you. Express what is on your heart—a question, an emotion, a longing, etc. Sit with what comes into your awareness—just be with God. How do you know if what comes to mind is from God? — It will never contradict scripture.

## Corporate Worship

**Definition:** A community of believers praising God for who he is and thanking him for what he has done.

**Why:** Worship helps you keep your priorities honoring to God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Corporate worship benefits believers through the fellowship with one another. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

**Practices:** Find a local church and participate in worship weekly. In addition to worshipping, find an area to serve, and participate in a small group Bible study. It is up to you to get connected. Do NOT church-hop. Find a church as soon as possible. Remember there are no perfect churches—all are full of sinners.

## Questions to ask when selecting a Church

1. Is the church doctrinally correct? What does the Church believe? Examine their doctrinal statements. For example, the National Association of Evangelicals Statement of Faith includes key tenants of the Christian faith:
  - a. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
  - b. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - c. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his personal return in power and glory.
  - d. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
  - e. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
  - f. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
  - g. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Does the church teach from the Bible accurately? They teach scripture in context.
3. Does the church share the gospel with those who don't know Christ?
4. Are the members honest about living Christian life, loving, caring, and forgiving?

5. Does the church help me grow spiritually and encourage accountability?
6. Do the church leaders model a Christ-like lifestyle?

*The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. (John 4:23)*

## Service

**Definition:** To humbly reflect the helping, caring, and sharing love of God in the world.

**Why:** It puts action to our words and reflects Jesus.

**How:** Being available and vulnerable to anyone in need.

- Doing service projects
- Mentoring
- Helping and caring for those in need
- Seeking justice

*Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant. (Matthew 20:26)*

‡ **Q:** *What are examples of service that can be done in this community?*

## Breath Prayer

**Definition:** It is six to eight syllables and prayed rhythmically with the inhalation and exhalation of breathing. It is an expression of our heart's deepest yearning, coupled with the name for God that is most meaningful and intimate for us at the time.

**Why:** It deepens our intimacy with God by calling out to him.

**How:** Breathe in, calling on a biblical name or image of God, and breathe out a simple God-given desire:

- *Breathe in:* Lord, Here I am.
- *Breathe in:* Jesus, Son of David.
- *Breathe in:* Jesus.
- *Breathe out:* Your servant listens.
- *Breathe out:* have mercy on me a sinner.
- *Breathe out:* lover of my soul.

*When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:47*

## Celebration

**Definition:** Out of gratitude, take delight and give praise for the Lord and what he has done.

**Why:** To enjoy every good and perfect gift and be reminded it is all from God.

**How:** Participate in activities that bring joy and deep gladness (e.g., time spent with others, listening to music, laughing, dancing, etc.)

*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. (Psalm 150:6)*

## Examen (the daily review)

**Definition:** To notice God's work and presence throughout the day and an awareness of areas where we fell short of living for Christ throughout the day.

**Why:** Examen is an opportunity to look back over our day with God, to be more attentive to him and it is a healthy process of self-examination.

**How:**

- **Attentive to God**
  - \* How was God present with me today?
  - \* What promptings did I notice? How did I respond or not respond?
  - \* What is life-giving to me?
  - \* What drains me?
- **Conscience**
  - \* Ask God to bring to mind attitudes, actions, and moments when you fell short of exhibiting the character of Christ, or the fruit of the Spirit
  - \* Name the attitude or action.
  - \* Confess it.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*  
(Psalm 139:23-24)

▶ **A:** Engage in practicing examen in small groups. Each person answers the question, "What was life-giving to me this week?" and "What drained me spiritually this week?"

## Fasting

**Definition:** The self-denial of normal necessities in order to intentionally attend to God in prayer.

**Why:** It reminds us that only God can satisfy us and frees up more time to pray.

**How:**

- Abstaining from food, drink, media, comforts, etc., intentionally in order to be with God.
- Repenting of self-indulgent, addictive, or compulsive behaviors.
- Seeking strength from God.

*And when you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do. (Matthew 6:16-18)*

▶ **Q:** Does anyone want to share about a time you fasted and how it helped you grow spiritually?

## Meditation

**Definition:** Slowing down and thinking about God's word and its application.

**Why:** We experience a greater awareness of the nearness of God.

**How:** Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading). Choose a passage of scripture (no more than six to eight verses). Recommended scriptures: Psalm 13; Psalm 63:1-5; Psalm 73:23-28; Psalm 103:8-12)

1. **Silence.** Quiet yourself before the Lord with the desire to hear from God. Pray: "Come Lord Jesus," "Here I am," or "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
2. **Read.** Read a short passage silently and slowly, attentively listening for a word or phrase that God has for you this day. Allow a moment of silence, repeating that word or phrase softly to yourself, pondering it and savoring it as though pondering the words of a loved one.
3. **Reflect.** Read the passage again and allow it to interact with your thoughts, hopes, memories, and desires. How is my life touched by this word? What in my life needed to hear this today? Where am I in the text, and what do I experience as I allow myself to be in this story? Silence.

4. **Respond.** Read it again. Is there an invitation or a challenge to which you need to respond? What is your response to God's invitation? (You may feel pain, frustration, or anger, self-knowledge, convicted of sin.) What is your response to God based on what you have read and encountered? Share with God the feelings the text has aroused—love, joy, sorrow, anger, repentance, desire, need, conviction. Pay attention to any sense that God is inviting you to act or to respond to the word you have heard. Pray.

5. **Rest.** Read it again. Rest with God and enjoy his presence, realizing that God is the one who will enable you to respond faithfully to whatever invitation you have heard from him. It is a posture of yieldedness.

6. **Resolve.** Incarnate the word of God (live it out). Resolve to carry this word with you and to live it out in the context of daily life and activity.

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:2)*

▶ **A:** Select a passage from the recommended scriptures and lead the participants through the exercise together.

## Memorization

**Definition:** A way of remembering scripture.

**Why:** The Holy Spirit brings it to our mind when we are tempted and helps us know where to find scripture.

**How:** Reread portions of scripture until it is committed to memory. Memorize the books of the Bible so you can find references more easily

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)*

## Sabbath

**Definition:** Establishing a rhythm of work and rest that reflects God's pattern of creation.

**Why:** It allows us to rest and delight in God and his good gifts. It is a reminder that we are dependent on God, and that his work will be accomplished without burning ourselves out.

**How:** Cease work.

- Establish a regular day or time, rather than switching each week.
- Resting the body. What activities rest and replenish your body? What activities will you refuse to engage in so that it is truly a day of rest, worship, and delight?
- Replenishing the spirit. What activities renew you and bring you joy?
- Restoring the soul. Renew the soul through worship and quiet reflection. Remember all God has done for you and provided for you.

*Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27-28)*

## Simplicity

**Definition:** To uncomplicate and untangle our lives so we can focus on what really matters.<sup>16</sup>

**Why:** It brings freedom and generosity.

**How:** Downsizing, keeping God's priorities, enjoying simple pleasures.

*You cannot serve both God and money. (Luke 16:13)*

▶ **Q:** What does simplicity look like while incarcerated? While in the free world?

## Silence and Solitude

**Definition:** Creating space to hear God.

**Why:** We can better listen to God.

**How:** Find a place where you can shut out what is going on around you. Focus on God—talk and listen to him.

*Be still, and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)*

## Submission

**Definition:** The ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.<sup>17</sup>

**Why:** It allows us to grow more like Christ as we submit to others out of love.

**How:** Being teachable, submitting to those in authority, being free from a rebellious and self-sufficient spirit.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)*

## My Commitment as a Christian

I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of his. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on his presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till he comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till he stops me. And when he comes for his own, he will have no problems recognizing me—my banner will be clear! —Author Unknown

# Bible Study 10

## Spiritual Plan

**OBJECTIVES: By the end of this study you will be able to:**

- Identify which spiritual practices you want to use.
- Develop a personal spiritual plan.
- Apply and reflect on your spiritual plan.

A spiritual plan is a list of spiritual practices which meet your desire for a life-giving connection with God and authentic spiritual transformation. Pray for God's leading as you create a realistic plan which takes into consideration your stage of life, personality, and current circumstances. Ask questions such as:

1. What practices will I seek to engage in on a daily basis? Weekly? Monthly? Yearly? Include spiritual practices which come easily to you and those that stretch you.

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2. Where will I engage in these practices?

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3. What time of the day/week/month/year? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What other activities or practices are particularly suited to my personality?

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5. Are there certain practices that are particularly needed based on sins and negative patterns of which I am aware?

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6. What life/schedule changes will I need to make in order to consistently choose these life-giving practices? (get up earlier, stop hanging around, \_\_\_\_\_, etc.)

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## My Spiritual Plan

Create a spiritual plan by listing the spiritual practices you will use daily, weekly, monthly, yearly.

Spiritual Practice/ Description	Day/Time	Location	Life Changes Need

As you put your plan into practice, be flexible, not legalistic. Give yourself grace if you don't fulfill your plan each day. Meeting your plan is the goal, but recognize there are situation or circumstances which may interfere.

Evaluate your plan regularly, especially when you experience a major life change or every six months. Is the plan still realistic and life-giving?

A plan which works on the “inside” will not work in the “free world.” You will need to make realistic adjustments... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12b)

## **The Nature of Discipleship**

Read John 8:31. What is needed to be a disciple of Christ?

**Obedience to God.**

Read Luke 14:25-35. What is needed to live your faith?

**To be willing to give up everything to follow Christ.**

Read 1 John 3:16-24. What is required of disciples?

**Believe in Christ, love one another, give to those in need, obey his commands and do what is pleasing to God.**

What keeps you from discipling others?

**Sin, discipling is not a priority, I don't feel equipped, etc.**

## **Action Steps**

1. Practice your spiritual plan.
2. Pray for God to help you identify one person whom you can disciple. Look for someone who is responsible and teachable (willing to listen and learn with humility). Invite them to begin meeting together. Together determine if you are meeting for teaching, accountability, friendship, mentoring, etc.

# Lesson 11

## Celebration

This is the closing lesson and a time of celebration. You can determine what you want to do to celebrate and bring closure to the training. If allowed, bring in snacks and coffee. Be sure to get everything you are bringing in approved prior to your event.

**Materials:** Participant workbook, Certificates, Participant Evaluation forms

Open in prayer (participant). Spend time having those who want to share their spiritual plan and their reflection from the week of practice.

Celebrate the completion of the training and handout certificates or have them complete and collect the certificate request form and mail them for the participants if allowed. Have fun!!!

*Congratulations on completing the training!*  
*Well done!*

### Our Prayer for You

As followers of Christ, you have an incredible privilege and responsibility to share in the work of the Holy Spirit by communicating the gospel of Christ. We pray that by participating in *Answering the Call* you feel ready, equipped, and excited to share the gospel of Christ with those within your sphere of influence. Do not underestimate the power of the gospel—remember what Christ has done in your own life.

*I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. (Philemon 1:6)*

*We pray that God will bless you as you further his kingdom through sharing the gospel and discipling others. The Institute for Prison Ministries would love to hear about your witnessing and discipling opportunities—both the positive and negative experiences. Thank you for participating in this training.*

Make copies of the training evaluation form (page 80). This is NOT in the participant manual. Please send or scan the training evaluation forms to IPM, 501 College Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187 or ipm@wheaton.edu

Thank you so much for all your work and for your commitment to train others to live focused lives of witness and discipleship.

## Endnotes

1. Henderson, David. 2005. "The Art of Voice Recognition." *Discipleship Journal* 150, 58-66.
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6. Taken from *Going Public with the Gospel: Reviving Evangelistic Proclamation* by Lon Allison and Mark Anderson. Copyright(c) 2003 by Lon Allison and Mark Anderson. Used by permission of InterVarsity Press P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515. [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com). Slight modifications and additions have been made.
7. Slightly modified from Newman, 2004, 26.
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11. Barrs, Jerram. 2001. *The Heart of Evangelism*. Wheaton, IL.: Crossway Books, 177.
12. Newman, Randy. 2004. *Questioning Evangelism*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel.
13. Ogden, Greg. 2003. *Transforming Discipleship*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 139.
14. Portion of *Running the Race* Bible study printed by Crossroad Bible Institute, Reprinted with permission. Slight modifications and additions have been made.
15. Foster, Richard. 2007. *Living the Mission*. New York: HarperOne, xivs
16. Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. 2005. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 74.
17. Foster, Richard. 1998. *Celebration of Discipline*. New York, N.Y: HarperCollins, 111.

## Endnotes in Participant Manual

1. Henderson, David. 2005. "The Art of Voice Recognition." *Discipleship Journal* 150, 58-66.
2. Taken from *Going Public with the Gospel: Reviving Evangelistic Proclamation* by Lon Allison and Mark Anderson. Copyright © 2003 by Lon Allison and Mark Anderson. Used by permission of InterVarsity Press P.O. Box 1400, Downers Grove, IL 60515. [www.ivpress.com](http://www.ivpress.com). Slight modifications and additions have been made.
3. Newman, Randy. 2004. *Questioning Evangelism*, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel.
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9. Portion of *Running the Race Bible study* by Navigators.
10. Foster, Richard. 2007. *Living the Mission*. New York: HarperOne, xivs
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# Certificate Request Form

To receive your Answering the Call certificate, send this completed request to:

IPM, 501 College Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187

***Please print clearly.***

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Training Classes

I have attended and participated in the *Answering the Call* training.

Bible Studies

I have completed all the Bible Study lessons.

## My Transforming Story

## My Spiritual Lifemap

(on page 80 of Participant book)

# Answering the Call Training Evaluation

Please answer the following questions to help us continue improving the training.

1. One part the training which really helped me was .....
  2. I wish we would have ...
  3. I would recommend this training to others. Yes or No. Why or why not?
  4. Other comments.
- 

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4. Other comments.