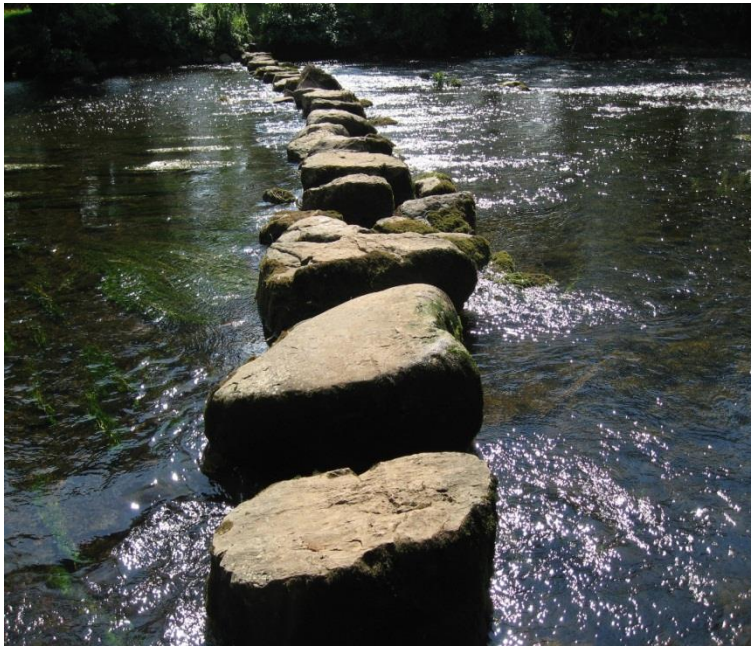


# First Steps



*A guide to relational discipleship:*

*Knowing Jesus personally*

*Showing the love of Jesus relationally*

*Going with Jesus faithfully to fulfill our mission*

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**Name**

# First Steps

## Introduction: Do you have a relationship with Jesus?

If you have encountered the True and Living God, you have been forever changed. You have been broken over sin through genuine **repentance**. You have been **justified by faith** because you recognized that Jesus Christ is the only One who can forgive you of your sin and save your soul. You are now made right with God, not based on what you have done, but what He has done for you. You have **redemption** by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

**Repentance** – a change of one's mind that results in a change of action. It is a point of complete surrender to God's authority and control. You must reject your sin and self and embrace Jesus.

**Justified by faith** – You are declared righteous by God, not because of your good works, but based on your faith. You are given the righteousness of God.

**Redemption** – Your sin debt has been paid and you are free from the guilt of your sin and the eternal punishment of sin.

Ephesians 2:4-10 (NIV)

*<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

## The GOSPEL

From [www.oneconversation.org](http://www.oneconversation.org)

G – **God's Character** – God is love! He is also a just Judge!

O – **Offense of sin** – Our sin separates us from God

S – **Sufficiency of Christ** – His Sacrifice paid ALL of your sin debt!

P – **Personal Decision** – We must choose to follow Jesus and submit to His authority

E – **Eternal Urgency** – Without God's forgiveness, we are eternally separated from God

L – **Life Transformation** – We are a new creation in Christ!

## Illustration: The Gospel in Your hand

Are you holding your life in your hand, seeking to be good enough, or have you transferred your life into the hand of Jesus? Are you trusting God alone to set you free from sin and save your soul?

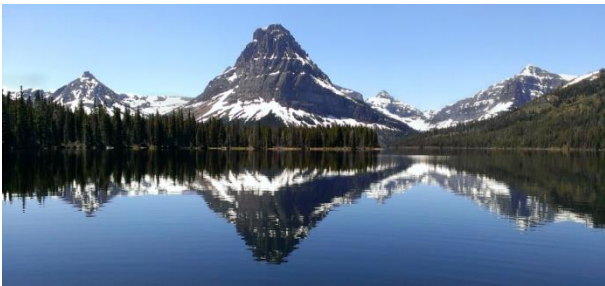
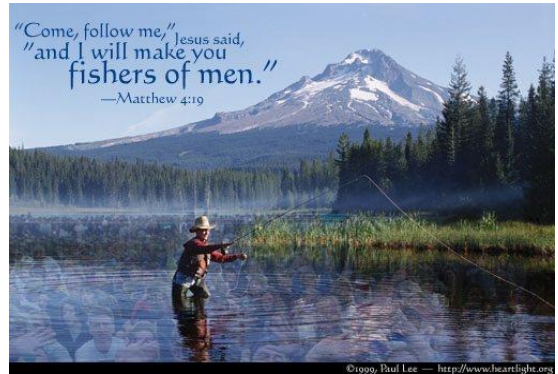
Ephesians 2:8 says salvation is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. What is grace? What is mercy?

# Your life is no longer about you!

In Matthew 4:19, Jesus called His first disciples. He said... *"Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* They were given a personal invitation to follow Him! He did not command them to adhere to moral principles or to practice religious rituals. They were called to follow Him, a Person. They were called to know HIM and live for Him.

**Disciple** – A follower who takes on the mission and values of their teacher.

A true disciple has abandoned everything in their life to passionately pursue the person of Jesus Christ and has devoted themselves to complete the work He has given them. They do not cling to a religious system. They now have a personal relationship with Creator of the universe and they love and adore Him as King. Discipleship is the means by which you follow Christ and GROW in your love relationship to Him. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher and the Bible is His love letter to us with clear instructions and guidance.



*Our desire is to be transformed into a reflection of Jesus.*

What am I to KNOW about God?  
Who am I to BE? What must I DO?

When people see you, they are to see Jesus at work in you. Just as the lake in this picture reflects the majesty of the mountain, you are to reflect the glorious attributes of God in your attitudes, actions, beliefs, and speech. Your thinking must change, your desires must change and the evidence of your **regeneration** will be your obedience to Christ. You are a new creation! The process of being transformed is called **sanctification** and God will use His Word, the Holy Spirit, His Church family, and life experiences to conform you into the image of Christ.

**Regeneration** – You have been spiritually born or "born again". You are a new creation Christ.

**Sanctification** – to set apart for special use, or to be made holy

If you will die to sin and self, He who started a good work in you will be faithful to complete it in you. A life of obedience is the evidence that your faith is genuine. As you **KNOW** God personally, learning to walk in the power the Holy Spirit, you will naturally **SHOW** His love relationally, by bearing the fruit of the Spirit in your life. You will be His hands and feet as you **GO** faithfully into the world, sharing His story and loving people as He has loved you.

Discipleship is an intentional process of daily seeking God and engaging the Scriptures with other believers for encouragement, accountability, and spiritual growth. Discipleship is more than acquiring information about God. Discipleship is about life-giving relationships. You must work out your salvation with fear and trembling. You do this in the context of the body of Christ, the local church. You must learn how to relate, submit, interact, and serve the family of God. This is how you fulfill your mission of making disciples.

## Disciples Make Disciples

Become a disciple who makes disciples. This is your mission. Who are the people in your life who need Jesus? Write down 3 names. Begin praying for them. Begin sharing what Jesus has done in you. Share what you are learning each week with them. Share the GOSPEL illustration you have learned.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

## Discipleship Principles

- Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength!
- Have a personal time with God each day, He is to be the focus of your day. He is why you exist!
- Focus on the Scriptures. As you study, begin with God, not yourself. He is the authority.
- Let the Holy Spirit adjust your life to God's design.
- See life with an eternal perspective.
- Pray through what you are reading. Seek God for who you are to BE. What must be confessed? What must change? What am I called to do?
- Discuss the Scriptures with others. Be vulnerable and transparent. Confess sin to God and to one another. Hold one another accountable. Expose your fears, doubts, and failures.
- Ask good questions. What does the text say? What does it mean?
- Choose the wisdom of God over the wisdom of man.
- Discover your spiritual gifting and serve others. How has God shaped you to serve?

First Steps was also written as a tool for multiplication. You will NOT learn everything about the Bible, but you will learn how to find the answers by learning the principles of studying, interpreting, and applying Scripture. First Steps will model a simple format for meeting others in discipleship. Here it is...

## Fellowship & Accountability

You build relationships by getting to know one another and expressing real concern for one another in your daily life. How is faith being lived out in your home, at work, or with friends? What issues are you facing? How can I pray for you? How can I help you? If God has revealed things that must change in your life, what steps have you taken? Hold each other accountable for life change.

## Devotional Reading

Each day, you will read a chapter in Luke. Once completed, you will read a chapter a day from Acts. Engaging the Scriptures in a systematic way is crucial to spiritual growth. Context is everything! Use the Basic Discipleship Questions to journal your thoughts each day. When you meet, use this time to discuss what you have learned. What challenged or encouraged you? How did God speak? What did you not understand? This simple dialogue is the centerpiece of how-to disciple others. What did you discover in the text? What am I to KNOW about God? Who am I to BE? What must I DO?

## Discipleship Lesson

Each week, you will take one day to ponder some Scriptures related to a specific topic. The purpose of each lesson is to explore the basic beliefs of Christ followers and their practices. This is not an exhaustive study. It is a beginning point. Use the lessons to lay a foundation that will lead you to be a life-long learner. Use the Basic Discipleship Questions to help you interpret and apply Scripture.

## Prayer Time

Communication with the Lord is crucial to your daily walk of faith. Your discipleship partner will model this for you from the beginning. Learn to express your heart to God. Learn to pray the Scriptures in a reflective manner. Prayer is one of our greatest avenues to knowing God personally. Learn to listen to His voice. Pray for others. Write down your requests each week and follow-up on the results.

## The commitments of a Disciple in First Steps:

These are exciting times, but you must understand there are no short cuts. This is a commitment! You must learn what it means to die to sin and self, and to take up your cross and follow Jesus daily. This is not an easy road. It is a hard road, but it is worth it.

- ☐ I will invest at least 30 minutes each day reading and praying through the Scriptures. I will begin with 1 chapter a day in the **Gospel of Luke** and then the book of **Acts**. I will write down my observations and questions each day by considering the Basic Discipleship Questions.
- ☐ I will complete one First Steps lesson each week. I will ponder the implications of each question and journal my thoughts.
- ☐ I will commit at least 1 hour a week to meet with my discipleship partner. I will be open and honest about life and faith, questions and doubts. I will submit to mutual accountability.
- ☐ I will connect with a local church and develop relational bonds with a spiritual family. I will make worship gatherings a priority and submit to biblical authority. I will become a disciple that makes disciples!

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Disciple Signature

I commit to the next 9 weeks with you. I will be reading, praying, & supporting you on your journey.

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Disciple Partner Signature





# Lesson 1: Know God Personally Through His Word

## DAY 1 – The Story of the Bible

The Bible reveals the nature and attributes of God. It is His story. From Genesis to Revelation, God unveils His redemptive plan, step by step, through progressive revelation. We learn more about God as history unfolds. Through it all, we see that God pursues us, despite our rebellious hearts. It is God who supernaturally spoke everything into existence out of nothing. It is God who is the Author and Sustainer of life by His divine power. It is through God that we live and move and have our being. You see, when God formed our universe, God created man different than every other living thing.

God uniquely created man in His own image, to mirror His attributes. (5 capacities: [www.truelife.org](http://www.truelife.org) )

1. He gave us a spiritual capacity, which means we can know God and be known by Him in ways that plants and animals do not.
2. He gave us a moral capacity to choose the good over the bad, rather than just living by instinct.
3. He gave us a rational capacity to logically think through details and solve problems.
4. He gave us a creative capacity to use our imagination, to dream, and to live in awe of His wonders.
5. He also gave us a relational capacity to communicate and relate with Him, with other people, and with the created order. We were created to be at peace within ourselves, because we were right with God. This is why the Bible says it was good!

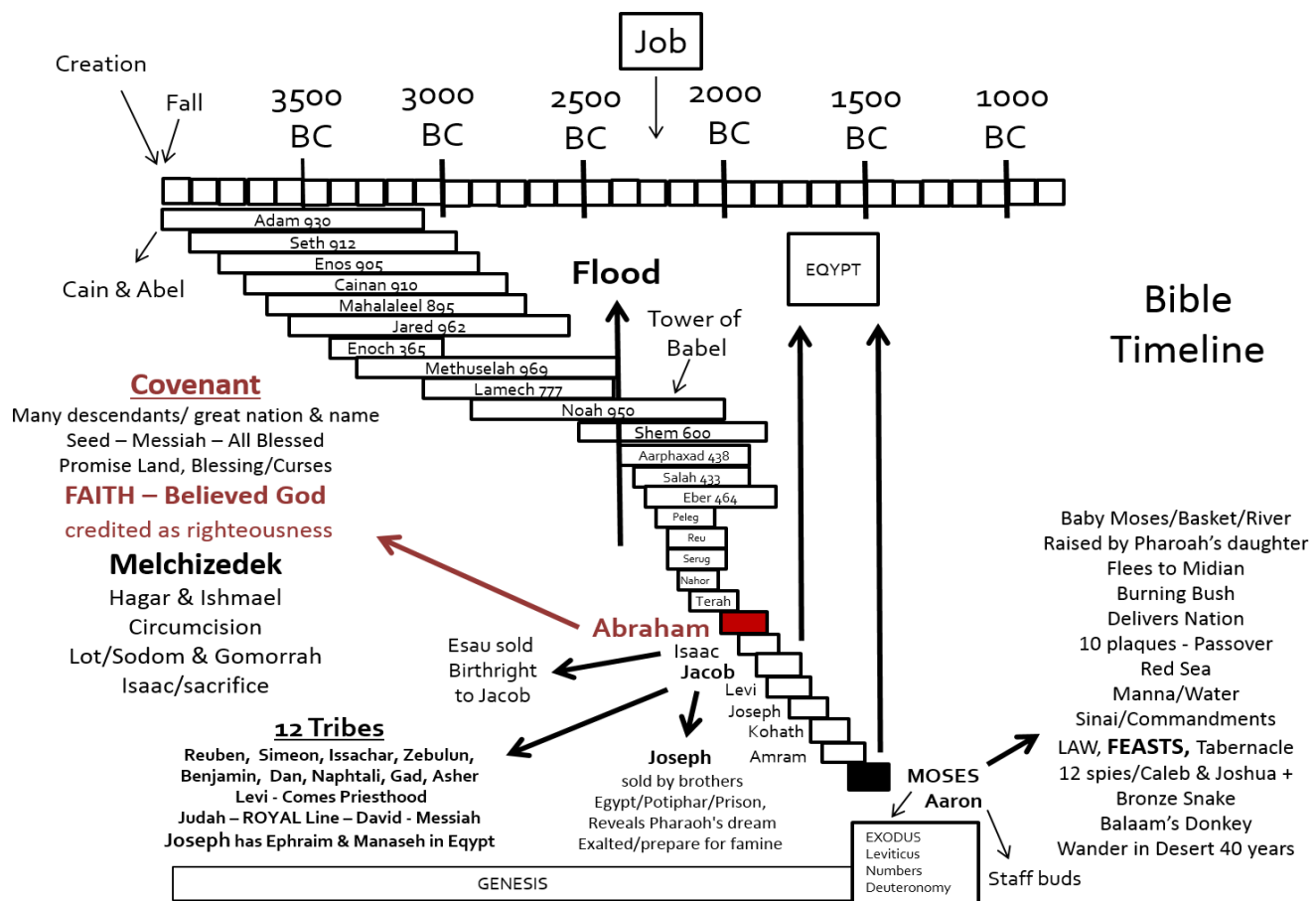
If the complexity of the universe was the result of a Big Bang with billions of years of random processes, where did matter and energy originate? How did order evolve from disorder, when the laws of nature teach the opposite is true? How did such complex atmospheric, ecological and biological systems develop, all at the same time to allow life to exist? Why do we exist? Why are we different than every other living being? Only the Bible answers these questions with scientifically verifiable facts. Our universe clearly displays the evidence of a Creator, beginning with the genetic code in our DNA. Therefore, if everything in the universe was made by God and belongs to God, are we not His as well? Has this Creator revealed Himself to us? If so, are we not accountable to Him? What is the purpose of our lives? What does the future hold? These answers are all found in the Bible.

The Bible can be broken down into 4 main plot movements:

- 1) **The Creation:** God reveals Himself as the Author of the universe. We lived in perfect unity with God.
- 2) **Our Fall:** Man rebelled against God. The curse of sin is suffering and death. Our unique capacities are corrupted by sin.
- 3) **His Redemption:** The Bible reveals God's plan to atone for sin through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are reconciled to God through Jesus, by grace and through faith.
- 4) **His Promised Return:** Jesus will reward those whom He has made righteous and punish the rebellious. The curse of sin will be over and we will reign with Jesus Christ in a new heaven and new earth.

Of course, there are a lot of details in between, but these provide the framework to understand the redemptive work of God. In each plot movement, Jesus is the central character. In creation, everything was by Him, through Him, and for Him. Jesus was the promised Messiah for whom people longed to see for centuries. Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus died on the cross in our place as a sacrifice for our sin. Jesus arose from the dead. Jesus promised to return. The story of the Bible is about Jesus! The Bible is comprised of 66 books and is divided into the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament. It was written by about 40 different authors under the inspiration of God and its history has been authenticated by archeology and secular historians over and over again. The Bible has been the most scrutinized compilation of writings in the history of man and its accuracy and authenticity are well documented.

## Timeline of the Bible



In Genesis, it was God who gave us the ability to make choices with our lives, based on our unique capacities. For there to be true choice, God had to allow the natural consequences of our choices to unfold. The Bible says that man chose to rebel against God's authority and sin against Him. Therefore, sin tainted our unique capacities to relate to God and to the created order. We now live under the penalty or curse of sin, which is death. We continue to see the effects of sin (disease, poverty, suffering, etc.) because God continues to allow us to make choices and to live independent of Him. For God to

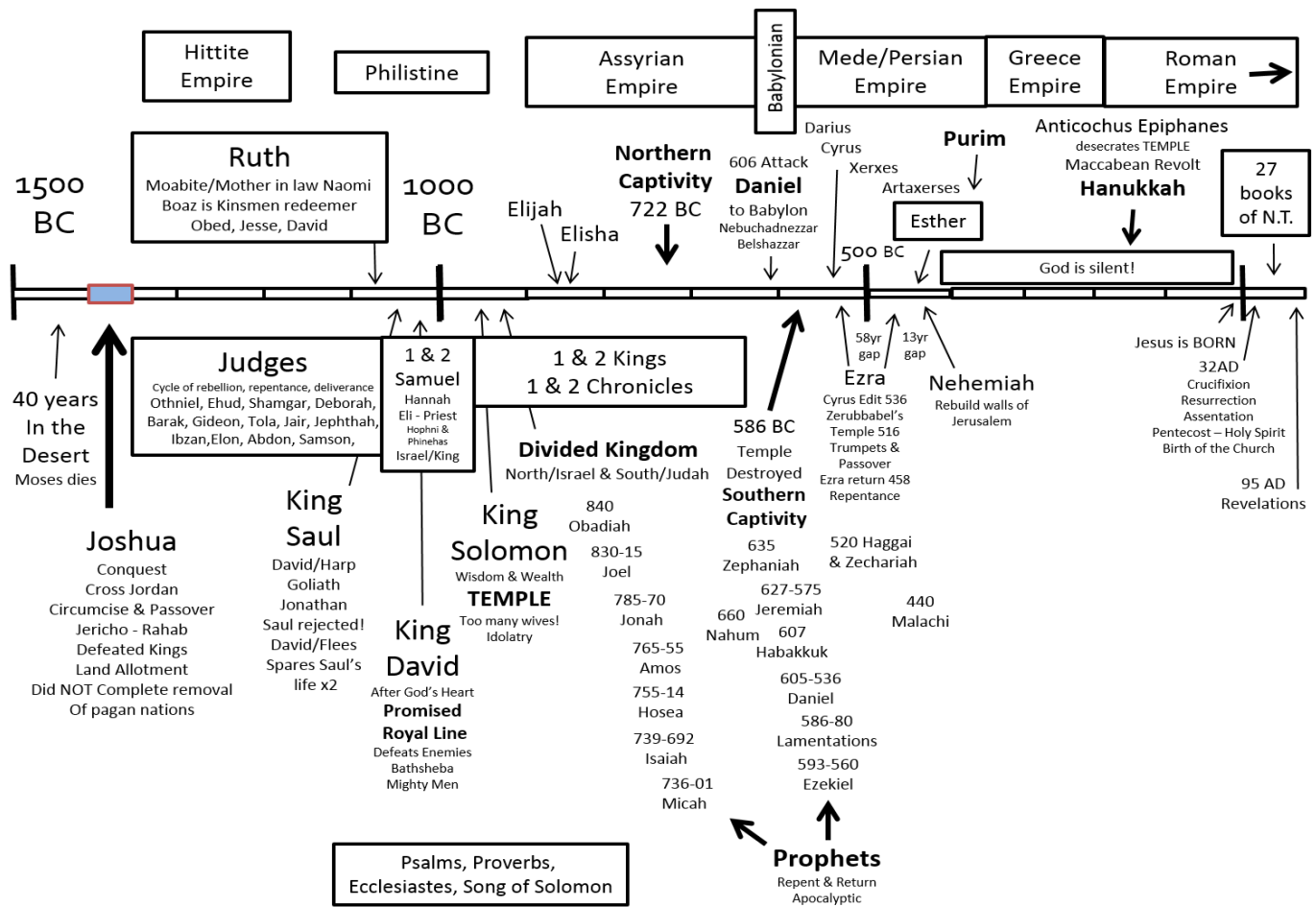
put an end to the consequences of sin, He must also put an end to our ability to make sinful choices. This means what you value most, your freedom to choose your own way, must also be eliminated. In the end, God will put an end to sin. When that day arrives, and Jesus returns, it will be too late for those who have rejected His forgiveness. Therefore, we are to share His redemptive plan with others, so they can be saved from the consequences of sin through repentance and faith.

Because of the nature and character of God, He has taken sin very seriously throughout history. He is a righteous judge who has punished wickedness in various ways at various times. He caused a great flood to envelope the earth during the days of Noah. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire during the time of Abraham. Yet, God has continually shown grace and mercy to those who believe Him by faith, who love Him by obeying His commands, and who submit to His authority. The Old Testament reveals that God is a covenant keeping God. He keeps His promises. God chose Abraham as the seed from which the Messiah would come. God made a covenant with Abraham and promised a special land in which his descendants would inhabit. In fact, most of the Old Testament tells the story of the children of Israel and their relationship to God. Have you also heard the stories of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph? These men lived by faith! They believed God and despite their flaws, God fulfilled His promises through them.

By the providence of God, the children of Israel went to Egypt to escape famine. Eventually, they were enslaved. It was Moses, whom God called and equipped to lead them out of Egypt. Through the burning bush God revealed Himself and His plan to deliver His people. God displayed His power with amazing signs and wonders. He caused 10 plagues to fall upon the Egyptians, and Moses led them through the Red Sea. In the final plague, all those who had the blood of a lamb on their door did not lose their firstborn son. This is why the Jewish people celebrate the Passover. It memorialized the promise of God to provide the forgiveness of sin through the Messiah. On the cross, Jesus was our Passover lamb. Through the Exodus, God renews His covenant to the children of Israel and He gives them His Laws, so that they know how to follow Him based His holiness. His first commands are to love Him and not worship any other gods or idols. He institutes a sacrificial system. Every aspect of the tabernacle worship pointed to Jesus as the atoning sacrifice of sin.

This begins a process where they come to know God by experience and His revealed Word. Despite His presence and provision, the people often grumbled and complained to God, Rebellion and unbelief were a continual pattern. Therefore, they wandered in the desert for 40 years. God led them to take possession of the Promised Land through Joshua, and He again displayed His mighty power. The inhabitants of the land were extremely wicked. Because they were so perverse, and followed false gods, God uses the nation of Israel to be the tool of His judgment. Remember, God takes sin seriously. The Israelites did not fully obey God or complete the task He gave them. They intermarried into these cultures and were led astray to follow false gods. They did what was right in their own eyes, which led to suffering. When the people repented of their sins and turned to God, God would send a judge to deliver them. Then, after a time of peace, the people would sin again and turn against God. This cycle continued for over 300 years.





Eventually, the Israelites asked God for a King to lead their nation. God sends Samuel to anoint Saul. He was tall and handsome, just like the people wanted, but he turned out to be a selfish King. The next King was David. He was a man after God's own heart. He had flaws, but he loved God and lived by faith. God made a covenant with David. The Messiah was to be from the line and lineage of David. His kingdom would never end! David's son asked for wisdom and God blessed him. His name was Solomon and he built the temple. From David and Solomon come most of the poetic writings of the Bible, where the wisdom of God is revealed and the worship of God is expressed. From these foundations, most of the kings of Israel do not follow after God and the kingdom is divided. God sends prophets to remind them of His holiness and calls them to repent of their sins. The prophets foretell the details of the Messiah and share glimpses of the final judgment of God. They also predict their nation would be conquered, and the Jewish people captured and sent into exile. All these occur. The Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians around 722 BC. The Southern Kingdom is conquered by the Babylonians around 586 BC. God's discipline is to teach them about Himself and their need of a Savior. In Daniel, many more prophecies are made, especially of the Messiah, and they all come true! This authenticates the Scriptures are from God. It is through Ezra and Nehemiah the walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt and the temple and the sacrificial system are restored.

When the New Testament begins, God has been silent for 400 years. The children of Israel had learned valuable lessons about the seriousness of sin, but most had turned faith into a legalistic system of works. This is why Jesus condemned the Pharisees. They were the religious rulers who used the Levitical Law as a

means to gain righteousness. When Jesus takes on flesh and dwelt among us, He condemns religious people who were self-righteous. We are justified by faith. It was never about rules! The first 4 books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. They tell the story of Jesus from different perspectives. His life, teaching and ministry are documented, as well as His death, burial, and resurrection. The book of Acts tells the story of the early church, as the Disciples of Jesus share the Good News, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The rest of the New Testament is comprised of letters written by Apostles to specific people and the local churches where the Gospel had spread. These letters were corrective in nature and rebuked false teaching and while affirming doctrinal Truth. When John wrote the book of Revelations, detailing end times, the canon of Scripture was complete. The early Church only accepted the authentic works and rejected the letters they considered fake. The copies of these manuscripts were widely distributed and the availability of so many of them, prove that the story of the New Testament has not been changed or altered over time. It would be impossible to destroy and replace all those copies.

This is what is so amazing about grace (**receiving something we do not deserve**). God is not only omnipotent (**all powerful**), He is also omniscient (**all knowing**). Therefore, He knew we would rebel against Him and choose our own way before He created us. He determined to take the shame of the cross and the penalty of sin before the creation of the world. He loved us and throughout history He has pursued us! We are saved by grace, through faith. It is the gift of God. We were shown mercy (**we did not receive what we did deserve**). He poured out His own wrath (**Justice**) on Himself at the cross. He bore the curse of sin, in our place. He was the atoning sacrifice for our sin. This was His plan from the beginning and we will have eternal life in Heaven when Jesus returns! God keeps His promises and we need to see life from an eternal perspective! You are created for a purpose in God's story!

You see, when we read the Bible, we come to know the heart of God. He speaks to us through His Word, and the Holy Spirit guides us in all Truth. We learn His ways and His commands. We are given clear instruction and wisdom. God uses Scripture to transform our lives. When God speaks, we must trust Him and obey Him. Therefore, as you read the Scriptures, discern what you are to **KNOW** about God. Allow God to change your attitudes and perspective. Adjust your belief system to Him. Seek God for who you are to **BE**, as His servant. Conform your heart to Him and allow Him to change your character. Finally, determine what you are to **DO**. If what God says is true, how will you respond and live in obedience? How will you share it with others?

Reading the Bible is essential to **GROW** as a devoted follower of Jesus. Absorb yourself in the Scriptures. Set aside at least 20-30 each day for a quiet time with the Lord. Make it a priority. Download a Bible app and listen when you are in the car or have free time. The God of the universe has spoken! Don't you want to hear from Him? Here are the basic rules of interpretation, which are called hermeneutics.

First, **OBSERVE** the text. What does it say? Who said it? To whom was it said? What is the context? When was it written? Is it a narrative, a parable, an allegory, or a specific teaching with clear instructions? What are the facts? Ask questions. Context rules! What are we to **KNOW** about God?

Once we determine the context, we are ready to **INTERPRET** the text. What does it mean? Start by determining the meaning of the keywords in the passage. The passage can only have one true meaning. How was it first understood by those who heard it or read it? This is what it still means today! Use Scripture to interpret Scripture. The Bible does not contradict itself. It all fits together! Pray for God to

help you discover the meaning. Hold your understanding of Scripture with humility and remain open to correction. This does not mean we do not hold firmly to the Truth. It means we want to know the Truth! We must adjust our view to the correct view, as God reveals it. Now, **APPLY** the text. Who am I to BE? Are there changes I need to make in my lifestyle? Is there sin to confess? Do I have a relationship to restore? What must I DO?

Discipleship questions can help you interpret and apply scripture. One method is called **SPECK**. The first letter of each key word in these questions creates the acronym SPECK.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

Good questions lead to more questions that open the heart and mind to a better understanding of Scripture. Following the progression of KNOW, BE, DO, these basic discipleship questions are also helpful to life transformation. Allow these examples to stir your heart to probe the text deeper. As you ponder them, the Holy Spirit will reveal more to you and prompt even more questions with implications that will draw your heart to God and create life change. They are also intended to remind you to share what you have learned with others. **Remember, you are a disciple who makes disciples!**

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the SPECK Method and/or the KNOW, BE, DO model. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner. You will discuss these at your first meeting.

Colossians 3:16

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:12

Psalms 119:105

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from Luke and write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner using the discipleship questions.

Day 2: Luke 1

Day 3: Luke 2

Day 4: Luke 3

Day 5: Luke 4

Day 6: Luke 5

Day 7: Luke 6



# Relational Discipleship

## 1st Meeting – Scripture

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10–15 minutes)

- How are you?
- What can you celebrate?
- What did you learn from the SERMON this week?
- What is the G-O-S-P-E-L? Use your hand.

### Devotional Reading: (10–15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your daily quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage or convict you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- Why is context so important to interpretation?
- What happens when you take someone's words out of context?
- Describe the progression from KNOW, BE & DO. How does this work?
- Why are the reliability, authority and inerrancy of Scripture so important?
- How can you know what the Bible says is true?
- How does one hear God speak through the Bible?
- How does the Bible transform our lives and help you grow spiritually?
- What must you do to make Scripture a priority?
- How will you share what you have learned?
- How are you teaching your family?

### Prayer Time: (5–10 minutes)

- How can you pray for one another?
- What challenges and obstacles do you face?
- What are the spiritual battles you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.

#### Resource:

Want to know more about the historicity of the Bible? Go to [www.truelife.org](http://www.truelife.org) and click on the Answers tab at the top. Select the videos on the Bible and Archeology. What did you learn?



## Lesson 2: Know God Personally Through prayer

### Day 1 – Teach us to pray, Lord

Prayer is essential **to GROW as a devoted follower**. We have a personal relationship with God and we must simply learn to communicate with Him and listen to His voice. Jesus modeled a life of prayer to the Disciples and He demonstrated His complete dependence upon the Father. In Luke 11:1-13, the Disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. **Read it now.** In this passage, Jesus gave them a framework in which to approach God. Some recite it by memory every day, but our prayers should be more than just memorized words. Our prayers express an authentic relationship with God. In verses 2-4, Jesus explained how to seek God. Let these thoughts guide your prayers.

- Seek Him as a **Son** (or daughter) does to his/her Father.
- Seek Him as a **Saint** who desires to glorify HIS Name.
- Seek Him as His **Subject** under His Authority.
- Seek Him as a **Servant** who lives for His will.
- Seek Him as the **Supplier** of all your daily needs.
- Seek Him as a **Sinner** who has been shown mercy.
- Seek Him as **Soldier** who ready for battle.

In verses 5-13, Jesus uses a parable to contrast Himself against a “friend” who meets a request just to avoid more inconvenience. So, do we wear God down with our prayers? No, He is a loving Father, ready to give the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of His children. We **ASK, SEEK, & KNOCK** with God’s agenda as our priority. What will you **PROFESS** about God? Use Scripture for Worship and Adoration! What will you **CONFESS** to God? Use Scripture to express repentance of sin, dependence upon Him, and Thanksgiving! For what will you **ADDRESS** God? Use the Scriptures to identify spiritual needs. Express your physical, emotional, relational, and financial needs!

As you begin your day in a right relationship with God, you are then able to remain in a constant spirit of prayer, ready to intercede for others at a moment’s notice. Talking with God will become a natural part of your day as you live a lifestyle of continual worship. The simple acrostic **ACTS** identify important components to prayer.

- A** – Adoration (Glorify God for who He is)
- C** – Confession (Remorse for daily sins)
- T** – Thanksgiving (For everything)
- S** – Specific Requests (God’s Kingdom purposes)

God knows everything we need before we ask, but He commands us to pray. Why? It’s all about relationship! Our prayers align our hearts and mind to Him. Then, God uses our prayers to demonstrate His power and glory. When we pray, we are involved in the work of God. Simply be honest with God and speak from the heart. Use the examples of the Bible to guide your prayers for your life and home, your church, your community, & your world.



Jesus often prayed early in the day in a quiet place. What can we learn from His prayer life? How did Jesus pray? In John 17, Jesus prayed for Himself, His Disciples, and all Believers. Read it now! How can this prayer guide our prayer life? Write your thoughts.

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the SPECK Method. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

Luke 18: 1–14 (A parable with a sharp contrast to make a point)

Ephesians 1:15–23

Ephesians 3:14–20

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Colossians 1:9–14

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from Luke and write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO** Method.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2: Luke 7

Day 3: Luke 8

Day 4: Luke 9

Day 5: Luke 10

Day 6: Luke 11

Day 7: Luke 12



# Relational Discipleship

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – Prayer

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10-15 minutes)

- How are you?
- What can you celebrate?
- What did you learn from the SERMON this week?
- What is the G-O-S-P-E-L? Use your hand
- Have you shared Jesus or loved your neighbor this week?
- Have you shared what you are learning with your family?
- Have you completed an action step God revealed?

### Devotional Reading: (10-15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- Discuss your prayer life and its value to you.
- Discuss the implications of each way to SEEK God.
- How does prayer transform us?
- What is the most meaningful thing you read?
- Why is the ACTS acrostic helpful?
- How is prayer a battle for your mind?
- How can one PRAY THE SCRIPTURES?
- How can you share what you have learned?
- How are you modeling it for your family?

### Prayer Time: (5-10 minutes)

- How can we pray for one another?
- What challenges, obstacles, or spiritual battles do you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Lesson 3: Know God Personally Through His body, the Church

### Day 1 – The Church Family

Jesus is the #1 priority of your life. He is the head of your life. He is also the head of the Church body. As part of the body of Christ, you must learn how to relate to one another. We gather for worship, teaching, accountability and encouragement, as well as to help meet the needs of one another. As you do, you recognize that you are interconnected. We need each other and we have spiritual gifts that are necessary for the body to function as a unit. In Romans 12, the Apostle Paul describes the relationships of those in the early church. Read it now. What does this passage teach?

The Spirit of God works in us and through us as a BODY! The best way to get connected is through a small group and the large worship gathering at church. These provide context to use the spiritual gifts God has given each of us. As we share with others and draw strength from one another, we experience biblical community. We also live our mission of making disciples through mutual accountability. These relationships form the basis of discipleship, or spiritual growth.

Churches often articulate their collective purpose with a mission statement. It does not replace the commands of Scripture, but provides focus and clarity. It is a declaration of why they exist and it is a measuring tool for ministry. For example: Does the activity of our church align with our mission statement? Are we being effective at completing our mission? Do we have a clear process of making disciples? First Steps was built on the following statement.

*Our Mission is to **GROW** devoted followers of Jesus, who **KNOW** Him personally, **SHOW** His love relationally, and **GO** with Him faithfully into our world.*

There is no doubt the early church was committed to one another and they experienced community. If you are a devoted follower of Jesus, then you are a part of His family, and we are connected! Aren't you concerned for all the parts of your body? Then, we are to have a common concern for all those in our local church. We must also see that we all have something to contribute for the common good.

Acts 2:42-47 says, <sup>42</sup>*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* <sup>43</sup>*Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.* <sup>44</sup>*All the believers were together and had everything in common.* <sup>45</sup>*They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.* <sup>46</sup>*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,* <sup>47</sup>*praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

The word fellowship in verse 42 is the Greek word Koinonia. This word means communion with God and one another. It's focus is not socializing, but our committed relationship with God and His people. Are you connected to a covenant community? You see, we become mature in our faith and grow spiritually as function as a part of God's family and our lives are transformed as we become accountable to others. Accountability is based on trust. It is a relationship in which you are open about the sin in your life and you give others permission to be honest about what they see in your life. It is healthy to ask accountability questions as a part of relational discipleship. Iron sharpens iron. This is disciple making!

The key to holding one another accountable is humility and love. We are all sinners who fall short of the glory of God, but we can inspire one another to love and good deeds. These basic accountability questions are useful for discipleship partners. When we learn to expose our sin, God gives us the power to conquer it!

## BASIC Accountability Questions

1. How have you grown closer to the Lord this week? Are you letting the Word of God and the Holy Spirit guide your life, mind, and decisions?
2. Have you reflected love in all your relationships this week? Have you been a testimony to the greatness of God this week?
3. Do you have any unresolved issues in your life such as anger, personal conflicts, or addictions that need to be addressed?
4. Is your conscience clear in matters of integrity and your personal character? Do you have any unconfessed sin in your life?
5. Does your daily routine or priorities reflect what is really important in your life? Is what you are living for worth what Jesus died for?

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

Hebrews 10:23-25

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Matthew 18:15-20

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from Luke and write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO** Method.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2: Luke 13

Day 3: Luke 14

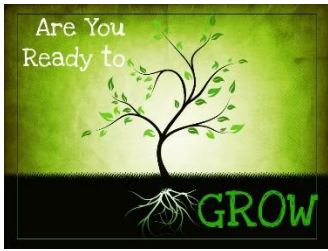
Day 4: Luke 15

Day 5: Luke 16

Day 6: Luke 17

Day 7: Luke 18





# Relational Discipleship

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – The Body of Christ

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10-15 minutes)

- How are you?
- What can you celebrate?
- What did you learn from the SERMON this week?
- What is the G-O-S-P-E-L? Use your hand
- Have you shared Jesus or shown Jesus this week with your top 5?
- Have you shared what you are learning with your family?
- Have you completed an action step God revealed?

### Devotional Reading: (10-15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- How does fellowship help me KNOW God?
- Why is community so important?
- What are your spiritual gifts, talents and skills, personality and passions?
- How does God want to use you to change the world?
- Do you have a specific calling that fits into His overall mission and strategy?
- How do you discover your spiritual gifts?
- Are you active in a small group and the local church?
- How can self-sufficiency and independence be just what the enemy (Satan) wants?
- What must you do to live what you have learned?
- How can you share what you learned with others?

### Prayer Time: (5-10 minutes)

- How can we pray for one another?
- What challenges, obstacles, or spiritual battles do you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

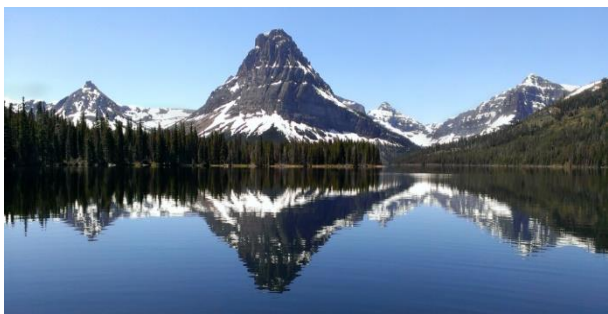
### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Week 4: We SHOW His love relationally Through Life Transformation

Jesus invites us to come as we are but not to stay as we are. God's plan from the creation of the world was for us to *"be conformed to His image."* (Romans 8:29) This means that our **HEART** needs to change. Our character and values must change. Then, we'll think more of others and less of ourselves. It is major heart surgery (spiritually speaking) to deal with our spiritual heart disease (sin & selfishness). The picture below captures and casts a vision of who we are to **BE** in Christ. We become a reflection of Christ when we die to our fleshly desires and live by His Spirit. The motivation of the **HEART** is love. When we love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, we love others as ourselves.



**Romans 12:1-3** says, <sup>1</sup> *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.* <sup>2</sup> *Do not conform 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.*

**Galatians 2:20** says, <sup>20</sup> *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

**Galatians 5:19-25** says, <sup>19</sup> *The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.* <sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

What do these passages teach?

The goal of every believer is to walk in step with the Holy Spirit. We must die to sin and self. As we submit to Him and live in Him. He produces spiritual fruit in us. In John 15, Jesus says He is the vine and we are the branches. Read it now. What do we learn from this passage?

God also uses trials, hardship, and suffering. **James 1:2–4** says, <sup>2</sup> *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,<sup>1a</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds,* <sup>3</sup> *because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.* <sup>4</sup> *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

What are the lessons God is teaching you?

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

1 Peter 1:13–23

Colossians 3:1–17

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from Luke and write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO Method**.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2:     Luke 19

Day 3: Luke 20

Day 4: Luke 21

Day 5: Luke 22

Day 6: Luke 23

Day 7: Luke 24



# Relational Discipleship

## 4th Meeting – Transformation

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10–15 minutes)

- How are life and family? What can we celebrate?
- How is your walk with Jesus? How is small group?
- What is something you learned in the SERMON this week?
- What is the GOSPEL? Use your hand!
- How are you sharing and showing Jesus?
- Have you completed an action step God revealed?
- Choose an accountability question (p.19)

### Devotional Reading: (10–15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- How is transformation open heart surgery?
- What are the obstacles to being a living sacrifice?
- What are the consequences of saying “No” to God?
- What are the benefits of saying “Yes” to God?
- Do you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life?
- How do we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit?
- What happens when we walk in the flesh?
- What action steps must you take?
- How can I share what I am learning with others?
- How does my life reflect this to my family and my top 5?

### Prayer Time: (5–10 minutes)

- How can we pray for one another?
- What challenges, obstacles, or spiritual battles do you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Week 5: We SHOW His love relationally Through our obedience to Christ.

### Day 1 – Yes, Lord

You have probably figured out by now that dying to sin and self is much easier said than done. This is the hard road we told you about in the beginning. Until you gave your life to Christ, you were the authority of your life. Now, you have to surrender that authority to Jesus every day. You have to love others, forgive others, sacrifice for others, and be accountable to others.

In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus says, <sup>30</sup> *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind and with all your strength.* <sup>31</sup> *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* *There is no commandment greater than these.* If our beginning point is our love relationship with God, obedience is a natural result. However, many people who say they are Christians do not live a life that reflects Him.

In John 14, Jesus says the following...

<sup>15</sup> *"If you love me, keep my commands..."*

<sup>21</sup> *"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me..."*

<sup>23</sup> *"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching..."*

Let's be clear. We are servants and God is our Master. These Scriptures identify many ways we are to follow Him. We must forgive others as we have been forgiven you. We must be peacemakers. We must not live in immorality. We love our wives and respect our husbands. We are to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. We are to make disciples. It is a big list! However, these should not be drudgery. We love Jesus! We have eternal life! We have been shown mercy. Following Jesus and obeying the wisdom of God is always for our good!

Read Matthew 7:24-27. What is the key?

Let's look at two specific commands of Scripture that are important for every believer. First, God commands us to be **BAPTIZED** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a picture of salvation. You identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a profession of your faith to the world. You declare that you have rejected your old way of life, patterned by sin and you have embraced the new life, which is in the Spirit. To baptize means to immerse or dip. This is the pattern we see in Scripture. The pre-requisite is repentance and faith. Have you been obedient to Christ through baptism?



**Barometer** – a scientific instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure to predict the weather.

**GIVING** is another act of obedience. This is a heart issue. Do I trust God? Through reading Luke, you have learned that everything belongs to God. You are only a steward of His resources and when you act in faith, God blesses you beyond measure. Your willingness to give to the Lord and to others is a spiritual **\*barometer**. If you do not want to give **YOUR** money, **YOUR** time, and **YOUR** talents, herein is the problem. You do not understand ownership. The financial blessings in your life are not only for your needs, but for the needs of others. God has given you everything, so that you can fulfill His Kingdom purposes. Many see 10% (which is what the word tithe literally means) as a pattern to give to the local church. That is a good starting point, but you must seek God for what He is asking you to do with your money. Can you give willingly and with a joyful heart? What do you treasure?



You will begin the book of Acts this week for your daily devotions. It is a continuation of Luke. As you read it, consider the response of the early church. How are baptism and giving described? What are you holding back from God? Do you trust God? If you love Him, you will obey all of His specific commands.

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

Galatians 6:1-10

Matthew 28:18-20

Malachi 3:8-12

Luke 12:13-34

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from **the book of Acts**, which is a history of the early church. Write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO** Method.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2: Acts 1

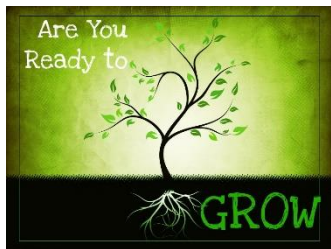
Day 3: Acts 2

Day 4: Acts 3

Day 5: Acts 4

Day 6: Acts 5

Day 7: Acts 6



# Relational Discipleship

## 5th Meeting – Obedience

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10-15 minutes)

- How are life and family? What can we celebrate?
- How is your walk with Jesus? How is small group?
- Have you completed an action step God revealed?
- How are you SHARING Jesus and Loving your neighbor?
- Choose an accountability question (p.19)

### Devotional Reading: (10-15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- Does infant baptism meet the standard of Scripture? Why or Why not?
- Does the act of baptism produce regeneration (salvation)? Why or why not?
- Have you been baptized? What does it mean?
- Why is giving a spiritual barometer?
- Do you need help establishing a budget in order to be a better steward of God's resources?
- What other areas of obedience were described in the readings this week?
- Do you have a testimony on the blessing of giving?
- How can you share what you have learned?
- How have you taught your family these principles?

### Prayer Time: (5-10 minutes)

- How can you pray for one another?
- What challenges and obstacles do you face?
- What are the spiritual battles you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Week 6: SHOWING His love relationally

### Involves Spiritual Warfare

#### Day 1– Help me, Lord!

Becoming like Jesus is a daily battle. Satan is a liar and he wants to derail our progress. He does not want us to address the issues that destroy us and others. He is a schemer and he tempts us with the desires of our flesh. Through the Holy Spirit, we can defeat the enemy, and when God convicts us of sin in any area of our life, we must respond to His promptings. We must turn away from sin and self. The spiritual battle raging within can only be won with spiritual weapons. Only through the Holy Spirit can we have victory. Only through the power of Jesus Christ can we make different choices and stand firm against the Devil. Therefore, repentance is the pathway to transformation. It involves brokenness for sin and resolve to change our actions and thinking, empowered by God.

**Ephesians 6:10–18** says,

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

Whether you understand it or not, every battle you face has a spiritual origin. We must see life through spiritual lenses and recognize Satan does not want us to be a witness for God. He does not want us to glorify God. He does not want us to make disciples. Therefore, we must learn to put on the armor of God and use the spiritual weapons He has given us.

**1 Peter 5:5–11** says,

*"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Colossians 2:13–15* says,

*<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the un-circumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

God has triumphed over Satan. Therefore, he has no real power over us, so live to gratify the Spirit, not the lust of your flesh. Confess your sin daily and find healing and renewal. Pray in the Spirit. Pray with other believers in agreement in Jesus' name. Claim the truth of Scripture. Resist the Devil. Rebuke him in the name of Jesus. All authority has been given to Christ and is ours!

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

Ephesians 5:1–21

Psalms 51

Philippians 4:4–8

Psalms 103

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from **the book of Acts**, which is a history of the early church. Write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO Method**.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2: Acts 7

Day 3: Acts 8

Day 4: Acts 9

Day 5: Acts 10

Day 6: Acts 11

Day 7: Acts 12





# Relational Discipleship

## 6th Meeting – Spiritual Warfare

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10–15 minutes)

- How are life and family? What can we celebrate?
- How is your walk with Jesus?
- Have you completed an action step God revealed?
- How are you SHARING & SHOWING Jesus?
- How are you connecting in your small group?
- Choose an accountability question (p.19)

### Devotional Reading: (10–15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- Who is the enemy?
- How does the enemy work?
- How do we defeat him?
- How do we put on our armor and stand firm?
- Why is confessing your sin to others healthy?
- What happens when you expose sin to the light?
- Why is the battle for your mind so important?
- What authority and power do we have in Jesus' name? How has Christ disarmed Satan?
- Discuss the verses to ponder.
- How are you teaching this to your family?

### Prayer Time: (5–10 minutes)

- How can you pray for one another?
- What challenges and obstacles do you face?
- What are the spiritual battles you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Week 7: We GO faithfully into His world

### By sharing His mission

#### Day 1 – Disciple making

At the beginning of this study, we learned that we are to be fishers of men. We do this in the context of relationships. As we love others and share God's story, we become the **HANDS & FEET** of Jesus to a hurting and broken world. Jesus was always meeting physical needs. He cared about people. He was often ridiculed for spending time with sinners, but He said it is the sick that needed a doctor. What type of relationships do you have with lost people? How are you investing in their lives? Your life authenticates your message, but your message must come with words! You see, the greatest way to love someone is to tell them the TRUTH. Without Christ, people are dead in their sins and separated from God, and we are called to be His ambassadors.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 says, <sup>18</sup> *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> 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.*

The Scriptures also teach that God draws people to Himself (John 6:65). It is the Spirit of God that convicts a person of sin (John 16:8) and removes their spiritual blindness (1 Corinthians 2:14), so pray for the lost! We are not responsible for the results, but we are called to be faithful to the task God has given us. Where is God at work? If you know someone seeking answers, invite them to take 21 days with Jesus through the Gospel of John. It is a Journey of Discovery. This is one way to ask people to investigate the claims of Christ. Ask them to read one chapter a day and to get together once a week to discuss what they are learning. In the end, they must decide if Jesus is a liar, a lunatic, or LORD!

Not everyone will take this journey with you, so you have to learn how to share Jesus in your life and relationships. We fish for men by telling our God story! What was your life like before Christ? How did you recognize your need for a life changing experience? What is your life like now? This is your testimony. As you continue to read the book of Acts, you will see that Paul tells his story over and over again. Jump ahead now and see an example in Acts 22:1-16. [Read it now.](#)

What is your story?

It is also important to memorize Scripture to share the GOSPEL. The following verses are called the **Romans Road**. Write them out below and begin to memorize them.

Romans 1:20

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:6-8

Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-10

Here are more helpful verses. Write down **1 word or phrase** that summarizes them!

John 3:16

Isaiah 53:6

Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 14:6

1 John 4:9-10

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from **the book of Acts**. Write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO** Method.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2: Acts 13

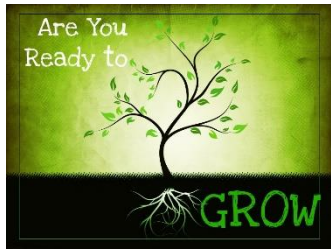
Day 3: Acts 14

Day 4: Acts 15

Day 5: Acts 16

Day 6: Acts 17

Day 7: Acts 18



# Relational Discipleship

## 7th Meeting – Sharing Jesus

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10–15 minutes)

- How are life and family? What can we celebrate?
- How is your walk with Jesus?
- What did God teach you through the SERMON or small group this week?
- Have you completed an action step God revealed?
- How are you SHARING & Loving your neighbor?
- Choose an accountability question (p.19)

### Devotional Reading: (10–15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- Why is prayer essential to sharing the Gospel?
- Why must we be dependent on the Holy Spirit?
- Why is your testimony so powerful?
- Why are the Scriptures so important?
- What happens if you are rejected?
- Why are relationships so important?
- Why must we live the Gospel?
- How can you share what you are learning?

### Prayer Time: (5–10 minutes)

- How can you pray for one another?
- What challenges and obstacles do you face?
- What are the spiritual battles you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Week 8: We GO faithfully into our world

### By serving others

#### Day 1 – Here I am, Lord. Use me!

We live out our faith not just by telling other people about Jesus but by serving them in Jesus' name. That means we gladly reach out to the weakest, the lowliest, the neediest, and the neglected. We serve them to demonstrate the love of God and our actions speak louder than words. People believe what they see.

*<sup>13</sup>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 underfoot. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*  
**Matthew 5:13-16**

Our Journey is increasingly about others and decreasingly about ourselves. We ought to increasingly shift our focus from our own wants and desires, to the needs and hurts of others. Surprisingly, we discover that emptying ourselves to serve others is actually the path to being fulfilled!

**Matthew 25:35-40** says, *<sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. <sup>37</sup>“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

Jesus is our example.

**Philippians 2:1-13** says, *<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every*

*tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

What does this passage teach?

Is the love of Jesus more and more evident in your life? If not, there is a problem. There is more work God must do in you. If we do not live the Gospel, people will not believe the words of the Gospel. How are you serving others?

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

John 13

James 2:1–17

1 Corinthians 13

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from **the book of Acts**, which is a history of the early church. Write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO Method**.

- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?



Day 2: Acts 19

Day 3: Acts 20

Day 4: Acts 21

Day 5: Acts 22

Day 6: Acts 23

Day 7: Acts 24



# Relational Discipleship

## 8th Meeting – Serving Others

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10-15 minutes)

- How are life and family? What can we celebrate?
- How is your walk with Jesus?
- What did you experience in small group or our church gathering this week?
- How are you SHARING & SHOWING Jesus?
- Choose an accountability question (p.19)

### Devotional Reading: (10-15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- What needs do you see in your church?
- How can you serve in your church?
- What needs do you see at work or in neighbors?
- How has God equipped you to serve others?
- What does God say about helping the poor?
- How do you use your talents, time, and treasures?
- How can you teach others what you are learning?
- How are you modeling this for your family?

### Prayer Time: (5-10 minutes)

- How can you pray for one another?
- What challenges and obstacles do you face?
- What are the spiritual battles you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

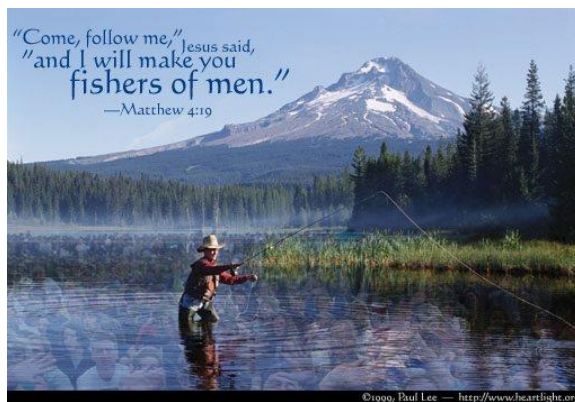
Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.



## Week 9: We GO faithfully into our world By Being Reproducible – We multiply!

### Day 1 – Maturity

You have learned so much over the last 9 weeks about being a follower of Jesus, but you have just scratched the surface of all that the Scriptures teach. I know you have many questions, but you have learned the relational model Jesus used for making disciples. If you continue to build on the fundamental principles you have learned you will continue to grow in Christ and bear spiritual fruit. Therefore, be reproducible and model these principles with others. Invest in the spiritual walk of people and use the same approach you have learned.



1. Continue to be **A Student of the Word** – This investment will pay great dividends and it is essential to transformation and growth. Follow the hermeneutics or principles of interpretation you have learned.

2. Follow a **Family Discipleship Plan** – Besides your personal time with God, we encourage you to do family discipleship. Here is a guide. Adapt it to your family. Your family is your first mission field. Reproduce yourself in them and teach them how to disciple others.

- **Family Bible Reading** – Use the basic discipleship questions you have shared with your partner. Create your own. Get your family thinking and talking.
- **Bible Verse Memorization** – Hide God's Word in your heart. Choose 1 new verse a week and share over every meal. Make it fun and let each member of the family say the next word of the verse.
- **Family Prayer Time** – Identify people who need Jesus, and include your children's friends. Help them see they are missionaries. Share needs, hurts, concerns, but keep the focus on God. Let your children hear you pray. Let them pray. Pray the Scriptures for them & with them.
- **Spiritual Goals** – In what areas does your family struggle? What does your family need to study or learn? Create action steps to meet goals. Evaluate your progress monthly.
- **Missions & Service** – Choose a project to do as a family. Model the GOSPEL to your kids and teach them to be fishers of men & serve!
- **Giving** – Challenge each family member to give to the needs of others, to mission projects and to church.
- **Family Fun** – Spend a night or day with JUST your family. Get creative. Build memories. Enjoy the journey. Play!
- **Date Night** – Don't forget the romance. Keep your spouse a priority. You are teaching your kids how to love.

3. **Stay connected** – A small group and a prayer/accountability partner is your best way to stay connected. Study and pray together with a common mission. Do life together. Bear each other's burdens. Use these relationships and this atmosphere to reach others. Use your spiritual gifts!
4. **Make corporate Worship a priority** – Use your spiritual gifts and talents to serve the church family. Help with Youth and Children's Discipleship. Participate in church wide mission & service projects, tithe, be involved in global missions and fellowship with the church family.
5. **Keep Sharing Jesus!** You have GOOD NEWS! Pray for those who need Jesus and find ways to serve them in practical ways. As God opens the door, be bold with your faith with humility and sincerity.
6. Be a **Discipleship Partner**. Use the principles you have learned in First Steps to teach others what you have learned.

Jesus commissioned His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20.

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in <sup>1b</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

## Multiplication is everywhere in the New Testament!

**2 Timothy 2:1-2:** *You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.*

**Philippians 4:9:** *Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

# Eternal Urgency

## The Second Coming

Jesus clearly says He is coming again in John 14:1-3

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God<sup>1a</sup>; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

The End of the Age is also the focus of Matthew 24-25. He will return and we must be ready. Is your life focused on the return of Jesus? Are you living in light of Eternity?

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

Focus on your mission! Live your purpose!

**Complete Day 1:** Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learned and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner to discuss at your next meeting.

- Is there a **SIN** to avoid?
- Is there a **PROMISE** from God to trust?
- Is there an **EXAMPLE** to follow?
- Is there a **COMMAND** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** about God to learn?

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

2 Corinthians 5:1–15

Ephesians 4: 1–16

For the rest of the week, **finish the book of Acts**. Write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

Use the **KNOW, BE, DO Method**.

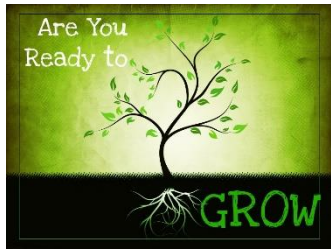
- What am I to **KNOW** about God? (Father, Son, & Spirit)
- What is the context and the meaning of the keywords?
- What does this passage teach? Who am I to **BE**?
- How does this passage model discipleship?
- How can I apply these truths to my life?
- What must I **DO** to live in obedience?
- How can I **SHARE** what I have learned? With who?

Day 2: Acts 25

Day 3: Acts 26

Day 4: Acts 27

Day 5: Acts 28



# Relational Discipleship

## Final Meeting – Multiply

### Fellowship & Follow UP: (10–15 minutes)

- How are life and family? What can we celebrate?
- How is your walk with Jesus?
- How are you SHARING & SHOWING Jesus?

### Devotional Reading: (10–15 minutes)

- Using your notes, share what you learned this week in your quiet time.
- What are your unanswered questions?
- How did God challenge you? How did He encourage you?

### Discipleship Lesson: (20 minutes)

- How did the church reproduce themselves in ACTS?
- Do you see these principles at work in you?
  - In sharing the Gospel
  - In your small group?
  - In your church?
- How are you reproducing yourself in your family?
- How do you live in light of eternity?
- WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?
  - What is your plan to continue to grow as a disciple?
  - How will God use you as a missionary?

### Prayer Time: (5–10 minutes)

- How can you pray for one another?
- What challenges and obstacles do you face?
- What are the spiritual battles you face?
- Who are you praying will be saved?
- What are your specific requests?

### Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. Use this space to identify spiritual goals and action steps.