

Lesson 1: Being a Witness, Part 1

Jesus told His earliest disciples that they would be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). Congratulations! As a follower of Jesus, you also are called to be His witness. Today let's consider four critical aspects of our calling to be His witnesses: 1) The prediction of our witness; 2) the goals of our witness; 3) the audience for our witness; and 4) the methods of our witness.

The Prediction of Our Witness

After His resurrection, Jesus shared these words with His disciples:

- **Acts 1:8**
You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
- What does it mean to be a “witness”? What do witnesses typically do?
- How do we know from this verse that Jesus intended that modern-day disciples (like us) would be His witnesses also?

The Goals of Our Witness

Around the same time He spoke the words recorded in Acts 1:8, Jesus gave His disciples what we call the “Great Commission:”

- **Matthew 28:19,20**
And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

When we are considering the goals of being a witness, that is, what witness is all about, there are three critical things to note about this passage.

JESUS SAID “GO,” NOT “COME”

- How would the impact of the verses above be different if Jesus had left out the word “Go”?

The call to make disciples fundamentally involves going to people and teaching them to go to others. It is an outwardly oriented call. This means that if we are to be effective witnesses, we must take the onus upon ourselves to share the message with those around us, not waiting for them to come to gatherings of people who already believe.

JESUS SAID “ALL,” NOT “SOME”

- What indications do you have in the Great Commission that the mission in view is broad?

From the beginning, Jesus was clear about the huge scope of His mission. The good news (Gospel) of Jesus is not intended for specific ethnic groups, age groups, or generations. We do not know ahead of time whom Jesus has called to trust in Him, nor is there a specific profile of a person who will respond positively to the Gospel. As a result, we must share the Gospel broadly, always alert for opportunities to be a witness for Jesus.

JESUS SAID “MAKE DISCIPLES,” NOT “MAKE CHURCH MEMBERS”

- The main idea of the Great Commission is that Jesus’ followers should make disciples. Based on Jesus’ instructions to “baptize” these disciples and “teach them to observe all that” He commanded, what is a disciple?

The goal of our witness is that individuals will trust in Jesus, be baptized, and grow as they learn to obey what Jesus commanded. This growth will include their making other disciples, as this is part of what Jesus commanded.

Note that this is a different goal from simply seeking converts or church members. Because of the Great Commission, our desire is never to stop at conversion and simply get people to become passive members of our “club.” We’re looking for new conversions that lead to new growth, new leaders, and new churches. This means that we are in the business of training people who will train people, who will train people, and so on (2 Timothy 2:2).

The Audience for Our Witness

If God has called us to be witnesses for Christ, then a very important question arises: “To whom should I testify?” Stated another way: “Who is the audience for my witness to Jesus?” The answer is simpler than we might think.

OIKOS LIST

To begin to answer this question, we will create an *oikos* list. *Oikos* is the Greek word for “house” or “household.” For our purposes, one’s *oikos* is the network of his preexisting relationships. The most fruitful Gospel witness usually comes from sharing with those with whom we have existing relationships.

- Take a moment to list the “spheres” in which you already have relationships, such as family, work, hobbies, recreation, etc.
- Now that you have done this, take a few minutes to list within those spheres the names of several people you know who are far from God.
- Lastly, stop and pray that God would show you, through His Holy Spirit, five people with whom He wants you to pursue Gospel witness.

FISHING CHART

Now take the names of the five people God laid on your heart and add them to the FISHing chart on page 5. The FISHing chart is a tool you can use to track your progress in witness with these individuals. You'll notice that the chart has four sections, which together create the acronym **FISH**:

FIND: Suggests various ways you can assess the person's life situation and spiritual state.

INTEREST: Gives next steps for whetting a person's spiritual appetite.

SHARE: Lists ways in which you can introduce the Gospel message.

HELP: Presents two options for helping those who have heard the Gospel but have not yet trusted in Jesus.

Important note: Be attentive to God's Spirit leading as you approach people for witness. You needn't cover all the steps on the FISHing chart if an opportunity arises to present the Gospel—and it often will, “out of sequence.” God will also give you opportunities to be a witness to many other people as well. The purpose of the chart is to help you focus on witness to specific individuals and consider what next steps in your witness might look like.

The Methods of Our Witness

Having looked at the “what” and “whom” of being a witness, let's now consider the “how”—that is, specific tactics you should consider as you reach out to those on your FISHing chart and others God brings across your path.

BE A WITNESS BY SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

One of the most effective ways to present the Gospel, “Jesus' story,” is to precede it by telling your story. People find stories interesting because they contain drama and suspense. Furthermore, your story is *your* experience, and as such it isn't the sort of thing most people will try to contradict or disagree with.

Witnesses generally prepare for what they will say on the witness stand. In the same way, it's good to develop a version of your story, your “testimony,” that takes no longer than three minutes to tell. Your testimony should include three basic elements:

- What your life was like before you trusted in Jesus
- How you came to trust in Jesus
- What your life is like now that you have trusted in Jesus

Take about five or ten minutes right now and put together a version of your testimony that you can tell in three minutes or less.

Question: What if my testimony isn't “dramatic?”

Answer: Don't feel the need to make your story something it isn't. If, for example, you trusted in Christ at an early age, you aren't likely to have had a dramatic change in the course of your life at the time when you trusted in Him. However, you can emphasize how Jesus impacts your life now, and perhaps even speculate based on your past struggles what your life might look like without Jesus. If you only recently came to know Him, emphasize the changes He's already made in your life and outlook.

NEXT STEPS

Soon, we'll take a look at an effective way to share Jesus' story, which we call the Gospel, or the "good news." In our next lesson, you'll learn how to bridge to the Gospel in conversation. Part of your Gospel bridge will include questions designed to draw out a person's current spiritual state and direct them toward the uniqueness of the Gospel.

Looking Forward

PRACTICING YOUR TESTIMONY

In the meantime, you need to practice your testimony so much that you're comfortable sharing it quickly, without looking at notes. Give each person in the group the opportunity to practice his or her testimony several times. Be sure to give one another some feedback on ways in which their testimonies could be clearer or more compelling.

SET GOALS AND PRAY

Think back through all you've accomplished in Lesson 1. First, you learned about Jesus' prediction that we would be His witnesses to those around us who are far from God. Second, you learned about the goals of our witness, namely, that we would go, not come; that we would reach all, not some; and that we would make disciples, not church members. Third, you investigated the audience for our witness as you identified the individuals in your *oikos* list, and you listed five of them on your FISHing chart so you can focus on them and follow up with them. Last, you wrote out and practiced your testimony, which you can now share in three minutes or less. This begins our investigation of the methods of our witness.

There's only one thing left to do today, and that is to set goals and pray for success. Take a moment and ask God what He would have you do in light of today's lesson. Be specific, as in the following examples:

- "I'm going to share my testimony with Nancy on my FISHing chart."
- "I'm going to ask Dave why he enjoys baseball so much."
- "I'm going to help my spouse write her three-minute testimony."

Once you have set your goal(s), tell them to the others in the group so you can check in with one another at your next meeting about how it went. Then close the meeting by asking God to empower you through the Holy Spirit to accomplish the goal(s) you shared with one another. Don't rush this final prayer time; we are dependent on God to accomplish the things He finds pleasing, so we need to ask His blessing before we get moving!

FISHING CHART

FIND				INTEREST				SHARE				HELP		
#	Name	Interests	Felt Needs	Attitude Toward Jesus	Testimony	Answered Prayer Stories	Community	Prayer for Their Needs	Jesus Story	Discovery Bible Study	Gospel Presentation	Something to Read	Ask for a Decision	Deal with Barriers
1														
2														
3														
4														
5														
6														
7														
8														
9														
10														

Lesson 2: Being a Witness, Part 2

As you may recall, in Lesson 1 we covered the “what” and “whom” of being a witness, and we also delved into the “how” of witness by preparing your testimony. Now we’re going to continue looking at the “how” of being a witness, but this time we’ll focus on bridging to the Gospel (the good news).

Bridging to the Gospel

Read John 4:1–26 and discuss the following questions:

- If you had to boil it down, in which verse does Jesus share the essence of the Gospel with the Samaritan woman?
- How did Jesus get from an everyday conversation to this point? In other words, how did He “steer” the discussion?
- In verses 16–18, Jesus is very direct with the Samaritan woman. What was His purpose in being so direct?

The exchange you just read in John 4 shows us something about Jesus’ evangelistic method. In this passage, we see that He successfully bridged all the way from an apparently mundane request (“Give me a drink” in verse 7) to explaining that He was the Messiah—the Savior of the world.

There are three elements of Jesus’ conversation with the Samaritan woman that we would be wise to imitate so that we can bridge effectively to the Gospel.

JESUS GOT TO THE POINT

One of the striking elements about this narrative is how quickly Jesus took the conversation to a spiritual level (see verse 10) and how He continued to direct the conversation back to critical issues even when the Samaritan woman sought to avoid them (verses 13, 14, 21–24). As a result of Jesus’ focus, her religious perspective came out.

Consider that there are many instances in conversation, such as when someone is sharing something important about themselves, or asking a significant question, that we can insert our testimony. Since you now know how to share it in three minutes or less, you might simply say, “Let me take just a few minutes and tell you my story.”

Certain questions work very well after you have shared your testimony, but they often are appropriate in other situations as well:

- “What religion do you follow?”
- “What would you say is your religious perspective?”
- “What are your spiritual beliefs?”
- “Do you feel like you have a good relationship with God?”

Often a person will respond by suggesting that all religions are more or less the same. Instead of disputing this point, consider agreeing with him by saying that we are all trying to deal with the same basic problem: the separation between us and God.

JESUS SHOWED THE WOMAN’S NEED

In verses 13–15 of the narrative we studied, Jesus made a spiritual offer (“living water”) to the woman at the well, but she interpreted the offer in physical terms, hoping to save herself the trouble of drawing water repeatedly from the well. So Jesus pointedly used the brokenness in the Samaritan woman’s life to demonstrate that her spiritual need was the issue that should most concern her (see verses 16–18).

Once you have a sense of a person’s religious perspective, follow with another simple question:

- “In your way of thinking, how does a person deal with the separation between himself and God?”

Other forms of the question might be:

- “In your belief system, how does a person get to heaven?”
- “How does a person have his shame removed before God?”

Be aware that most people—if they believe indeed there is a God—will be under the impression that the gap between God and man can be dealt with by a combination of certain religious rituals and good deeds. It’s amazing how widespread the belief is that being right with God is a matter of doing the right things.

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What would this passage say about this common notion?

If the person with whom you are speaking believes he can bridge the gap between himself and God through his own effort, consider asking this follow-up question:

- “How does a person know if he has done enough good?”

This question is great for showing how religious systems don’t really provide their followers with any certainty of salvation.

JESUS GOT TO THE GOSPEL

After all of the preliminary matters that Jesus and the woman at the well discussed, He revealed Himself to be the Messiah, or the Savior (verse 26). Jesus was presenting Himself as the solution to the woman’s “lostness,” and she understood the message and shared it with many others (see verses 28–30, 39–42).

After the person has explained to you how his belief system proposes that a person can get to heaven, you’ll want to present Jesus as the true solution to the person’s separation from God. To do this, say something like, “Thanks for sharing that with me. I believe something a little different...”

At this point you would go directly into the Three Circles Gospel presentation, which we'll cover in our next lesson. Because you have helped the person understand that he does not have a good solution for his separation from God, your Gospel presentation will present a clear contrast, as it will emphasize Jesus Christ and the assurance of salvation that is available by grace through faith in Him.

Looking Forward

PRACTICING YOUR GOSPEL BRIDGE

Take some time in your group now and practice bridging to the Gospel. Have fun with the exercise! Take turns playing the role of different people with a variety of worldviews. You'll see pretty quickly just how versatile and effective this bridging method is.

SET GOALS AND PRAY

In Lesson 2, you worked through the story of the evangelistic encounter Jesus had with the Samaritan woman. You learned about a Gospel bridge that takes a similar approach to Jesus' method by getting to the point, showing the person's need, and getting to the Gospel.

Now it's time to set goals and pray for success. Take a moment and ask God what He would have you do in light of today's lesson, or perhaps even in light of our previous lesson. Be as specific as possible, perhaps choosing something like this:

- "I'm going to try out the Gospel bridge with my coworker Jim."
- "I'm going to follow up with Janet on that comment she made about not liking organized religion."
- "I'm going to share the Gospel bridge with a fellow believer at my gym."

As we suggested last time, make sure to share your goals with the others in your group so you can ask each other next week about how you did. As you close the meeting, take some time to tell God how great He is, and then ask for the power of His Holy Spirit to be with you all as you seek to be His witnesses.

Lesson 3: Being a Witness, Part 3

In our first lesson in this series, we covered the “what” and “whom” of being a witness, and we talked a bit about the “how” as we discussed sharing our testimony. In the second lesson, we focused on an evangelistic encounter Jesus had with the woman at the well in John 4, and we discussed the elements of a successful Gospel bridge. Today we’ll move forward by talking about important passages of Scripture pertaining to the Gospel, and we’ll discuss a good presentation to use when sharing the Gospel.

The Biblical Background to the Gospel

Before we delve into the Gospel presentation, take a look at some passages of the Bible that will provide a helpful background for understanding the good news (Gospel) of Jesus.

GOD’S DESIGN

In Genesis 1–2, we find out about God’s original design for the world. If you haven’t read these chapters yet, read through them now and then take a look at the following questions. If you have read them, go on to the questions for now and take a look at the chapters later.

- After we read about the creation of the entire world, including humans, we see in Genesis 1:31 that “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.” What do you think the passage means by “very good?”
- What do you think it means that “God created man in His own image” (1:26,27)?

BROKENNESS

- Read Genesis 3. What went wrong? What sorts of bad things are introduced in this chapter?
- Romans 3:23 tells us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” What does it mean to “sin?” According to this passage, is there anyone who has avoided sin?

Scripture tells us that when God created the world, it was absolutely perfect. There was nothing wrong with the physical creation, with people, with relationships, etc. It was “very good.” But Genesis 3 introduces the concept of sin, which is fundamentally rebelling against God and doing things our own way instead of His way. While Adam and Eve were the first to sin, nobody avoids sin. In fact, other passages tell us that without God, we constantly seek to do things our own way, and we instinctively choose not to let God be God over us.

Read Romans 6:23. This verse says that the “wages of sin is death.” In the Bible, “death” is not limited to physical death. It describes separation from God and all of the bad things that go with it, including all the problems we saw in Genesis 3.

- Besides physical death, what are some examples of brokenness that come about from sin?

Unfortunately, we can't solve our sin problem. We certainly try, though. This ends up manifesting itself in all the attempts we make to try to get back to God or make our lives significant. In the end, none of them is able to fix the brokenness in our lives that we feel because this brokenness is caused by our separation from God. We can't earn our way back to God because He is perfect and we are not (remember Romans 3:23 above?). In fact, if we die separated from God, we will spend eternity in a terrible place that the Bible calls hell.

But there is good news!

THE GOSPEL

- Read Romans 5:6–8. How did God solve the problem that we couldn't fix?

- Flip forward to 1 Corinthians 15. In this chapter, Paul talks a lot about the Gospel, and he summarizes it in verses 1–8. How would you summarize those verses?

The term “Gospel” simply means “good news.” It refers to the good news that when we were helpless, Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead. He offers eternal life as a free gift.

- How does a person receive this free gift?

- Read Ephesians 2:8–9, a passage you read in the last section. What does this passage say about how a person receives the gift of eternal life, or “salvation”? Can a person earn salvation?

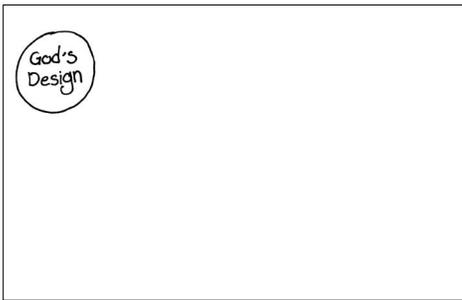
The message of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ died for our sins to give us a permanent relationship in God's family and to eliminate the brokenness in our lives. This salvation is received through faith—that is, by trusting in Jesus alone to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. We sometimes use the word “repent” in connection with trust because it communicates that we change our mind about Jesus and trust that He alone (not any set of good deeds) can restore us to a right relationship with God.

- Read John 10:10. What did Jesus mean by “abundant life” in this verse?

Once we have trusted in Jesus Christ alone to save us from our sins and give us eternal life, God begins a process to restore us to His original design. Jesus calls this “abundant life.” With His help, we pursue life as He intended it, and we experience what He wanted for us at the beginning. This process continues until we die and spend the rest of eternity with Him in a restored relationship that is perfectly happy, meaningful, and fulfilling—more so than we have ever experienced in our lifetimes.

The Three Circles Gospel Presentation

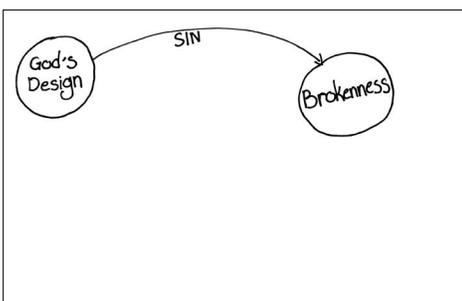
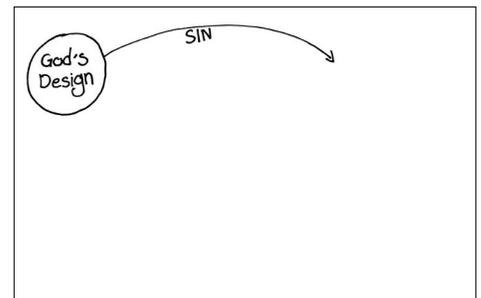
Having looked at the foundation of the Gospel, we can consider how to present this message in a clear way to those who may have very little understanding of the Bible. We recommend the Three Circles Gospel presentation, which is simple and understandable for people of various backgrounds and levels of biblical understanding. A strength of the Three Circles Gospel presentation is that it speaks directly to the problems and challenges that people easily recognize in the world and in their own lives.



To begin the Three Circles presentation, draw a circle on the upper-left portion of a page, and write, “God’s Design” inside it (an example of the presentation is available at [Vimeo.com/96082854](https://vimeo.com/96082854))

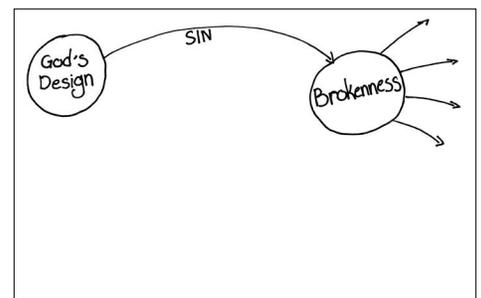
You’ll then explain as follows:

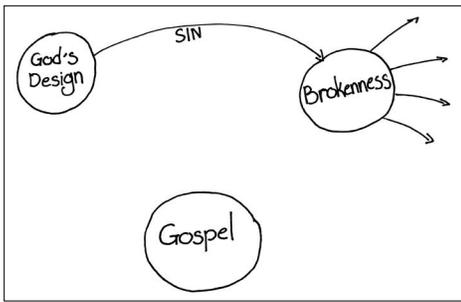
..... God’s original design for the world was perfect. Perfectly harmonious relationships. Perfectly fulfilling work. No death, no mourning, no pain. Unfortunately, though, human beings have chosen from the beginning to operate according to their own plan. When we operate according to our plan and deviate from God’s design, the Bible calls this “sin.”



..... Since God is good and sin is a form of rebellion against Him, sin distances us from God and everything that’s good. It leads to all sorts of bad things in our lives and in the lives of others. That’s why we all feel brokenness personally and in the world in general.

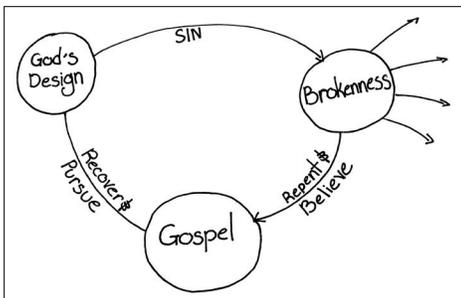
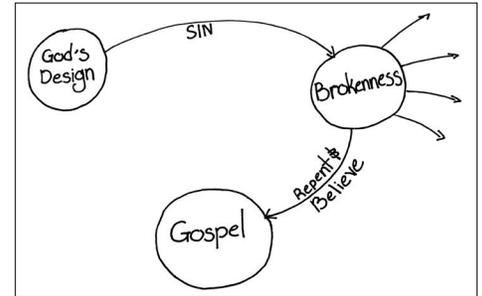
..... Of course, we all spend a lot of time and energy trying to correct this brokenness in our lives. We try to fix it in all sorts of ways: having a lot of money, being well-respected or loved, having a good family, or even doing good things for other people. Sometimes we even try to fix the brokenness by doing religious deeds. But unfortunately, when we try to fix our brokenness, it doesn’t work. The brokenness remains and it gets worse because if we die in this state, the Bible says that we will remain separated from God forever in a place called hell.





But there's good news! God knew that we couldn't fix our problem, so He provided a solution that He calls the "Gospel" (which means "good news"). About two thousand years ago, He sent His Son, Jesus, to the world. Unlike us, Jesus never sinned. But He, an innocent man, was crucified, and on that cross, God did a miracle. He put all of our sin onto Jesus. He made Jesus the perfect sacrifice for us. Jesus paid the penalty that we deserved for our sins and died in our place. Three days later, God raised Jesus from the dead, and this proved that Jesus was accepted by God as a perfect sacrifice. It proved that Jesus was able to save us and fix our brokenness.

The good news gets better, because the Bible tells us that we receive salvation from our sin and brokenness as a free gift. Instead of trusting in our attempts to save ourselves and fix our brokenness, we change our mind (or "repent") and believe, or trust, in Jesus alone to save us from our sins and make us right with God.



When we trust in Jesus alone to save us from our sins and make us right with God, we finally can move past our brokenness and recover and pursue God's design for us again. We find meaning and purpose in life and begin to experience life as God intended for us to experience it. Even better, we have the promise of eternal life with Him, the One who is the source of everything good. We have the ultimate hope, regardless of the circumstances of life.

At this point you can ask the person if there is anything keeping him from trusting in Jesus and if he is ready to trust in Him, suggesting that he could express that trust to God in a prayer similar to this:

God, I know I've done things my own way and departed from Your design. I've sinned against You, and, as a result, there's all sorts of brokenness in my life. I've tried to fix this brokenness myself, but I now choose to trust in Jesus alone and what He did as the solution to my separation from You. I believe He died and rose again, and that I am made right with You through His work. Thank you for granting me eternal life as a gift. Amen.

One important note: conversations often involve elements of brokenness in a person's life. In the midst of such a conversation, you may find it more natural to start with the second circle, then draw the first, and then the arrow from the first to the second.

Looking Forward

PRACTICING THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

Take some time in your group now and practice your Gospel bridge and the Three Circles Gospel presentation. View this as an opportunity to get better in a friendly setting. Don't be concerned if it takes you a while to get the hang of the presentation. Once you learn it, you'll have an amazingly helpful resource for witness.

SET GOALS AND PRAY

In Lesson 3, you worked through various Bible passages that explain the Gospel. You also learned a method called the Three Circles Gospel presentation, which is an effective way to share the good news with people of various backgrounds and levels of biblical knowledge.

Now it's time to set goals and pray for success. Take a moment and ask God what He would have you do in light of today's lesson, or perhaps even in light of our previous lesson. Be as specific as possible, perhaps choosing something like this:

- "I'm going to try out the Gospel bridge with my coworker Jim."
- "I'm going to share the Three Circles Gospel presentation with Mike from my book club."
- "I'm going to teach the Gospel presentation to Linda, a fellow believer."

By now you know that your group plays a critical role in helping you fulfill the goal you set each week. Again, share your goals with one another, and submit these goals to God in prayer, asking Him for success.

Lesson 4: Hearing and Obeying God's Word, Part 1

One of the most important passages for our mission as disciple-makers is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20), which we covered in a previous lesson. Take a moment to read this passage as a group, having two different group members read the passage aloud in different translations.

The Centrality of the Scripture

Consider what the Bible says about its own importance for carrying out the mission you just read about. Have a group member read 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

- Where did Scripture come from, according to this passage?

- What is Scripture useful for?

Simply put, it is impossible to make disciples without knowing the Bible.

Obedience Is Our Goal

Looking back to Matthew 28:19–20, note that part of the command to make disciples is “teaching them to observe all that I [Christ] have commanded you [Jesus’ original disciples]” (Matthew 28:20).

- What does it mean to “observe” or “obey” a command?

- What is the difference between knowing the commands of Jesus and obeying them?

If we are to make disciples, it is critically important that we know the commands of Jesus, and the Word of God (the Bible) in general. But it isn't enough to know what God has said; we must put it into practice:

James 1:22–25

But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

For us to grow as disciples and help others become growing disciples, we must study the Bible in such a way that we can both learn what God is saying to us and be prepared to obey what He has said to us.

Inductive Bible Study

The most powerful tool we are aware of for this process is called inductive Bible study. There are many methods of inductive Bible study, but all of them involve the same basic idea: mining facts and principles from a passage of Scripture, then seeking to apply them to life. In this lesson, we'll generally follow the Discovery Bible Study format (for more information, see bit.ly/220wo4I).

Individual Study vs. Group Study

One of the versatile aspects of inductive study is that it can be done individually or in a group. Both individual and group study are helpful for disciple-making. Below we introduce some general principles for individual study, and in our next lesson we'll take a closer look at group study.

THREE SECTIONS

Scripture

To study a passage of Scripture individually, take a piece of paper and divide it into three columns (this works best if you first turn the paper sideways to “landscape” orientation). Label the columns “Scripture,” “My Words,” and “I Will,” from left to right.

Begin your study in the “Scripture” column by writing the passage of Scripture you’re studying, word-for-word. Let’s practice with a short passage: Ephesians 6:5–9.

Did you notice that as you wrote these verses word-for-word, you actually read the verses more than once? That’s part of the value of writing the Scripture down in our own study; it slows us down and hopefully encourages us to read deliberately and thoughtfully.

My Words

Next, in the “My Words” column, rephrase the passage in your own words. What’s important here is that you write as if you were explaining the passage to someone else who wasn’t familiar with it. Common speech is better than eloquent prose in this case. Go ahead and try it with Ephesians 6:5–9.

Now, have each person in the group read his summary. Give one another some feedback. Did you include the important details? Would someone on the street be able to understand your paraphrase?

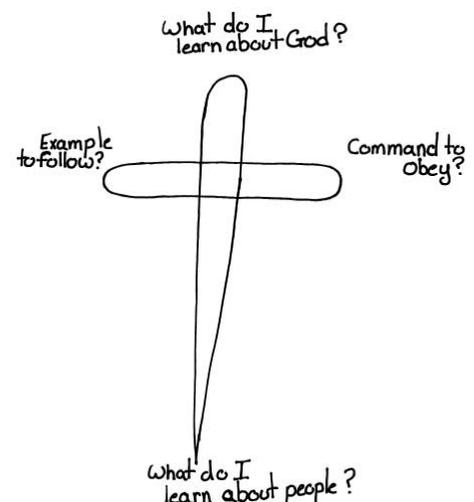
Back of the Page

Flip your piece of paper over and draw a sword on it like this:

For now, don’t worry about writing the words displayed in this (amateurish) drawing. Instead, consider the four points of the sword to be four different areas of focus for your Scripture investigation.

Above the sword you drew, write some thing(s) the passage says about God. Below the sword, write some thing(s) the passage says about people. On the left of the sword, write any examples to follow. On the right, write any commands you find in the passage.

Let’s try this out with Ephesians 6:5–9. You may find data for each of the four points of the sword, though it’s pretty common that in studying a passage you’ll not be able to write something for all four of the focus areas. That’s OK—just do your best to account for the information in whatever passage you are studying.



I Will

Now that you have written these facts down, it's time to consider what God might want you to obey from the passage. A good way to think about this is to ask yourself a few questions:

- “What point in the passage struck me the most?”
- “How would my life look different if I lived more in line with this passage?”
- “Why might God be showing me this point right now given what’s going on in my life?”*

Take a moment to pray and ask God how He might want you to put the passage into practice. After you have done this, try to come up with one actionable item that you can obey, and write it down in the “I Will” column.

Here are a couple of pointers as you develop “I Will” statements:

- “I Will” statements must be specific in order to be effective. It is good to recognize, for example, that God’s Word is powerful, but what will you do about that? Commit to reading the Scripture regularly? Write someone a note of encouragement based on a particular Bible verse? Something else?
- “I Will” statements are ideally actionable within a short time frame—something like 24 to 48 hours. If you wait a long time to obey something, it becomes more difficult to obey (and to remember).
- It’s OK for an “I Will” item to address your emotions, attitudes, and thought life. Just recognize that your assessment of how you did in following through on such “I Will” items will be more subjective and possibly require particular attentiveness.
- In addition to your “I Will” takeaway from the Scripture passage, consider a second action item: telling someone what you learned. This is where your paraphrase in the “My Words” section comes in handy. Look back at it and make sure you’re ready to share God’s Word with someone else.

Looking Forward

Congratulations! You’ve learned a simple and transferable method of Bible study for individuals. This method is designed to help you not only hear what God is saying to you in the Scripture, but also to obey what He’s told you. Typically we think about practicing what we’ve studied at this point in the lesson, but you’ve already practiced the method. Now it’s time to look forward a bit.

SET GOALS AND PRAY

Your study has given you a couple of action steps, namely your “I Will” item and the opportunity to tell someone else what you learned from Scripture. Share your “I Will” item with the others in the group so that you can check in with one another at your next meeting about how it went. Then close the meeting by asking God to empower you through the Holy Spirit to accomplish the goal(s) you shared with one another. Enjoy this opportunity to align yourselves with God as you seek His glory.

* Adapted from Timothy Keller, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God* (New York: Dutton, 2014), 253.

Lesson 5: Hearing and Obeying God's Word, Part 2

In our last lesson, we considered the importance of both hearing and obeying the Bible, God's Word. The lesson focused primarily on what this looks like on an individual basis. Today we build on our understanding of individual Bible study and consider what it would look like to hear and obey God's Word in a group setting.

The Power of Group Study

Before we consider the mechanics of group Bible study, we need to ask the question "Why bother?" After all, it's easier to study the Bible as an individual than to gather a group of people for a similar purpose. Group dynamics can be messy and complicated. Nonetheless, there are a number of compelling reasons to hear and obey God's Word in a group setting as we seek to accomplish the mission that Jesus gave us (remember Matthew 28:16–20?). Let's consider a few.

THE MODEL OF JESUS

- Read Mark 3:7–19. What does this passage tell us about Jesus' disciples (verse 7) and the group He specifically designated as "apostles" (verses 13–15)?
- For Jesus, what were the advantages of influencing a group rather than doing all His work in people's lives on a one-to-one basis?

A simple reason that we study the Bible in groups is that Jesus set a precedent of teaching to groups, particularly His group of apostles. In our study of the Bible, we are learning to hear and obey what He is teaching us, and just as His apostles *together* processed and lived out what He said, together we study the truths of what God said about Him in the Bible, and together we live out these truths. This is how spiritual growth takes place, and by including others in our groups, we can lead others to true happiness and grow in happiness ourselves!

THE VALUE OF MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES

Another reason we study the Bible in groups is that the multiple perspectives in any group play both a constructive and a protective role. Constructively, one person's perspective on the text can enrich and sharpen another's perspective. Protectively, having multiple perspectives increases the chance that the group will be able to avoid errors in interpreting the passage under study. In both cases, the whole (the group) is more than the sum of the parts (the individuals).

EVANGELISM

- Read John 16:7–15. What does this passage tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit, who would come after Jesus left the earth?

- Based on our prior studies, what do you think is the primary way the Holy Spirit accomplishes these purposes today?

A sometimes under-appreciated advantage of studying the Bible in groups is that it allows a logical setting in which to expose those who don't yet believe in Jesus to the work of the Holy Spirit through the "living and active Word of God" (Hebrews 4:12). Those who are interested in Christianity will often agree to read the Bible with someone who can guide them in such a study of it. When God brings about this readiness in an unbeliever's life, He may choose to work in the heart of the unbeliever through a study of the biblical text.

The Mechanics of Group Study

Given these reasons for group study, we logically ask, "How would we go about doing something like this?" Below you'll find some guidance in implementing a group study.

INVITING PEOPLE TO JOIN

Rarely do we present an invitation to someone to study the Bible with us when we first meet them. However, once we've built up a certain level of rapport with someone (which may take place very quickly), we can ask them if they might want to study the Bible with us. We shouldn't underestimate certain people's interest in digging into the Bible. Even if they don't see themselves as very spiritual, they might want to know more about the Bible for intellectual reasons or because they recognize that the Bible is the most influential piece of literature ever written.

Once a person indicates willingness, it's a good idea to try and establish a regular schedule of study. Meeting once every week or once every other week seems to work well. Give the person an idea of how long the study will take (about an hour to an hour and a half each time), and suggest that they invite a family member or friend.

This last point is significant. Some people who have been very successful in sharing Jesus with others actually try to avoid one-on-one studies for a number of reasons. If you suggest to the person that he should include a family member or friend, you will be teaching that person the importance of reaching out to others—even before the study begins! Furthermore, you'll be laying the ground work for creating future groups out of the new group.

DECIDING WHAT TO STUDY

Since "all Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16), at some level you can't go wrong in a Bible study as long as you stick to the Bible. On the other hand, certain passages and studies may work better depending on where the group members are spiritually. For groups primarily composed of unbelievers, or groups that have a mix of both believers and unbelievers, studies dealing with the overarching storyline of the Bible can be excellent. Our friends at Contagious Disciple Making have a well-structured 26-week study of the Bible that you can find at bit.ly/1NMas3U. Another option is an eight-week study of selected passages from the Gospel of Mark, drawn from *One-to-One Bible Reading* by David Helm:

- Mark 1:1–15
- Mark 2:1–12
- Mark 3:7–35
- Mark 8:22–38
- Mark 10:17–45
- Mark 14:53–15:15
- Mark 15:16–39
- Mark 15:42–16:8

CONDUCTING THE STUDY—LOOKING BACK

When you begin the study, take some time to get settled, then go around the group and ask people to share both a highlight from the week and something that is stressing them out. Do the same yourself. This is a quick way to hear about what is important to people and it will give you items to pray about later.

After you have done this, ask people how they did on last week's "I Will" question. If it is your first meeting, you'll skip this step. In each of the following meetings, though, you will have "I Will" items from the prior week to follow up on. This is a time of accountability, so it might make people a bit uncomfortable. You can eliminate most of this discomfort if it is clear that you care for the people of the group, and you're not trying to "get them." Model what you expect from others by reporting how you did on the last lesson's "I Will" item as well.

This time of catching up and accountability is the "Looking Back" portion of the study. Don't skip this portion to jump right into the biblical text, though that may be tempting. Looking back to the prior lesson ensures that when you set goals for next time, people will expect to be asked about these goals. Furthermore, the Looking Back section shows care for those in the group and makes it easier to build relationships with one another.

CONDUCTING THE STUDY—LOOKING UP

After you have looked back, it's time to look up, which is another way of saying that you're trying to hear God say something new to you. In the "Looking Up" section of the study, we do an inductive Bible study on a passage of Scripture.

To study a passage of Scripture in a group, you'll start in much the same way you did in individual study. At that time, you took a piece of paper and divided it into three columns called "Scripture," "My Words," and "I Will." For a group study, you'll proceed through these same three segments, but tweak them for group participation.

Scripture

Instead of writing the Scripture passage word-for-word as you did in the individual study, have one person in the group read the passage aloud. After he is done, have another person read the passage aloud, preferably in a different version.

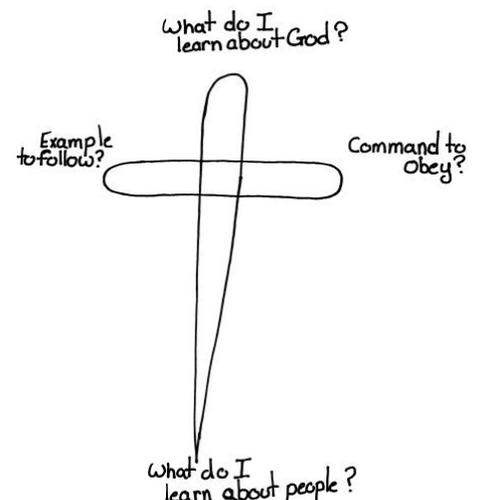
My Words

Next, invite someone in the group to rephrase the passage in his own words. Again, the idea is for the person to do this as if he were explaining the passage to someone else who wasn't familiar with it.

Now invite the group to expand the summary, suggest things that were left out or overemphasized, and so on. We're not trying to get to a "perfect" summary, but by taking a few minutes here, you'll enable the group to get a much better sense of how everyone else understood the main points of the passage.

The Sword

Remember how you worked through the Sword Method in individual study (see the Rembrandt to the right)? In group study, instead of having each individual write down answers to each of these four questions, dig into them one-by-one as a group. It's a good idea to record what people say by writing their comments on a piece of paper that everyone can see or a white board if one is available. Consider adding statements about God above the sword, commands from the passage to the right of the sword, and so on.



Again, it's common that in studying a passage you'll not be able to write something for all four of the focus areas. If the group gets stalled on one question, no problem—just move on. If as you are leading the group, God brings to mind a question to ask to dig further into one of these topics, go ahead and ask it. Just make sure that as you do this, you don't get too off-topic, too technical, or dominate the conversation. We want the group to do 70% of the talking and the facilitator of the group 30%.

CONDUCTING THE STUDY—LOOKING FORWARD

I Will

Just as with individual study, it's now time to consider how we can obey the passage we just looked at. Here are the three questions from individual study that helped us move toward "I Will" items, which are just as applicable for group study:

- "What point in the passage struck me the most?"
- "How would my life look different if I lived more in line with this passage?"
- "Why might God be showing me this point right now given what's going on in my life?"

Take a moment to pray and ask God how He might want you to put the passage into practice. After you have done this, have everyone try to come up with one actionable item to obey and write it down.

The last lesson's pointers about "I Will" statements are worth repeating:

- "I Will" statements must be specific in order to be effective. It is good to recognize, for example, that God's Word is powerful, but what will you do about that? Commit to reading the Scripture regularly? Write someone a note of encouragement based on a particular Bible verse? Something else?
- "I Will" statements are ideally actionable within a short time frame—something like 24 to 48 hours. If you wait too long to obey something, it becomes more difficult to obey (and to remember).
- It's OK for an "I Will" item to address your emotions, attitudes, and thought life. Just recognize that your assessment of how you did in following through on such "I Will" items will be more subjective and possibly require particular attentiveness.
- In addition to your "I Will" takeaway from the Scripture passage, consider a second action item: telling someone what you learned. This is where your paraphrase in the "My Words" section comes in handy. Look back at it and make sure you're ready to share God's Word with someone else.

Have the members of the group share their "I Will" items with one another, and pray for one another to succeed in accomplishing these things. Make sure you write down your "I Will" item, also, because in next week's Looking Back portion, each group member will report on how they did in carrying it out.

Looking Forward

TIME TO PRACTICE

Let's put the lesson into practice right now. As a group, do a Bible study on Mark 1:1–15. For our purposes today, don't worry about the Looking Back section where you check in with one another and report on last week's "I Will" items (you may have already done this!). Instead work through the study of the passage, and then practice setting some "I Will" items for next week.

Well done! You're now able to lead a group study of the Bible using a simple and transferable method. This method is designed to help you not only hear what God is saying to you in the Scripture, but also to obey what He's told you.

SET GOALS AND PRAY

Your study of Mark 1:1–15 has produced an "I Will" item for you, as well as providing you with a summary of the passage to share with other people. Share your "I Will" item with the others in the group so that you can check in with one another at your next meeting about how it went. Then close the meeting by asking that God would strengthen you to obey what you heard Him saying in the Scripture, and share that truth with others.

Lesson 6: Prayer

For the last two lessons we have focused on studying the Bible. First, we looked at studying the Bible individually, then we considered how to conduct a group Bible study. Today we turn our attention to prayer. While studying the Bible and prayer may not seem related at first, we'll soon see that they are very interconnected. Before we look at this connection, though, let's consider some of the things the Bible itself says about what prayer is and why it is important.

Why Do We Need to Pray?

GOD COMMANDS US TO PRAY

- Read Luke 18:1–8. What does this passage tell us about prayer?

- How and how often are we told to pray in Ephesians 6:18?

THROUGH PRAYER WE RECEIVE MERCY AND GRACE FROM GOD

- Hebrews 4:16 is a reference to prayer. Read Hebrews 4:14–16. What does it mean to “receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need?”

- How should we approach God’s throne of grace?

- What does 1 Peter 5:6,7 tell us about receiving grace and mercy from God?

THROUGH PRAYER WE RECEIVE WISDOM FROM GOD

- Read James 1:5–8. What does it mean to “lack wisdom,” and when might we find ourselves lacking wisdom?

- What are we to avoid when we are asking God for wisdom?

How Should We Pray?

INVESTIGATING THE MODEL PRAYER

In Matthew 6:9–13, Jesus gave His disciples a model prayer. Have someone in your group read this prayer aloud, and then answer these questions together:

- What different things is Jesus teaching His disciples to pray about?

- What do you notice about the order of the items in the prayer?

Many people think of prayer as an opportunity to ask God for things, but it is much, much more than that. More than anything else, prayer enables us to communicate with God and hear from God, and thus to align ourselves with His will. In many ways God uses prayer to change us more than to change our circumstances.

UNDERSTANDING THE ELEMENTS OF PRAYER

A popular way of remembering the various elements of prayer is to use the acronym **ACTS**:

ADORATION: This is another name for praising God. When we praise God, we are pointing out the greatness and goodness of His character. The wonderful thing is that when we praise God, we experience happiness ourselves!

We always start with adoration, because prayer is first and foremost about the glory of God. One of the biggest mistakes people make in prayer is allowing their prayers to become need-based, rather than worship-based. Eventually this gets terribly boring and deflating. A great way to prevent this is to spend at least one-quarter of your allotted time on the adoration step, and during this time, *do not ask God for anything!*

In your group, take two or three minutes right now and express adoration for God in prayer.

CONFESSION: Read 1 John 1:8,9. What does this passage tell us about confessing our sins?

To confess our sins to God is simply to admit that our sins are, in fact, sins. It does not mean to work ourselves into a sad mood, though it is natural that we feel remorse when we properly recognize our sins as offensive to God. Usually we confess our sins by naming certain sinful actions we have committed, or certain sinful thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. There is also much biblical precedent for confessing group sin to God, such as the sins of our family or nation.

Take two or three minutes before God and offer confession to Him.

THANKSGIVING: This is a critical aspect of prayer (see Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:18). While there is some overlap with adoration, thanksgiving tends to be more focused than adoration on specific benefits that God has given us. This could be as basic as thanking God for our food, or it could be thankfulness for a circumstance in our lives—even a negative circumstance that we realize God is going to use for our good.

Stop right now and take two or three minutes as a group to thank God for what He has done.

SUPPLICATION: This is a word that we don't use very often in everyday speech, but it just means asking for something. This is the part of prayer that most people think of when they think of prayer, but we place it last, not because it is unimportant, but because of the need to enter into this phase of prayer with the right mindset. Remember that we can and should ask God to help us, but we also should pray for others we know and even those far from us.

Instead of going to God in supplication right now, let's discuss a few things that are particularly helpful as we consider what we might ask God for.

ASKING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

When considering how we ought to pray, we should remember God's promise in the Gospel of John:

1 John 5:14,15

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

This is good news for those who desire to pray!

Notice that God says He will grant requests that are asked "according to His will." This is especially important to remember in the "supplication" aspect of prayer. We can say that our supplications (requests) are according to His will if certain things are true:

We pray in Jesus' name (John 14:13). Praying in Jesus' name is not a matter of saying, "In Jesus' name, Amen" at the end of a prayer (though that's not a bad thing). The idea here is that when we pray, we recognize that we are asking whatever we ask as those who are unified with Jesus, calling on His power and seeking things that will honor Him and advance His mission.

We abide in Jesus and His words abide in us (John 15:7). Abiding in Jesus is a profound subject, but for our purposes we can summarize it by saying that those who abide in Christ are trusting what He says in daily life and experiencing the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) as a result. This indicates that choosing not to trust Jesus and His words hinders our prayers.

We submit our wills to God's will. Read Luke 22:39–43. What do you think Jesus meant by saying, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done" (verse 42)?

In certain cases, we know already that God will bring something about if we ask for it. For example, in James 1:5–8 we learned that He promised to give wisdom to those who request it in faith. Sometimes, however, we don't know if God wants something to happen, such as when we pray for our offer on a house to be accepted.

In such cases, we follow Jesus' model by presenting our requests earnestly, knowing that God may have a better housing situation in mind for us, and sometimes explicitly acknowledging, as Jesus did, that we want God's will rather than our own.

In light of all this, take a few minutes as a group and offer requests to God according to His will.

PRAYING ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

God is pleased to hear us express our hearts to Him, but prayer becomes powerful when we shape our prayers according to the Bible. The best way to learn to do this is to connect our study of a passage with prayer. Let's say that you have just studied a passage of Scripture following the Sword Method. You now have answered four basic questions about the passage:

- What does this passage tell me about God/Jesus?
- What does this passage tell me about man?
- Are there any examples to follow?
- Are there any commands to obey?

Note that each of these questions provides direction for prayer. For example, in question 1, we identify what a passage has taught us about God/Jesus. These things we have identified become items to praise God for, such as His wisdom, goodness, power, holiness, etc.

- How might the things we learn about mankind guide us in prayer?

- How about examples we see? How do those guide our prayers?

- How should our prayers reflect any commands we see in a Scripture passage?

You get the point by now. Our study of the Bible is important in its own right, but it is also important if we want to pray effectively.

Looking Forward

TIME TO PRACTICE

Let's practice prayer in the ACTS model by looking at Psalm 1. First read the Psalm, and then use the Sword Method to write down answers to the four questions below:

- What does this passage tell me about God/Jesus?
- What does this passage tell me about man?
- Are there any examples to follow?
- Are there any commands to obey?

After you have done this, take some time as a group to pray through Psalm 1, making sure to include adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, in that order.

Let's review today's lesson. You learned a number of things today:

- Why we need to pray
- How we should pray
 - The model prayer
 - The elements of prayer (the ACTS model)
 - Asking according to God's will
 - Praying according to the Bible

Good work! The skills you learned today will serve you for a lifetime if you utilize them. Let's get that process started.

SET GOALS AND PRAY

Take a moment and prayerfully consider how God's Spirit might want you to put this lesson into practice. Identify a short-term, measurable action step—an "I Will" item—that you can accomplish by His help this week. Then share these "I Will" items with one another and close the meeting by praying for one another that God will help you through His Spirit to succeed.

Lesson 7: Putting it All Together

As we begin today, let's look back at all the material we've covered thus far...

Lesson 1: Being a Witness, Part 1

In this lesson we learned about the prediction of our witness, the goals of our witness, the audience for our witness, and the methods of our witness. In other words, we covered the “what” of witness, the “whom” of witness, and some of the “how” of witness. The “what” portion covered the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20) and three important concepts for witness: “go, not come,” “all, not some,” and “make disciples, not church members.” We then turned to the “whom” of witness, with a look at the *oikos* list and the FISHing chart. Finally, we began our discussion of the “how” of witness by writing and practicing our testimonies.

Lesson 2: Being a Witness, Part 2

In this lesson we further discussed the “how” of witness by learning to bridge to the Gospel. Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well (John 4) was the foundation of our study.

Lesson 3: Being a Witness, Part 3

This lesson was our final look at the “how” of witness. In this lesson we covered the Three Circles Gospel Presentation, a simple way to share the good news with someone who has not yet trusted in Jesus.

Lesson 4: Hearing and Obeying God's Word, Part 1

You may remember that we took two lessons to learn a method for studying the Bible, God's Word. In Lesson 4, we introduced the concept of inductive Bible study and the three-column format which uses the headings of “Scripture,” “My Words,” and “I Will.”

Lesson 5: Hearing and Obeying God's Word, Part 2

Our second lesson on studying the Bible covered group Bible study. We discussed the rationale and scriptural basis for studying the Bible in groups, then discussed how to gather a group and how to adapt the three-column format for the group setting.

Lesson 6: Prayer

Our lesson on prayer first addressed *why* we should pray, and then proceeded to introduce the **ACTS** model of prayer (**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication). We also discussed what it means to ask something according to God's will, and how we can use the Bible as a guide for our prayers.

Where Do We Go from Here?

ARE YOU PREPARED?

- Read 2 Timothy 2:1,2 again. What was Paul (the trainer) telling Timothy (the trainee) to do?

As trainees ourselves, each of us shares the call that Paul gave to Timothy. Now that we've reached the last Disciple-Making Training Lesson, each of us needs to get serious about taking others through these lessons. This is a clear action step to help make 2 Timothy 2:2 a reality in our own lives.

For any number of reasons, you may not feel prepared to do this. Consider these points, though:

- The woman at the well (John 4:28–42) and the Gadarene demoniac (Mark 5:1–20) were effective in sharing the good news about Jesus, and Jesus specifically commissioned the latter to do so. How much experience and formal training did they have? What made them effective?
- Read 2 Peter 1:1–4. What do these verses indicate about each believer’s preparedness to live life as Jesus intended?

You have now gone through six foundational lessons in disciple-making. Many Christians will live their entire lives and never have access to a “curriculum” this straightforward and practical. Armed with the experience of having gone through the lessons yourself, you are ready to use them as a tool. As you lead others through them repeatedly, your skill as a disciple-maker will grow.

A FORMAT FOR MEETING

You may have noticed by now that our meetings have tended to follow a certain format, and this is intentional. As you walk through the Disciple-Making Training Lessons with new trainees, bear in mind that three elements should be present in each meeting:

- The **Looking Back** portion of the meeting comes first, and this is the time in which we look back to how things have gone between the last meeting and the present one. Make sure to include time for catching up on life events and for asking one another how you did on your “I Will” items from last time. This is also a good time for the leader of the group to cast vision by reminding members of the big picture of disciple-making. Several classic vision-casting vignettes are available at bit.ly/1XCqgOX.
- The **Looking Up** portion of the meeting is the part where you cover the new lesson for the day. We call this “Looking Up” because we are looking to God for new insight from the Scripture.
- The **Looking Forward** portion of the meeting is where we determine “I Will” items for next time. It’s also the slot in which we allocate time for any extra practice of the disciple-making topic under discussion.

When executed well, this “Three-Thirds Format” provides constant learning, obedience to that learning, and accountability for obedience. You may find this format useful even beyond the disciple-making context.

What About *This* Group?

By now you’ve probably built good relationships with the people in your current group. Furthermore, you need to be in an environment where you can receive ongoing support so that your own disciple-making efforts don’t burn you out. That’s why we recommend that you continue meeting with this group for a minimum of six months into the future.

Though you’ve now completed the basic seven Disciple-Making Training Lessons, the inductive Bible study method you have learned (see particularly Lesson 5) is a means for your group to continue indefinitely into the future. Any portion of the Scripture or series of passages works for study, but the 26-week discovery Bible study (bit.ly/1NMAs3U) or the Gospel of Mark would be great options to begin with.

Notice that this creates a natural progression for all new groups of believers that you or your trainees will form: first, seven meetings covering the basic seven Disciple-Making Training Lessons; second, group inductive Bible studies for several months. By the end of this time, we pray, enough new groups will have formed to keep you plenty busy.

A Disciple-Making Lifestyle

In the end, your effectiveness as a disciple-maker will be in proportion to the degree to which you hear, understand, and obey the Spirit of God as He leads you to love other people. When we submit ourselves to God's leading and surrender our agenda for His, we become attuned to ways in which we can selflessly meet others' needs. This and only this lifestyle paves the way for bringing what you've learned to bear in the lives of those who don't yet know Jesus. Trying to apply these principles without an others-centered lifestyle is a path toward manipulating people, not making disciples who make disciples.

- What is the biggest barrier you face in adopting a Spirit-led, others'-centered lifestyle? How can you support one another in overcoming those barriers?

Looking Forward

TIME TO PRACTICE

Prepare each other to lead a disciple-making group. Ask one another the following questions:

- What qualifies you to lead a disciple-making group?
- What are the three elements of the meeting format we discussed? What would you cover in each one?
- As a new group of believers forms, what will you study initially? What are the fundamental lessons we use all about?
- What will your group use for long-term study?

SET GOALS AND PRAY

Take a moment and prayerfully consider how God's Spirit might want you to put this lesson into practice. Identify a short-term, measurable action step—an "I Will" item—that you can accomplish by His help within this week. Then share these "I Will" items with one another and close the meeting by praying for one another, that God will help you through His Spirit to succeed.