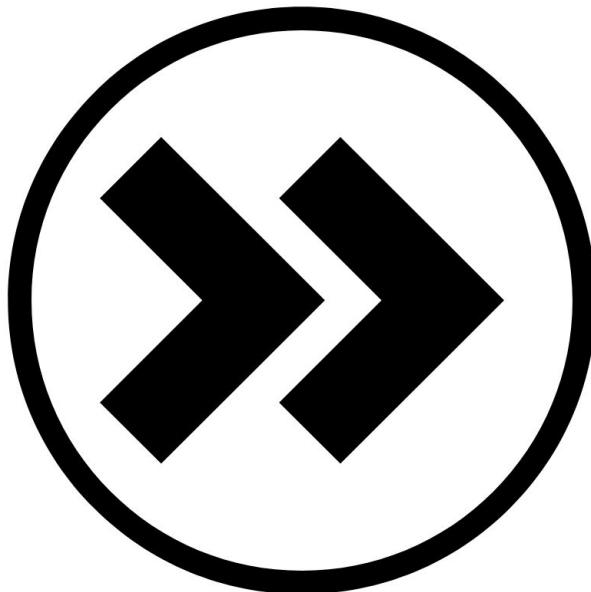


First Steps

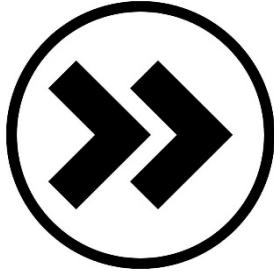
A Relational Guide to Discipleship
for New Believers



To Know Him and Make Him Known

Name

Introduction



You are deeply loved by God!

Let that sink in. God pursued you, and He loved you first! That's the starting point and the foundation of your faith. Everything you believe must come to grips with this reality. When you placed your faith in Christ, you became the child of a good Father, who will never leave you, nor forsake you.

Those who reject their unbelief and turn away from their rebellious heart, through genuine **repentance**, are saved. They are **justified** by faith! By His glorious **grace**, you have been made right with God. Jesus is the **atoning sacrifice** for your sin. He died in your place and you now have **redemption**, through his blood. The righteous justice of God (His wrath) was satisfied. You have been shown **mercy**, when you deserved death! As you understand the depth of this steadfast love, your love for Him will grow sweeter and your desire to honor Him more fervent.

What an incredible gift!

Ephesians 2:4-10 (ESV)

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

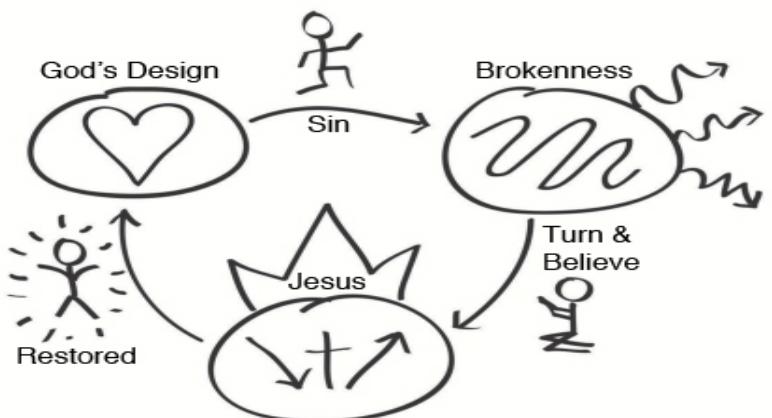
Repentance – You reject your sin and self-centeredness and embrace Jesus. You recognize that your own way leads to death! You surrender to God's authority, because His way leads to life.

Justified by faith – You are made “just as if” you had never sinned. You are declared righteous by God, not because of your good works, but based on faith. Now, you have the righteousness of God, which He credited to your account.

Atoning Sacrifice – The blood of Jesus “covers” your sin. You are reconciled to God and have peace with God.

Redemption – Your sin debt has been paid. It was purchased for you and you are free from the eternal punishment of sin.

Mercy is not receiving the just punishment you did deserve.



Grace is receiving from God that which you did not deserve.

The Gospel is good news for sinners! The **Three Circles** are a great way to visualize this spiritual transaction and the life transforming power of God. You may Google videos that demonstrate how to

share this story. Who can you share it with? Who can you begin praying for to receive this incredible gift? Begin by sharing what Jesus has done in your own heart. Focus on one person at a time, but be ready for God to open doors of opportunities with others.

Who's Your One? _____



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.*” This calling was a personal invitation to know Him, to join Him in His mission, and to live in relationship with Him. A **disciple** is a follower who takes on the mission and values of their teacher. A true disciple passionately pursues the person of Jesus Christ and devotes themselves to complete the work He has given them. That's you! Live in relationship with Jesus. Yes, the Creator of the universe loves you! Enjoy His presence and adore Him as King.

Discipleship is the means by which you GROW in your love relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit is your Teacher and the Bible is His love letter to you. It offers clear instructions and guidance. As you read the Bible, use these three key questions as a framework to learn and apply the teachings of Scripture.

What am I to **KNOW** about God?

Who am I to **BE**?

What must I **DO**?



As God's Word impacts your life, people will see Jesus at work in you. Just as the lake in this drawing 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. In Christ, you are a new creation and a life of obedience is the evidence that your faith is genuine. The process of being transformed is called **sanctification** and God

will use His Word, the Holy Spirit, your Church family, and life experiences to conform you into the image of Christ. You are being set apart for special use! The goal of discipleship is to glorify God!

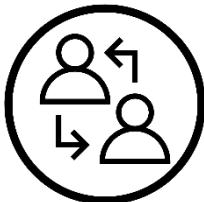
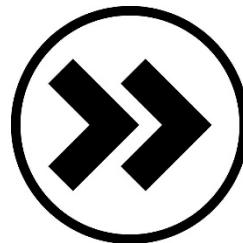
What is God teaching you?

First Steps is a discipleship tool that fosters Bible conversations with other believers and it encourages you to engage those who are far from God. Discipleship is an intentional process. It is about life-giving relationships. Think about it. Jesus invited the disciples to be with Him! He modeled everything He taught. He used real life experiences as teaching moments. Through discipleship relationships, you will learn to relate to others, submit to God, and serve as a part of the family of God. This is why you are given a disciple partner and invited to a small group. The local

church is the Body of Christ. You are an important member who has been designed by God to serve a unique function!

The First Steps

First Steps will model a simple format for discipleship that can be reproduced with others. You will NOT learn everything about the Bible in nine weeks, but you will be equipped with the right tools for a life long journey of discovery. There are four key ingredients to discipleship.



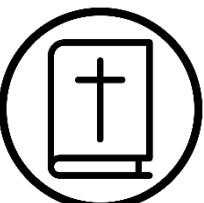
Engage in relationship

The word fellowship in Greek is Koinonia. It is communion with God and His people. It describes a relationship based on commitment and unconditional love. We care for one another and serve one another. At each meeting, unpack life and encourage one another. Enjoy time together and share from the heart.



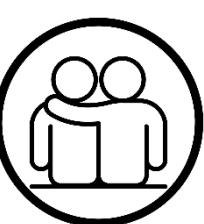
Edify one another

A daily time in the Word of God is essential for spiritual growth. **Meditate** on key words and phrases. Journal your thoughts. When you gather, share what you are learning. **Memorization** is a spiritual discipline with great benefits! You will learn a verse each week. Take time to share a testimony or praise. This will be a blessing!



Equip the saint

Each week, you will explore a new topic and these lessons will lay a foundation of belief and practice. You will learn how to interpret the meaning of Scripture and apply its truths.



Embrace through prayer and care

Prayer is expressing your heart to God and learning to listen to His voice. As God lovingly wraps His arms around us, we embrace Him fully. Through prayer, we are empowered to serve Him wholeheartedly. Pray with your disciple partner for spiritual concerns, personal needs, and for your ONE.

Commitment to First Steps

I will invest at least 30 minutes each day reading and praying through the Scriptures. I will begin with one chapter a day in the **Gospel of Luke** and then read the book of **Acts**.

I will complete a First Steps lesson each week and journal my thoughts and questions for discussion.

I will commit at least one hour a week to meet with my discipleship partner. I will be open and honest about life, faith, questions, and doubts.

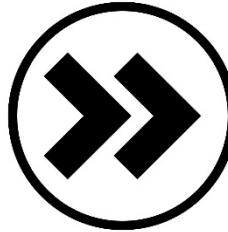
I will connect with a local church and develop relational bonds with a small group. I will make worship gatherings a priority.

Disciple Signature

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 1: Know God 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 Sustainer of life by His divine power. It is God who is the owner and ruler of the Universe. It is God who uniquely created man in His own image.

The Five Capacities of Humans (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 right over wrong, rather than just live 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!

You see, the complexity of the universe cannot be explained by just 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 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. Faith and Science complement one another!

If everything in the universe was made by God and belongs to God, are we not His, as well? If so, 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 now 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 made 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 roughly 40 different authors, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. 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. You can trust the Bible. It is God's Holy Word!

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.³ There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.⁴ Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

What does the text reveal about Creation?

What does this text reveal about Scripture?

What am I to KNOW?

Who am I to BE?

What am I to DO?

Memory Verse

Read over these verses each day and meditate upon them. Repeat a new phrase a few times each day, until you have committed it to memory. Write it out, if that is helpful.

Psalm 1:1-3

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

Day 2: The 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 all around us (disease, poverty, suffering, etc.). 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 gift of salvation.

Because of the nature and character of God, He takes sin very seriously. 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 and brimstone. Yet, God has continually shown grace and mercy to those who place faith in Him, who love Him, who fear Him, who obey His commands, and who submit to His authority.

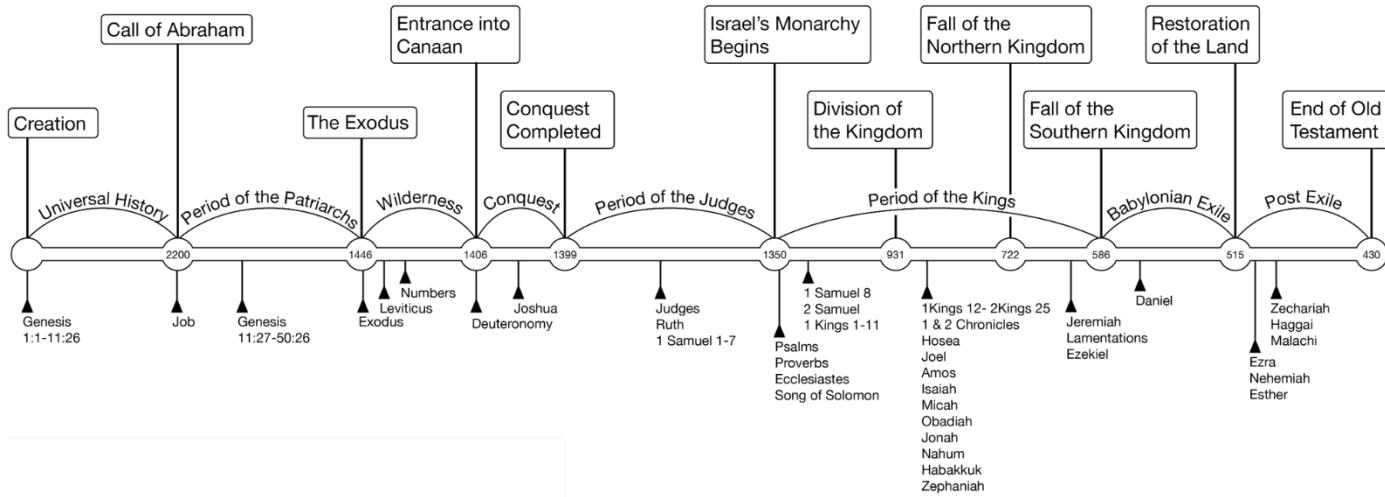
Abraham & Moses

The Old Testament reveals that God is a covenant making and 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 punished Egypt with 10 plagues, 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 symbolizes 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 instituted a sacrificial system and tabernacle worship. These all point to Jesus as the atoning sacrifice of sin. God's chosen people came to know God by experience

and His revealed Word. However, despite His presence and provision, the people often grumbled and complained to God. Rebellion and unbelief were a continual pattern. Therefore, they wondered

OLD TESTAMENT TIMELINE



in the desert for 40 years.

The Promise Land

God led the Israelites 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. We read about this 300-year cycle in the book of Judges.

Eventually, the Israelites asked God for a King to lead their nation. God sends Samuel to anoint Saul. He was tall and handsome, 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. David and Solomon wrote 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.

Prophets of God

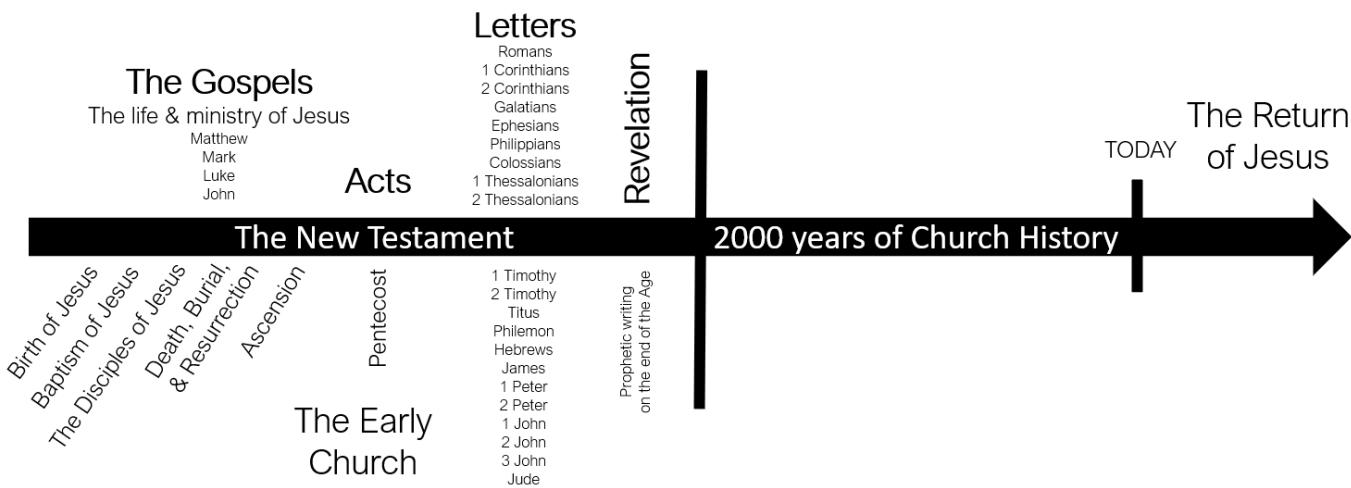
God sent prophets to remind His people of His holiness and He calls them to repent. The prophets foretell the details of the Messiah and share glimpses of the final judgment of God. They also predict their nation would be conquered, the Jewish people captured, and they would be sent into exile. These all happen! 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 that the Scriptures are from God. When the

Jewish people return to their land, it is through Ezra and Nehemiah that the walls of Jerusalem and the temple are rebuilt. The Levitical priests are consecrated and the sacrificial system is restored.

The New Testament

When the New Testament begins, God had been silent for 400 years. Because of their sin, the nation had been dominated by the Greeks, and then the Romans. During this time, God's system of righteousness was turned into a legalistic system of works. This is why Jesus condemned the Pharisees and religious rulers. They placed religious burdens on the people. When Jesus takes on flesh and dwelt among us, He condemned the self-righteous. It's not about outside appearances, but the condition of the heart. We are justified by faith.

The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. They tell the story of Jesus from different perspectives. They document His life, teaching, and ministry, as well as His death, burial, and resurrection. The book of Acts tells the story of the early church. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Disciples, who are called Apostles, share the Good News. The rest of the New Testament is comprised of letters, written by the Apostles to specific people, and local churches. These letters were corrective in nature. They rebuked false teaching, while affirming doctrinal Truth. When John wrote Revelation and his Epistles, the canon of Scripture was complete. The early Church only accepted the authentic works and the copies of these manuscripts were widely distributed. The availability of so many early manuscripts proves 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.



The GOOD News!

This is what is so amazing about grace. 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 loves 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. He poured out His own wrath on Himself at the cross (propitiation). He bore the curse of sin, in our place (substitutionary atonement). This was His plan from the beginning and we will have eternal life in Heaven when Jesus returns!

What an amazing story! As a follower of Jesus, you will want to read the Bible over and over. Each time, you will gain new insight and you will be blessed by God. Absorb yourself in Scripture. To begin, set aside at least 30 minutes a day for a devotional time with the Lord. Make it a priority. The God of the Bible gives our lives purpose and meaning.

Hermeneutics

The basic rules of interpretation, 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 instruction? What are the facts? Ask questions of text. What am I to KNOW about God? The context of the passage is critical to understanding what God is saying. Now, you 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 the first time? 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. Ask your disciple partner and pastor questions. Read trusted sources to gain insight. 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?

The SPECK Method

Discipleship questions can help you interpret and apply scripture. One method is called **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?

Read each of the following using the SPECK Method. Journal your responses or write a question you want to ask your disciple partner at your first meeting.

Colossians 3:16

2 Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:12

Psalm 119:105

The KNOW, BE, DO Method

Good questions lead to more questions. They open the heart and mind to a better understanding of Scripture. Follow the progression of KNOW, BE, DO.

- What am I to KNOW about God?
- 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?
- What specific action steps are required?
- How can I SHARE what I have learned?

The Gospel of Luke

Read one chapter a day. Respond to the text using KNOW, BE, DO questions. Journal your thoughts or questions. REVIEW YOUR MEMORY VERSE EACH DAY – Psalm 1:1-3

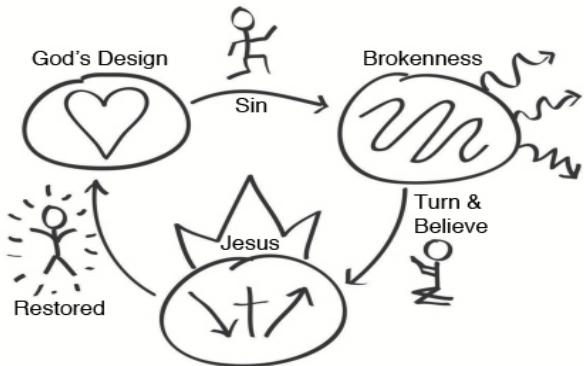
Day 3: Luke 1

Day 4: Luke 2

Day 5: Luke 3

Day 6: Luke 4

Day 7: Today, practice drawing and sharing the 3 Circles gospel presentation. Google a video demonstration as an example.



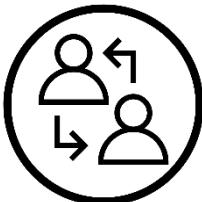
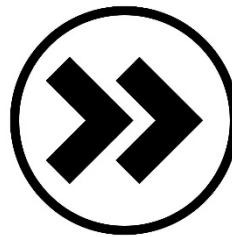
Write your memory verse.

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

1st Discipleship Meeting

The Word of God



Engage in relationship

How are you?

What has been the best part of your week?

What do you value the most?

How do you see God at work in your heart?

Who's Your One? How have you prayed them?



Edify one another

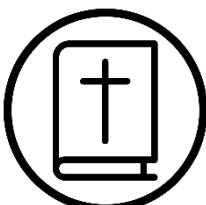
What are you thankful for, today?

How is your new found faith impacting your life?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?

What would you like to share from your journal?



Equip the saint

What happens when you take someone's words out of context?

How does this principle apply to Scripture?

How does the Bible reveal God's character?

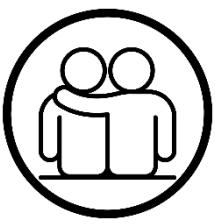
How do KNOW, BE & DO questions foster life change?

Why are the reliability, authority and inerrancy of Scripture so important?

How does one hear God speak through the Bible?

How does the Bible transform our lives and help you grow spiritually?

How can you model Bible reading and discipleship questions in your relationships?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

Who else are you praying for to know and love Jesus?

What need can we meet?

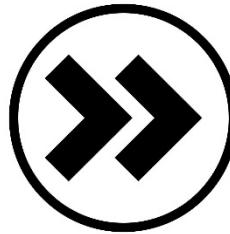
Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers.

Discipleship Notes

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

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known Lesson 2: Know God Through Prayer



Day 1 – Teach us to pray, Lord

Prayer is essential to **GROW** as a devoted follower of Jesus. 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.

Here are three considerations. 1) What will you **PROFESS** about God? Use Scripture to worship and adore God! 2) What will you **CONFESS** to God? Use Scripture to express repentance of sin, dependence upon Him, and thanksgiving! 3) What will you **ADDRESS** with God? Express your physical, emotional, relational, and financial needs! Use Scripture to address spiritual concerns.

As you begin your day in a right relationship with God, you are 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** identifies 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.

Jesus often prayed early in the day and in a quiet place. What can we learn from His prayer life? 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.

Read each of the following using the SPECK Method. Write down something you learn and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner 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 1:15-23

Ephesians 3:14-20

Colossians 1:9-14

Memory Verse

Read over these verses each day and meditate upon them. Repeat a new phrase a few times each day until you have committed it to memory. Write it out, if that is helpful.

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of Luke

For the rest of the week, read one 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?
- 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?

Review Your Memory Verse Each Day – Philippians 4:4-7

Day 2: Luke 5

Day 3: Luke 6

Day 4: Luke 7

Day 5: Luke 8

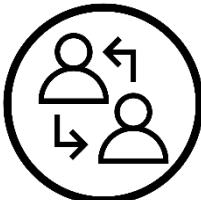
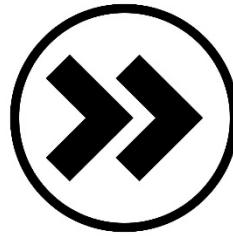
Day 6: Luke 9

Day 7: Luke 10

Write your memory verse.

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known
2nd Discipleship Meeting
Prayer



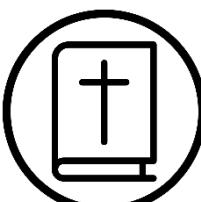
Engage in relationship

How are life and family?
What can we celebrate?
How is your emotional health?
How have you responded to the Holy Spirit this week?
Who's Your One? Have you shared your faith story?



Edify one another

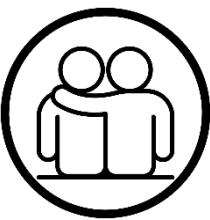
What are you thankful for, today?
How have you been a blessing to others this week?
Share your memory verse.
How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?
What would you like to share from your journal?



Equip the saint

Why is prayer so valuable to the believer?
In what ways do you identify with Jesus? (Saint, Servant, Son, Soldier, etc.)
How does prayer transform us?
What is the most meaningful part of prayer?
How does the acrostic ACTS focus our prayers?

How do the Scriptures guide our prayers?
Are you praying with a small group?
How do your prayers reveal what you believe about God?
How are you modeling prayer to your family?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?
What spiritual battle do you face?
Who else are you praying for to know and love Jesus?
What need can we meet in those around us?
Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

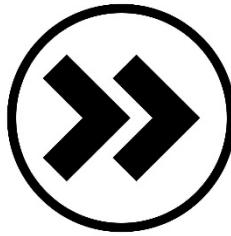
Discipleship Notes

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

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 3: Know God Through His 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 its members. We gather to worship, to hear and respond to the Word of God, and to experience community. Being together with other believers is essential to caring for the needs of the church family and accomplishing our corporate mission. We are interconnected. We need each other and we have spiritual gifts that are necessary for the body to function as a unit. The Apostle Paul describes the relationships of those in the early church in the following passage.

Romans 12:1-13

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.¹ Do not be conformed to this world,² but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.³

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members,⁵ and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,⁹ with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

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. These relationships form the basis of discipleship. There is no doubt that the members of the early church were committed to

one another. If you are a devoted follower of Jesus, then you are a part of His family. 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, and contribute for the common good. **Acts 2:42-47** describes the early Church.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The word fellowship in verse 42 is the Greek word Koinonia. As stated in the introduction, this word means communion with God and with one another. We have a committed and caring relationship with one another. It's a special bond that unifies us.

We cannot mature in our faith, if we do not function as a part of God's family. They spur us to love and good deeds! They also help us grow in our faith through accountability. Accountability is based on trust. It is a relationship in which you are open about the sin in your life. You also give others permission to be honest about what they see in your life. The key to holding one another accountable is humility and love. We all sin and we all need grace, so we take the speck out of our own eye first. When we expose our sin, God gives us the power to conquer it! Therefore, it is healthy to ask accountability questions with a trusted disciple partner, because iron sharpens iron.

Accountability Questions

1. **Relationship to God** – Are you spending time with Jesus? Is the Holy Spirit guiding your life, mind, and decisions? Are you enjoying God's presence?
2. **Relationship to Others** – Are you reflecting love? Do you have any unresolved issues with others? Are you giving grace to others? Do you harbor unforgiveness or bitterness?
3. **Personal Integrity** - Is your conscience clear? Do you have any un-confessed sin in your life? Is there anger, fear, pride, or selfishness. Do you have any addictions in your life?
4. **Gospel Witness** - Have you been a testimony to the greatness of God this week? Does your daily routine or priorities have eternal significance? Are you engaging in spiritual conversations? Have you shared your faith? Are you living in obedience to God?

Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learn and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner 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

Memory Verse

Read over these verses each day and meditate upon them. Repeat a new phrase a few times each day, until you have committed it to memory. Write it out, if that is helpful.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

The Gospel of Luke

For the rest of the week, read one chapter a day from Luke and write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner. Use the **KNOW, BE, DO** Method.

Day 2: Luke 11

Day 3: Luke 12

Day 4: Luke 13

Day 5: Luke 14

Day 6: Luke 15

Day 7: Luke 16

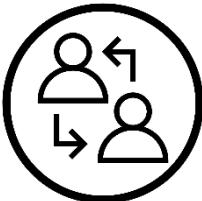
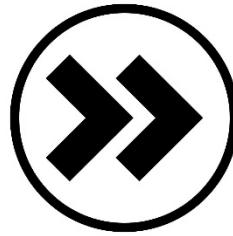
Write your memory verse.

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

3rd Discipleship Meeting

The Church



Engage in relationship

What has been the most meaningful part of your week?

What challenge do you face?

Have you connected to a small group?

What makes you feel valued, loved, or appreciated?

Follow Up: How did it go? What was your response? What is God teaching you?

Who's Your One? Have you shared your faith story?



Edify one another

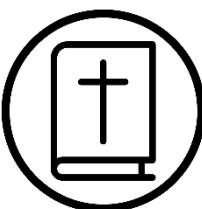
What are you thankful for, today?

Are you reflecting love in your relationships?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?

What would you like to share from your journal?



Equip the saint

How does fellowship help me know God?

Why is community so important?

How has God designed/gifted you to serve in His family?

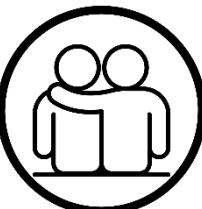
How are you engaged in relationships in the local church?

In what ways can you serve others and meet needs?

Why are self-sufficiency and independence counterproductive to Gospel living?

Why is accountability a healthy practice?

How does transparency and vulnerability glorify God?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

Who else are you praying for to know and love Jesus?

Is there a need I can meet or a burden I can bear?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

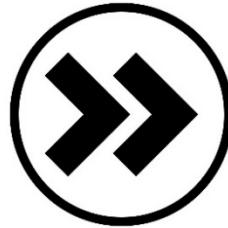
Discipleship Notes

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

First Steps

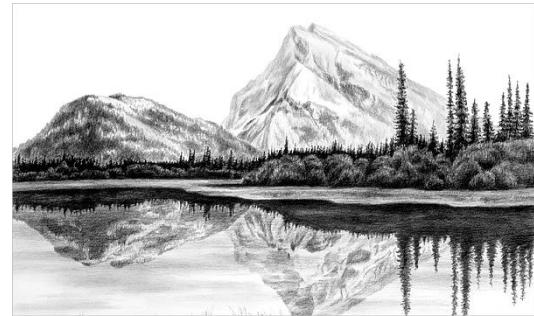
To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 4: Know God Through Life Transformation



Day 1 – A Metamorphosis

Jesus invites us to come to Him as we are, but not to stay the same. God's plan from the creation of the world has been for us to **"be conformed to His image."** (Romans 8:29) This means that our **HEART** must change. Our character and values must change. We are to think more of others and less of ourselves. It is major heart surgery (spiritually speaking) to deal with our spiritual heart disease (sin & selfishness). This picture 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. We now live for the glory of God and we are motivated by the lavish love God has poured out on us. His gentleness, patience, and kindness are overwhelming. From a grateful heart, we long to please Him. One of the greatest ways to glorify God and express our love to the Lord is by loving others.



Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Galatians 5:19-25 ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit

What do these passages teach?

We get to enjoy God's presence and through His life transforming work, we glorify Him. Jesus is the source of everything we need and He enables and empowers us to glory Him. As we submit to Him and live in Him, He produces spiritual fruit in us.

Read John 15:1-17

What do we learn from this passage?

God also uses trials, hardship, and suffering. **James 1:2-4** says, ²*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,* ³*for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.* ⁴*And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

What has God taught you through suffering and hardship?

Memory Verses

Read over these verses each day and meditate upon them. Repeat a new phrase a few times each day until you have committed it to memory. Write it out if that is helpful.

Romans 12:1-2

¹*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* ²*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learn and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner 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

The Gospel of Luke

For the rest of the week, read one 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?
- 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?

Review Romans 12:1-2 each day.

Day 2: Luke 17

Day 3: Luke 18

Day 4: Luke 19

Day 5: Luke 20

Day 6: Luke 21

Day 7: Luke 22

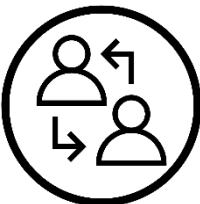
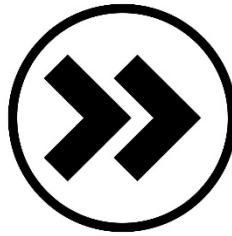
Write your memory verse.

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

4th Discipleship Meeting

Life Transformation



Engage in relationship

How are life and family?

What has been the best part of your week?

What's something fun we can do together?

Follow Up: How did it go? What was your response? What is God teaching you? Who's Your One? Have you shared your faith story?



Edify one another

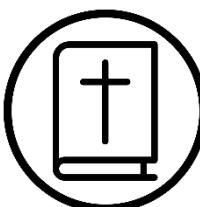
What can we celebrate today?

What is a way you can glorify God this week in a relationship?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?

What would you like to share from your notes?



Equip the saint

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?

How do you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

In what way, can you extend empathy or grace in a relationship this week?

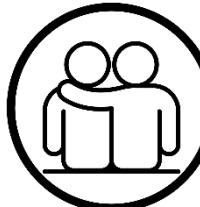
How do we live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit?

In what ways, does God still need to change you?

In what ways, has God changed your heart through trials and hardship?

What happens we surrender to the desires of our flesh?

How are you teaching these principles to others?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

How can we express adoration to God, today?

How can we pray for our pastor, his family, and our church?

What need can you meet in your small group?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

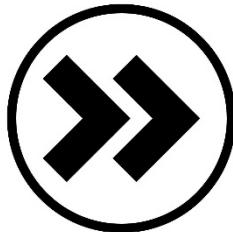
Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. How will you respond to the Holy Spirit?

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 5: We make God known through Obedience



Day 1 – Yes, Lord!

You have probably figured out by now that dying to sin and self is much easier said than done. 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 are called to love others, forgive others, sacrifice for others, and be accountable to others.

In **Mark 12:30-31**, Jesus says, ³⁰*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* ³¹*The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.'*

If our beginning point is our love relationship with God, obedience is a natural result. Remember, He loved us first. He rescued us. He gave Himself for us! He daily extends grace to us! His love for us is so great and profound, it's hard to even comprehend. Our heavenly Father has compassion for us. Out of reverence and gratitude, we respond to His love with obedience to His commands.

In **John 14**, Jesus says the following...

¹⁵*"If you love me, keep my commands..."*

²¹*"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me...."*

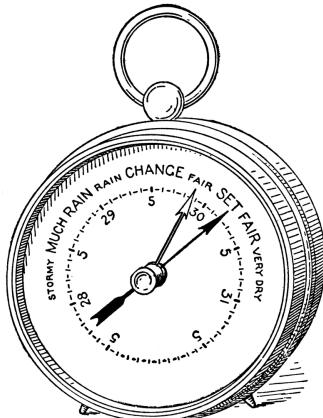
²³*"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word..."*

Let's be clear. We are servants and God is our Master. We live to glorify Him! What are some of the commands of Scripture? We must forgive others as we have been forgiven you. We must be peacemakers. We must not practice 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, etc. If we love Jesus, these are not drudgery. We have been shown mercy! Besides, following the wisdom of God is always for our good!

Matthew 7:24-27 says, ²⁴*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.* ²⁵*And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.* ²⁶*And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.* ²⁷*And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."*

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 testimony that you identify with 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. It is a picture of the death, burial, and

resurrection of Jesus. This is the pattern we see in Scripture. The pre-requisite of baptism is repentance and faith.



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. A **Barometer** is a scientific instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure to predict the weather. Giving is a spiritual barometer of your heart. Your willingness to give to the Lord and to the needs of others reveals a desire to please the Lord. You want your life to be a blessing! You want your money, your time, and your talents, to be used for God's Kingdom. God has given you everything and giving back is an act of faith. Your life belongs to God and you can trust Him! If this is not true, there is a heart problem that needs to be addressed.

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. The term "Grace Giving" is often used by believers. We respond to God with the same generosity or grace in which we have received.

When you give to your local church, you fuel the advance of the Gospel. It supports the pastor who proclaims the Word. It is an investment in the facility where people gather to hear the Word. It funds technology to broadcast the Word online. Your gifts support missionaries who take the Word to the nations. Benevolence, outreach, and discipleship training are all funded by believers who embrace the mission of their church. The question is, can you give willingly and with a joyful heart?

Read Luke 12:22-34. What does this teach about faith? About treasure?

²² And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?^[c] ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,^[d] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his^[e] kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

This week, you will complete the Gospel of Luke and begin the book of Acts in your daily devotions. Acts is a continuation of Luke. As you read it, consider the response of the early church. How are baptism and giving described? Respond in faith as God prompts your heart and be obedient to God's call on your life.

Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learn and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner 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

Memory Verses

Read over these verses each day and meditate upon them. Repeat a new phrase a few times each day until you have committed it to memory. Write it out, if that is helpful.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Write your memory verse.

The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles

For the rest of the week, read one chapter a day from your Bible. You will begin a new book this week. The book of **Acts** is a history of the early church. It describes how the Gospel spread. Write an observation or question to discuss with your disciple partner.

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

- What am I to **KNOW** about God?
- 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?

Review Proverbs 3:5-6 each day.

Day 2: Luke 23

Day 3: Luke 24

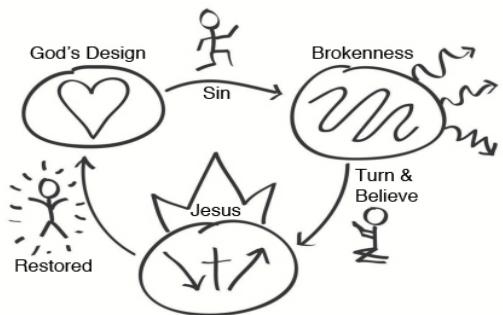
Day 4: Acts 1

Day 5: Acts 2

Day 6: Acts 3

Day 7: Acts 4

Practice drawing and sharing the 3 Circles

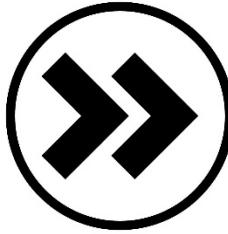


First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

5th Discipleship Meeting

Obedience



Engage in relationship

What has been the best part of your week?

How are you doing on the inside?

Are you living with “margins” (space for family, fun, and fellowship with others)?

How can you extend grace in any relationship this week?

Follow Up: How did it go? What’s your next step? How can I help?

Who’s Your One? How can we pray for them?



Edify one another

What are you praising God for today?

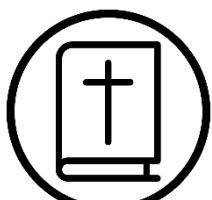
Is your conscious clear?

Are you living for the glory of God?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?

What would you like to share from your notes?



Equip the saint

How is baptism a picture of salvation?

Does infant baptism meet the standard of Scripture? (Immerse, repent, believe)

Does the act of baptism produce regeneration (salvation)?

Have you been baptized? If not, are you ready to identify with Jesus?

Why is giving a spiritual barometer?

How can establishing a budget help you be consistent?

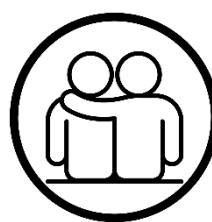
In what ways, can you be a better steward of God’s resources?

Has God prompted you to meet a need?

Have you experienced the blessing of God when you have been generous?

How does obedience glorify God?

How are you sharing these principles at home?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

Who can we pray for our pastor, his family, and our church?

Is there a need I can meet or a burden I can help bear?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

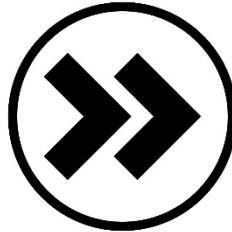
Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. How will you respond to the Holy Spirit?

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 6: Making God Known Involves Spiritual Warfare



Day 1 – Help me, Lord!

Becoming like Jesus is a daily battle. Satan is a liar and he wants to impede 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. 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. Sin derails us from our mission and keeps us from having an eternal perspective. We can lose heart and grow weary. Therefore, we need to see with spiritual eyes what is really happening

Ephesians 6:10-18 says,

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints

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 of the greatness of 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.

How have you experienced this battle?

I Peter 5:5-11 says,

⁵ All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion

looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 2:13-15 says,

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He 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 power of the Holy Spirit. Pray with other believers in agreement in Jesus' name. The Bible is a strong weapon. Believe the truth! Memorize it and meditate on it. It is the TRUTH that sets of free! This is how we resist the Devil. We claim the power and authority of Jesus! We rest in God's sovereign hand.

Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learn and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner 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

Psalm 51

Psalm 103

Memory Verses

Psalm 119:9-11

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! ¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Write your memory verse.

For the rest of the week, read one 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?
- 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?

Day 2: Acts 5

Day 3: Acts 6

Day 4: Acts 7

Day 5: Acts 8

Day 6: Acts 9

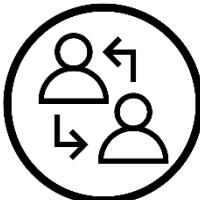
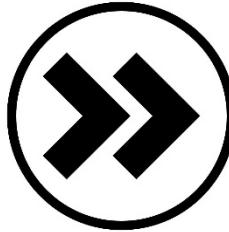
Day 7: Acts 10

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

6th Discipleship Meeting

Spiritual Warfare



Engage in relationship

How are life and family?

What are you grateful for?

What is your biggest source of stress or tension?

Follow Up: How did it go? What support do you need?

Who's Your One? Have you shared your faith story?



Edify one another

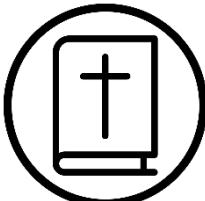
How has God blessed you this week?

Are your relationships with others healthy?

Do your daily priorities focus on eternity?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?



Equip the saint

Who is the enemy and how does he work?

How is your identity in Christ a source of strength in spiritual battles?

How do we defeat the lies of Satan?

How do we put on our spiritual armor and stand firm?

Why is confessing your sin to others healthy?

What happens when you expose sin to the light?

How does repentance disarm Satan?

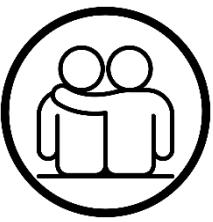
Why is the battle for your mind so important?

How does trusting the character of God in your spiritual battle give you hope?

Why are lost people not our enemies?

How can we practically fight spiritual warfare as a church family?

How are you modeling these principles?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

Who else are you praying for to know and love Jesus?

What need can we meet?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

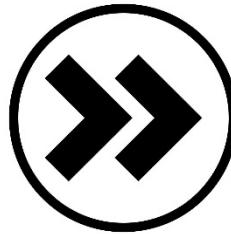
Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. What needs to change? What steps must you take?

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 7: Make God Known by Sharing Jesus



Day 1 – Ambassadors of Christ

Disciples are fishers of men. We live in relationship with hurting and broken people all around us. As we love them, sharing our story and God's story are a natural part of that relationship. As we serve them, we become the **HANDS & FEET** of Jesus. Jesus was always engaging people in relationship, and he cared about their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. In fact, Jesus 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 ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.*

What is an ambassador?

Along the way in this study, you have been encouraged to pray for one person and look for opportunities to share what Jesus is doing in you. The Scriptures teach that God draws people to Himself (**John 6:65**). The Bible says it is the Spirit of God that convicts a person of sin (**John 16:8**) and removes their spiritual blindness (**1 Corinthians 2:14**). Prayer is essential. We are not responsible for the results, but we are called to be faithful witnesses.

The Three Stories

There are **3 Stories** that spark spiritual conversations. They begin by asking 3 questions.

What is your story?

Can I share my story?

Have you heard God's story?

Everyone has a story. It means a lot when you listen to what others have to say and empathize with them. How are you doing? What are you going through? This is how you build relationships. When you ask someone to tell you their story, you are saying I care about you as a person. I want to hear what you have to say. Dig a little deeper. What is your spiritual background? You may get answers full of anger or pain. This is not a time to correct or debate. This is their story. Listen without judgement. How would you describe your relationship with God now? This will be revealing and it may open a door. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you respond in an affirming way. It may be something

like this. "I'm sorry you experienced that." "That must have been difficult." "I'm sorry you have been hurt by religious people." "It seems you care about doing the right thing." "I understand your confusion." "I can see you have tried, but God feels distant." These help you find attunement.

Now, it's your turn to identify with them using your story. "Can I briefly share with you, my story?" What did you identify with in their story? Is there a similarity? If they give you permission to share your story, focus on these three things. What was your life like before Christ? How did you have a life changing experience? What is your life like now? This is your testimony. It needs to be less than three minutes. If they open up and want to hear more, give more details as you keep talking, but don't hold them captive. The Apostle Paul shared his story many times. Read **Acts 22:1-16**.

What is Paul's Story?

Now, what is your story? Write it out using these three questions as a guide.

What was your life like before Christ?

When did you have a life changing experience?

What is your life like now?

The Roman Road

The third story is God's story. You have practiced it with the 3 Circles. This week, your lesson is the Roman Road. These Scriptures give the 3 Circles a compelling argument.

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 5:6-8

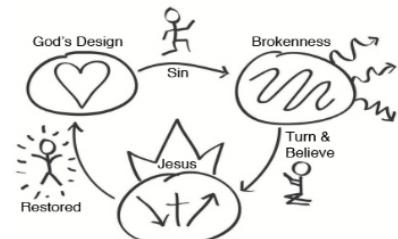
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.



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

John 3:16

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 14:6

1 John 4:9-10

Where is God at work?

As you build relationships, you will encounter people who want to know more. Invite them to take 21 days with Jesus through the Gospel of John. They can investigate the claims of Jesus for themselves. Ask them to read one chapter a day. Offer to meet with them once a week to discuss what they are learning. Let them know that no questions are off limits. In the end, they must decide if Jesus is a liar, a lunatic, or LORD! Keep praying and be an affirming testimony. Even if they reject Jesus, keep loving them. It's not over, until it's over. Give people time and trust the Holy Spirit to soften their heart and bring them to repentance.

Memory Verses

This week, your memory verses are **The Roman Road**. Write them each out below.

For the rest of the week, read one 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?
- 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?

Review The Roman Road each day.

Day 2: Acts 11

Day 3: Acts 12

Day 4: Acts 13

Day 5: Acts 14

Day 6: Acts 15

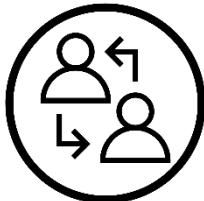
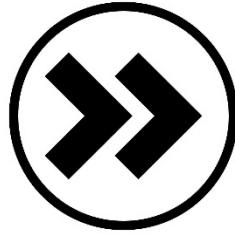
Day 7: Acts 16

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

7th Discipleship Meeting

Sharing Jesus



Engage in relationship

How are you?

How are you listening to those you love?

How is your relational love tank (full or empty)?

How are you seeking to bless others?

Follow Up: How did it go? What insight did you learn?



Edify one another

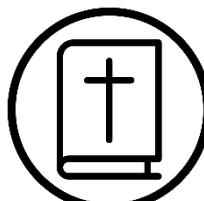
How can you testify to the goodness of God?

How can you be a reflection of Jesus this week?

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?

What is your faith story? (Share in 3 minutes or less)

Share The Romans Road using the 3 Circles



Equip the saint

Why is prayer essential to sharing the Gospel?

Why must we be dependent on the Holy Spirit?

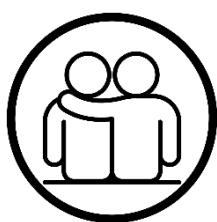
Why is your testimony so powerful?

Why are the Scriptures so important?

What happens if you are rejected?

Why are relationships so important?

Why is our lifestyle important in sharing Jesus?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What is the greatest challenge you face?

How can we pray for our pastor, his family, and our church?

What need can we meet in our church family?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers.

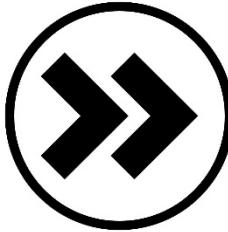
Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. How will you respond to the Holy Spirit?

First Steps

Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 8: Make God Known 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. When we see the weakest, the lowliest, the neediest, and the neglected, we respond. We serve them to demonstrate the love of God, because our actions speak louder than words. People believe what they see.

Matthew 5:13-16 says,

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

As we mature in our faith, our life increasingly becomes more about others and decreasingly about ourselves. There is a shift in our focus that the Holy Spirit produces. Surprisingly, we discover that emptying ourselves to serve others is so much more fulfilling.

Matthew 25:35-40 says,

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

Jesus is our example. We are to have the mind and attitude of Christ. The Apostle Paul describes it this way, in **Philippians 2:1-13**.

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly

exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

What does this passage teach?

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?

James 2:1-17

1 Corinthians 13

Memory Verse

Matthew 5:16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

For the rest of the week, read 1 chapter a day from the book of **Acts**. It is the 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?
- 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?

Review Matthew 5:14-16 each day.

Day 2: Acts 17

Day 3: Acts 18

Day 4: Acts 19

Day 5: Acts 20

Day 6: Acts 21

Day 7: Acts 22

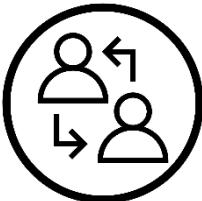
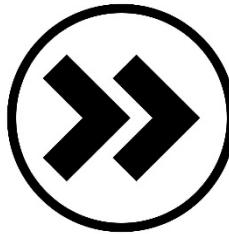
Write your memory verse.

First Steps

Know Him and Make Him Known

8th Discipleship Meeting

Serving Others



Engage in relationship

Tell me about your week?

Are you feeling loved and valued?

How do you express these to others?

Are you being with Jesus or Doing for Jesus?

Are you practicing "Sabbath" in your life?

How are your relationships at home?

Follow Up: How did it go? What is your next step?



Edify one another

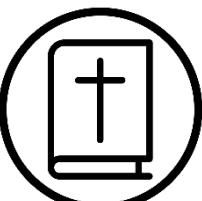
How can you testify to the greatness of God?

How have you reflected love this week?

Is your conscience clear?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?



Equip the saint

How does serving others glorify God?

How are you serving your family?

Does your family feel loved, valued, and appreciated?

What needs do you see in your church?

How has God equipped you to serve others?

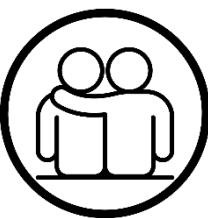
What does God say about helping the poor?

How can you use your talents, time, and treasures?

What must change for you to have a servant's heart?

What is one thing you can do this week to serve others?

How can you model what you are learning?



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

Who else are you praying for to know and love Jesus?

What need can we meet?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

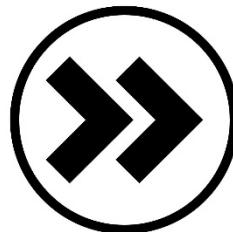
Discipleship Notes:

Write down what you have learned today. What needs to change?

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

Lesson 9: We Make God Known through Multiplication



Day 1 – Disciples Make Disciples!

You have learned so much about being a follower of Jesus, but you have just scratched the surface to all the things God wants to teach you. You may have many questions, but you have learned the relational model Jesus used for making disciples. You have tools to study the Bible and apply it to your life. If you continue to build on the fundamental principles you have learned, you will continue to grow in Christ and bear spiritual fruit. It's time to consider how you can reproducible what you have learned to others and model it for them. Your discipleship partner has invested in you. How can you invest in others following the same approach?

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

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

The Apostle Paul modeled multiplication.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

¹You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Philippians 4:9

⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

In Titus, Paul also taught the older men are to teach younger men and older women are to teach younger women. How can you teach others what you have learned? You can start with your family.

A Family Discipleship Plan.

Your family is your first mission field. Here is a simple guide to reach their hearts and plant spiritual seeds. Family discipleship will not happen on accident. Be flexible, but you must be intentional.

Family Bible Reading – Start with the Gospel of Mark. Use the KNOW, BE, DO method to ask good questions and prompt discussion. Utilize the SPECK method to discern the meaning of a text and to find real life application.

Bible Verse Memorization – Choose one new verse a week. Share it over meal time. Make it fun and let each member of the family say the next word of the verse.

Family Prayer Time – Your children have friends who need Jesus. Help them pray for them. Allow your children to express their needs, troubles, hurts, or concerns. Let your children hear you pray with sincerity and vulnerability. Model praying the Scriptures.

Set Spiritual Goals – What heart issue needs to be addressed in each member of the family?

Examples: Being respectful, Being Kind, Listening, Being grateful, etc. Consider ways to address them. What resources or tools will help? What steps are needed?

Missions & Service – Choose a project to do as a family. Examples: Make a meal for someone who is sick. Clean a yard for someone who is elderly. Make an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox. Serve at a church outreach event. Find a place to serve at church. Invite over a neighbor to build a relationship with and share Jesus. Model living on mission and let them serve.

Giving – What needs do you see? Model setting a gift aside for the church and encourage the same. Work to make money for a missionary or special project.

Family Fun – Have family meal times. Plan family events. Play with your kids. Build memories!

Date Night – Don't forget the romance. Value and treasure your spouse. Spend quality time with your spouse and go on an adventure together. You are teaching your kids how to love.

Eternal Urgency

There is an Eternal Urgency to our discipleship! Jesus came to earth the first time as a humble servant, providing the means to have peace with God. On His return, Jesus will come as a conquering King! This is exciting and comforting, yet also sobering. Let's not waste our lives. Let's focus on the things that matter. Making disciples has eternal significance.

John 14:1-3 says,

¹Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Take a moment to read **Matthew 24-25**.

What does the Bible say about the end of the age?

Jesus is coming! We need to be ready. We make disciples for the glory of God. We want people of all nations to worship King Jesus! He is a good and gracious King! He is worthy to be adored. There is also a stark reality that when Jesus returns, it will be too late for those who have rejected Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 says,

¹³But 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

What is your response?

Read each of the following using the **SPECK Method**. Write down something you learn and/or a question you want to ask your disciple partner at your final 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

Memory Verses

Read over these verses each day and meditate upon them. Repeat a new phrase a few times each day until you have committed it to memory. This is called the Great Commission!

Matthew 28:18-20.

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

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 23

Review your Memory Verse each day.

Day 3: Acts 24

Day 4: Acts 25

Day 5: Acts 26

Day 6: Acts 27

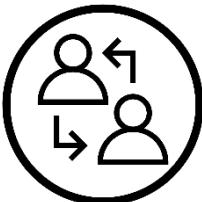
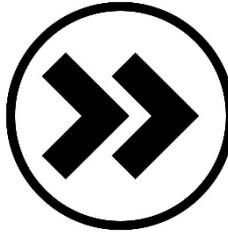
Day 7: Acts 28

First Steps

To Know Him and Make Him Known

9th Discipleship Meeting

Multiplication



Engage in relationship

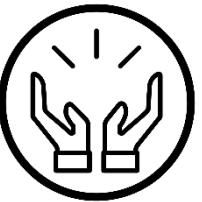
What have you enjoyed most about our time together?

How can I affirm or encourage you?

What is the greatest lesson you have learned?

What are your next steps in discipleship?

How can we stay connected?



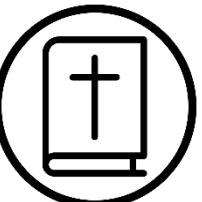
Edify one another

What are you praising God for, today?

Share your memory verse.

How did God challenge, encourage, or convict you this week?

How has this relationship impacted your life?



Equip the saint

How did the church multiply in ACTS?

How has the First Steps equipped you to make disciples?

How can you share what you have learned?

How are you practicing disciple making in your small group?

How have you begun to model discipleship at home?

How does your family discipleship plan need to grow or develop?

What obstacles do you face to family discipleship?

How does the return of Christ impact your way of thinking?

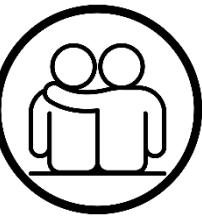
What emotions describe this spiritual reality?

How does making disciples glorify God?

Who is your next One?

What Kingdom priorities do you need to focus on to glorify God?

What book will you study next? (Suggestions: The Gospel of Mark and Ephesians)



Embrace through prayer and care

How can I pray for you?

What spiritual battle do you face?

How can we pray for our church family?

What need can we meet?

Use the Scriptures from this week to guide your prayers

Discipleship Notes:

Write down your thoughts. How will you respond to the Holy Spirit?