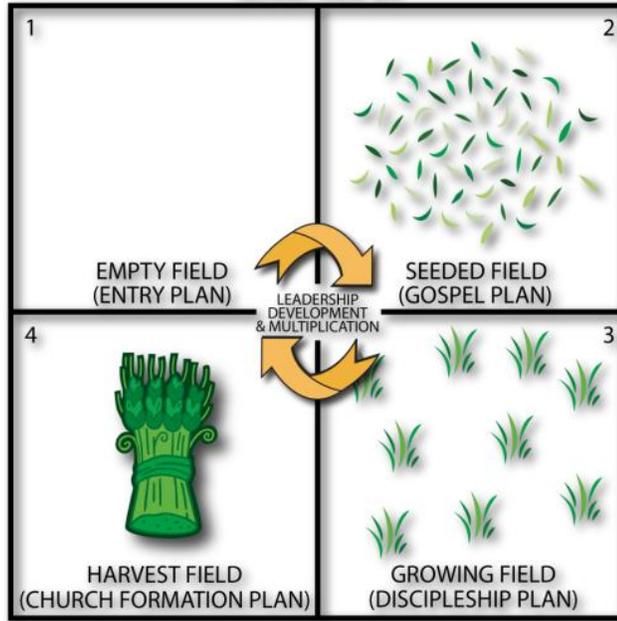


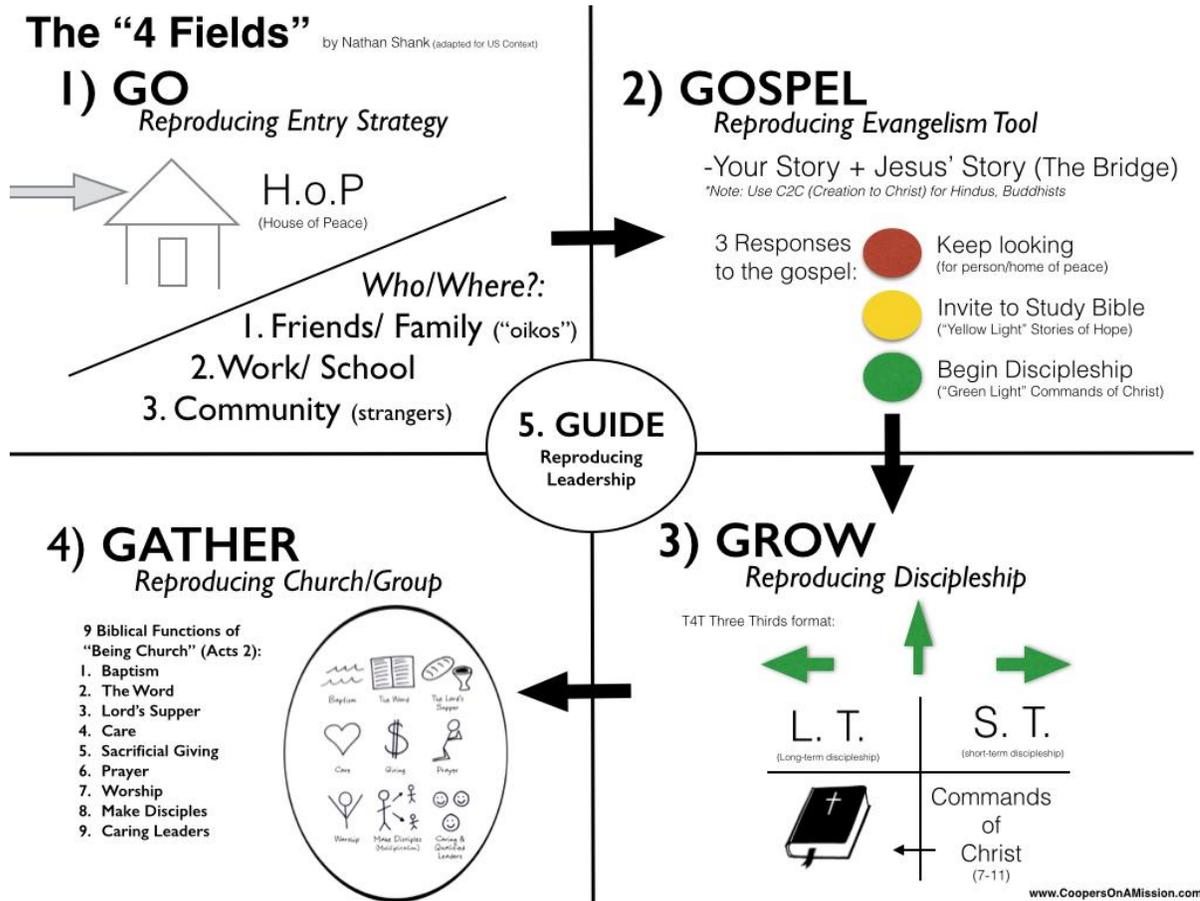
T4T

“Training Disciples to Multiply Disciples”

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By Nathan and Kari Shank – 2007
Revised - 2014



Field 1: Go

“Entry Plan”

The Three Thirds Training Process

1. **Look Back** ← (30-40 minutes)
 - **Member Care** – “How are you doing?”
 - **Worship**
 - **Accountability** – Review and Encouragement
 - **Vision Casting**

2. **Look Up** ↑ (30-40 minutes)
 - **New Lesson** – only enough Biblical content to obey this week

3. **Look Ahead** → (30-40 minutes)
 - **Practice** – Confidence and Competence to obey and train others this week
 - **Set Goals & Pray**

Don't leave out the **RED** underlined parts!
(These enable fruitful reproduction)

Three-Thirds Training Meetings

Look Back	Look Up	Look Forward
<p>1. Member Care: “How are you doing?”</p> <p>2. Worship:</p> <p>3. Accountability*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow: “How did you obey the lesson from last time?” • Fish: “Who did you pray with, share your story, or Jesus’ story?” <p>4. Casting Vision* for reaching lost people and making disciples</p>	<p>5. New Lesson: Enough biblical content to obey and pass it on.</p> <p>Interested Seekers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Stories of Hope • 8 Week Discovery Study in John <p>Disciples: <i>Short Term Discipleship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Commands of Christ <p><i>Long Term Discipleship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inductive Bible Study in Mark or Ephesians 	<p>6. Practice* the lesson until all are confident and competent to retell the story</p> <p>7. Set Goals and Pray* Goals for personal growth, sharing the gospel, and training others.</p>

If time is short, make it a priority to cover the sections with an asterisk ()*

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20, “Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (NLT)

Command, not Option: When Jesus said, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth,” He was telling His disciples that He held the highest authority in the universe. Jesus is King of kings, and Lord of lords. As such He has commanded His church to make disciples. If we ignore or neglect this command, we are committing high treason against the King of the universe.

Go, not Come: Jesus did not tell us to advertise our church on a web site, or a sandwich board, and then wait for lost people to come to us. He told us to go to them. We must be willing to get out of our comfort zone, and go to people who are far from God with the only message that can save them.

Disciples, not Church Attenders: We must not satisfy ourselves with making converts who simply attend church meetings. Jesus commanded much more. He wants true disciples. And what do true disciples do? They obey His command to witness to others and train these new believers to do the same. So every disciple must be a disciple-maker (trainer).

All, not Some: Jesus told us to go to all the nations, not some of them. In Mark 16:15 He tells us to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” We typically choose whom we want to share the gospel with, trying to pre-judge who might accept it. But Jesus commanded us to go to everyone. We cannot predict whom God will save.

Obedience, not just more Information: Jesus instructed us to make disciples by teaching them to *obey* all of His commands. We make a huge mistake when we think that by giving new believers more and more information, we are making disciples. A person does not become a disciple unless he seeks to obey all the commands of his Master.

Name List

Name List: The first step toward obeying Christ is a simple one. Ask them to write out a Name List of everyone they know who might be lost or far from God. Every person has an Oikos (Greek word for *household*. This household would include extended family and servants. It represents our relational network). Tell them to pray and ask God to bring to their minds who they should include on their list. Once they have their list started, ask them to pray again and ask God who they should talk to first. Encourage them to identify 5 people they will share with first. Be sure to remind them to keep their list with them all week, pray daily for the people on the list, and to bring it with them to the next training session and be prepared to share their progress with others in the group.

Persons Of Peace

Luke 10:5-9, *“Whenever you enter someone’s home, first say, ‘May God’s peace be on this house.’ If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. Don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay. “If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick, and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you now.’ (NLT)*

Matthew 10:11-13, *“Whenever you enter a city or village, search for a worthy person and stay in his home until you leave town. When you enter the home, give it your blessing. If it turns out to be a worthy home, let your blessing stand; if it is not, take back the blessing.” (NLT)*

Jesus in Luke 10 and Matthew 10 gives His disciples instructions for a mission that He sent them on. What were the disciples to do when they entered a village?

1. Search for a worthy person (Mt.10:11), or a Man of Peace (Luke 10:6). The NASB says “inquire” for a worthy person.
2. Enter a home and give it your blessing of God’s peace. If this is not a House of Peace, they will not receive you or your message.
3. If this is a House of Peace, God has prepared them to receive you and the message of the gospel. They will welcome you and listen to your message (Mt.10:14).
4. Stay with the House of Peace, praying for healing, speaking of the Kingdom of God.

It is quite likely that this House of Peace may be the key to seeing the Kingdom advance in that city or village. Your objective is to bring this household to faith in Christ, and then train them to reach their Oikos (relational network).

In Field 1, Entry Strategy, your job is to find Houses of Peace. Once you have found them, you can begin to plant the gospel, lead men and women to Christ, and then train them to reach their Oikos.

We have examples of Houses of Peace in the book of Acts:

- Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:9-48)
- Lydia and her household (Acts 16:13-15)
- The Philippian jailer and his household (Acts 16:25-34)

Remember, we are seeking to reach the entire household, not just isolated individuals.

Prayer Walking

If you have exhausted your Name List, you will need to talk to people you don't know in order to Go and share the gospel. A good way of doing this is through Prayer Walking. It is best to go out in pairs of two.

1. Select a neighborhood or apartment complex that you would like to prayer walk. As you walk, pray for the people that live there. Pray that God would help you find a Person of Peace (Luke 10:7) who will receive you and your message, be converted, and then seek to reach the people in their oikos (household or relational network).
2. After you have been Prayer Walking for a while, start Prayer Knocking. Knock on a door. When a person answers, tell them that you are out Prayer Walking and would like to know if they have any needs at all in their life that you can pray for. If they can't think of anything, ask if you can just pray a prayer of blessing on their home. Then pray a short prayer for them in Jesus' name.
3. When you are done praying say, "Would you say you are near or far from God?" No matter what answer they give you, ask if you can draw a picture for them that will show how a person who is far from God can become near to God. If they say, "Yes", go ahead and draw the Bridge Illustration and explain the gospel.
4. When you are done, ask them if the picture and explanation makes sense. If they say "Yes", ask if they would like to become near to God by repenting of their sin and trusting Christ to save them. If they do, you may either encourage them to get alone and pour out their heart to God in prayer, or you may lead them in a prayer of repentance.
5. Then ask if you can come back and share more stories with them. If they say "Yes" get their first name, address, phone number, a date and time that you can return. Leave them a gospel tract with our contact information on it.

Field 2: Gospel

“Gospel Plan”

Your Story

Write out your story. It should consist of three parts:

Part 1 = Your life before you began to follow Jesus

Part 2 = How you heard about, and began to follow Jesus

Part 3 = How your life changed after you started following Jesus

Keep your story short enough that you can tell it in 2 minutes or less. Just write one paragraph for each of the three parts. Make sure you make Jesus the hero of your story.

Now pair up in twos, and practice telling it to one another until you feel competent and confident you can tell it to others.

Look for opportunities to share your story as often as you can. It can build a bridge so that you can then share the gospel.

Jesus' Story

The Bridge

It is important that you are able to share your story, but it is far more important for you to be able to tell Jesus' story – the Gospel. Only the gospel is the power of God for salvation (Rom. 1:16). There are many different ways you can share the gospel, however it needs to be simple and reproducible so that you can teach it to anyone. We are using The Bridge Illustration as a simple and effective tool to help non-believers understand how they can be reconciled to God.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Take some blank 4"x6" cards, or a note book with blank paper with you.

1. Let me share how someone who is far from God to become near to God. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
2. Draw lines to indicate a great canyon between God and man. Draw a stickman on one side and write "God" on the other. Tell them that this canyon is several miles across and thousands of feet deep. Then ask them, "Is the person over here near or far from God?" They will probably say, "Far from God." Tell them, "You see, people are separated from God because of sin. It is as if we were on one side, and God was on the other side of a great canyon. What separates us from God is our sin. People have tried many ways to bridge the gap between themselves and God. They have tried good deeds, philosophy, even religion, but all of our efforts to bridge the gap fall short."
3. As you say it, write "wages," "sin," and "death" under the man. Ask them what wages are. They will probably say something like, "What you have earned by working." Then ask them what kind of a paycheck God is going to give people for their sin, and point to the word *death*. When they say *death*, ask them what kind of death it is talking about. If they don't know, tell them it is talking about eternal death. Ask them if they know what eternal death is called in the Bible. Then write the word HELL at the bottom of the canyon. Tell them, "This is the Bad News. All of us are sinners and have earned eternity in Hell. Further, because God is just, that is what He will give us, unless our sin problem can be solved somehow."
4. On God's side of the canyon write "gift," and "God" and "Eternal Life." But this verse goes on to say that a gift (*gift*) has been provided by God (*God*), and this gift is eternal life (*eternal life*). On one side of the canyon we have wages and sin and death. But on the other side of the canyon we have gift and God and eternal life. Ask them, "Who gives this gift?" (God). "What is this gift?" (Eternal Life). "How is a gift

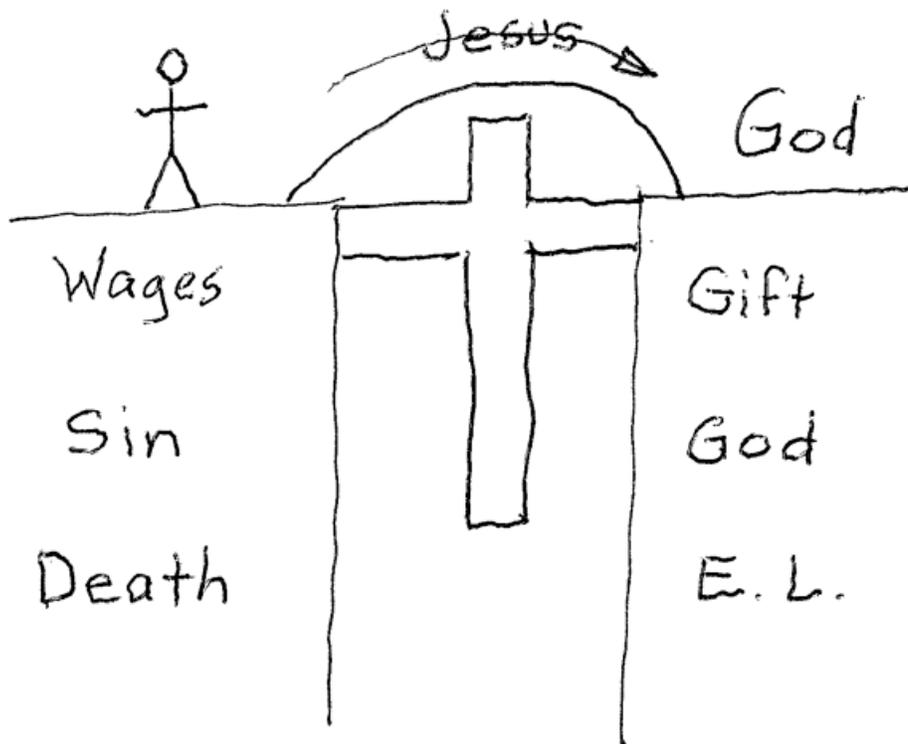
different from wages?" (don't work for it; given freely). Then ask them, On which side of the canyon would you like to be?

5. Draw a cross that provides a bridge between both sides of the canyon. Jesus Christ is the Bridge that God has provided to give us the gift of eternal life. Through Jesus and His death on the cross to pay for our sins, we can cross over the canyon, and we will no longer be separated from God. Tell them "this gift of eternal life is *in Christ Jesus our Lord*." Write JESUS on the cross. Tell them, "The reason Jesus can be the bridge between us and God is because He is God who became a man. He lived a perfect life, and then died on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins." As you are saying this circle SIN and draw a line from the word SIN to the Cross. Then say, "He paid for the just consequences of our sin." Then circle HELL and draw a line to the Cross. Then say, "Then He rose from the dead three days later, proving that His sacrifice was sufficient payment for your sins."
6. "But how does a person cross over Jesus as his bridge and come near to God? Jesus tells us in Mark 1:15 where He said, "Repent and believe the gospel." At this point draw a line from the stick figure over the cross all the way to God in an arc. Write REPENT and BELIEVE on this arc. Ask them if they know what *repent* means. Help them to understand it is being sorry for sin and turning from sin. Ask if they know what it means to *believe* in Jesus Christ. Explain that it is to transfer their trust for salvation from themselves to Christ alone. It means they will not place their hope or confidence in heaven and forgiveness in them being a good person, or having a good heart, or someone who helps others, etc. They must realize they have sinned away any right to forgiveness and heaven, and if they ever receive it, it must be based on the perfect righteousness of Christ. "This verse says that God provided the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. In order to cross over to God's side of the canyon, we must go through Him. He is the Bridge! To cross over a canyon on a bridge, you would have to trust the bridge to hold you. In the same way, in order to cross over to God, you must trust that Jesus Christ is able to give you eternal life."
7. Romans 6:23 says this gift of eternal life is in Christ Jesus *our Lord*. Tell them that when they repent and believe in Christ, they must surrender to Him as their Lord, or King, or Boss. They must be willing for Him to tell them how to live and what to do, and they must be willing to follow Him in obedience. Ask if this picture makes sense to them. Ask if they would like to be come near to God by repenting of sin and trusting Christ to save them. If they say, "Yes", you can suggest that they call upon the Lord to save them. They can either pray in their own words, or you can lead them in prayer.
8. Whether or not they wanted to repent and trust Christ, ask them if you can come back and share more stories with them. If they say "Yes" jot down their name, address, phone number and a day and time you will be returning. Leave a gospel tract with them with our contact information on it.
9. If they prayed to receive Christ, when you come back, start with the 7 Commands of Christ, and teach them the lesson on Baptism. If they did not receive Christ, start

with the 7 Stories of Hope. When they come to Christ in faith, switch over to the 7 Commands of Christ, the lesson on Baptism, and baptize them.

Now, all of this may seem complicated, but trust me... once you have watched someone else do it, and then have done it yourself a few times, it will become very simple. You don't need to memorize steps 1 to 8 above. Just get the gist of the presentation, and adapt it for the person you are witnessing to.

Romans 6:23



(taken from www.onwardchurch.org)

Jesus' Story

2 Kingdoms

Here is another brief and simply way to share the gospel.

The Two Kingdoms

Here is a truth I have come to know. God created the world as His Kingdom, and all was very good. But Satan rebelled, desiring worship that only God deserved. He set up his own kingdom, at war with God's kingdom of light. The first man and woman, deceived by Satan, chose to rebel also. Since then, all of us have joined that rebellion against our rightful king.

Unfortunately, we are born into the kingdom of darkness and Satan is the king. Satan is very crafty. He says, "You don't have to serve me, just serve yourself." But in the end, we receive darkness, death, and destruction. On the other hand, there's the kingdom of light and the King is Jesus.

God's kingdom of light has overcome the kingdom of darkness. For God sent Jesus to earth to live as man should live. Jesus then died on a cross, suffering to pay the penalty we deserve for our rebellion. But God raised Him from the dead, showing that Jesus has authority even over death and the kingdom of darkness. Jesus will reign forever and ever. If we will turn from our selfish ways, receive His forgiveness, and surrender our lives to Him as our King, He gives us light, life, and love. We live in this little bubble called life (70-80 years) and when it pops, whichever king we served is where we will spend all eternity."

Questions You Can Ask When Done Sharing

Which king are you serving?

Is there anything that would keep you from surrendering your life to Jesus as your King and making Him the Boss of your life?

Directions For Interested Seekers

You can be saved by repenting of your sins and putting your trust in Christ alone. If you do that, the first step of surrender and obedience would be to obey His command to be baptized. Pray and surrender to God, and then be baptized by another follower of Jesus.

(adapted from www.juio.net and <http://www.eqotw.org/dgcc/2kingdoms.pdf>)

Jesus' Story

Creation, Fall, Rescue, Restoration

This is a more extended gospel presentation. It may be effective for those people who have very limited exposure to Biblical truth (background in other religions). Read over this presentation a few times. Seek to memorize the bare outline given below, and then fill it in with details you remember from Scripture as you go along.

“I want to tell you a true story – the Ultimate story that defines us all.

1. Creation – “How Did It All Begin?”

God:

- He has always existed exactly as He is now.

Creation:

- God spoke and everything came into existence. Galaxies, stars, planets, and earth.
- Beautiful paradise on earth.
- Masterpiece was Man & Woman. God’s own image to reflect Him.
- Purpose – worship, love, serve and enjoy Him.

Harmony:

- No pain, suffering, sickness, death.
- Complete love & acceptance & intimacy between God and man, Adam & Eve, and throughout creation.

2. The Fall – “What Went Wrong?”

Disobedience:

- God placed Adam & Eve in charge of all He had created. Gave freedom to make decisions & govern earth.
- Only 1 Rule – not to eat from 1 specific tree.
- Satan, a fallen angel, wanted to overthrow God. Took form of serpent. Lied. Deceived them into thinking God didn’t have their best interest in mind.
- Adam & Eve disobeyed God. Ate forbidden fruit. Decided they, not God, would determine right and wrong.

Consequence:

- Sin, suffering, and pain passed down to all generations. Creation distorted.
- This is why world filled with war, poverty, disease, greed, scandals.

Need:

- Think of your life – lies, grudges, lust, sexual immorality, anger, pride, bitterness. If honest know guilty, & must give account to God, the Judge.
- The Ultimate Consequence – not just physical death, but eternal separation from a loving God and punishment forever in Hell.

3. The Rescue – “Is There Any Hope?”

Promise Made:

- God removed Adam & Eve from Eden, but gave promise of rescue & hope. One day one of their descendants would rescue mankind from sin.
- God prepared the way for this Rescuer. Gave details of His birth, life, and death through prophets. Whole Bible points to Him.
- His purpose: “to seek and to see what was lost”.

Promise Kept:

- He was God! God became human.
- Virgin birth. Sinless life. Substitutionary death to pay for sin. Bodily resurrection. Showed had defeated sin and death. Returned to heaven where reigns as King.

4. The Restoration – “What will the future hold?”

All Things New:

- God will create New Heaven and Earth. No sin or selfishness. No natural disasters. No pain, suffering, sickness, death. Perfect friendship with God. Restored to Eden before Fall.
- New Earth will be perfect home God intended for creation. All who trust Him will also worship, love, serve, and enjoy Him forever.

Forever With God:

- Complete joy with God forever. Perfect relationship with One who created, loved, and died for us.

“What Is Your Part In The Story?”

- God has written amazing Story! Take God’s side by worshipping, serving, loving and enjoying Him. If you do, will find forgiveness, purpose and satisfaction.
- How do you get started? *Repent and trust in Christ*. To repent is to turn from sin. To trust is to turn to Christ. Illustration: man thrown into raging sea carrying 2 bags of gold. Repent is turn loose of gold. Trust is to grab onto life rope. You must stop believing you can rescue yourself from sin and transfer trust to Christ’s rescue purchased at cross. If trust anything other than Jesus separated from loving God in hell.

“Where Do I Go From Here?”

- 1. Read the Bible:**
- 2. Talk With God:**
- 3. Find Community:**
- 4. Tell Your Story:**

7 Stories Of Hope

If the person you have shared the gospel with has not repented and trusted in Christ, but is still interested in hearing more, begin to share the 7 Stories of Hope with them.

1. The Repentant Woman (Luke 7:36-50)
2. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)
3. The 2 Lost Sons (Luke 15:11-32)
4. The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)
5. The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-30)
6. The Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:32-43)
7. Doubting Thomas (Jn.20:1-18; 24-29)

Before you visit to tell them the 7 Stories of Hope, ask if there is anyone else they know who might like to come and hear these stories (their family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.).

When you meet, use the Three Thirds Process as much as you can. Before people become Christians, some parts of the 3/3 process will not be very applicable. Just implements the parts that you can that you can fit in naturally.

Look Back:

Member Care: Ask each person to share a highlight and a challenge. Pray for the challenges each one is facing.

Worship: Ask if God has done anything special in their lives since you talked last. Teach them to praise Him for all good things. You could also sing a song, or read a Psalm of praise, or play a worship song.

Accountability: Ask how they did in fishing and following. Fishing: who did they share last week's story with? Following: how did they do in applying the story to their own life?

Vision Casting: In just a few minutes, share an encouraging personal story, or Scripture that will give them a vision of what can happen in their life and community through Jesus.

Look Up:

New Lesson: Read the story in two different versions of the Bible (if the people in this group can read, ask them to read it out loud). Then retell the story in your own words. Then use the Sword Method of bible study to get them discussing the story together. The questions are:

- What does this story teach about God?
- What does this story teach about man?
- Does this story speak of a sin to avoid?
- Does this story speak of a promise to claim?
- How will I apply this story to my life?

Look Ahead:

Practice: Have each person try to retell the story in their own words.

Set Goals and Pray: Fishing - Encourage each one to set a goal to tell someone this story at least once in the next week. Following – encourage each person to set a specific goal (write it down) of how they will put this story into practice in their own life in the next week. Then pray. If this is a group of non-Christians, you might need to pray for them until they become comfortable praying.

8-Week Inductive Bible Study
In the
Gospel of John

1. John 1:1-18 – *Jesus is God Become Man*

- John 1:1-5
- John 1:6-13
- John 1:14-18

2. John 3:1-21 – *Jesus is the Savior of Sinners*

- John 3:1-8
- John 3:9-15
- John 3:16-21

3. John 4:1-42 – *Jesus is the Giver of Living Water*

- John 4:1-14
- John 4:15-26
- John 4:27-42

4. John 5:1-29 – *Jesus is the Judge of All Men*

- John 5:1-18
- John 5:19-23
- John 5:24-29

5. John 8:31-59 – *Jesus is the Liberator From Sin*

- John 8:31-38
- John 8:39-47
- John 8:48-59

6. John 10:1-30 – *Jesus is the Good Shepherd*

- John 10:1-6
- John 10:7-18
- John 10:19-30

7. John 15:1-17 – *Jesus is the True Vine*

- John 15:1-5
- John 15:6-11
- John 15:12-17

8. John 19:17 – 20:29 – *Jesus is the Crucified and Risen One*

- John 19:17-42
- John 20:1-18
- John 20:19-29

General Plan: Have someone read through the first of the three sections. Have someone else read through the same section in a different translation. Then use one of the 5 Bible study methods: Star – Steven – Sword – Head, Heart, Hands – 7 Questions.

Try to get everyone involved in discussing the passage. Don't let anyone dominate. Instead of telling everyone the answers, try to help them see and discover the truth for themselves. "Never tell, when you can ask" is a good adage to follow. After you have asked the questions for the first section, go on to the second question, and then the last section.

Seek for life change. Never end a study until everyone has formed a plan for how they will obey what they have learned. Ask each person to write out an "I will _____" statement.

Start each session by asking each person how they did in Following and Fishing.

Following: "How did you do in applying last week's lesson in your life?"

Fishing: "Who did you tell the last lesson to?"

After studying the passage, have each one practice telling what they have just learned. This will help to cement the study in their mind and help them in retelling the substance of the study to someone else.

Field 3: Grow

“Discipleship Plan”

The 7 Commands of Christ

Mt. 28:18-20

1. Baptism
2. The Word of God
3. Prayer
4. Making Disciples
5. Love
6. Giving
7. The Lord's Supper

Before you even begin the 7 Commands of Christ there are several things you should do with a new believer. Within 24 hours of their conversion, show them how to make a Name List, tell their story, and Jesus' story, and encourage them to start sharing with those that are far from God. Encourage them to set a goal of speaking to 5 people a week. Also, bring them along with you when you go Prayer Walking so they can learn by watching.

Once you have led someone to Christ, begin teaching them the 7 Commands of Christ, using the Three Thirds Training Process. Ask if there is anyone in their relational network (oikos) who they could invite to join them as they learn about following Jesus.

Remember, your goal is obedience-based discipleship. Jesus taught us to teach these believers to *obey* everything He had commanded. Our goal is not to cram their heads with facts and knowledge, but to help them learn to obey Jesus. Give them only as much content as they can obey.

Command 1: Baptism

1. When should someone be baptized? When did the following Persons of Peace get baptized?

- The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39) _____
- Cornelius & his household (Acts 10:44-48) _____
- Lydia and her household (Acts 16:13-15) _____
- The Philippian jailer and his household (Acts 16:30-34) _____

2. Who should be baptized?

- Acts 2:38 _____
- Mark 16:15-16 _____

3. What does baptism signify?

- Acts 2:38; 22:16 _____

Baptism means “to immerse, to submerge, or to dip.” It was used of cucumbers dipped in vinegar, or cloth dipped in dye. Baptism pictures the fact that we have been immersed in Christ. We have died to our old life and have been raised to live a new life with Jesus. It symbolizes our spiritual cleansing and forgiveness of sin.

4. Why should we be baptized?

- Matthew 3:13-15 _____
- Matthew 28:19 _____
- Mark 16:15-16 _____

5. Who should baptize?

- Should only ordained clergy baptize? John 4:1-2; Acts 9:9-19; 1Cor.1:14-17

- Who baptized in these verses? Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:26-39

5. How do we baptize someone?

- Matt.28:19-20. _____
- Acts 8:38. _____

Find a body of water deep enough to immerse someone in. Have the new believer invite all his friends and family. Have the person being baptized share their story of how they were saved. Say, “Because you have repented of your sin and placed your faith in Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Then lower them all the way under the water, and raise them back up.

Assignment—if you have repented and believed in Christ, be baptized as soon as possible.

Command 2: The Word of God

1. How important is the Bible in the life of a Christian?

- Jn. 8:31. _____

2. What 5 things can we do to benefit from the Bible?



3. Read the following passages and discuss together how you can do the things you are reading:

- Hearing the Word: Rom. 10:17. _____
- Reading the Word: Matt. 4:4. _____
- Studying the Word: Ezra 7:10. _____

You can move from reading to studying the Bible by simply having a notebook and a pen by your side as you read, and jotting down your thoughts and findings. The following ideas might prove helpful as you learn to study the Bible.

- Read the passage over several times
- Find out how this passage fits with what comes before and after it
- Jot down any repeated words or phrases
- Identify the central idea of the passage
- Ask the 5 W's (who, what, when, where, why)
- Look for the plain and natural meaning instead of a "hidden" meaning
- Decide how you can apply this passage to your life

- Memorizing the Word: Ps. 119:11. _____
- Meditating on the Word: Josh. 1:8. _____

Studying and meditating are closely related. As you study, you jot down your findings. When you meditate, you dwell on that Scripture and what you have discovered about it. Think of it like looking at a beautiful diamond gem from many different angles. Emphasize each word in that verse you are meditating on.

Assignment: Begin to read the Bible every day and jot down your findings.

Command 3: Prayer

1. **What was Jesus' prayer life like?** Mk.1:35; Lk.5:16; Lk.6:12.

2. **How does God answer us when we pray?** Check all that apply.

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Wait

3. **In whose name (authority) do we pray?** John 14:13 _____

4. **Who helps us pray?** Rom.8:26-27 _____

5. **What should we pray about?** Phil.4:6-7. _____

6. **What do the following passages teach about how we should pray?**

- James 1:6. _____
- James 4:2-3. _____
- Ps. 66:18. _____
- 1 Jn. 5:14. _____
- Luke 18:1. _____

7. **With a partner or a group, work your way through “the Lord’s Prayer” one phrase at a time to discover how to prayer, using this prayer as a guide.**

Phrase	How does this phrase teach you to pray?
Our Father in heaven	
May Your name be kept holy	
May Your Kingdom come soon.	
May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.	
Give us today the food we need,	
and forgive our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.	
And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.	
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.	

Assignment: Begin to pray each day to your Father. Talk to God about everything, especially the things He is teaching you as you read the Bible.

Command 4: Making Disciples

- 1. Who does Jesus call to make disciples?** Mt.28:19-20. _____

- 2. What does Jesus promise He will do for His disciples?** Mk.1:17.

- 3. What has God given to us?** 2 Cor. 5:18-19. _____

- 4. What should we do as Christ's ambassadors?** 2 Cor. 5:20. _____

- 5. What is the message we are to give others?** 2 Cor. 5:21. _____

- 6. What did the Samaritan woman tell the men of Samaria?** John 4:28-30;
39. _____
- 7. Where will the power come from to be Christ's witnesses?** Acts 1:8.

Assignments:

1. Make a Name List. This is a list of names of everyone you know who is far from God.
2. Learn how to share Your Story, and Jesus' Story. The person leading your group can train you to do this.
3. Pray for the people on your Name List daily.
4. Start sharing with the people in your life who are far from God. Tell them Your Story and Jesus' Story.
5. Go Prayer Walking with the person leading your group to learn how you can share the gospel with those who are far from God.
6. Make it a goal that one day you will help those you bring to Christ to begin obeying His commands, just as the leader of your group is doing.

Command 5: Love

1. What is love like?

John 3:16. _____

John 15:13. _____

1 Cor. 13:4-7. _____

2. Read Mt. 22:37-39.

• Who are we to love? _____

• How are we to love God? _____

• How are we to love people? _____

3. What will love for Jesus look like? Jn.14:15. _____

4. How are we to love other Christians?

• Jn.13:34. _____

• 1 Jn. 3:16-18. _____

• 1 Pet. 1:22. _____

• Rom. 12:9. _____

5. Why are we to love? Jn.13:35; 1Jn.4:19. _____

6. How did the early Christians love each other? Acts 2:44-45.

7. What do you think is the most loving thing you can do for a person who is far from God? _____

Assignment: Take time each day to intentionally show love

1) To Jesus – by obeying His commands;

2) To other people – by sacrificing to help them.

Command 6: Giving

1. **What should we give?** _____

All of us have three commodities that we can give: our money and possessions, our time, and our abilities. When a person becomes a Christian, they are to commit all of what they have to the service and glory of God.

2. **Who owns us and all that we have?** 1 Cor. 6:19-20. _____

3. **Why should we give?**

- Phil. 4:18; Prov. 3:9. _____
- Mt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:33. _____
- 1 Cor. 9:3-14. _____
- Acts 4:32-35. _____
- Acts 11:27-30. _____

Let's say that you are living during the time of the Civil War. You happen to be living in the South, but you are actually a Northerner. Your plans are to move back home when the war is over. While living in the South, you have accumulated a lot of Confederate money. You also happen to know that the North is going to win this war. So, what would be the smart thing to do with your Confederate money? The smart thing would be to convert as much of it as you can into U.S. currency, and just keep as little Confederate currency as you need for your short-term needs. Folks, when you die or Christ comes back, you're not going to be able to use earthly money any more. You can't take your money with you to heaven, but you can convert earthly money into heavenly treasure that you can enjoy in eternity by generous giving!

4. **How should we give?**

- 1 Cor. 16:2. _____
- 2 Cor. 9:7. _____
- 2 Cor. 8:1-3; Mark 12:41-44. . _____
- 2 Cor. 9:6. _____

Assignment: Talk with your family this week, and decide how much money and time you will consistently give for the work of the church each week.

Command 7: The Lord's Supper

Tell the Story – Luke 22:7-20.

1. What is the Lord's Supper? 1 Cor. 11:23-26. _____

2. Why do we eat the Lord's Supper? 1 Cor. 11:24-26. _____

3. How do we eat the Lord's Supper?

- Acts 2:42. _____
- Acts 2:46. _____

4. Who should eat the Lord's Supper? Acts 2:37-42. _____

5. What does the Lord's Supper symbolize:

- From the past: Mt. 26:26-28. _____
- In the present: 1Cor.10:16-17. _____
- In the future: Luke 22:14-18; Rev.19:9. _____

6. How important is the Lord's Supper in the life of the church? Acts 20:7;
1 Cor. 11:33. _____

Assignment: Begin to eat the Lord's Supper with other Christians regularly.

Long-Term Discipleship

Once you have trained the group to begin obeying the basic commands of Jesus, it is time to transition to long-term discipleship. These new Christians need to learn to read and obey God's Word for themselves. Your job at this point is to help them learn how to do this. Thus, at this stage, instead of going through preplanned lessons, you will begin to train them to do Discovery Bible Studies together. Use the skills you learned in the lesson on Command 2: The Word of God.

At this stage, choose a book of the Bible, such as Mark, or Acts, or Ephesians, or Romans, and study through a section of the book together each week. Be careful not to become content-driven, but rather obedience-driven. Teach only enough content for the group to obey during the week. It will also become a strong temptation for the group to stop doing outreach and making disciples at this point, and instead just become a bible study. You need to strive to keep your group on target, so this does not happen.

Continue to use the Three Thirds Training Process in these Discovery Bible Studies. At the beginning, continue to ask the Fishing and Following accountability questions:

Fishing: who did you share your story, or Jesus' story with this past week? Have you started any groups? If so, how is your group doing?

Following: how did you do in obeying last week's lesson?

As you study through books of the Bible, there are different methods you can use. Use one which is simple and reproducible so these new believers can use it with their own disciples they are training.

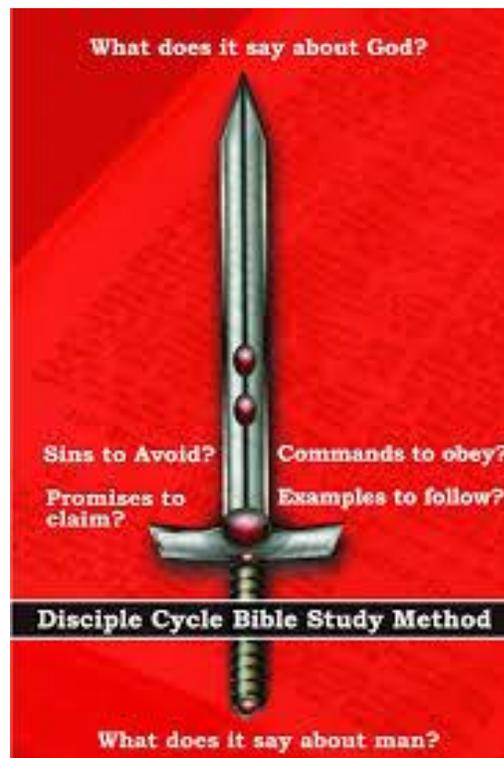
The Star Method

1. First, read the passage aloud. (Can take turns if in a group) Each passage is divided into three parts. Read and discuss the first section, then move on to the second section, and then to the third.
2. Each person then reads back over the passage on their own and looks for these 3 things:
 - a. Anything that stands out or draws the attention of the reader. Mark these things with a Star. (★)
 - b. Anything that the reader finds hard to understand or have a question about. Mark these things with a Question Mark. (?)
 - c. Anything that applies personally to the reader's life or that they feel directs them to do something. Mark these with an Arrow. (→)
3. Each person should try to write down at least one thing, but no more than three, under each category.

4. Each person should then share things they have marked with a Star and discuss them with the group. Everyone shares all their Stars first before you go on to the Question Marks.
5. Each person should share things they have marked with a Question Mark and the group should try to work out answers for each. A core value is to never answer a question unless you know the answer. A perfectly acceptable answer is, "I don't know, but let's both look into this and see what we find out for next time."
6. Each person should then share things they have marked with an Arrow and discuss them with the group.

The Sword Method

The Sword Method has been used very successfully in places all over the world. The word of God is often likened to a sword ("...the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" Eph. 6:17).



1. Think of holding a sword by the handle and the blade pointing up. The point is pointing upward toward God so ask, "What does this passage say about God?"
2. You're holding the handle so ask, "What does this passage say about me or about people?"

3. One side of the blade could represent the question, "As a result of this passage is there a sin to avoid?"
4. The other side of the blade could represent the question, "Is there a promise to claim?"
5. Finally, a sword is to be used which reminds us to ask the question, "As a result of this passage, what am I going to do?"

As you become comfortable with the Sword Method, you can add other questions such as:

- Who do you identify with in this passage? Why?
- What stood out or got your attention in this passage?
- What bothered or confused me in this passage?
- To whom will you tell this lesson?

Head, Heart, and Hands Method

Head: *What Does This Passage Teach?*

Ask Head questions from the passage:

- Who are the characters?
- What is taking place / what is the central idea?
- What are the repeated words or phrases?
- Where is this taking place?
- When is it taking place?
- How does this passage connect to the one before it and after it?
- Why did the Holy Spirit put this in the Bible?

Heart: *What Is God Saying To Me?*

Ask Heart questions from the passage:

- How do you think each of the characters were feeling?
- How does this passage make you feel?
- What is God speaking to you about from this passage?

Hands: *What Does God Want Me To Do?*

Ask Hands (Application) questions from the passage:

Use the SPECK method

- Are there **SINS** to avoid
- Are there **PROMISES** to claim
- Are there **EXAMPLES** to follow
- Are there **COMMANDS** to obey?
- Is there **KNOWLEDGE** to pursue?

As a result of this passage I will

(make this specific and measurable)

The Lord may call you to continue meeting with this new church for a period of time (6 months to 2 years), until the group has its own leader to care for it. If a qualified leader is appointed earlier on in the church plant, you may begin to exit after you have taught these new believers how to feed on God's Word for themselves. However, you will want to keep in touch and be available to them when they run into problems or questions as they seek to live out their new lives in Christ.

Field 4: Gather

“Church Formation Plan”

Church Formation

One of the things you will need to do is to begin meeting as the church. In some situations it might be better for a new believer to join existing churches. However, in some situations, it will be the Lord's will for a group of these new believers to become a new church. When that is the case, the group leader will need to help these new believers start functioning as a church.

There are five questions that must be answered as a group of believers begins to function as a church. Who? When? Where? Why? What?

1. Who is the Church?

Acts 2:41 (NLT) *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day – about 3,000 in all.*

What two things did every person do before they were added to the church?

The expression “added to the church” implies a recognizable membership. The early believers knew who was in and who was not. The church is formed around those who have followed the Lord in obedience – namely in believing the gospel and identifying with Christ in baptism.

2. When does the Church meet?

Heb. 10:25 (NLT) *Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.*

The answer to when we meet is not written in stone; in fact, the precedent of the first church will point to daily meetings (see Acts 2:46). Some have taught that Sunday is the God-ordained that the church should meet, but this can't be proven from Scripture. What can be stated, however, is the need for a regular plan for meeting.

The timing and length of church meetings are not mandated in scripture. The goal is to establish the habit of meeting and seems to be the command of Hebrews 10.

Each new church start should set a time and day for regular meeting at least once per week.

3. Where does the Church meet?

Look up the following Scriptures: Romans 16:1-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:1-2. Where did the early Christians hold their gatherings? _____

Can you think of any advantages of holding church gatherings in a home instead of a church building?

4. Why does the Church meet?

Read Eph. 4:11-11-12, 16. Why do pastors and teachers equip the saints? When each individual believer does his part, what is the result (vs.16)?

Read 1 Cor. 14:12,26. What is the goal of the church meetings described here?

Is the church gathering primarily to evangelize the lost or edify the saved?

5. What does the Church do when it meets?

Acts 2:41–47 (NLT) *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. 42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

Matt. 18:15-17 (NLT) *If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.*

The first group of Jesus’ followers gathered into a church in Acts 2:36-47. Read this story out loud. Make a LIST out loud together and then write in the space below, **who** they were and **what** they did:

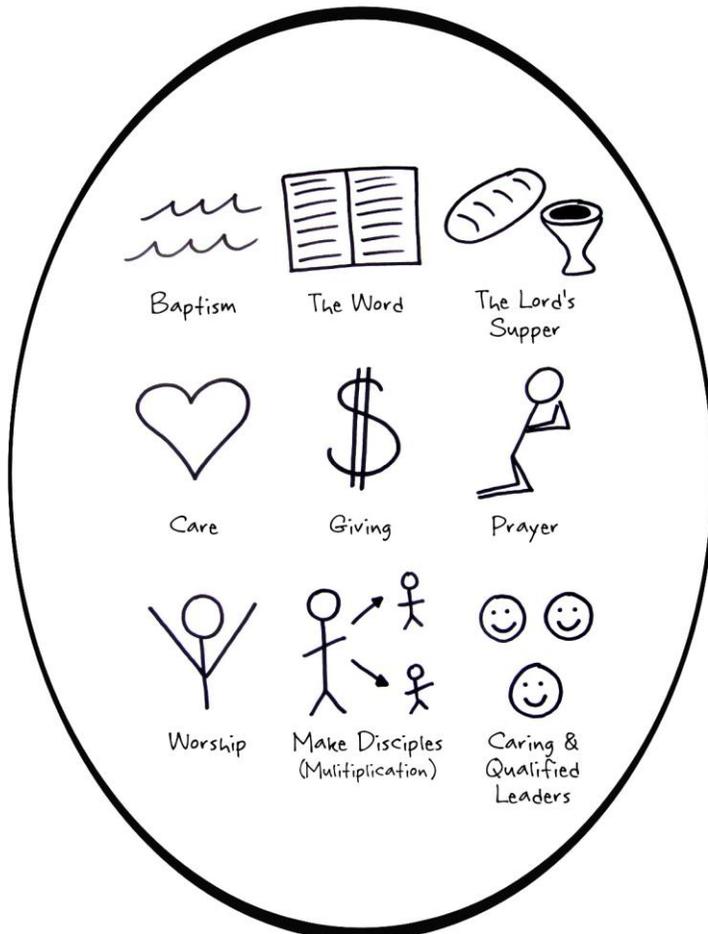
Who They Were

What They Did

We believe there are 9 key elements of a healthy, Biblical church. They are listed below:

- Baptism
- The Word of God (apostles' teaching)
- Lord's Supper
- Giving
- Prayer
- Worship
- Making Disciples
- Qualified Leaders
- Church Discipline

1. Read Acts 2:41-47 and then find the 8 key elements that should characterize a healthy church from the Acts 2 passage.
2. Read Matt. 18:15-17. What key element does this passage teach should characterize a healthy church?



Church Discipline: Read 1 Corinthians 5.

What must the church do if someone professes to be a follower of Jesus, but will not repent of sin?

Why must the church deal so radically with unrepentant believers in her midst?

Church Leaders: Hebrews 13:17 (NLT) *Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.* What does this passage say about the leaders?

What does this say about your response to your leaders?

Read Titus 1:6-9. Is there one or more persons in your group who are qualified to serve as Overseers/Elders, to teach and nurture the group? Discuss this together and see if the group shares a consensus on who these leaders are.

***NOTE:** At this point, a mature, experienced worker should be enlisted to help in appointing new leaders. In Acts 14:23, Paul and Barnabas appointed Elders in all the churches they had planted.

Discuss the commitment level to be “church” together. Is there the commitment to choose to meet regularly and live as the Body of Christ? Give a name to your church. Is it clear when and where the group meets? Write a covenant together based on what you have read in Acts 2:37-47 and Matt. 18:15-17 and then sign it as an expression of your commitment to be church together.

The Hub: Guide

“Reproducing Leadership”

MAWLS

MAWLS is an acronym that stands for:

Model – take a new disciple with you as you prayer walk, share your story and Jesus’ story, and come back to tell stories and teach the 7 commands of Christ

Assist – after you have modeled Fishing, let them try it, while you assist them, when they run into trouble.

Watch – after you have assisted them for a while, have them Fish, while you just watch. Afterwards, give them encouragement and suggestions for improvement.

Leave – once this new disciple has become competent and confident in Fishing, it is time for you to leave, and let him train up a new believer in the same process.

Stay in touch – it is important that you stay in touch with this disciple, so that you can help him in the future with any problems he may run into.