**Simply Discipled and Strategically Deployed 1.0**

**FBC Black Forest Discipleship Training Series**

This material was developed by Breck Merkle, Mobilization / Family Pastor for FBC Black Forest in 2019. It is designed for any Christ-follower to use in their personal walk with the Lord and in their discipleship of others. The goal is to see every follower of Christ discipling others within the context of the local church as they love Christ and love others.

**Overview**

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| **Purpose** | Create a reproducible, discipleship ministry in the local church whereby individuals become fully committed disciples of Jesus Christ. |
| **Primary Scripture** | Matthew 4:19 – And [Jesus] said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers or men” (ESV). |
| **Theme** | * All church members holistically discipled to **follow Jesus** * All church members equipped to serve in the church * All church members can effectively **share the gospel of Christ** to their family members, neighbors, friends, colleagues and community |
| **Format** | Six 60-minute sessions that include *teaching, modeling* and *practice* |
| **Target Audience** | All Christ-followers |
| **Objectives** | * Each individual will identify their next steps to practically follow Jesus * Each individual will be equipped to take SDSD 2.0 * Each individual will regularly have spiritual conversations with seekers * Each individual will learn and live out the five characteristics of a disciple:   + A disciple loves God’s Son supremely (Luke 14:25-26)   + A disciple follows God’s Son sacrificially (Luke 14:27-33)   + A disciple abides in God’s Word continually (John 8:31-32)   + A disciple loves God’s children supernaturally (John 13:34-35)   + A disciple bears fruit for God’s glory liberally (John 15:8) |
| **Cost/Support Tasks** | * Small classroom with chairs and large white board (no PowerPoint) * FBC “Simply Discipled and Strategically Deployed” Notebooks * FBC “Simply Discipled and Strategically Deployed” Workbooks |

**Discipleship Training Series**

**Session 1**

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| **Lesson Title** | Following Jesus |
| **Scripture References** | Mark 4:26-29 (Parable of the Growing Seed), **Matthew 4:19 - memorize** |
| **Emphasis or Theme** | Assurance of salvation. What does it mean to follow Jesus? |
| **Welcome & Activity**  *Make introductions. State the purpose of meeting. Identify leader expectations for students.* | * Teachers shares their salvation testimony and calling to make disciples. * Explanation of Matthew 4:19 and SDSD diagram * Analogy of cruise ship verses an aircraft carrier * Provide students with journal / booklet |
| **Introduce the Lesson** *What you might say or do before the main lesson to help create an interest or curiosity.* | Teach**Mark 4:26-29** (God’s revealed plan for our lives). Identify five key components, tasks, and resources God has given to His disciples.   * Sowers – followers who are willing to cast seed * Seed – the word of God, the gospel, you share * Soil – the hearts of the lost * Season – commitment to the harvest * Sickle – mobilized labor (the church) to harvest |
| **Share the Lesson** *Outline the story here. Describe the method you will use to tell the story / lesson. Share illustrations.* | Share the Model**The Wheel** (Navigators) –   * The Volitional Dimension * The Vertical Dimension * The Horizontal Dimension   Highlight Matthew 4:19 again   * Explain the principle “fishers of men” * Discuss Luke 5:1-11   (note the number of disciples) |
| **Learning Activities** *Games, crafts, artwork, songs, memory verses or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the Scripture and make application to the lives of the students.* | *Practice-*   * As disciples of Christ, we (after the example of our Lord’s earthly ministry) must:   1) Enter and engage empty fields. 2) Sow the seed of the gospel message. 3) Nurture the new growth born of the Spirit of God in someone’s heart  4) Cut and bundle the harvest into kingdom community 5) Seek to multiply through equipped, empowered disciple leaders   * Where are you actively serving as Christ’s disciple? What’s your next step? * Where do you need to grow as a disciple of Christ using “The Wheel” Illustration? |
| **Review** *Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the lesson.* | * Memorize Matt. 4:19 * Define 5,000 spiritual conversations and the expectation to have one conversation every week. |
| **Closing** | * Pray together for future sessions * In your book / journal write down this week who you will have a spiritual conversation with. * Identify and write in your journal the next step you need to talk with Jesus. |
| **Preparation** *What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.* | * Booklet and journal for all attendees * Copies of the wheel * Bibles |

*Welcome and Activity*– see outline above

Introduce each other – Name, testimony, family. Use the following get-to-know-you game if needed:

***Lost on a Deserted Island***

The situation is dire — following a shipwreck, everyone has been stranded on a deserted island! Each person is allowed to bring one object to the island — ideally something that represents them or something that they enjoy. The first part of this icebreaker is simple: each person is asked to describe what object they would bring and why. This need not be realistic; if someone loves music, he or she might choose to bring a guitar, or an animal lover might choose to bring a dog, a food lover might choose to bring sirloin steaks, and so on. Encourage people to be creative.

Questions you can also ask to begin conversations the first day:

1. If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you get?
2. If you were an animal, what would you be and why?
3. What is one goal you’d like to accomplish during your lifetime?
4. When you were little, who was your favorite super hero and why?
5. Who is your hero? (a parent, a celebrity, an influential person in one’s life)
6. What’s your favorite thing to do in the summer?
7. If you were an ice cream flavor, which one would you be and why?
8. What’s your favorite cartoon character, and why?
9. If you could visit any place in the world, where would you choose to go and why
10. What’s the ideal dream job for you?
11. Are you a morning or night person?
12. What are your favorite hobbies?
13. What are your pet peeves or interesting things about you that you dislike?
14. What’s the weirdest thing you’ve ever eaten?
15. Name one of your favorite things about someone in your family.
16. Tell us about a unique or quirky habit of yours.
17. If you had to describe yourself using three words, it would be…

Are you a cruise ship, receiving the blessings of salvation, consuming church-goods or are you an aircraft carrier ready at any time to fulfill God’s mission of making a disciple? A disciple is someone who learns from their Master, Teacher, Mentor, Friend, and Lord. A disciple is described in Mathew 4:19*. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.* “Follow me” is what this course calls Simply Discipled. To be Simply Discipled means you are learning the teachings of Christ with the purpose of following / obeying Him which leads you to be “Fishers of men.” “Fishers of men” is how you are Strategically Deployed. You are called to share the message of Jesus with others and lead them to salvation in Jesus and then into a deeper walk with him. So SDSD is what?

*Introduce the Lesson*

**Mark 4:26-29 – The Passion / Work of a Disciple**

(put up tree sketch on board)

The context of Mark 4. After first preaching the kingdom personally (Mk. 1:15), Jesus calls and then chooses kingdom agents from the crowd (Mk. 3:13-19). The 12 chosen were to reproduce what had been modeled. They were designated “sent ones” or apostles for the purpose of going and preaching (presumably the kingdom message). Almost immediately, Jesus introduces kingdom instruction that seemingly confounds both the crowds and his opposition and at the same time reveals spiritual truth for those with ears to hear (Mk.4:9-11).

Because chapter 4 presents several parables, some have suggested this chapter is a collection of parables from across his ministry. Mk 4:33-35, however, suggests multiple parables within a single setting (see v. 35). Three of these parables draw on the growing process as an illustration. Jesus taught kingdom principles in this passage to (1) clarify the Spirit’s role and (2) define the role of a disciple of Christ. Every Christ follower is to go about the business of kingdom work as modeled and taught by Jesus in these parables. So, what essential concepts and truths do we need to understand to follow Jesus and become His disciples?

1) *Sowers.* We must be men and women willing to cast the seed.

In this parable kingdom activity begins with a *sower* (Luke 10:2). God has chosen to use his people as catalysts in his kingdom. The scripture speaks repeatedly of our duty as well as the awesome privilege of representing the Creator and proclaiming His redemptive plan (Mt. 28:18-20, 1 Pet. 2:9-10, 2 Cor. 5:17-18). **Consider the following questions as you look at yourself as a *sower***

1. What does a sower do?
2. Who is qualified to be a sower?
3. Where should I sow?

2 Corinthians 9:6 has always been true. *“He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly; he who sows generously will reap generously.”* Are you sowing generously the gospel seed to others?

2) *Seed.* We must be men and women who cast out the word of God to others.

Another essential for kingdom growth is the gospel seed. God has ordered creation in such a way that *seed* is the essential starting place of all life. No life begins without a preordained origin or primary element through which growth is possible. For the spiritual life, **God has ordained his Word as the point of origin (Rom.10:13-17)**. Without it we are left in a Romans 1:18-32 condition, recognizing the Creator visible in creation, yet universally condemned because we reject Him. This is why God has gone to such

lengths to provide us with the complete record of His nature and His redemptive plan (Rom. 10:17). He wants us to follow Him. This is not possible apart from his Word (Rom.10:9-15).

Consider this question, what is gospel message?

1. *Soil.* We must be men and women who have a heart for the lost in which the seed is cast.

When the Word is shared, people listen to it and either accept the message or reject it. Their hearts are either open to gospel truth or not. Their hearts are hard soil where the seed cannot grow or softened soil where the seed can be planted and grown. A disciple of Jesus is one who loves others and shares the love of Jesus to anyone not knowing the condition of their heart, but knowing the heart of God the Father The heart of God the Father is found in 2 Peter 3:9. We learn that the Lord desires that “*none should perish, but all come to repentance”* (2 Pet. 3:9). God’s end vision is to see a multitude from every time and nations gathered before the throne of God (Rev. 5:9-10).

Consider this question who am I sharing Jesus with and who should I share Jesus with?

1. *Season.* We must be men and women who have acommitment to the harvest

Jesus went on to say in Mark 4: “*Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk then the head then the full grain in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it for the harvest has come.*” Again, we can see essentials of the kingdom in these lines.

No seed grows over-night. No farmer sows one day and expects to reap the next. Only those committed to the harvest will see the fruit. Like a farmer, the disciple of Jesus must grasp a clear vision for the coming harvest. Without it, distraction, hunger and even despair may sidetrack the effort. Consider the farmer in Jesus’ parable. How many visits did he likely make to the field? Once to sow, once to see the stalk, once to see the head, once to see the full grain in the head, once to determine the time of harvest, and once to swing the sickle. We can observe at least six trips to the field and more likely he visited daily. Why would the farmer sow where he does not intend to reap?

Consider this question, are you showing a commitment to the harvest in how you work?

1. *Sickle.* We must be men and women who are mobilized together to reap the harvest.

It takes only one person to sow. The harvest, however, **brings the whole community together**. While one can scatter seed effectively, the nature of the harvest demands a quick response beyond the abilities of any one harvester. For this reason, family, friends and neighbors are mobilized into the harvest to reap together. The reason is obvious. Timing is everything. If the harvest is too early, the grain will not be ripe, lacking essential nutrients. If the harvest is too late it may spoil in the field. An entire season of resources and labor would be lost. Consider Jesus’ instruction as he sent sowers into the fields of Galilee. *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send laborers into the fields”* (Luke 10:1-2)

Sowers alone were not enough. Those Jesus sent were given instruction concerning the sowing the seed within the ongoing task. They were compelled to immediately pray for the laborers needed to reap where they were sowing. They prayed for laborers to ensure the harvest was brought together in a timely and orderly way. Likewise, we must be ready to cut and gather when the harvest comes. And we do this together as the church of God – believers coming together in support and love.

Consider this question, who will you bring along with you as you learn to follow Jesu?

*Sharing the Lesson*

**THE WHEEL.** The characteristics of a disciple. What does a disciple of Jesus look like?

The Wheel diagram, created by Navigator founder Dawson Trotman in the 1930s, is a simple, effective way to visually explain the structure of a God-glorifying life. The diagram challenges us to think deeply about how to be an obedient follower of Christ as each part represents a crucial component of a vibrant Christian life.

1. How you relate to yourself (Volitional Dimension)
2. How you relate to God. (Vertical Dimension)
3. How you relate to others. (Horizontal Dimension)

**The Volitional Dimension** (Your relationship with Yourself)

**The Hub** – Christ the Center: Total surrender to Christ’s authority and lordship is not always a decision made right at conversion but is a necessary act of will. For the believer, the “old life” has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17), and Christ dwells through us instead (Galatians 2:20). God creates within us the desire to do what He wants us to do in order to express His lordship in our lives.

**The Rim—**Obedience to Christ: Some acts of obedience to God are internal, such as attitudes, habits, motives, values and day- to-day thoughts. But even these eventually surface outwardly in our relationships with other people. Keeping His commandments in **obedience is our outward indication** of inward health and love for Christ—our worship (John 14:21, Romans 12:1).

**The Vertical Dimension** (You’re relationship to God)

**The Word Spoke:** The Word of God is His direct voice showing us not only who He is, but how to live and interact with everyone around us (2 Timothy 3:16). This means an earnest personal intake of God’s Word is essential for health and growth (Joshua 1:8). As God speaks to us through the Scriptures, we can see His principles for life and ministry, learn how to obey Him and become acquainted with the Christ who is worthy of our steadfast allegiance.

**The Prayer Spoke:** Prayer is the natural response to God as we hear Him speak through His Word. It is sharing our heart with the One who longs for our companionship and who cares about our concerns. Prayer not only trains our hearts and minds to know the power and glory of God, but also turns His ear towards action in our lives and of those who we pray for (John 15:7, Philippians 4:6-7).

**The Horizontal Dimension** (Your relationship with others)

**The Fellowship Spoke:** God has directed Christians to build each other up through inter-dependence and loving relationships with each other (Hebrews 10:24-25). Gathering together as the Body of Christ draws God close around us as we praise Him and encourage one another (Matthew 18:20).

**The Witnessing Spoke:** God has given believers the joy and responsibility of telling the world about the Good News of Christ’s work on earth (Matthew 4:19). In fact, sharing this spectacular news with others should be the natural overflow of a rich, vibrant life in Christ (Romans 1:16).

Relationship between the Vertical and Horizontal Dimension:

A steady diet of personalizing and individualizing concepts from the Old Testament contributes to the creation of a vertically orientated faith. God’s covenant with Israel was extraordinarily vertical and on purpose. He was creating a nation from scratch. He needed their undivided attention. The Sinai covenant introduction and conclusion shows that (Ex. 20:2-6). In a nutshell God’s message to Israel was to keep your eyes on me and my commandments or else! – Andy Stanley in his book *Irrestible*. Divine blessing was contingent upon the nation fixing their eyes on God and His law at all times.

Always focusing on vertical morality though will leave us wondering about our identity as Christians and our calling. We become vulnerable; guessing answers to the Bible and wanting to find loopholes to “get away with things.” So how do we fix this? With horizontal dimension.

What are the two greatest commandments? Not second in importance, just sequence (summed up all Jewish law including the Old Covenant). God redefined neighbor with the parable of the Good Samaritan – no boundaries or cultural barriers whatsoever. A new command Jesus gave his disciples (John 13:35) – to love one another. Jesus therefore reminds us here that a disciple loves God supremely (Luke 14:25-26). No othe relationship should compete with our relationship with Jesus. We love him first and because love comes from God,we can then love our neightbor.

As our main verse tell us; Matthew 4:19 a disciple is a fully committed follower and learner of Jesus Christ. What does it cost to follow Jesus? The same thing it cost Jesus to follow God (the cross). We are to take up our cross and follow. In other words, a disciple follows God’s Son sacrificially (Luke 14:27-33). We are to die to person (v. 26), pleasures (v.27), and possesions (v.33). Jesus tolerate no rivals and we should be sold out to him. The wheel diagram helps us determine if we’re on this path or not.

*Learning Activities*

* Guide participants in a review discussion of Mark 4. As disciples of Christ we must:

1) Enter and engage empty fields.  
2) Sow the seed of the gospel message.  
3) Nurture the new growth born of the Spirit of God in someone’s heart   
4) Cut and bundle the harvest into kingdom community  
5) Seek to multiply through equipped, empowered disciple leaders

* Where are you actively serving as Christ’s disciple? What’s your next step?
* Where do you need to grow as a disciple of Christ using “The Wheel” Illustration?
* Introduce importance of the journal

*Review*

Definition of a spiritual conversation. A spiritual conversation is *telling your story of what Jesus has done in your life or asking others where they are with Jesus in their lives.* Discuss this definition and what should someone include or exclude. Write down 5 people who can begin to pray for and share with.

Our goal is 5,000 in 2019

*Closing*

**Discipleship Training Series**

**Session 2**

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| **Lesson Title** | Growing in Jesus (Bible Study) |
| **Scripture References** | 2 Tim. 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, Phil 3:10, **James 1:22 - memorize** |
| **Emphasis or Theme** | * Living in the Word * Understanding a Quiet Time * Importance of Scripture memorization |
| **Welcome & Activity**  *Make introductions. State the purpose of meeting. Identify leader expectations for students.* | * Have a 5-minute quiet time to start out. Disciples will study / read silently Phil 3:7-16 * Ask the following questions to reflect on what happened:   + How was this experience / activity? What did it make you feel?   + How did God speak to you in this passage?   + What did He say? How will you obey? * Introduce the lesson |
| **Introduce the Lesson** *What you might say or do before the main lesson to help create an interest or curiosity.* | Teach the importance of God’s Word in your life using the illustration of a sword   * Hebrews 4:12 * 2 Timothy 3:16 |
| **Share the Lesson** *Outline the story here. Describe the method you will use to tell the story / lesson. Share illustrations.* | Teach James 1:22   * Read not just to understand, but to obey. * This is truly a disciple – one who learns and follows the Master / teacher.   Explain the Hand Illustration  Genesis 39 (Joseph) |
| **Learning Activities** *Games, crafts, artwork, songs, memory verses or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the Scripture and make application to the lives of the students.* | *Practice-*   * Develop a Quiet Time plan – Identify a time, place, method, and material * What the Bible Says? What the Bible means? What the Bible means for me? * SOAP acrostic – Is there a **sin** to confess or **song** to be sung? * Is there a command to **obey?** * Is there an **attitude** or habit I need to change? * Is there a **principle** I need to adhere to? |
| **Review** *Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the lesson.* | * Memory verses and The Disciples Wheel * I need to…. Write out your action plan on a piece of paper and start this as a daily habit of journaling in your Quiet Time |
| **Closing** | * “The amount of time we spend with Jesus, meditating on His Word and His majesty, seeking His face, establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom.” **Charles Stanley** * I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible – D.L. Moody * 5,000 gospel conversations and SOAP review |
| **Preparation** *What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.* | * Copies of the hand * SOAP acrostic on white board |

Welcome and Activity - as outlined above

Go around and say memory verse as a group!!!! Do this for every session.

We were created to have fellowship with God (Gen. 2-3). Created for relationship. Share the story of what the doctor said about my grandmother in the hospital after severe bleeding in the brain. He said, “when you cannot talk or socialize, you are trapped. That is no way to live because all of us are created to live in relationship with one another. That is not living at all” We are fed and strengthened daily via the Word of God so we might minister to others. Share the analogy of the pitcher (you only can only serve others out of the overflow of your soul). A disciple then abides in God’s Word continually (John 8:31-32). Notice the singular format of the verb, and not the plural. Follwing God’s Word is a package deal, we don’t pick and choose which parts to follow. We follow completely.

A Quiet Time is a time you deliberately set aside each day to meet with King Jesus. The objective is to grow in your personal relationship with Jesus as you hear from Him in the Scriptures and listen to Him in prayer. For this session we will focus on studying the Bible, God’s Word.

*Introduce the Story*

Hebrews 4:12

The context of this passage is the people of Israel wandering in the wilderness and also the conquest of Canaan. The people wandered in the wilderness with no purpose, just as judgement for not entering the promised land. When they entered, they then took the promised land, but ultimately never found rest and peace from their enemies. For the people of God today, we also will never find rest (purpose in life) apart from Christ and His Word. Christ (the revealed Word) is our life-giver and purpose-giver and the Word of God (written word) is our only reliable guide for how to function properly as humans in a broken word. We read the Word of God to discern how we live for Christ in this world. The Word is described as having three functions:

1. Living and active – is dynamic and productive. The Word has meaning and application today specifically to the man or woman who reads it.
2. Penetrating – it cuts to the core of who you are. Penetrates the impenetrable that is in our hearts – pride, lust, and sin of any kind.
3. Discerning – convicts us of hidden sins in our hearts (thoughts / feelings) and where we need to give it back (surrender) it over to God. Why? Because God is a God of light and not darkness.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What is the ultimate purpose of God’s Word? *To equip us for every good work.* The Spirit of God speaks to us through the Word and teaches us what is God’s will, rebukes us of sin in our life that we must repent of, correct us where we have erred in God’s will, and trains us in the righteousness so that we grow in Christ-likeness. As Hebrews says, the Word of God is our guide in life.

2 Peter 1:21 – *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Let’s look at the historical context of this passage. Peter writes that the individual documents the early church had – Matthew, Luke, Romans, for example were inspired. And there inspiration predated the collection and publication of these individually inspired documents; now known as the Bible. For almost 300 years Christians lived out their faith by these individual documents and meticulously copied them to preserve their truth. For centuries Christians were arrested and executed for possessing any of them. Why? Because these letters / documents were God-breathed, inspired by the Holy Spirit and God’s guide for them. In 336 Athanasius of Alexandria compiled the list of documents that would eventually be recognized and sanctioned by the church as the official New Testament. I share this with you because of the value the early Church saw in these writings- they risked everything. Do you have this same value, love, devotion to the Word?

*Share the Lesson*

James 1:22

The danger after reading God’s Word is that we too easily forget it. We forget Christ’s commands, God’s will for our lives, and what we read. When that happens then we are only hearers and not doers. We hear the message, we hear God’s voice, but do not follow-up. We do not live it out. James tells us this should not be the case, for if we do not obey what we read, then we are like a man who looks at himself in the mirror and forgets what he looks like. You are not a true disciple and simply a reflection in the mirror only. Therefore, to ensure we live out the Bible, we need to have an effective method for how we read to the Word and hear God’s Voice. A method for how we can effectively relate with Him and that method we will learn in our course is the “Study Hand.”

The Study Hand! Draw and board and repeat several times

* Hearing (little finger). We get spiritual insights by hearing the Word from pastors and Bible teachers at church and on radio and TV. Listening has benefits & limitations – we don’t retain much from listening; the little finger is the weakest. Share statistics on this!!!
* Reading (ring finger). Reading the Bible daily is a good discipline that helps to feed our soul.
* Studying (middle finger). The Bible helps us dig deeper into God’s truths. Writing down insights helps us remember them.
* Memorizing the Word (index finger). This is the most powerful way to change our thinking and give us the mind of Christ. Its helps us resist Satan and conquer temptations, and gives us ways to witness to or counsel others.
* Meditating. Meditation (thumb) working with all the others fingers is most effective. Meditation is thinking about God’s Word with an attitude of applying it to our lives. In other words, we develop our convictions which results in development of character.

*Learning Activities*

**Develop a Quiet time plan** – share together what others have done!

Time and Place: Jesus spent a lot of time with God His Father. He spent 40 days in the wilderness listening to God’s voice and how to overcome temptation. During his earthly ministry he often woke up early to spend time with His Father. One such time is found in Luke 6:12-13. Jesus spent all night in prayer asking God what’s next for Him and who should He call to serve alongside of Him and mentor. God revealed the names of 12 men and Jesus then called them by name. When is your quiet time? What have you tried? What has worked? If you’re a morning person then mornings might be best if a night person then try to do it at night. What’s important is to do it regularly.

Purpose: Christlikeness is the goal for any Christian. You were made in His image (*imago dei)* and so you are to reflect His image in this world. You reflect His image when you grow in holiness. If there is sin in your life, the image is stained, and people don’t see the reflection of Jesus in you. Therefore, you need to know the key to victory over sin. The key to victory of sin is studying the Word of God daily and applying it to your life. The Word of God is available for you in times of temptation. Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan in Matthew 4 with the Word of God and Joseph resisted temptation by applying the Word of God (Gen. 39). Let’s look at Genesis 39.

How did Joseph resist temptation?

1. Joseph didn’t listen, he put it out of this mind (Job 31:1). He didn’t listen to Potiphar’s wife but focused on the will of God for him to remain pure (39:8-9. *How do you personally do this?*
2. He wouldn’t go near – avoided sin (2 Tim 2:22). He kept refusing despite constant requests (39:10). *What guardrails have you put up in your life to help you avoid sin?*
3. He ran from sin (James 4:7). In a moment when no one was present sin grabbed him, literally, but he ran away. He didn’t think on this sin or its consequences. He just knew it was wrong and so immediately fled (39:11-12). Being tempted is not a sin, but what you do when you are tempted determine if you sin or not. *How can you flee when temptation comes?*

Material and Method:

* Many studies and resources you can refer to, but that is all they are – resources. They are not the Word of God. Therefore, in this lesson I will teach you the simple **acronym SOAP** to assist you as you read in the Bible. The purpose of **SOAP** is for you to encounter King Jesus in the Bible, to hear His voice and know His will for your life.
  + SOAP acrostic
    - Is there a **sin** to confess or **song** to be sung?
    - Is there a command to **obey?**
    - Is there an **attitude** or habit I need to change?
    - Is there a **principle** I need to adhere to?
  + What the Bible says? What the Bible means? What the Bible means for me? (Application). Let’s stop asking how can I apply the Bible to my life and begin to say how can I apply my life to the Bible? The Bible is as relevant today as it was 2,000 plus years ago.
  + Use this SOAP method every time you read the Word so that you can hear from Jesus and truly learn how to live your life according to God’s plan
  + Use a journal and write down what the Lord tells you

*Review*

* Write out your quiet time plan and share with the class. Your plan will include location, time, method, and place (in the Bible).
* Instructor to share their plan
* Everyone to share with another and receive / give ideas

Closing

* Anyone have a spiritual conversation this week?
* Review The Disciple’s Wheel
* Two quotes in study guide
* Important to note that in all of our next lessons I want you to use SOAP as the method of study prior to us coming together and in our own personal Quiet Time. And as we read passages together we will use this as our guide as well.
* Pray

Another SOAP analogy for the Quiet Time is:

S – Scripture (write down where you will read and memory verse)

O – Observations (what jumps out to you and is interesting?)

A – Application (what do you need to confess and obey? Put into practice?)

P – Prayer (for you and others)

**Discipleship Training Series**

**Session 3**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson Title** | Conversing with Jesus (Prayer) |
| **Scripture References** | Matthew 6:5-13, Matt. **6:6 - memorize** |
| **Emphasis or Theme** | What is prayer? How do we pray effectively? |
| **Welcome & Activity**  *Make introductions. State the purpose of meeting. Identify leader expectations for students.* | * What is prayer? How do you pray? * Story of prayer in Southeast Asia (all together and out loud) and in other contents * Top 10 List we struggle with in prayer   + Discuss these challenges and teach the simplicity of prayer |
| **Introduce the Lesson** *What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity* | Teach that prayer is simply conversation with God. You communicate directly with Him.   * Telephone game analogy – ever play this as child? What is said at first is usually never what is said at the end! Praise God that we now have direct access to God the Father through His son Jesus Christ. * Using SOAP method discuss John 14:6 & 1 Timothy 2:5. What is a mediator? |
| **Share the Lesson**  *Outline the story here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story.* | *Model-* Matthew 6:5-13 (Our Lord’s Model of Prayer)   * Honest one-on-one conversation with God; contrast of Pharisees (Matt. 6:5-8) * What to include in your prayer? Many forms of expression that include what Jesus prayed in this passage:   + Adoration to God the Father – His attributes   + Submission to His will   + Daily provision   + Confession of sin personally and in relationship with others   + Rescue from temptation and sin (call to obedience, righteous living)   + Surrender – His kingdom and deliverance from evil one   Teach PRAY Model Below   * + Praise   + Repent   + Ask   + Yield |
| **Learning Activities** *Games, crafts, artwork, songs, memory verses or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the Scripture or make application to the lives of the students.* | *Practice-*   * Discuss the PRAY model and how this would look like in your prayer life. Use several hand illustrations to teach / memorize:   + Praise (hands outstretched above head)   + Repent (hands in tradition prayer position)   + Ask (hands opened as if receiving a gift and drinking water)   + Yield (hands made into fist across chest overlapping each other) * Pray for one another in pairs |
| **Review** *Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the story itself.* | * All memory verses reviewed * Prepare a prayer journal answering two questions: what will you ask God for? How has God answered your request today or this week? What was His answer? |
| **Closing** | * 5,000 spiritual conversations * Prayer walking in Kyaoukme and seeing the crosses in the Buddhist temple |
| **Preparation** *What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach* | * 10 Struggles of Prayer on White Board * PRAY Model * Picture of Kyaoukme |

*Welcome and Activity*

What is prayer? How do you pray? Christ-followers often mention prayer or praying. You see people do it at church; some people pray at home; sometimes you even see people pray in restaurants. Prayer can be confusing. Even people who follow Jesus and are committed to obeying God struggle with the subject of prayer. So, let’s talk today about prayer.

To start us off let’s create our own Top 10 Reasons people might struggle with prayer. Think about it for a minute, what makes prayer difficult? Or, why might someone NOT want to pray? Possible reasons might be:

* Reason #1 It’s hard to talk to someone who is invisible.
* Reason #2 Not enough time
* Reason #3 Too tired
* Reason #4 Difficult to hear God’s voice
* Reason #5 It just feels awkward
* Reason #6 Don’t know what to pray
* Reason #7 I have never tried it
* Reason #8 I doubt that is actually works
* Reason #9 It’s a waste of time
* Reason #10 I don’t need to ask for help

HINT: Re-ask the question occasionally to remain on topic. Simply re-phrase the question and say something like; “What makes prayer hard?” or “Why don’t some people pray?” or “When is it difficult to pray?” or “How do people know what to pray?”

*Introduce the Lesson –* Telephone game and discuss verses in outline with SOAP method to bible study

*Share the Lesson*

Context of Matthew 6

What is prayer not? And what then can we learn prayer is? Prayer is not making oneself puffed up. Prayer is not nagging. Prayer is not showing off. Rather, prayer is genuine one-on-one conversation with God. Jesus talked first about the Pharisees, religious leaders of his day, to teach us what prayer truly is. It is hearing from Jesus and talking to Jesus. Prayer is the opening of one's heart and soul in a conversation with God, and thus is an expression of faith in a relationship with God.

When do you see Jesus praying in the Scriptures? Jesus himself prayed often, as noted in the Gospel of Luke - before his Baptism (3:21), after healing the sick (5:16), before choosing the Twelve Apostles (6:12), before the Confession of Peter (9:18) and the Transfiguration (9:28), before the giving of the Lord's Prayer (11:1), and to his Father in the Garden of Gethsemane (22:40-42). Jesus teaches us to pray:  *"All that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours"* (Mark 11:24).  Share quote; *Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship.* Discuss this together. All of these acts of prayer mentioned here are supposed to be worship rendered to God, never displays of self-righteousness to gain the admiration of others. Prayer comes from the heart.

In Matthew 6:5-8, Christ continues to correct the wrong manner in which the Pharisees and scribes did their acts of righteousness. After addressing the abuse of giving (v. 2-4), he focuses on the abuse of prayer. Though at times done incorrectly, the Jews were known for prayer. William Barclay said:

No nation ever had a higher ideal of prayer than the Jews had; and no religion ever ranked prayer higher in the scale of priorities than the Jews did. ‘Great is prayer,’ said the Rabbis, ‘greater than all good works.’ One of the loveliest things that was ever said about family worship is the Rabbinic saying: ‘He who prays within his house surrounds it with a wall that is stronger than iron.’ The only regret of the Rabbis was that it was not possible to pray all day long. [1]

In addition, Jews had formal prayers for every aspect of life. Barclay adds:

There was prayer before and after each meal; there were prayers in connection with the light, the ﬁre and the lightning, on seeing the new moon, on comets, rain or tempest, at the sight of the sea, lakes or rivers, on receiving good news, on using new furniture, on entering or leaving a city. Everything had its prayer. Clearly, there is something inﬁnitely lovely here. It was the intention that every happening in life should be brought into the presence of God.[2]

Jews also had regular times of prayer. Devout Jews would pray three times a day—9 am, 12 pm, and 3 pm. When the Babylonian public officials wanted to find a way to accuse Daniel, they knew he was vulnerable in his prayer life (Daniel 6:10, cf. Ps 55:17). Even though Jews were known for prayer, there was much confusion and misconceptions about prayer. In Matthew 6:5, Christ describes people who “love to pray” however were praying incorrectly.

It is possible for us to love to pray as well and yet be wrong in how we do it. Christ rebukes the common practices of the religious leaders and instructs his disciples on proper praying. In Matthew 6:9-13, he continues to teach on prayer, as he gives a pattern of prayer, often called the Lord’s Prayer.

[1] Barclay, W. (2001). The Gospel of Matthew (Third Ed., p. 220). Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press.

  [2] Barclay, W. (2001). The Gospel of Matthew (Third Ed., p. 223). Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press.

Explanation of Greek word for hypocrite:

Original meaning of hypocrite in Greek language means “play acting” – to put on masks. When no one is looking you revert to your true self. So, a hypocrite is defined by Jesus as the sad state of a person who reduces himself or herself to being an actor on stage because He does not what to remain accountable to God the Father. This individual’s goal is simply to be seen and noticed by the crowd, to morph / change into whatever is happening instead of living to please God. The cure for hypocrisy is knowing God the Father deeply and intimately; to remain real and authentic with Him so you know His heart and will for your life.

Matthew 6:5-13 (Our Lord’s Model of Prayer):

This prayer is not to be simply repeated word for word but is to be practiced. This prayer is a model that we follow as we genuinely pray from our heart to God the Father. In other words, we are not just to pray these exact same words back to God. Rather the prayer is an example for the kind of prayer that God our Father wants us to pray to Him. This prayer contains the elements that He wants us to talk with Him about when we pray. It is an OUTLINE for prayer. So, what should you include in your prayer? There are many forms of expression as we talk to Jesus and in this passage, we see a few:

* + Adoration to God the Father – His attribute or characteristics. We give praise and thanksgiving to God for how He is and how He is at work in our lives. What can we give God praise for?
  + Submission to His will. It is not coincidental that Jesus has these requests in the order that He does. NOTICE that He begins with the requests for GOD first, and for US second:  
    — Hallowed be THY name; THY Kingdom; THY will …  
    — THEN it is “OUR daily bread; OUR debts, lead US not …”

It is THY, THY, THY first — then OUR, OUR, OUR! You submit as you ask God for guidance in difficult situation, determine His calling for you, ask for His kingdom work to be done via the church and in missions. How do we discern His will each new day?

* + Daily provision for you and others. (OUR) What are these requests for you?
  + Confession of sin personally and in relationship with others. This is all about forgiveness. Read and discuss together 1 John 1:9. How do you do this? Biblical repentance and restoration (discuss together)
  + Rescue from temptation and sin (call to obedience, righteous living). Protection from the evil one. Where else do we see this mentioned in the Bible? (1 Peter 5:8). Devil is like a roaring lion who seeks to devour us. We must therefore me alert! How does the devil tempt you?
  + Surrender – His kingdom and deliverance from evil one. God’s will to be done in our lives and all across the world. What is His will? Matthew 4:19 (making disciples). What is the difference between surrender and commitment?

*Learning Activities*

* Teach Model of PRAY. This is a shortened / condensed version of the Lord’s Prayer Model we just discussed in Matthew 6:
  + Praise (hands outstretched above head) – thanksgiving God for who He is and His many gifts
  + Repent (hands in tradition prayer position) – turn away from sin
  + Ask (hands opened as if receiving a gift and drinking water) – the needs you and others have
  + Yield (hands made into fist across chest overlapping each other) – surrender
* Practice several times with motions until students have it memorized
* Pray for another person and discuss prayer journal. Important to have time to pray and hear from God. Do not rush this, it is a sacrifice. Also, corporate prayer is a blessing.

*Review and Closing*

* Memory verses
* Spiritual Conversations
* Pray!!!!! Spend 15 minutes at least doing this for one another
* Prayer journal emphasized again

**Discipleship Training Series**

**Session 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson Title** | Joining together in Jesus |
| **Scripture References** | Acts 2:41-47, Acts 9:26-31, Romans 6:3-4, **Hebrews 10:25 - memorize** |
| **Emphasis or Theme** | Biblical Community – baptism and the importance of the local church |
| **Welcome & Activity**  *Make introductions. State the purpose of meeting. Identify leader expectations for students.* | Ask the question, what is the church? What do you think of when I say, “the church?”  Continue the discussion asking, “In your opinion, what makes a good church or a strong church?” Write all of their answers on the board or a piece of paper. Then discuss the following questions based on what you feel is appropriate for the audience:   * Many churches have many members who act more like non-believers than believers. Why is this? * Many churches are declining rather than growing? Why is that? * What is the purpose of the church? Share Hebrews 10:25. We meet regularly together for accountability and service. The church is a hospital! |
| **Introduce the Lesson** *What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.* | The Beginning of the church (“doing” church then) **Acts 2:41-47**   * Say: “Let’s look at the Book of Acts to see what a local church should be doing and what God considered a strong church in the New Testament.” * Ask the group to read Acts 2:40-47. Ask them, “What are the things that the first church in Jerusalem did?” * Write their answers on the white board or piece of paper, but ask them to use the words from the Bible and not from any tradition for this exercise. |
| **Share the Lesson** *Outline the story here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story.* | The Continuation of the church (“doing” church now) – **Acts 9:26-31**   * Welcoming new believers in the flock (Saul’s conversion) * Importance of sharing life together & accountability (Saul & Barnabas) * What’s the condition / shape of the church now?   + Growing numerically   + Growing in peace   + Growing in worship |
| **Learning Activities** *Games, crafts, artwork, songs, memory verses or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the Scripture or make application to the lives of the students.* | *Baptism*   * Teacher shares a baptism testimony * Discuss questions together from Rom. 6:3-4 and Matthew 3:13-17   + What is baptism?   + Why be baptized?   + When should you be baptized? |
| **Review** *Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the story.* | * 5,000 gospel conversations / SOAP * Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian) – Main principle. Why delay? If the Lord saved you then declare it with baptism. * Commitment cards handed out for baptism |
| **Closing** | * Collect commitment cards and testimony from a student on their baptism * Prayer |
| **Preparation** *(What I need to do and items to gather)* | * White board makers and Bibles * Baptism commitment cards |

*Welcome and Activity*

Ask, what is the church? When most people hear the word church they probably think of a building. Maybe it is a fancy building or a simple building where believers gather. But biblically speaking, a church is much more than a building. In fact, some would say that the church is not a building at all but is all about the people. But what is the church? The church is not a building, but a body of believers with a specific nature and purpose. These biblical roles or ministries of the church are foundational to it. What are these roles? We will discuss these roles more later.

The church, then, consists of those whom the Lord has called out of the world into union and fellowship with Christ and into communion with each other. – R.C. Sproul’s conclusion as he looked at the Greek word *ekklesia* and its origin.

Continue your discussion asking, “In your opinion, what makes a good church or a strong church?” Write all of their answers on the board or a piece of paper. And then ask as you feel is necessary; many churches have many members who act more like non-believers than believers. Why is this? Many churches are declining rather than growing? Why is that?

Discuss Hebrews 10:25 – we need to come together and do so regularly! We need each other. The church is a hospital. Mark 10:45 says Jesus came for the sick. And the church is that of a hospital for sick people. It’s a biblical image. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” those “sick of soul.” And Jesus referred to himself as a physician who has come for sick people, for those who know they need help. While at the same time, Jesus recognized he has nothing to offer those who think they already are spiritually healthy.

Imagine the church where you worship as a hospital for the spiritually ill. Or maybe think of it as an emergency clinic for those desperately sick of soul, or a spiritual rehabilitation facility for long-term recovery, or a treatment center for those who have relapsed into spiritually destructive addictions.

Or the image may be of the church as a waiting room, filled with people who have arrived for an appointment, yet unsure if they actually want to sign in and visit the doctor, who keep putting it off in hope of ignoring the pain. In such an ecclesial waiting room, some of us may be able to encourage the reluctant, giving testimony about how the Great Physician is helping us. Perhaps we’d even offer to go in to the appointment with them, to provide moral support.

The hospital metaphor might also suggest that, as a church, we need the soulful equivalent of ambulances that take us as spiritual EMTs to places in our towns where people are in acute need, hurt by life, wounded by sinfulness or confused about where to go for help.

**Where is the greatest need?**

With such an image in mind, we should ask: Where are the greatest needs around us? Maybe among the down-and-outs or the up-and-outs, the desperately ill or those numbed by pain into soulish lethargy. Where would your church find the most-needy people in your city, the ones most desperate for care? Likely, that is where we should be concentrating our attention.

If this hospital metaphor for the church is valid, then an obvious implication would be that under no circumstances could we ever turn someone away because her or his spiritual illness was too severe or think someone has to change behavior or get healthy before becoming part of our community.

Think what it would be like if your local hospital turned sick people away because they weren’t already well. It’s unimaginable. Just so with the church—we dare not think anyone is unworthy of entering our doors because of their weakness, pain or failings. In other words, as disciples of Jesus Christ we must love God’s children supernaturally (John 13:34-25).

*Introduce the Lesson* Acts 2:41-47

“Let’s look at the Book of Acts to see what a local church should be doing and what God considered a strong church in the New Testament.”

Ask the group to read Acts 2:40-47. Ask them, “What are the things that the first church in Jerusalem did?”

Write their answers on the white board or piece of paper but ask them to use the words from the Bible and not from any tradition for this exercise. If someone uses words that are different than the Bible then ask them, “What were the words that were used in the Scripture?” Only write on the board or piece of paper, the words from the Scripture. If they say something that is not Scriptural, then ask them “What verse was that in?” Remind them that we are only writing on the board or paper the things that the Scriptures say that a church was to be doing.

Your list will look similar to the following:

* Shared the Gospel (Leave a space to add in the Acts 1:8 parts)
* Baptized
* Devoted to the Apostles’ Teaching
* Devoted to the fellowship (Ate together in homes with glad and sincere hearts)
* Devoted to the breaking of bread
* Devoted to prayers
* Helped any believer in need – even selling their possessions – nothing was their own
* Praised God

Other things – the Apostles did miracles (not listed as a church function but apostolic function)

*Share the Lesson* Acts 9:26-31

**Paul and Barnabas principle!** Each of us needs a Barnabas (someone investing in us) and Paul (someone we invest in). Who is your Paul and who is your Barnabas? We would have no Paul, if there was not a Barnabas. Barnabas vouched for Paul in front of all the leaders and thus Paul was welcome in. In Acts 13 notice the difference of names that takes place. Barnabas goes behind Paul. Why? Because he was mentoring him into this leadership position. The MAWL principle – Model, Assist, Watch, and Leave.

So, is what we see in Acts 2 just unique to the New Testament church or is it applicable to today? Should these practices be seen in the local church today? Read Acts 9:26-31. We see in this passage the growth of the church and what they continually practiced / experienced? What were they? Three things:

* Growing numerically
* Growing in peace
* Growing in worship

Discuss the functions of each practice mentioned in Acts 2 and Acts 9 as the group brings them up:

1. Sharing the Gospel
   1. All disciples boldly sharing the Gospel where ever they go (Acts 6:8-10; 8:4-5; 11:19-21). Lots of Gospel sharing!
   2. Shared the Gospel in a clear and complete way (Acts 2:14-41; 8:30-40; 10:34-48; 13:16-43; 17:22-34; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11).
   3. All peoples hear the Gospel (Acts 1:8)
      1. Our home town/city
      2. Our ethnic group/area
      3. Other ethnic groups near us
      4. All the rest of the ethnic groups in the world
2. Devoted to the Apostles’ Teaching (same as what Jesus had taught them)
   1. They were devoted to the Apostles teaching which was what Jesus had taught them. The church is built on the foundation of the Apostles/Prophets with Jesus as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The New Testament is the Apostles and Jesus’ teaching. Any teaching not built on Scripture is the wrong source – including tradition, experience, or observation/logic. Scripture is all that is needed to thoroughly equip anyone (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Therefore, the Teaching should be the Bible.
   2. Teaching should be done in such a way so that people obey (Matthew 28:20)
   3. Teaching should include all that Jesus commanded (Matthew 28:20).
   4. Teaching should include practical life mentoring like Jesus and the Disciples did. The emphasis should be on practical application in disciples’ lives.
3. Devoted to the Fellowship (how did the early do this?)
   1. 1 heart and 1 mind – Unity (Acts 4:32)
   2. Ate together in their homes (Acts 2:46)
   3. Did not inhibit others from coming (Acts 15)
   4. Prayer together and sought God’s will in conflict (Acts 15)
4. Devoted to the Breaking of Bread
   1. They were devoted to breaking bread – examples of doing it weekly and daily – (Acts 2:46; 20:7).
   2. Met in both homes and temples (Heb. 10:25)
5. Devoted to the Prayers
   1. They were devoted to praying together – constantly prayed together as well as when specific problems came (Acts 1:14; 3:1; 4:23-31; 12:1-17)
6. Helped any Believer in Need *(concept of the tithe)*
   1. No one considered their possessions their own – sacrificial giving – even selling land or possessions (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37). Percentage and progressiving giving principle.
   2. All believers’ needs were met
      1. Local needs were met by the local church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37)
      2. Local churches especially helped widows and orphans in need who did not have family to take care of them (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; James 1:27).
      3. Local churches financially supported Apostolic teams (Philippians 4:10-19).
      4. If the need was across the whole of a church or area – i.e. a famine in Jerusalem, then other churches would help (Acts 11:27-30) or severe poverty so that one church could not do it – then others took up a collection (2 Corinthians 8-9).
   3. When the need became large, godly people are chosen to oversee the meeting of needs (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:8-13).
   4. Sacrificial giving – 2 Cor. 9:6-8; give when it hurts is the New Testament principle
7. Praised God (Worship)
   1. Worship is to be done in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) – explain this
   2. Worship is a giving of ourselves to God (Romans 12:1) (You might want to share the 5 ways to worship.) Worship is more than just singing songs.
   3. 5 ways to worship God:
      1. Singing – Eph. 5:19
      2. Raising Hands – 1 Tim. 2:8; New. 8:6, Ps 141:2
      3. Bowing Down – Ps. 95:6 (a sign of humility and reverence)
      4. Clapping hands – Ps 47:10
      5. Dancing – Ps 149:3, 150:4, Jer. 31:4 (celebration)

*Learning Activities* Baptism

Matthew 3 and Romans 6:3-4

**Jesus’ Example (Read Matthew 3:13-17)**

1. *Who was baptized?* Jesus was baptized. Though He had no sin, he was baptized. If our Lord and Savior was baptized, then each of His followers should be baptized. Jesus was not baptized as an infant; He was an adult when He was baptized even though he had been circumcised as an infant and had gone through Jewish rites of passage at age 12.
2. *Why was He baptized?* Verse 15 says that he was baptized to obey God’s requirements or desires (to fulfill all righteousness). He was not baptized to take away sin, because He had no sin. He was baptized out of obedience to the Father to please Him and the Father was pleased with Him.
3. *How was He baptized?* In the Bible the word for baptism is “Baptidzo”, which literally means, “to plunge under, to submerge, to immerse”. There are no credible Bible scholars of any denomination that would dispute that. We can see this in verse 16, where Jesus went up out of the water. Unless He was being immersed, why did He need to go up out of the water? (Other verses where verses don’t make sense unless it is immersion – John 3:23)
4. *What was the result?* God expresses His love and pleasure at Jesus’ baptism.

**New Testament Teaching (Romans 6:3-4)**

In the New Testament, the FIRST ACT of obedience for a new believer was to be BAPTIZED. Being baptized is a sign that you are identifying with Christ and are truly following Jesus as Lord. Baptism is a TESTIMONY to the believer’s death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in a new life in Jesus Christ as Lord. Christian baptism is the IMMERSION of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

*Review and Closing*

**5,000 gospel conversations**

**The Ethiopian Eunuch (Read Acts 8:26-40)**

1. *Who is baptized?* The Ethiopian Eunuch was baptized after he heard the Gospel of Jesus and truly believed. The Eunuch wanted to be baptized and Philip said he could if he truly believed.
2. *Why was he baptized?* He wanted to be baptized because he wanted so much to identify with Christ. He knew that we need to be baptized right away. You should be asking the same question, “Why shouldn’t I be baptized?” He volunteered and asked to be baptized. Will you?
3. *How was he baptized?* Verses 38-39 say that they went down into the water and they came up out of the water. This shows once again that baptism is by immersion.
4. *What was the result?* He went on his way rejoicing (verse 39) and all Africa heard the gospel.

Summary of the Basic Truths

1. Jesus and the Ethiopian had heard the true GOSPEL and were BELIEVERS when baptized. There is no teaching in the Bible about a baby being baptized. Biblical baptism always came after they truly believed in Christ.
2. Baptism was an act of OBEDIENCE which pleases God. Baptism could not be to take away sin because Jesus was baptized yet did not have sin. Sin can only be taken away by the blood substitute sacrifice of Jesus. Baptism does not do that. Baptism is a sign that you are a disciple of Christ. It was showing you are obedient to Jesus, your Lord.
3. Each person who was baptized DECIDED for himself to be baptized. A person was not considered a DISCIPLE of Jesus and ADDED to their number until they were baptized according to the Scriptures (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41).
4. The new believers were gladly baptized WITHOUT HESITATION. They were unhesitatingly obedient and were baptized right away. They were not ashamed to follow Jesus Christ their Lord in baptism.
5. Each one was IMMERSED. They went down into the water and came up out of the water. The word baptized means immersed. Nowhere in the New Testament can we find an example of a person being “sprinkled” or “poured”. All were immersed.
6. After they were baptized, they had great JOY. They were added to the number of disciples.

You have heard the message of the Gospel and have believed. Will you follow the command of your LORD and be baptized? Are you ready to be baptized in accordance with the Scriptures? If so, fill out this commitment card and I will follow-up with you.

Further notes for discussion as needed:

Where did the church meet?

In the Bible, believers met together wherever it was convenient to gather - in HOUSES (Romans 16:5); the temple courtyard (Acts 2:46); in a hall (Acts 19:9); or by the river (Acts 16-13, 16). There were no dedicated church buildings for more than 100 years after Jesus’ death, so today we can follow the same pattern by meeting wherever the most convenient and easiest place is.

When did the Church meet?

Sometimes they met every day (Acts 2:46; 19:9-10) and sometimes they came together on the first day of the week, Sunday (Acts 20:7) but they were together a lot. So, they met at least once a week as a bigger group but fellowshipped a lot during the week house to house.

Why baptism? (More Biblical examples)

**Cornelius and His Family (Acts 10:34-48)**

1. *Who is baptized?* Cornelius, his family, and close friends – all of whom believed and had received the Holy Spirit. (10:25, 47-48)
2. *Why were they baptized?* They already had the Holy Spirit which is the sign that people are believers. So, baptism was not for the purpose of receiving the Holy Spirit but a sign that you have made Jesus your Lord and a symbol of what the Holy Spirit has done in your life. Those who have been saved and have the Holy Spirit should immediately be baptized.
3. *How were they baptized?* They were baptized with water by immersion.
4. *What was the result?* In Acts 11 we see that the result is that other people are unhappy about them being baptized but after the truth is explained they rejoice.

**The Jail Guard at Philippi (Read Acts 16:25-34)**

1. *Who was baptized?* The Jailer and his whole family. Each one of them had heard the Gospel and had believed. Only people who have believed are baptized. (verses 32-33)
2. Why were they baptized? Because they had believed in Jesus Christ, so they were baptized right away. (verses 32-33)
3. *How were they baptized?* They were baptized by immersion as all believers were in the Bible. Once again, the word ‘baptize’ actual means to immerse, to submerge.
4. *What was the result?* They were filled with joy because they had believed. (verse 34)

**Crispus, the Synagogue Ruler and the Corinthians (Read Acts 18:8)**

1. *Who was baptized?* Those who had heard and believed.
2. *What was the order of hearing, believing and being baptized*? Which came first? 1) HEARING the message of the Gospel of Jesus, 2) then BELIEVING, and 3) then being BAPTIZED. Infants cannot hear and believe so they were not baptized in the New Testament. A person has to hear the Gospel and believe before they should be baptized.

**John’s Disciples (Acts 19:1-5)**

1. *Who is baptized?* John’s disciples whom had already been baptized by John. Once they truly understood about Jesus then they were baptized in the Name of Jesus. Just because the followers of John had been baptized, were devout, and even knew a lot of the truth, they still needed to be baptized once they understood the full truth about Jesus Christ our Lord and believed in Him. Sometimes people have already experienced some form of baptism before salvation but need to be baptized in the Biblical Christian way once they understand the true Gospel and believe.
2. *Why were they baptized?* They had not known the full truth about Jesus Christ so once they heard the truth about Jesus, they were baptized into the Name of the LORD Jesus. They also had not heard of the Holy Spirit. They needed Christian baptism.
3. *Timing of baptism:* On the right side of your conversion – after you’ve believed / followed

Note for this lesson or the next one:

We need to view our various activities and responsibilities as spokes of a wheel with Church (person-in-community) in the middle. At the center is not you, but the church. The church is not another ball for you to juggle but that which defines who you are and gives Christlike shape to your life. You’re not separate from the church but joined in!

**Discipleship Training Series**

**Session 5**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson Title** | Serving with Jesus |
| **Scripture References** | Eph. 4:1-6, & 11-16, **John 13:34, 35 - memorize** |
| **Emphasis or Theme** | Living out the gospel message in obedience to Jesus and service to each other |
| **Welcome & Activity**  *Make introductions. State the purpose of meeting. Identify leader expectations for students.* | * Love as an action and commitment * Share personal story * Christ showed love as an action (Rom. 5:8 and 10) |
| **Introduce the Lesson** *What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.* | What is love?   * Read 1 Corinthians 13 * Discuss who matched all of these characteristics? * What is the spiritual truth for us here? |
| **Share the Lesson**  *Outline the lesson here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story.* | Teach Eph. 4:1-6 and 11-16 using verses noted in leader’s guide:   * *The church are believers in Christ making up one body.* * *The church are believers in Christ being built into the spiritual temple* * *The church are believers in Christ with a shared purpose.* |
| **Learning Activities** *Games, crafts, artwork, songs, memory verses or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the Scripture or make application to the lives of the students.* | Complete the SHAPE assessment and identify where in the local body they can find their place of service.  S-Spiritual Gifts  H-Heart  A-Abilities  P-Personality  E- Experiences |
| **Review**  *Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the story itself.* | * 5,000 gospel conversations * Discuss the Shape Assessment * Signup for place to serve in the church – connections card handed out |
| **Closing** | * Student share of a time they were blessed serving in the church * Explain John 13:34,35 and memorize it |
| **Preparation** *What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.* | * SHAPE Assessment manuals printed * Know the difference between the biblical definition of love and the secular definition * Ministry commitment cards |

*Welcome and Activity*

Too many people believe and sometimes teach that love is a feeling or emotion. Yes, feelings and emotions are involved in love, but the greatest part of love is action oriented. Love is a verb (what you do) more than a noun (a feeling). Many marriages, even among Christians, are failing because they value feelings over actions. Many couples say they fell “out of love” but there is really no falling out of or falling into love.  We can fall out of bed or fall in the bathtub but typically we grow to love someone over time.  This love for another grows from what we see them do for us and for others.

Share personal story of your spouse or another dear one about how you’ve seen love expressed and how you have shown love to another.

Now, imagine if Christ, just before the cross, went to the garden and thought; I hate this feeling, I don’t feel like doing this, therefore I will base my decision upon what I feel.  If that had happened, we’d all be hopelessly doomed to hell.  The good news of course is that Jesus resisted and fought back His feelings and even though He prayed three times to have the cup removed, He was more interested in doing the will of the Father than what He felt like doing…thankfully.  Jesus displayed His love by willingly going to the cross and dying for sinners and those of us whom were still His enemies and desperately wicked (Rom 5:8, 10). So, love is not dependent upon feelings and emotions because feelings are one of the shallowest and most unreliable of all human emotions.  Instead we must emphasize that love is a choice more than a feeling because feelings are subjective while love is objectively displayed in actions.

The bottom line is that love is what a person chooses to do, not what a person chooses to feel. God so loved the world because He felt like it?  Yes, He does love us but that love required action and that included the supreme sacrifice of His only Son’s life.  That was the ultimate love in action.

*Introduce the Lesson*

Discuss 1 Corinthians 13. Isn’t it amazing that God fulfils all of these attributes and then in turn helps us do the same through the power of the Holy Spirit? The subtle hypocrisy in the question, “Is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a sin?” should be replaced with a better question, “what does love require of me?”Words are cheap. Behavior at home is a far better indicator of my devotion to God than public speaking. Love trumps everything. Vertical law-abiding legalism is nothing and makes you no one. If weonly give to gain we won’t gain anything. Love fills the gaps and Christ shows us here what true love is.

Love in action is what truly matters. If you have no love than everything else is meaningless. All is nothing if love is not the motivator. If the relationship is not key than you’re not a disciple of Jesus Christ – you are just simply living for yourself with selfish desires (Acts 5:1-11). Ananias and Sapphira were judged for this very reason.

*Share the Lesson*

**Ephesians 4:1-6 & 11-16 Who and what is the Church?**

We are all one body united together under 7 ones. What are these ones? How many are there? These “ones” are fixed realities for any Christian. Paul encourages us to know our identity together so that we can live from it and in love do all we can to keep us together (vs. 1-3).

*The church are believers in Christ making up one body.* (Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and Gal. 4:4-5)As a follower of Jesus, you are a member of GOD’S FAMILY. God is your Heavenly Father, and other believers are your brothers and sisters who care for you and support you. We as the church are to be family to each other. Eph. 4: 4-5; unity of faith and allegiance to King Jesus. What is the significance of the church as God’s family? We are being reparented by God the Father as we no longer belong to the world of the enemy. We are now learning God’s values for our lives.

*(Read Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18*) Jesus is the HEAD of the CHURCH and believers are the BODY of CHRIST. No person is head over the Church, because Jesus is our head. Only Jesus can decide what the church is to be & do. Believers are the body of Christ and submit to Him as LORD. We are the expression of Christ in the world. The Church has only one focus in the world – to glorify God (Isaiah 43:7). We were created by Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16). Our ultimate focus is God’s glory covering the earth as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

*The church are believers in Christ being built into the spiritual temple.* (Read 1 Peter 2:4-10). Christ is the cornerstone of great value. We are the living stones and we are being built into the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE. In the Old Testament the Jews built a physical building as the temple. But now we are the temple, where GOD DWELLS (See also 1 Corinth 3:16) and the outward building is no longer necessary. The church is not a building; it is the GROUP OF BELIEVERS. God dwells in us.

In 1 Peter 2:5, we are called HOLY PRIESTS. In verse 10 it also says we are a KINGDOM OF PRIESTS. In the Old Testament there were priests who served God and proclaimed God to the people. All believers are priests and we serve God and proclaim the message of salvation and the great acts of God to the world. There is no longer a need for Old Testament priests to speak to God for us because all believers are now priests and can speak to God directly. Some people reject and do not believe the Word of God and verse 8 says they stumble and fall because of this. We are part of the Kingdom of God and we are now under the rule of King Jesus.

Note: wherever we gather a temple is built and Christ’s glory is being shown to the world around us. God’s intent for us is to be a vehicle whereby people want to know Jesus. We create the outer court of Gentiles for people to come to the spiritual temple and worship God.

What else does verses 9 and 10 say about us? We are a *HOLY NATION, GOD’S PEOPLE, CHOSEN RACE, and we have RECEIVED MERCY.*

*The church are believers in Christ with a shared purpose.* (Read Eph. 2:19-22). Jesus is the CORNERSTONE of the church and the apostles and prophets are the FOUNDATION. This means that we are to build on what they taught in the Bible. If ANYONE TEACHES something different than what Jesus and the apostles and prophets taught in the Bible, we should not follow them because their teaching is not built on the same foundation. As we are one with Christ, we are being built together with other believers as the TEMPLE where God lives by His Spirit.

* + Lifelong process of growth (infant to adulthood) – Eph. 4: 11-14
  + Growing together to be a working and healthy body as we speak truth in love – Eph. 4: 15-16

We have one purpose and that is to equip (build up and support) one another to do the *work of the ministry*. And what is that work?

1. Being conformed to the image of Christ (vs. 13)
2. Being transformed by the renewing of our minds (vs. 14 and Rom. 12:1-2)
3. Loving each other in our own unique SHAPE (vs.15-16)

*Learning Activities*

* **Teach SHAPE assessment and how to complete** – do as homework to go over next session
* Students complete assessment and turn in one to instructor and they keep one
* Note: SHAPE assessment is a different document

*Closing*

Read / summarize John 13:34, 35

Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, washed His disciples’ feet. What does this teach us today? How are we to live in relationship to others? Jesus explained the foot washing in verses 12-20. What is most distinguishing characteristic of Christ-followers from those in the world? It is the love we show one another. Some principles for you to live your life by are:

1. You are last – a servant first to God and then second to others. So ask yourselves, in each relationship you have, how can you serve God and show His love.
2. You can expect no less than what the servant Jesus went through – suffering, selflessness, and obedience to God’s will. Yield to what He is calling you to do.
3. What was the new command? Love. Love is who God is and what we should strive for (1 Cor. 13). In so loving the world will see the gospel lived out. What does this mean for you?
4. Consider the gravity of Jesus question. Jesus knew what was going to happen to him; betrayed, beaten, arrested, humiliated, on trial and Caiaphas’ house and held in prison underground there, spit on, clothes gambled, nailed to the cross, and crucified. And yet he loved his enemies and he told us to love as well.

**Discipleship Training Series**

**Session 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson Title** | Sharing Jesus with others |
| **Scripture References** | 1 Cor. 15:1-3, Acts 1:8; **Romans 6:23- memorize** |
| **Emphasis or Theme** | *Key Question*- What is the Good News of Jesus Christ and how can I share it? |
| **Welcome & Activity**  *Make introductions. State the purpose of meeting. Identify leader expectations for students.* | * Review SHAPE Assessment * When I say “Sharing Jesus without freaking out,” what do you think about? * Sharing Jesus is simple – we make it complicated with all the extra training we think we need or the hypothetical situations we think of that paralyze us in fear. * Everyone lives somewhere between passion and pain |
| **Introduce the Lesson** *What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.* | * Ask the question, what is the gospel? Discuss this as a class. * 1 Cor. 15:1-3 is the gospel. * Teacher shares personal story of leading another to Christ * Metanarrative of Scripture: is universal and personal in scope |
| **Share the Lesson** *Outline the story here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story)* | Sharing the gospel:   * Relational Bridge: Demonstrate the Good News with your life – Matt. 5:16 * 3 Circles: Proclaim the Good News with words – your personal testimony; *What difference has following Jesus made in your life?* * Simply Story Model: How it all comes together – refer to diagram and focus on the need for someone to be born again; repent of sin and follow Christ * Your mission field: Acts 1:8 – concentric circles of evangelism |
| **Learning Activities**  *Games, crafts, artwork, songs, memory verses or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the Scripture or make application to the lives of the students.* | *Practice-*   * Students prepare a “3 Circles” presentation * Share presentation with a partner * One student share presentation with the class |
| **Review**  *Solidify learning by repeating facts or themes or even the story itself.* | * Explain demonstration & proclamation of Good News (born again) * Someone “teach” the Simple Story Model * Review all memory verses and give one final one Romans 6:23 * Next week, though not meeting, come find me with your memory verses and work toward having one more spiritual conversation this week |
| **Closing** | * SDSD 1.0 is complete, but that doesn’t mean you are finished growing as a disciple of Christ. Your Christian walk is lifelong. * Invite them to take SDSD 2.0 which will further train them in how to make disciples – starting and leading new groups or to 2:7 Navigator Series |
| **Preparation** *What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.* | * Copies of Simple Story Model * White board markers to teach one-verse evangelism |

*Welcome and Activity*

We are told today the planet holds over 7 billion people. We can estimate from this number a death rate of nearly 300,000 per day. With only 86,000 seconds daily, this means more than three deaths every second. Including Catholics, the number of people who claim to be Christian stands around 2 billion, just under one-third of the earth’s population. If these estimates are accurate, this means two people enter eternity in hell every second of the day. What percentage of your town, target people or population segment knows Christ? How many of them will enter eternity today without a saving knowledge of Christ? What will you do about it?

* Sharing Jesus without freaking out. What do you think of? Everyone you meet lives somewhere between the poles of pain and passion. Sharing Jesus is as simple as connecting with others around their passion or their pain. You engage in conversation with them, not a presentation, and ask them where is Jesus in their passion or pain?
* What is a spiritual conversation? A spiritual conversation is telling your story of what Jesus has done in your life or asking others where they are with Jesus in their lives.
* Ask for testimonies about the people on their list from Session 1

Christianity is simply Jesus received, realized, and reproduced. As Christ showed us on the night he was betrayed, love is liberally and sacrificially given. A disciple then bears fruit for God’s glory liberally (John 15:8). Nothing glorifies God more than a changed life. God is glorified or His name is made great when people come to Jesus because of you. Here is where discipleship has the most impact. Here is where you are strategically deployed. You ought to be discipled by someone else and you ought to be discipling someone else. Who is speaking truth into your life? Who are you influencing for Jesus? Let’s look more closely at this today.

*Introduce the Lesson*

* What is the gospel?
* Discuss what is the gospel in 1 Cor. 15:1-3
* Teacher shares a personal testimony of sharing Jesus and / or a student
* GOSPEL acronym

G – God’s

O – overwhelming love in

S – Sending Jesus to be the way for

P – people to receive

E – everlasting

L – life in God alone.

*Share the Lesson*

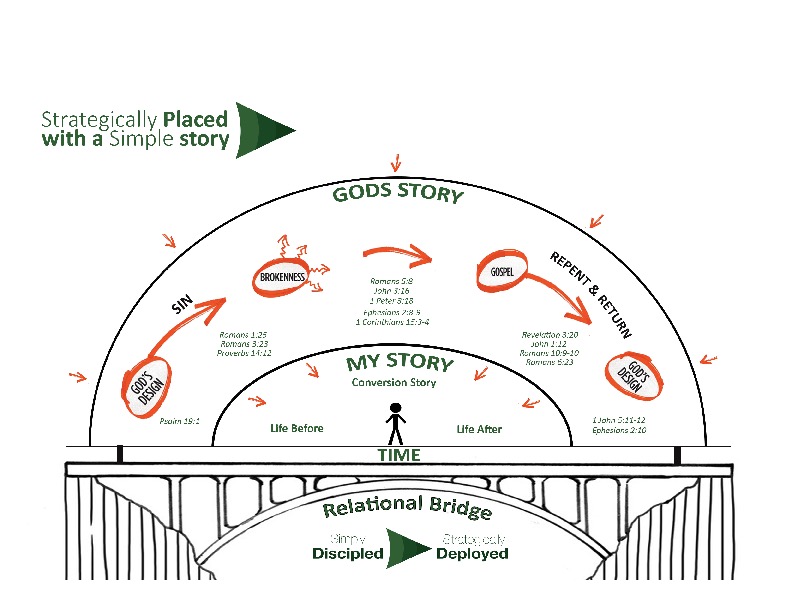
1. Relational Bridge

Jesus was the most effective relational bridge builder. The cross was the ultimate bridge that overcame the gap between a holy God and a sinful people. Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection opened up the way for anyone to have a relationship with God. Christ-followers today show the world this bridge as we connect relationally with others. We build relational bridges strong enough to hold the weight of the truth of the gospel. For this reason, when you begin a spiritual conversation with someone you do so with a certain amount of trust. As you earn their trust then you can share more. It is thus important that you work to build, persevere and restore trust with that person. Why? Because true relationships are ones where trust and love are the foundation for everything else and that is the means whereby you can be vulnerable and authentic.

When trust is broken, and the relationship is not strong then your witness is lost. 1 Cor. 9:27 – do not be disqualified from sharing the message of the cross. Write on the white board a diagram showing trust as the bridge for any relationship and share personal examples as well.

1. 3 Circles

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1. ****Simple Story Model (how it all comes together)

How do you demonstrate the Good News?

* + By sharing the gospel with your life
  + Review the relational bridge / *oikos*

OIKOS principle

* + Oikos is the Greek word used to define a Greek household which usually consisted of 8 to 15 people. So for us today this is our relational network. It is our sphere of influence; those people we have relational equity with to be able to speak truth and love into their lives.
  + Jesus teaching the oikos principle:
    - Mark 5:19 – Demoniac told to go back to this own oikos
    - Mark 2:15 – Matthew’s oikos of sinners and tax collectors
    - Luke 19:10 – seek and save the lost
  + Within a reached people group / culture, Jesus shows to reveal himself most often through oikos networks. Through you and me.
  + Further information: The ancient Greek word ***oikos*** refers to three related but distinct concepts: the family, the family's property, and the house. The *oikos* was the basic unit of society in most Greek city-states. In normal usage the *oikos*, in the context of families, referred to a line of descent from father to son from generation to generation. The term was also sometimes used to refer to everybody living in a given house. Thus, the head of the *oikos*, along with his immediate family and his slaves, would all be encompassed. Large *oikoi* also had farms that were usually tended by the slaves, which were also the basic agricultural unit of the ancient economy. – Wikipedia
  + The Bible uses the term *oikos* in multiple ways in many contexts. It can refer to a house, dwelling place, family, descendants, household and more. It is a broad term that encompasses family, neighbors, coworkers, and friends, and other. For us today then the term *oikos* identified all those people and also those with whom you come into regular contact. You might call them those people in your sphere of influence. There are most likely 8-15 people may be your neighbors, coworkers, local barista, grocery store clerk, parents on your kid's sport team, your hair dresser, professor, physical therapist, roommate, business associate, mechanic, waiter at your favorite restaurant, dog groomer, gardener, carpool buddies, dentist, that are in your path each day. Identify those people now and those are the people who can share Jesus with.

How do you proclaim the Good News (sharing the gospel with words)?

* + To those in your own oikos
  + In a way you are comfortable with.
  + Your testimony as starting point then moving to the gospel. Important to remember that you testimony is not the gospel. So share Jesus via the “3 Circles” or other means
  + Need to be born again! When you hear the phrase “born again” what do you think of? Phrase is found in John 3 when Jesus talks with the religious leader Nicodemus. To be born again is the moment when someone turns from sin and selfishness to saving faith in Jesus Christ. It is the moment a person’s life is forever changed by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit enters into them. They now desire to follow God alone and live for him. This is the call you are leading people to. So who are your people?

1. Acts 1:8 Concentric Circles – Your Mission field

According to Acts 1:8, where were the disciples to share the Gospel? Answer: “In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” Explain what each of these meant to them and what they mean for us. Jerusalem was the place where they were presently located. Judea would have been place that the same ethnic group lived and included all the towns outside of their own town. Samaria would have been the other ethnic groups that lived in the same area as them but had a different culture. ‘To the ends of the earth’ is all the rest of the ethnic groups of the world.” So, we can summarize where the church is to be sharing the Gospel below. Concentric circles and not sequential!!!!

Sharing the Gospel

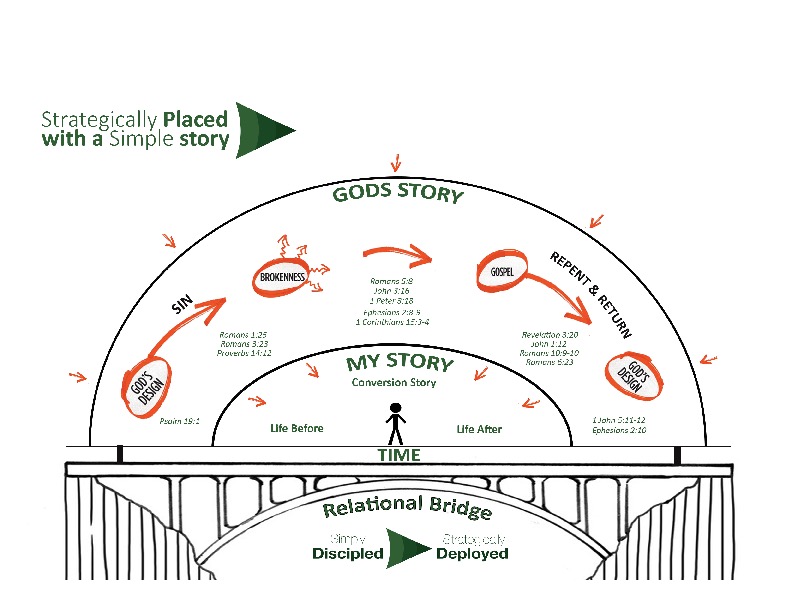
* Our home town/city
* Our ethnic group/area
* Other ethnic groups near us
* All the rest of the ethnic groups in the world

*Learning Activities* – the 3 Circles prepared and shared in pairs and in front of the class

*Review and Closing –* Simple Story Model reviewed, celebrate 5,000 gospel conversations, invite to SDSD 2.0 and the Nav 2:7 series, pray together. Clarify and expand your list of 5 to eight and pray over them. Think about next steps to engaging them with the gospel.

Review the five Charactersticis of a disciple of Jesus:

1. A disciple loves God’s Son supremely (Luke 14:25-26)
2. A disciple follows God’s Son sacrificially (Luke 14:27-33)
3. A disciple abides in God’s Word continually (John 8:31-32)
4. A disciple loves God’s children supernaturally (John 13:34-35)
5. A disciple bears fruit for God’s glory liberally (John 15:8)

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