
Kingdom Focus Coaching

Discipleship How To & Helpful Resources

by Trog Trogdon

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Introduction

Discipleship - How to & Helpful Resources is the third booklet in the Field Guide Journal Series by Kingdom Focus Coaching. It was written to help equip disciples to become disciple-makers.

Our first booklet, The Disciple Makers Journal, covered all three topics of our discipleship process: Know where you are in your walk with Christ, Grow in your faith, and Go make disciples. The second booklet, The Word & Wisdom on Discipleship, provided the best quotes and Bible verses for each spiritual discipline and discipleship training topics. In this final resource we have written summaries on how to practice each discipline and compiled lists of the best articles, videos, and books on each subject.

We hope you find this resource beneficial as a follower of Christ and share these tools with those you are discipling.

Trog Trogdon

Matthew 6:33

President & Founder, Kingdom Focus Coaching



For more information and discipleship resources visit Kingdom Focus Coaching at www.kingdomfocuscoaching.com

Sound Doctrine | How to Keep Sound Doctrine

We are accountable to Christ for everything we say and do, especially for what we teach others about the gospel and His Word. Furthermore, eternal life is at stake for the souls of men; therefore, we must know truth, hold fast to it, and teach it.

To guard sound doctrine, creeds and confessions of the Christian faith were written down and agreed upon by the early church (the word “creed” comes from the Latin term “credo” which means “I believe”). Creeds summarize core beliefs and essential doctrines of our faith such as the Trinity, Christ’s death for our sins, His burial and bodily resurrection. They refute heresies and false teachings and define the essential elements of what it means to be a Christian and believe in God’s Word. Therefore, it’s important to know them. Four creeds revered for their historicity, biblical accuracy, and early use in the church (and are agreed upon by every orthodox denomination today with very little, if any, debate) are The Apostles’ Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Chalcedonian Creed, and The Athanasian Creed. Two other creeds found directly in Scripture are “The Shemah” (Deut 6:4-9) and 1 Corinthians 15:3-7 which is the earliest confessional saying of the gospel by God’s saints in the Bible. It’s important to note, creeds and confessions are summaries of biblical doctrine. As such, they are not inspired or infallible like the Scriptures themselves.

One of the best ways to keep sound doctrine is to be a member of a Bible believing and Bible preaching local church. God-fearing friends will help you sort out any questions that may arise and filter through any lies of the enemy. Pastors are also held to a higher standard by God and called to shepherd the flock and accurately teach the Word of God, keeping us from error.

If there’s one theme or verse that will help you in staying true to the text of Scripture, it is Isaiah 66:2:

“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.” - NIV

God looks on those with favor who are humble. Humble people seek out correction, wise counsel, and are coachable (Ps 145:5). They listen to constructive criticism and admit when they are wrong (Prov 15:31, 24:6). They desire truth and righteousness over their own feelings and opinions and place themselves under the authority of God’s Word. Humble people fashion their lives around the Word of God rather than follow what is fashionable in our culture. They don’t try to make the Scriptures say what they want them to say but rather, they take God at His Word, trust Him, and obey. (For further study on humility read: Zeph 2:3, Col 3:12, 1 Ptr 3:8, 5:5-6, Jms 4:10).

God esteems those who are contrite in spirit. To be contrite in the Hebrew language meant to be maimed, dejected, crippled or lame. Today we might say broken. Broken people know they are sinners in need of a Savior and don't justify their behavior. Instead of celebrating sin, their hearts are softened to the Spirit and the Scriptures, and they are quick to admit their sins, confess, and repent. As an example, the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14 was so broken by his sin that he wouldn't even raise his eyes to heaven and struck his chest saying "*have mercy on me a sinner.*" (See also Ez 36:26, Mrk 1:15, Lk 15:7). A broken person is not prideful or puffed up. They know they are nothing without God and look to Him for healing and wholeness. Like David, they say "*revive me according to your word*" (Ps 119: 25, 93).

God honors those who tremble at His Word. Those who tremble at God's Word are wise. They not only read and study God's Word, they obey it. Wisdom is applying knowledge, and those who tremble at God's Word don't just listen to it, they do what it says. (See Jms 1:22). They honor and uphold the Bible because they know it is no ordinary book, it is the very Word of God (2 Ptr 1:21), living, active, and transformative (Rm 12:2, Heb 4:12). God's words are powerful, and when God speaks we must listen intently with reverence, wonder, esteem, and astonishment. This is what it means to tremble at His Word. God created the world with a word (Ps 33:6), Jesus is called The Word (John 1:1), and Jesus also calmed the storm with a word (Lk 8:24). And God gave us His words written down for us to read, study, and to know Him. How amazing, wonderful, incredibly overwhelming to think about! When we tremble at God's words, we can never misinterpret, mis-align, or misuse them in any way. Josiah, the Old Testament king, displayed what trembling looks like. After his priests found and presented him with The Book of the Law, he "*tore his robes*" and led the nation of Israel into repentance and obedience to it before the Lord. What a great example for us all!

My daughter's middle name is Ezra. When she was very young, I read Ezra 7:10 at a retreat and have prayed it over her and my other children ever since. I pray this for you and for all the potential disciple-makers at Kingdom Focus Coaching, "**Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.**" You can summarize it this way... "**Know the Word, show the Word, AND share the Word.**" I say to you what John told Gaius in 3 John 1:4, "**I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.**" May you always walk in truth.

Disciple | How to Become a Disciple

Becoming a disciple begins with the gospel message because it “is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,” - Rm 1:16, ESV. All of us have sinned in one way or another and fallen short of the glory of God. Because of our sin, we have earned death and hell. Therefore, we need a Savior to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from our unrighteousness so we can be reconciled back into relationship with God, and that Savior is Jesus Christ, His only Son. He came down from heaven, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose from the dead conquering death forever. Only Jesus offers us salvation and forgiveness; there is no other name under heaven that one can be saved! This is why trusting Christ (believing in Him) and repentance (confessing and turning from our sins) are so important.

If you will repent and put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, you will be saved. This is how one becomes a disciple of Jesus (Acts 2:38).

The gospel I have just shared with you can be understood using what is called “The Romans Road.” (ESV)

Romans 3:23 “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 4:24b-25 “It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

Romans 10:9-10 “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Romans 10:13 “For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” - Mark 1:14-15, ESV

If you have never trusted Christ as your Lord and Savior, I would exhort you to do it today, right now. There is no better time to become a child of God. Quoting from 2 Corinthians 6:2 “For God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.” Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation.” - NLT

The specific words don't save you, it's your faith in Christ that counts. To help as a guide, I would pray something like this ***“Lord Jesus, I am a sinner, please forgive me of my sins. I believe You are the Savior of the world, God's only Son and that you died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and ask You to save me and fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I can live with You and for You forever. In Jesus' name amen.”***

If you have just put your faith in Jesus, congratulations you have become a disciple of Christ; welcome to the family of God! Now that you have believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have crossed over from death to life and the angels are rejoicing in heaven (Lk 15:10). The Holy Spirit has come to live within you as a seal of eternal life (2 Cor 1:21). It's now time to take your first step of obedience in following Christ by getting baptized as Jesus commanded (Mt 28:19). Baptism is a public profession of your faith for all to see. It's a picture of dying to your old sinful self, being buried with Christ (going under the water), and rising with Him to walk in newness of life (coming out of the water). (See Rm 6:3-4).

After my daughter trusted Christ, her youth pastor taught her how to grow in her walk with Jesus. It was summarized in this way - G.R.O.W. which stands for:

1. **G.o** to Church and Serve
2. **Read** the Bible and Pray
3. **O.bey** Jesus and get Baptized
4. **W.orship** and Witness.

This acronym is good to remember for every new disciple of Christ and covers all the disciplines of discipleship except journaling. We have also provided a list in this booklet called “The Character Traits of a Christ Follower” for you to read and review. Both of these resources are designed to make growing in Christ easy to learn, simple to do, and hard to forget.

Ultimately, we grow in Christ and then go into all the world and make disciples. When you're finished with this training material, it's time to obey Jesus by doing your part in fulfilling The Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20). There is no greater joy and purpose in life than knowing Christ and making Him known!

Disciple | How to Be a Devoted Disciple

The first step in our discipleship process is designed to help you know where you are in your walk with Christ and in what areas you need to grow. Completing the spiritual survey (Disciple Makers Journal, page 11) will help you recognize your confidence level in each spiritual discipline and identify your desire to apply them in your life. Through the survey you will be able to discover a few markers in your Christian maturity. As a refresher, take a moment to think through and answer the questions below that are connected to each Christian discipline. These questions will help you discover your desire (or lack thereof) to become a mature, devoted disciple of Christ.

1. Have you openly confessed faith in Christ and followed through in obedience of baptism?
2. Do you have an increasing desire to know and understand God's Word?
3. Is your love for Jesus Christ increasing through obedience to His commands?
4. Are you wanting to and spending more time in prayer and hearing God's voice?
5. Are you sensitive to sin in your life, especially when the Holy Spirit convicts you?
6. Is biblical, Christian community becoming more of a priority for you?
7. Are you becoming more aware and concerned about the needs of people around you?
8. Is your heart broken for those who don't know Jesus?

The next step in your discipleship journey is to grow in your walk with Christ. At Kingdom Focus Coaching we teach and practice the five fundamental disciplines of discipleship (Disciple Makers Journal, page 9). This is because they are foundational for spiritual growth and maturity in Christ. If you want to become a devoted disciple of Jesus Christ, we recommend incorporating them into your life consistently and understanding their importance.

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus told us to make disciples and teach them to obey His commands. It's through obedience that we abide in His love, glorify God, produce fruit, prove to be His followers, and are filled with great joy. The five disciplines, therefore, are anchored on the two greatest commandments that Jesus gave us when He summarized the law in Mark 12:30-31: Love God completely and love others as ourselves. It's these two categories that make up the framework of our discipleship model and how the disciplines are applied.

1. **LOVING GOD: Abiding in Christ • The Inward Man - John 15:1-11**
 - The inward man is built up by having a consistent "Quiet Time."
 - A quiet time includes the first three of the five disciplines: Bible Study, Prayer, and Journaling.

2. LOVING OTHERS: Bearing Fruit • The Outward Man - John 15:12-17

- The outward man is built up through “Community” and engaging in relationships with other people.
- Community involves the last two of the five disciplines: Serving and Sharing the gospel with others. It is outward focused and also includes belonging to a local, healthy church.

Infused in our discipleship training are two key components for every devoted disciple: obedience to Christ’s commands and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Obedience is the essential ingredient for a strong relationship with Jesus and walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. As He said, “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*” - Jn 14:15, ESV

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, our Counselor, Comforter, and Guide. He is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. He is the seal and deposit of our eternal life. He illuminates the Scriptures, convicts us of sin, and empowers us to know and carry out God’s will on earth. Moses, Jeremiah, Joel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah all longed for the day He would descend on God’s people and dwell in their hearts. Jesus told His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to be clothed with power from on high before they began their mission. The apostles were told to choose leaders that were known to be full of the Holy Spirit, and the Bible commands us to “*be filled*” (Eph 5:18). To be and do all that Christ has called us into, we must be daily, hourly, minute by minute connected to and controlled by the Holy Spirit. We are powerless without His presence.

In summary, to be a devoted disciple we must be men and women who walk in obedience to God in the power of the Holy Spirit. People anchored in the Word of God and faithful in prayer. People who are connected to Christian community, selflessly serve others, and diligently share our faith in Christ.

Disciple | The Character of a Christ Follower

“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.” - Proverbs 22:1, ESV

Sound in Doctrine & Skilled in the Scriptures

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” - 2 Tim 2:15, ESV *(See also Prov 30:6, Ps 119 all, Heb 4:12, Gal 1:7-9, Eph 6:17, Titus 1:9, 2:1-8, Jms 3:1, 2 Ptr 1:20-21, 1 Tim 4:16, 2 Tim 3:15-17, 4:1-4).*

Fears God & Obedient to the Bible

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” - 1 Jn 5:3, ESV *(See also Prov 9:10, Mt 10:28, Lk 6:46, Jn 14:5, Jn 15:1-11, 1 Jn 2:3, 3:7).*

Leads by Example in Conduct & Character & Keeps Good Companions

“In everything, show yourself to be an example by doing good works. In your teaching show integrity, dignity, and wholesome speech that is above reproach, so that anyone who opposes us will be ashamed, having nothing bad to say about us.” - Ti 2:7-8, BSB | “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” - Prov 13:20, ESV. *(See also Ps 1:1-3, Prov 22:1, Phil 1:27, 3:17, 1 Tim 4:12, 1 Ptr 5:3, 1 Cor 11:1, 15:33).*

Faithful & Powerful in Prayer

“At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.” - Acts 10:1-2, ESV *(See also Jer 33:3, Mt 6:6, Jn 15:7, Acts 6:4, 12:5-17, Rm 12:12, Eph 6:18, Col 4:2, Jms 5:16, 1 Jn 5:14, Jms 1:5, 5:16-18, 1 Thes 5:17).*

Strong in Faith & Kingdom Focused

“By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.” - Heb 11:4, CSB *(See also Is 40:3, Mt 6:19-20, 33, 17:20, 1 Cor 16:13, 2 Cor 4:18, 5:7, Heb 11, Col 3:1-3).*

Humble Hearted & Bold in Witness

“These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.” - Is 66:2, NIV | “The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.” - Prov 28:1, ESV *(See also Is 29:19, Pr 16:18, Ps 25:9, Mt 23:12, Acts 4:13, Eph 6:19, Phil 2:3-11, Jms 4:6-10).*

Active in Evangelism & Dedicated Disciple-Makers

“As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” - 2 Tim 4:5, ESV | “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...” - Mt 28:19, ESV *(See also Jer 20:9, Mt 4:19, Mrk 16:15, Gal 4:19, 1 Ptr 3:15, 2 Tim 2:2).*

Holy Spirit Filled and Led

“Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.” - Acts 11:24, BSB (See also Ex 33:15, Prov 16:9, Ps 16:11, Is 30:21, Jn 16:13, Acts 6:3-6, Rm 8:14, Eph 5:18).

Surrendered Souls

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” - Mt 6:10, ESV (See also Is 64:8, Mt 16:24-25, Lk 22:42, 1 Ptr 5:6, Jms 4:10, Rm 12:1).

Full of Grace & Love while Grounded in Truth (*loving enemies & forgiving friends*)

“the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,” - 2 Tim 2:24-25, ESV (See also Jn 1:14,17, Eph 4:15, 1 Jn 3:18, 2 Tim 2:22-26).

Courageous in Trial & Have Counted the Cost

“If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and for the gospel will save it. What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?...” - Mrk 8:34-36, BSB | “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” - Josh 1:9, ESV (See also Ps 27:14, Is 41:10, Dan 3:16-18, Lk 14:27-33, 1 Cor 16:13, Phil 4:13, Jms 1:2-4, 2 Tim 1:7).

Servant Leaders & Self Sacrificing

“whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” - Mrk 10:43-45, NIV | “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” - 1 Jn 3:16, NIV (See also Mt 5:38-48, 10:39, 20:25-27, Jn 12:25, Jn 15:13, Gal 2:20, Phil 2:3-4, 1 Thes 2:8).

Generous Stewards & Dedicated to Good Works

“One gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” - Prov 11:24-25, BSB | “who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” - Titus 2:14, ESV (See also Mt 6:24, 25:21, Lk 12:15-21, 32-34, Jn 14:12, 2 Cor 5:15, Titus 3:8, 1 Ptr 2:12, Rev 22:12).

Diligent, Redeeming the Time

“Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” - Eph 5:17, BSB (See also Ps 39:4, 90:12, 119:4, Ecc 7:4, Lk 12:35-48, Mt 6:33, Mrk 13:32-33, Jms 4:13-14, Col 4:5, Heb 6:10-12).

Disciple | The Blessing of Obedience

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” - 1 John 5:3, ESV

The Bible is clear, sin destroys ourselves and hurts others but obeying Christ keeps us safe. God gives us rules and boundaries because He loves us and they bring us joy (see *Jn 15:1-11*). Obedience to His boundaries blesses us, protects others, and displays our faith and trust in Christ (see *Prov 8:35-36 & Jn 14:15*).

For example, if we as human beings trusted God’s Word and obeyed Him in just one area (sexual purity) we could change the world by eradicating so many problems that plague our planet today.

- **73 million babies worldwide would not be aborted annually**
(61% of all unintended pregnancies end in abortion - www.who.int)
- **Sexually transmitted diseases would be completely eliminated**
(more than 1 million STI's are contracted daily around the world - www.who.int)
- **Sex trafficking would be completely stopped**
(an estimated 20,000 - 30,000 American children are trafficked every year - www.togetherfreedom.org)
- **Sexual abuse & rape would end**
(international estimates are between 7% to 36% of women & 3% to 29% of men have been sexually abused - Finkelhor 1994)
- **Pornography & the devastation of its addiction would be eliminated**
(97 billion dollars a year in revenue is wasted on pornography worldwide - familysafe.com 2006 study)
- **Divorces would be significantly reduced**
(infidelity is the #1 cause of divorce, 52.5% of people admit to cheating - www.marriage.com)
- **The AIDS epidemic would’ve never existed**
(36 million people have died from HIV/AIDS & 37 million are currently infected - www.who.int)
- **Orphaned children would significantly decrease**
(there are an estimated 100 million orphaned children worldwide - www.orphanlifecycle.org)
- **Prostitution would be eliminated & incarceration reduced**
(75k people are arrested annually in U.S. alone for prostitution costing tax-payers 200 million dollars)
- **Reduce Cancer from STD’s**
(HPV infections in 2018 caused 570,000 cervical cancer cases & 311,000 deaths - www.who.in)

And save the world trillions of dollars annually!

“He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.” - Prov 6:32, ESV

Disciple | The Kingdom Focused Life

**We will either build the dreams God has placed in our hearts,
or we will get paid to build someone else's dreams.**

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." - **Eph 2:10, ESV**

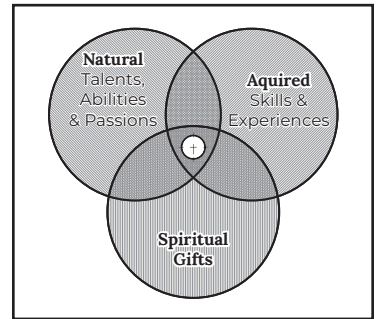
"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." - **Mt 6:33, ESV**

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done." - **Rev 22:12, NIV**

SUMMARY

Where our natural talents, abilities, and passions intersect with our skills, experiences, and spiritual gifts, we will make the biggest Kingdom impact with our lives.

It's time we stop asking, "**What should I do with my life?**" and start asking, "**How can I make the biggest impact for Christ with the life He has given me?**"



"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." - **St Augustine**

"The closer you are to the Lord, the closer you are to discovering His purpose for your life." - **Mike Fechner**

"The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man." - **D.L. Moody**

"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." - **William Carey**

"What you do in life echoes in eternity." - **Gladiator** (See also Rev 14:13).

"Every man dies but not every man really lives." - **Braveheart**

"We don't have one life to live but one life to give." - **David McKinley**

"Five minutes after you die you will know exactly how you should have lived." - **Leonard Ravenhill**

"Is what you're living for worth Jesus dying for?" - **Anonymous**

"This life will soon be past, only what we do for Christ will last." - **C.T. Studd**

"Our greatest fear should not be fear of failure, but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter." - **Francis Chan**

FINDING GOD'S DESIGN

Discover Your Mission Statement for Life by:

- Writing your Obituary - When I die I want to be known and remembered for _____

_____.
- Asking yourself, "If I could change the world with my life, I would _____

_____."
- How can I advance the Kingdom best with the life God has given me? _____.
- Will what I'm doing now matter 1000 years from today? What can I do that would? (Read 1 Cor 3:10-15). _____
_____.
- Setting gospel goals - Lord use me to lead # _____ people to Christ and make # _____ disciples in my lifetime.

Take a Personal Inventory:

- Find your God-given gift by asking, "What do I do best with the least amount of effort?" _____.
- What do my friends say I'm naturally good at? _____

_____.
- When I _____, it doesn't feel like work (even though it is).
- I'm most passionate/satisfied/feel accomplished when I _____.
- If I never had to worry about money or pay bills ever again, I would _____
_____.
- I feel like I make the biggest eternal impact when I _____
_____.
- When I meet Jesus face to face, I would love to hear Him say well done for _____
_____.

Pray James 1:5 & Isaiah 9:6

- “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” - “Here I am. Send me!”

Take a Personality Profile Test:



www.discprofile.com/what-is-disc

Take a Spiritual Gifts Test:



gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/

Read Strengthfinders:



store.gallup.com/c/en-us/assessments#catcs

Discipleship | The Power of a Duplicating Disciple

“The church changes the world not by making converts but by making disciples.” - John Wesley

“Success should be measured not by how many disciples are made, but by how many disciples are making other disciples.” - Bill Hull

THE MULTIPLICATION POWER OF DISCIPLESHIP

From Leadership Through Discipleship, Hartman & Sutherland 1999

If our goal is to reach the world for Christ, then let's take a look at two different models we could use:

1. Preaching to 1000 People a Day

If a man decided to preach to 1000 different people everyday of his life (*assuming there are 7 billion people on the planet*), it would take him 19,178 years to accomplish his goal!!! (*This doesn't include a growing population or sick days, vacation etc.*)

2. Making Multiplying Disciples (2 Tim 2:2)

If a man decided to make disciples that in turn would make disciples using the 2 Tim 2:2 principle, he could reach 7 billion people with the gospel in only 21 years. If one disciple invested a year in training three new disciples and every new disciple committed to do the same, replicating the process, the world would be evangelized in only two generations. Here is the math:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Year 1: 3 disciples | Year 12: 531,441 |
| Year 2: 9 | Year 13: 1,594,323 |
| Year 3: 27 | Year 14: 4,782,969 |
| Year 4: 81 | Year 15: 14,348,907 |
| Year 5: 243 | Year 16: 43,046,721 |
| Year 6: 729 | Year 17: 129,140,163 |
| Year 7: 2,187 | Year 18: 387,420,489 |
| Year 8: 6,561 | Year 19: 1,162,261,467 |
| Year 9: 19,683 | Year 20: 3,486,784,401 |
| Year 10: 59,049 | Year 21: 10,460,353,203 |
| Year 11: 177,147 | |

Discipleship | How to Make Disciples

This is a brief summary of what the first Field Guide (The Disciple Maker's Journal) covers in detail. We recommend working through it as a starting point if you haven't already.



KNOW

where you are in your walk with Christ.

Sound Doctrine
Spiritual Survey

GROW

in your faith.

5 Questions

GO!

and make disciples.

What • Why
Why Not • How To

The three steps in the discipleship process are Know, Grow, and Go. The "KNOW" section begins with sound doctrine and an understanding of the biblical tenets found in the statement of faith. Next is the Spiritual Survey. Once you have taken the Spiritual Survey and understood each of its components, you should be able to walk through it with someone else and help them know where they are in their own walk with Christ. Similarly, as you "GROW" in your walk with Christ, by learning and applying the five disciplines of discipleship, you will naturally be able to help others learn and practice the same spiritual skills in their lives. Furthermore, because we want all disciples to have complete confidence in their ability to make other disciples, we instruct people how to answer four crucial questions for each spiritual discipline. These questions are found in the "GO" section of our training and are used to help people teach and train others. The questions are:

1. What is it?
2. Why is it important?
3. Why don't I practice it?
4. How do I do it?

After completing a spiritual survey, understanding the importance of sound doctrine, practicing the five disciplines and working through these four key questions, every disciple of Jesus has the tools, training, and confidence they need to go and make disciples.

Discipleship | How to Find People to Disciple

My mentor walked with Christ in such a powerful way that I wanted to be like him. He was more Christlike than anyone I had ever met and was a magnet for the gospel. As disciple-makers, we too must walk with Christ so closely that people are drawn to Jesus through us. When others see the joy, peace, and purpose in our lives and sense Christ's presence through the fruit of the Spirit, they will wonder why we are so different from the world and want what we have in Christ. It's also important to be a "fisher of men" as the Scriptures say. Therefore, I use a simple three-step process of developing relationships into discipleship opportunities: encourage, coach, equip/disciple.

Step 1. Encourage: I like to encourage others as often as I can through prayer, Christian books, quotes from pastors, social media posts, sermon links, etc. This includes anything I think would add value to their life after I've talked with them long enough to learn what is on their heart and where they are in their walk with Christ.

Step 2. Coach: From there, I move into a coaching type of relationship. I might follow up on what I originally sent over as encouragement or begin to read a book together. I may meet regularly for coffee to encourage them further in Christ on a specific topic like marriage, work, parenting or whatever makes the most sense based on their needs or interests. At this stage, I'm looking for men who are hungry and thirsty for the things of God (Mt 5:6).

Step 3. Equip / Disciple: Eventually, if they have never been discipled or made a disciple, I share with them this simple process that anyone can use to follow Jesus' command to make disciples and begin training them.

Note: It's important to mention the discipleship process in a way that doesn't make them feel like you are prideful or spiritually superior in any way. When they know your only goal is to inspire them to become more like Christ and strengthen them in their walks with Him, they will appreciate your willingness to serve and look forward to growing together spiritually. The goal is to continually develop relationships with others and to help them grow and mature in Christ (Col 1:28-29).

Most potential disciple-makers already have dozens of people they could start discipling but have never sat down to do a serious inventory of their network. Interestingly, multi-level marketing companies use a "Memory Jogger" to brainstorm potential clients which works great to find potential disciples as well. Start by asking the Lord for three people to disciple this year, then go through the brainstorming process in the link below.



<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54e2e540e4b00617871c6b53/t/57644d7de58c627e3942a377/1466191232907/Ultimate%2BMemory%2BJogger.pdf>

The Holy Spirit | How to be Led by the Holy Spirit

In Ephesians 5:18 we are told not to follow the ways of our flesh but instead to “*be filled with the Spirit.*” In the Greek language the emphasis is for us to be continually filled (surrendered to, controlled, and led by) the Holy Spirit. It’s through His leading, guiding, and filling of our hearts moment by moment that we are empowered to overcome temptation, boldly proclaim Jesus to the lost, and produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Andrew Murray, a Dutch Reformed, Spirit filled pastor once commented on Ephesians 5:18 saying,

“If I were to ask you if you obeyed the command not to be drunk with wine, you would no doubt answer, “Of course, as a believer, I obey that command.” But what of the other: “Be filled with the Spirit”? Have you obeyed it as well? Does your life manifest the presence of the Holy Spirit? If not, are you willing to take the command to heart and say, “By God’s help I will obey. I will not rest until I am filled with the Spirit”?”

This is not an experience only attained by super spiritual saints but something every Christian is called to be every single day. Billy Graham articulated it well saying, “If you know Christ, you don’t need to beg for the Holy Spirit to come into your life; He is already there - whether you “feel” His presence or not. Don’t confuse the Holy Spirit with an emotional feeling or a particular type of spiritual experience.”

So how do we live a Spirit-filled life? There is an “A. P. P.” for that:

1. A.cknowledge Him in all things: Be aware of His continual presence; Jesus is with us wherever we go. Fill your heart and mind with the things of God and His Word so that every experience and circumstance of life reminds you of Him and His work in the world.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” - Prov 3:5-6, NASB 95

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” - Josh 1:9, ESV
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,” - Col 3:16a, ESV

2. P.ray without ceasing: Pray constantly with a humble and surrendered soul to His will, Word, and ways. Talk to Him like you would to your best friend or brother; He is far better. He cares about every single detail of our lives, so lean on Him to comfort and counsel you in every circumstance no matter how big or small. John Eldridge often prays, “**Jesus, I give everyone and everything to you Lord.**” I love this little prayer to check in regularly with Jesus.

“Pray without ceasing,” - 1 Thes 5:17, ESV

3. Pursue the Holy Spirit's promptings: By faith, trust Him and act. Take the next best step when you sense the Lord urging you to obey His written Word or hear His voice in your heart prompting you to action. Our goal is to be faithful to His leading not "successful" in regard to a specific outcome, so leave all of the results to Him. Search the Scriptures and seek wise counsel. He will guide you in truth and always according to His Word.

"The righteous shall live by faith." - Rm 1:17, ESV

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." - Is 30:21, NIV

"Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." - Prov 15:22, ESV

In your seeking to live a Spirit-filled life, do your best to live a pure and holy life unto the Lord. Sin grieves God's heart and quenches His Spirit. As God's temple, avoid sin, flee evil, and fight temptation. God will honor your effort and give you the power to overcome sin as you saturate yourself in His Word and will. When you fall short, ask Him for forgiveness quickly, trust He has forgiven you (1 Jn 1:9) and move forward in faithful obedience to His promises.

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation." - Ps 24:3-5, ESV

Pray this prayer throughout the day: **"Lord, I surrender to You. Give me eyes to see what You see, ears to hear what You hear, and, a heart to love and serve others like You do. Help me to speak Your words, do Your works, and never grieve Your Spirit. Forgive me for falling short so often. Fill me afresh and anew right now. Holy Spirit, overflow through me so that I can bless all I come in contact with today for Your glory, Jesus. Amen."**



1

1) Read Bill Bright's article "Spiritual Breathing:" <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/transferable-concepts/walk-in-the-spirit.html>



3

2) Read Steve Smith's article on swapping our flesh for God's Spirit: www.charlesstanley.com/s-w-a-p-your-self-empowered-self-directed-life-for-a-spirit-empowered-spirit-directed-life/



2

3) Read James MacDonald's article "You: Be Filled:" <http://jamesmacdonalministries.org/you-be-filled/>

Quiet Time | How to Have Quiet Time

“We Christians must simplify our lives or lose untold treasures on earth and in eternity. Modern civilization is so complex as to make the devotional life all but impossible. The need for solitude and quietness (and fervent prayer) was never greater than it is today.” - A.W. Tozer

“A quiet time is a meeting with God. The presence of God is the birthright of every believer.” - Stephen D. Eyre

SUMMARY

A “quiet time” is uninterrupted worshipful time alone with the Lord that includes prayer, reading the Scriptures, journaling, and enjoying His presence. Jesus constantly got away from the crowd to be with His heavenly Father and talk with Him. This is what is meant by having a “quiet time.” It is an intentional time set aside to be alone with God, without distractions, in order to develop and deepen our relationship with Him and grow in our faith.

- **Set your priorities and get God on your schedule.** Make time with God your priority. Choose a specific time everyday that you won't miss and stick to it. There's nothing more important in your life, and what doesn't get on your calendar won't get done. **“Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful in prayer.” - Corrie ten Boom**
- **Pick a quiet, solitary, and undistracted place.** God deserves and desires our undivided attention so make sure not to multitask Him. God's voice is a “still, small voice” especially among all of the noise in the world (1 Kings 19:11-12), but it is clear and consistent when you create the space to hear Him. Christians call this quiet, undistracted place our “prayer closet” (see Mt 6:6).
- **Set up this place for you to fellowship with God and enjoy your time with Him.** If nature opens your heart to the Lord, sit out on the back porch. If coffee, a favorite candle, or worship music helps you connect to Christ, then make a cup. You are getting to meet with the Creator of the universe and in His presence is the fullness of joy (Ps 16:11)!
- **Have your materials ready.** Be prepared to have a conversation and commune with God. Have your Bible, pens, highlighter, and journal ready and available during this time. You may want other study materials like commentaries, dictionaries, a concordance, or a daily devotional as well. Have everything you need with you in order to minimize distractions, and stay focused on the Lord during this time. Time with Jesus is the greatest treasure on earth, and you don't want to miss a thing.

- **Settle your heart before the Lord and be silent for a moment.** He will comfort and encourage your soul when you make room for Him to minister to you. *“Do not be quick with your mouth or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few”* - Ecc 5:2, ESV. (See also Ex 14:14, Ps 46:10).
- **Start by praising Him (Ps 100:4) and praying.** We were created to worship God. Therefore, begin by thanking Him and praising Jesus for all of His goodness toward you. Let your soul express your love for Him. Surrender your thoughts and open your heart to God. Invite Him to guide you as you seek Him and His wisdom above all else (Jms 1:5-6). *“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”* - Ps 19:14 ESV. Use the P.R.A.Y method (page 35). or other written prayers if you would like some structure. Expect the Lord to speak to you through His Word and look forward to how He will reveal Himself to you each day (Ps 5:3).
- **Begin reading your Bible or devotional.** Ask God to *“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”* - Ps 119:18 & 169 *“give me understanding according to your word!”* - ESV. Follow a reading plan like the Proverbs challenge or the McCheyne’ method, and use the Bible Reading P.R.O.C.E.S.S. (page 25) if it’s helpful. Pay attention to what the Holy Spirit is highlighting in your heart through the text and the godly thoughts that come to your mind. Make sure you pause and reflect as these insights are illuminated by the Lord and take notes. Use the Scriptures as a launch pad for your prayers, and converse with Christ about what you find in His Word. Think through how you can obey what you read in the Bible and ask the Lord to give you strength to apply it in your life (1 Jn 5:2). You will be amazed how much God’s Word will transform your time with Him when you use it as a “playbook” to follow and a “prayer book” for your petitions.
- **End in prayer.** End your time with a heart of worship, and in prayer. You might find it helpful to jot down a few things you are thankful for as well (1 Thes 5:16-18).

Bible Study | How to Read the Bible

“The vigor and vitality of your spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place the Bible is held in your life & thoughts.” - George Mueller

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” - 2 Tim 3:16-17, ESV

SUMMARY

The Bible Reading **P.R.O.C.E.S.S.** is a way to read the Scriptures that will help you connect with the text every time you open your Bible. It will help you read the Word of God not just for information but for personal transformation.

In summary, take a passage of Scripture and read it. Then re-read it asking yourself a different question in the **P.R.O.C.E.S.S.** each time as you work your way through it. When you are done, you will be amazed at the depth of knowledge and understanding you will gain in your time with the Lord.

THE BIBLE READING P.R.O.C.E.S.S.

Start by **praying Psalm 119:18, 169** over your time with the Lord, **“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”** and **“give me understanding according to your word!”**

Then read a passage and ask yourself these questions one at a time, highlighting and journaling your reflections.

P.raise: What can I praise and thank God for in this passage?

R.epent: What sins do I need to confess to the Lord, repent of and forsake?

O.aths (promises of God): What promises of God do I see and how can I keep these promises?

C.ommands: What commands do I need to obey?

E.xamples (to follow): What examples should I follow and what examples should I NOT follow?

S.criptures to Pray: What Scriptures can I hold fast to in prayer and ask God to fulfill in my life and others?

S.criptures to Remember: What verse or verses encouraged or convicted me that I should remember, meditate on, and apply in my life today or this week?

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” - Mt 4:4, ESV

“The Bible applied to the heart by the Holy Spirit, is the chief means by which men are built up and established in the faith, after their conversion.” - J. C. Ryle

Bible Study | How to Find a Weekly Bible Verse

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”

- Josh 1:8, ESV

In 1953 when Queen Elizabeth II was crowned, they gave her a Bible saying, **“We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing this world affords. Here is wisdom. This is the Royal Law. These are the lively oracles of God.”**

The 5 Question Method of Discipleship is designed to teach you how to feed yourselves spiritually and grow in your walk with Christ. Therefore, once you start reading the Bible, one of the first skills to develop is the ability to find a specific verse or passage to meditate on each week. Imagine a year from now having 52 Bible verses memorized and stories of God’s faithfulness in your life through obeying and applying them? How much stronger would your walk with Christ be!?

To help you get started, we have listed over forty Bible verses below that are found on the back of the 5 Question Card and/or Discipleship Tract Set. These verses correspond to each question or “discipline of discipleship.” That means there are forty weeks’ worth of Bible verses to meditate on! You don’t have to meditate on all forty, but it would be wise to memorize a few of your favorite verses for each of the discipleship disciplines. This is especially helpful as you work through each section of the material. It is a great place to start in order to reinforce the fundamental practices of our faith and learn their importance in your life. These key verses are listed below and you can find even more in booklet two “The Word & Wisdom of Discipleship.”

The Greatest Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) **and Abiding in and Obeying Christ** (John 15:1-17).

- **Bible Study & The Importance of Scripture:** (Verse of the Week:) Deut 6:6-9, 32:47 | Job 23:12 | Ps 1:1-3, 119:11 (all) | Ezra 7:10 | Mt 4:4, 7:24-27 | Jn 15:1-11 | Jms 1:22-23 | Rm 12:2 | 2 Tim 3:15-17
- **Quiet Time & Prayer:** Dan 6:10 | Ps 55:16-17 | Mt 14:23 | Mrk 1:35 | Jn 5:19, 10:27, 12:49-50 | Lk 5:16
- **Journaling:** Deut 6:4-9 | Jb 19:23-25 | Ps 77:11-12, 78:4-8, 102:18 | Prov 4:20-21, 24:30-32 | Hg 1:5, 7
- **Community:** Gen 2:18 | Ecc 4:12 | Prov 27:17 | Jn 13:34 | Heb 10:25 | Gal 6:6

- **Serving Others:** Mt 25:31-46 | Mrk 10:35-45 | Lk 22:27 | Jn 15:8 | Gal 5:13-14 | Eph 2:10, 4:11-12 | Ti 2:14, 3:8 | Phil 2:3-4
- **Sharing Your Faith:** Gen 12:2 | Dan 12:3 | Jer 20:9 | 2 Cor 5:15 | Mt 4:19, 9:37 | Mt 28:18-20 | Mrk 16:15 | Lk 19:10 | Jn 15:16 | Acts 1:8 | Rm 1:16 | 1 Ptr 3:15

Soon you will need to be able to find your own verses to meditate upon as you read and study the Scriptures. One of the easiest ways to do this is to begin every quiet time by praying Psalm 119:18, 169 asking God to open your eyes so that you can see the wonderful things in His law and to give you understanding according to His Word as you read the text, as we've mentioned before. When the Holy Spirit highlights a verse or passage in your heart, underline it and make a note in your journal to come back to it later. You will quickly have dozens of verses in your journal to choose from in the weeks and months ahead. Later you can cross reference these verses with others in the Bible and gain incredible insight on specific topics in the Scriptures.

There are many other ways to find memory verses. Download the YouVersion Bible app (verse of the day), purchase a Bible Promises Book, take notes from sermons, read devotionals, use a Bible reading plan, subscribe to social media posts, podcasts, and daily emails like The Moravian Daily Text/Verse, Wisdom Hunters etc. If you'll stay in the Word of God and take notes, you will have more passages to choose from than you can imagine in no time at all!

“Bible memorization is absolutely fundamental to spiritual formation. If I had to choose between all the disciplines of the spiritual life, I would choose Bible memorization, because it is a fundamental way of filling our minds with what it needs.” - Dallas Willard

Bible Study | How to Memorize and Meditate on the Bible

The key to long-term memory is repetition. The more you think about and share information, the longer you will remember it. Even further, the more you create emotional connections and experiences with any material, the more it will impact your life and sink deeper into your soul. Review God's command in Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and summarize the lesson of this passage in one sentence.

Here are some memorization ideas:

- 1. Write down your Bible verse.** Write your chosen verse down in a journal or on an index card (including the verse reference or "address") and **keep it with you at all times**. Read it out-loud before breakfast, at lunch, and at dinner. Review it at night and think about it as you are going to sleep. This is one of the most productive things you can do and what the Psalmist did as well. Memory specialists advise reviewing material just before falling asleep because it's one of the best ways to lock new information into our long-term memory.
- 2. Use technology.** Set up reminders with your Bible verse on your phone, calendar, or "notes" on your iPad or computer. Automatically remind yourself three or more times a day to think about God's Word.
- 3. Listen to your verse on a phone app.** I love the app "Dwell" and often listen to the Word of God while I'm driving. You can put it on repeat and listen to one verse or passage over and over. Put it on when you go to bed and go to sleep listening to God's Word as well.
- 4. Pray through the verse.** Some of the giants of our faith learned the power of praying God's Word back to Him. God's Word is His written will, heart, and passion for His people. Praying it for yourself and others is asking Him to fulfill His revealed will on earth. How could prayer get any more powerful?! Pray for wisdom, insight, and understanding for your verse and then pray for courage to obey it. Read 1 John 5:14-15.
- 5. Live it.** To love Jesus is to obey His commands plain and simple. We remember what we experience and applying the verses we are learning in our lives creates lasting memories. There are no shortcuts for obedience. Sometimes applying a verse is praying it, other times it's helping someone who has hurt you. Whatever the Lord tells you to do in His Word, trust Him and do what He says. He has your best interests at heart and will advance His kingdom through your obedience. Key passage: John 14:15-24.

6. Share it. Another fantastic way to remember God's Word is to interact with it and talk about it as much as possible. Talk about it with your spouse, your kids, and your co-workers. Share with others what God is speaking to you through the verse and doing in your life every chance you get. Post it on social media or blog it. The more you use the Scriptures in your life, the stronger, deeper, and more fruitful your walk and wisdom will become. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-29.

It is important to note that memorizing Bible verses is a great start but meditating on a verse is even more productive. Memorization is a mental exercise but meditating on God's Word goes much deeper. It takes the Word of God from our head to our hearts. One of my favorite quotes is "*Meditating on God's Word is like worrying in reverse.*" Since we all know how to worry, we all know how to meditate on Scripture! Read Psalm 1:1-3.

Excerpt from Our Daily Bread titled - His Word the Last Word: "*Dawson Trotman, a dynamic Christian leader of the mid-twentieth century and founder of The Navigators, emphasized the importance of the Bible in the life of every Christian. Trotman ended each day with a practice he called "His Word the last word." Before going to sleep he meditated on a memorized Bible verse or passage, then prayed about its place and influence in his life. He wanted the last words he thought about each day to be God's words. The psalmist David wrote, "On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night." (Ps. 63:6). Whether we are in great difficulty or enjoying a time of peace, our last thought at night can ease our minds with the rest and comfort God gives.*"

"There is a connection with letting the Word dwell in you richly and living under the control of the Spirit. When I'm constantly thinking on the scriptures I'm memorizing, I am more prone to walk by the Spirit in my daily interactions. God's Word and Spirit always go together." - Tony Merida

Bible Study | The Word Hand

The Word Hand illustration is an easy-to-remember tool highlighting five methods of learning from the Bible. We encourage you to use it to spur your own spiritual growth and to inspire others.

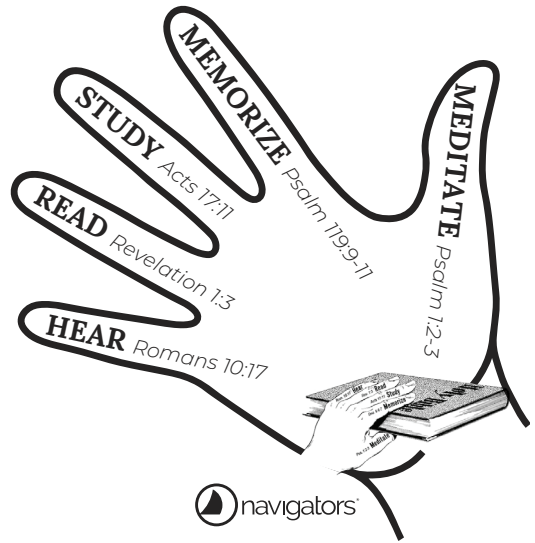
Hearing pastors and teachers teach from the Word provides fresh insight into the Scriptures. The weakest finger (the pinkie) represents hearing, because we retain only five percent of what we hear. **Romans 10:17**

Reading gives us an overview of the Bible and is the foundation of a daily quiet time. This is represented by the ring finger. We generally retain 15 percent of what we read. **Revelation 1:3**

Studying the Scriptures deepens our convictions. It requires greater time and effort but results in increased knowledge of the Bible. Most people retain 35 percent of what they study. This is represented by the middle finger. **Acts 17:11**

Memorizing God's Word enables us to use Scripture, "the Sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), to overcome temptations and to have verses readily available for ministering to others. The index finger, our strongest finger, represents memorization. We remember 100 percent of what we memorize if we consistently review it. **Psalms 119:9-11**

Meditation is the process that accompanies each of the other four methods of Scripture intake. This is why meditation is assigned to the thumb. Only the thumb can touch all the other four fingers. By meditating on God's Word as we hear, read, study, and memorize, we discover its transforming power at work in us. **Psalms 1:2-3**



This tool is produced by Navigators and meant to be shared. To download a copy visit <https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-word-hand/>

Bible Study | The Bible & Behavior

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” - Psalm 119:11, NIV

A study from The Center for Biblical Engagement polled 400,000 people, from 8 years old to 80, and found that people who read or listened to the Bible at least 4 times a week were...

- **228% more likely** to share their faith with others
- **231% more likely** to disciple others
- **407% more likely** to memorize Scripture

And have a...

- **30% drop** in feeling lonely
- **32% drop** in anger issues
- **40% drop** in bitterness in relationships
- **57% less likely** to get drunk
- **60% less likely** to feel spiritually stagnant
- **61% less likely** to view pornography
- **68% less likely** to be sexually promiscuous
- **74% less likely** to gamble

“Listening to or reading the Bible at least 4 times a week changes our character, relationships, behavior and choices that we make each day.” - Steve Arterburn

Bible Study | The Time it Takes to Read the Bible

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”
- Psalm 119:11, NIV

Many people are scared to read the Bible because they think it is too big and don't know where to start. This is absolutely normal, especially for new believers. Every Christian goes through this stage. The key to getting over this fear is to break it down into bite size pieces. Like the saying goes, “you eat an elephant one bite at a time.”

You will be happy to know the Bible is actually sixty six books in one compilation. Of the sixty six books in the Bible, thirty of them are less than ten pages long and nine of them are less than two pages! Furthermore, of those nine books, two of them (2 John and 3 John) are only half of a page long! That means that you can read two of the sixty six books on the Bible only 5 minutes! Wouldn't it feel great to have read two books of the Bible in less than five minutes!

In as little as 15 minutes, you could read nine books of the Bible! That's over 13% of the entire Bible read in only 15 minutes, now, that is an easy start! Did you know:

- **It only takes 18 hours to read the entire New Testament** (that's not even half a work week!)
- **It only takes 55 hours to read the Old Testament.**
- **In as little as 73 hours one can read the whole Bible through completely.**
- **It only takes 12 minutes a day to read the whole Bible in a calendar year.**

Below is an infographic of the shortest books by number of chapters, pages and words:

| BOOK | CH | P | WDS | BOOK | CH | P | WDS | BOOK | CH | P | WDS |
|-----------------|----|---|-------|-------------|----|---|-------|----------|----|---|-------|
| Amos | 9 | 7 | 3,027 | Philippians | 4 | 4 | 1,629 | Habakkuk | 3 | 3 | 1,011 |
| Ephesians | 6 | 5 | 2,422 | 1 Timothy | 6 | 4 | 1,591 | Haggai | 2 | 2 | 926 |
| Lamentations | 5 | 5 | 2,324 | Colossians | 4 | 4 | 1,582 | Nahum | 3 | 2 | 855 |
| Galatians | 6 | 5 | 2,230 | 1 Thes | 5 | 3 | 1,481 | 2 Thes | 3 | 2 | 823 |
| 1 John | 5 | 5 | 2,121 | Joel | 3 | 3 | 1,447 | Titus | 3 | 2 | 659 |
| Micah | 7 | 5 | 2,118 | Malachi | 4 | 3 | 1,320 | Jude | 1 | 1 | 461 |
| Ruth | 4 | 5 | 2,039 | 2 Timothy | 4 | 3 | 1,238 | Obadiah | 1 | 1 | 440 |
| Song of Solomon | 8 | 5 | 2,020 | Zephaniah | 3 | 3 | 1,141 | Philemon | 1 | 1 | 335 |
| James | 5 | 4 | 1,742 | 2 Peter | 3 | 3 | 1,099 | 2 John | 1 | 1 | 245 |
| 1 Peter | 5 | 4 | 1,684 | Jonah | 4 | 3 | 1,082 | 3 John | 1 | 1 | 219 |

Hint: Everyone has experienced being in a church service when the pastor says "turn to Ezekiel chapter 6" followed by fumbling (for what feels like an eternity) to find the book he just mentioned. This can be a source of stress and embarrassment for some. Here is how to navigate this: At the beginning of every Bible there is a Table of Contents section, simply bookmark that page before service so whenever your pastor tells you where to turn, you can find it within seconds! You can also use your phone but paper Bibles are better than technology for many reasons.

Bible Study | Systematic Bible Reading Checklist

OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46] [27] [48] [49] [50] **EXODUS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] **LEVITICUS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] **NUMBERS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] **DEUTERONOMY** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] **JOSHUA** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] **JUDGES** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] **RUTH** [1] [2] [3] [4] **1 SAMUEL** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] **2 SAMUEL** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] **I KINGS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] **II KINGS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] **I CHRONICLES** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] **2 CHRONICLES** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] **EZRA** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] **NEHEMIAH** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] **ESTHER** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] **JOB** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] [41] [42] **PSALMS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] [41] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46] [27] [48] [49] [50] [51] [52] [53] [54] [55] [56] [57] [58] [59] [60] [61] [62] [63] [64] [65] [66] [67] [68] [69] [70] [71] [72] [73] [74] [75] [76] [77] [78] [79] [80] [81] [82] [83] [84] [85] [86] [87] [88] [89] [90] [91] [92] [93] [94] [95] [96] [97] [98] [99] [100] [101] [102] [103] [104] [105] [106] [107] [108] [109] [110] [111] [112] [113] [114] [115] [116] [117] [118] [119] [120] [121] [122] [123] [124] [125] [126] [127] [128] [129] [130] [141] [142] [143] [144] [145] [146] [147] [148] [149] [150] **PROVERBS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] **ECCLESIASTES** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] **SONG OF SOLOMON** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] **ISAIAH** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28]

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ZECHARIAH [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] **MALACHI** [1] [2] [3] [4]

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14] [15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20]
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GALATIANS [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] **EPHESIANS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] **PHILIPPIANS** [1] [2] [3]
[4] **COLOSSIANS** [1] [2] [3] [4] **1 THESSALONIANS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] **2 THESSALONIANS**
[1] [2] [3] **1 TIMOTHY** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] **2 TIMOTHY** [1] [2] [3] [4] **TITUS** [1] [2] [3]
PHILEMON [1] **HEBREWS** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] **JAMES** [1] [2]
[3] [4] [5] **1 PETER** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] **2 PETER** [1] [2] [3] **1 JOHN** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] **2 JOHN**
[1] **3 JOHN** [1] **JUDE** [1] **REVELATION** [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [11] [12] [13] [14]
[15] [16] [17] [18] [19] [20] [21] [22]

Prayer | How to Pray

“I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.” - Charles Spurgeon

“Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us.” - Andrew Murray

SUMMARY

Prayer is communicating with God and communion with God. It's both speaking and listening to our heavenly Father and also enjoying His presence. Prayer is a privilege for the child of God. The Lord hears our prayers, delights in our prayers, answers our prayers, rewards our prayers, and invites us to pray. In prayer, we get to lay down our burdens and pick up His power. Therefore, before you start praying, encourage your soul by reading a few verses to remind yourself of these truths (Prov 15:8, Ps 17:6, 145:18-19, Mt 6:6, 1 Tim 2:8, for example). What an amazing gift God has given us in prayer. For those who want to grow in their prayer life, the verses and methods below are very helpful.

THE P.R.A.Y. ACRONYM

Praise:- Start your time in prayer with Jesus by praising and thanking Him for who He is and all of the blessings He has given you. - Mt 6:9 | Ps 100:4, 146:1-2, 150 (all)

Repent: Invest time repenting and confessing your sins to the Lord. Unconfessed sin can hinder your fellowship with the Holy Spirit. - Mt 6:12 | Ps 51 (all), 66:18

Ask: Ask God for your deepest desires, your needs, and the needs of others. Pour out your heart to Him “*casting all your care on Him because He cares about you.*” - 1 Ptr 5:7, HCSB. And listen to what He speaks to your heart through His Word - Mt 6:11 | 1 Jn 5:14-15

Yield: Yield your will to the Lord's will and enjoy His presence. He is good, He is love, and He is trustworthy. End your conversation with God, as Jesus did, with a surrendered heart, “*Lord, not my will but thy will be done!*” - Mt 6:10 | Lk 22:42

JESUS MODEL PRAYER

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them this model prayer:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” - Mt 6:9-13, ESV

“Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I am doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me for anything in My name, I will do it.” - Jn 14:12-14, ESV

Prayer | Wisdom on Prayer

“Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian.” - Andrew Murray

“Prayer is human weakness leaning on omnipotence.” - **W.S. Bowd**

“Prayer is the litmus test of devotion.” - **Samuel Chadwick**

“If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.” - **Martin Luther**

“The great trains are never too busy to stop for fuel. No matter how congested the yards may be or how crowded the schedules are, no matter how many things demand the attention of the trainmen, those trains always stop for fuel. Prayer is the Christian’s fuel.” - **M.E. Andross**

“Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer.” - **John Bunyon**

“Prayer is my chief work and it is by means of it that I carry on the rest.” - **Thomas Hooker**

“As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.” - **Martin Luther**

“The greatest thing anyone can do for God or man is pray.” - **S.D. Gordon**

“Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers.” - **Sidlow Baxter**

“Satan trembles when he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.” - **William Cowper**

“Prayer wonderfully clears the vision; steadies the nerves; defines duty; stiffens the purpose; sweetens and strengthens the spirit.” - **S.D. Gordon**

“The secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer.” - **The Kneeling Christian**



IDEA: THE WANDERING MIND

Everyone’s mind begins to wander when they finally get settled in to a quiet place. This is a common challenge for all prayer warriors so don’t be alarmed. **To combat this, simply keep a blank piece of paper and a pen beside you.** When your mind thinks of something

“random” you need to remember, jot it down and go back to praying. You will find that after about 10 minutes or so, your page will be full of a “sanctified to-do list,” and you will have a much clearer head. As time goes on, fewer and fewer thoughts will interrupt your prayers and you will have greater focus.



IDEA: PRAY GOD'S PROMISES

Throughout the Bible, God has revealed to us His will, His love, His plans, His purposes, and also given us “*very great and precious promises.*” - 2 Ptr 1:4, NIV. There's not a more powerful prayer life in all the world than to ask God to fulfill His own promises toward us, for His glory. George Mueller (pastor, evangelist, philanthropist, and prayer warrior) would pray God's Word. **“With his Bible open before him and his finger upon a promise... he would plead that promise to God and thereby receive what he had asked.”** Mueller's life and example attest to God's goodness and faithfulness toward those seeking His will and heart. We should follow George's example.

Andrew Murray wrote powerfully about faith in God's promises when he said, “*The connection between faith in God and faith in His promises will become clear when we think about what faith really is. The power to believe a promise depends entirely on our faith in then One who made the promise. It is only when we enjoy a personal loving relationship with God himself that our whole being is opened up to the mighty influence of His holy presence and the capacity will be developed in us for believing that He gives whatever we ask. (See Mark 11:22-24).*”

In Donald Whitney's article “*Praying the Bible*” he tells us how George Mueller's prayer life changed when he began conversing with God about the truth he found in His Word.

George is widely known as one of the greatest prayer warriors since Pentecost and had 50,000 recorded prayers answered in his journals, 30,000 of which were answered the day he prayed them. It is estimated that he prayed in 150 million dollars of provision (in today's currency) over his lifetime. He ministered for 68 years founding orphanages and non-profits, pastoring churches, and being a missionary all while never taking a salary or asking people for money. All of these were financed by prayer and prayer alone.

Here is a paraphrased excerpt from the article:

“For the first ten years of what he called his “*life of faith*” he often struggled to get into the spirit of prayer, in other words, to really feel like praying. Until, that is, he made one slight alteration in his method.

[“*The difference, then, between my former practice and my present one is this: formerly, when I rose, I began to pray as soon as possible, and generally spent all my time till breakfast in prayer, or almost all the time. At all events I almost invariably began with prayer. . . But what was the result? I often spent a quarter of an hour, or half an hour, or even an hour on my knees before being conscious to myself of having derived comfort, encouragement, humbling of soul, etc.; and often, after having suffered much from wandering of mind for the first ten minutes, or quarter of an hour, or even half an hour, I only then really began to pray.*”

I scarcely ever suffer now in this way. For my heart being nourished by the truth, being brought into experimental [today we would say “experiential”] fellowship with God, I speak to my Father and to my Friend (vile though I am, and unworthy of it) about the things that He has brought before me in His precious Word. It often now astonishes me that I did not sooner see this point.”] Once he began the practice of conversing with God about what he found in the Word of God, he “scarcely ever” suffered with those problems in prayer again. Praying through a passage of Scripture as he went “walking about in the fields” was the uncomplicated method that transformed the daily experience of one of the most famous men of prayer in history. And it can transform your prayer life just as easily.”



Read the full article here: www.crossway.org/articles/what-george-mueller-can-teach-us-about-prayer/

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IN PRAYER

“A man prays because his soul is hungry for God.” - Leonard Ravenhill

In defining prayer, we said it is “*communicating with God and communion with God. It’s both speaking and listening to our heavenly Father and also enjoying His presence.*” It is in His presence that complete joy is found (Ps 16:11), and we are told to pursue it continually in the Scriptures. “*Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!*” - **1 Chron 16:11, ESV**

Through prayer (and because of Christ’s atoning sacrifice and resurrection), we get to experience fellowship with God our Father as one would with a friend (Pr 18:24, Jn 15:15). Therefore, when you pray, be aware His presence and His peace and let the Holy Spirit fill your soul with His comfort and love. Let Him calm your mind and settle your heart as you seek His face. He is with you always (Deut 31:6, Mt 28:20) and knows every detail of your circumstances and struggles. Focus on enjoying your time with Christ in prayer and you will never replace it with lesser priorities.

- Find a specific place to be alone with just you and Him.
- Be still and silent before the Lord and soak in His presence.
- Picture Jesus sitting with you on the couch or at the breakfast table.
- Listen to worship songs that connect your heart to Christ.
- Thank Him, praise Him, worship Him!
- Share your heart with Him and listen for His voice in return, especially through His Word.

“*The essence of prayer is the communion of the disciple with his Father.*” - R.T. France

Prayer | How to Hear God's Voice

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” - Jesus (Jn 10:27, ESV)

It's easy to see when God answers direct prayer requests. It's more challenging when we are praying for discernment, direction, or guidance for important decisions we need to make that are less concrete in nature. In those cases, there are some guiding principles to remember. Remind yourself of these truths:

- **God hears our prayers.** “The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.” - **Prov 15:29, ESV** (See also Ps 145:18-19).
- **He answers our prayers.** “In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.” - **Ps 86:7, ESV**
- **God delights in our prayers.** “The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.” - **Prov 15:8, CSB**
- **The Lord rewards our prayers.** “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” - **Mt 6:6, NIV**
- **Humbly expect Him to answer.** Look for it, and in faith, thank Him in advance (see Jn 14:13-14, 1 Jn 5:14-15). “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” - **Ps 5:3, NIV**

Seek God's presence over the answer to your prayer: God Himself is the ultimate prize and through prayer we get to commune with Him. It's in His presence where joy is found. “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” - **Ps 16:11, ESV**

“Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!” - **Ps 105:4, ESV**
(See also 1 Chron 16:11)

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.” - **Gen 15:1, NIV**

“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” - **Ps 84:10, ESV**

God promises to give us wisdom: Ask the Lord for wisdom and trust that He will give you the wisdom you need, when you need it. “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.” - **Jms 1:5-6, ESV**

God promises to guide, direct and provide for us, especially when we seek His Kingdom first (See Mt 6:33): “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.” - **Ps 32:8, ESV**

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” - **Is 30:21, NIV**

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” - **Prov 16:3, ESV**

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” - **Prov 3:5-6, ESV**

“The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;” - **Ps 37:23, ESV**

The Holy Spirit teaches us and will teach you: “But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie— just as it has taught you, abide in him.” - **1 Jn 2:27, ESV**

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” - **Jn 14:26, CSB**

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” - **Jn 16:13a, CSB**

“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” - **Is 11:2, ESV**

Surrender your will (and wishes) to His will: God’s plans are always best, trust Him and surrender to His will and ways. “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” - **Rm 8:28, ESV** (See also *Gen 50:20*).

“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” - **Mt 26:39, ESV** (See also *Mt 6:10*).

Seek God’s glory over your own: Jesus sought His Heavenly Father’s glory above all else, and we should seek God’s glory over ourselves as well. When God answers prayer it is for His glory and our good, in that order. “Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!” - **Ps 115:1, ESV** (See also *Is 43:7, Ps 86:12, Jn 8:50, 1 Ptr 4:10-11*).

Pray in Jesus’ name: Praying in Jesus’ name is praying in the authority of Christ that He has given us and in accordance with His will for things that will honor and glorify God. It is not a magical formula to tack on at the end of a prayer to get what we want. “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.” - **1 Jn 5:14-15, ESV** (See also *Jn 14:13-14*).

Search the Scriptures for principles and promises to pray: The Scriptures are literally God’s words to mankind. The Bible reveals His will, His heart, His plans for humanity, and for you and me. Therefore, the most powerful prayers are asking God to fulfill His will in our lives in accordance with the Scriptures. We can be certain we are praying in

God's will when we are praying His Word back to Him. "I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word." - **Ps 119:147, NIV**

Search the Scriptures for God's answers to your prayers: The Bible is our ultimate and infallible guide. All true answers to prayer will line up with His Word. So, if there is any doubt about the answer, throw it out. "Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word!" - **Ps 119:169, ESV**

Let the peace of Christ rule (be the referee of) **your heart on the matter** (See Col 3:15): If you don't sense the Lord's peace, don't move forward until you get it. God knows what you need before you ask Him (Mt 6:8). "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - **Phil 4:4-7, ESV**

Wait patiently (and thankfully) **for the Lord to answer, His timing is perfect:** "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!" - **Ps 37:7, ESV** (See also Ps 27:14, 62:5, 130:5, Micah 7:7).

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - **1 Thes 5:16-18, ESV**

Be specific so you can clearly hear God and see Him answering your prayers: Gideon asked God to answer him in a specific way using his fleece to confirm the answer (Jdg 6:36-40). But don't limit God's ways of working, only looking for a silver bullet when His answer might be more like a shotgun shell of small pieces coming together. Look for partial answers as confirmation He has heard your request and is answering your petitions. George Muller, for example, when praying for a large sum of money for his ministry endeavors, would see every penny received as a gift from God as proof He had heard his prayers and will complete his request.

Practice silence. God's voice is still and small (quiet) **that cuts through all of the noise and clamor** (See 1 Kgs 19:12): Therefore, get quiet before the Lord. Be still and silent for a moment resting in His presence. Give Him space to speak to you, and be ready to hear Him with a pen and paper in hand. Ask the Holy Spirit for what you need and listen, truly listen to Him with no agenda. Ask the Lord for His voice to be the loudest and clearest you hear. You may think of a verse you haven't thought of in a while or a quote may come to mind. A name of someone you should call might strike you or even a picture may flash in your mind. Cornelius in the Bible became a Christian through a vision (See Acts 10). So ask God for dreams and visions according to Job 33:13-18 and Acts 2:17. A friend once prayed for me that "God would speak to me in the night what I couldn't see during the day," and I still pray this prayer today for me and others. Don't make it complicated, God has already spoken to us in His Word, search through it as you would a hidden treasure (Prov 2). It's been said, "if you want to hear God's voice, open up the Bible and read it out loud" - Paul Michel

The Holy Spirit knows best how to communicate with you and will often use your interests and environment to do so. The saying is true “*God is always speaking, the question is... Are we listening?*” We often hear God “in our hearts,” so pay attention to His simple nudges, gut feelings, and subtle promptings. It’s important to note that He will always guide us in truth, not apart from it, so be sure to line up any intuition with God’s Word and “*be a Berean*” because our feelings are not facts (Acts 17:11). It’s also important to test those intuitions with godly, wise counsel (Prov 20:18). Answers to prayer can come through songs, sermons, the radio or podcasts, devotional materials, and in many other ways. I’ve heard of God using sunsets and butterflies, pennies, and barren trees to get people’s attention. He especially uses Bible verses memorized in years past. Once at a Christian conference, a godly woman prayed over me and later shared what the Lord had put on her heart specifically during that time. It was the same word I had just written in my journal when I was praying “*Abide!*”

Example: I once had a friend who needed to find a home and the Lord brought to mind a real estate developer I should call. Sure enough, he was visiting homes to purchase for rent that weekend, and my friend in need was able to not only rent a home from the developer but to purchase the home from him without any credit!

Note: God promises to give us wisdom, as we have noted above, so invest more time asking Him “what” questions over “why” questions. A pastor once noted, “what” questions are about wisdom, obedience and steps of faith. For example; What do you want me to know about xyz Lord? and What do you want me to do about xyz? God tends to answer “what” questions more often than “why” questions because why questions are often more selfish and self-centered in nature. For example; Why me? Why can’t I get a break? etc.

Pay attention to your surroundings and pray for God to open and close doors: God uses our circumstances to make our paths clear. Paul tried to go to Bithynia, for example, but the Holy Spirit prevented him from going. He then had a dream to go to Macedonia (Acts 16:6-10). I have experienced this in my own life when going from the business world into full-time ministry. I’ve learned “*rejection can be God’s protection.*”

Keep your spiritual ears and eyes open: Listen for things that line up with the Word of God and especially for themes that seem to repeat themselves, “*Let my plea come before you; deliver me according to your word.*” - Ps 119:170, ESV. Many times God will bring to mind a verse in the morning and again at Bible study. When that happens, pay attention! My daughter was worried about some things and we talked about it on the way home from school. The same topic was on her favorite TV show that night and the next morning in her devotional. These are not coincidences but God ordained circumstances and answers to prayer. Like Elisha, pray for God to open your eyes to see what He sees and hear what He hears (2 Kgs 6:15-17).

Seek wise counsel: Seeking godly advice from others helps us to be more objective during emotional situations and gives us a different perspective as we pray for God's guidance. It also protects us from our own weaknesses and the frailties of any misguided feelings and selfish ambitions. As noted above, wise decisions are made through wise counsel - period. "For by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory." - **Prov 24:6, ESV** (See also Ps 1:1-3, Mal 3:16).

Pray with others and ask for them to pray for you: Some church planting networks make each new pastor have 100 prayer partners before launching their churches. This is because of the incredible power of prayer. "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." - **Mt 18:19-20, ESV**

Charles Spurgeon called his prayer group the "boiler-room" of his church because it's where all the power came from in his preaching. "Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon. (Our Daily Bread, April 24)."

Example: The Moravians started an around - the - clock prayer ministry (literally 24 hours a day of prayer) that lasted 100 years. In the first 65 years of their prayer revival, they sent out 300 missionaries around the world. Most notably, Moravian missionary Peter Boehler was instrumental in leading both John and Charles Wesley to Christ (who were major leaders in The Great Awakening).

Take the next best step: His Word is a "lamp unto our feet and light for our path" - **Ps 119:105, ESV**. We might not be able to see the end of the road and that's okay, because faith is spelled "R.I.S.K." It is unseen by definition: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." - **Heb 11:1, ESV**. Taking the next best step expresses faith and creates more clarity by allowing you to collect more (and better) information along the way as the Lord leads. Twice, God told Abraham to "go to a place I will show you" (Gen 12:1, 22:2). As my mentor said, "Faith honors God and God honors faith; you are risking nothing when you trust Christ with everything." Peter stepped out of the boat, risking death, before he ever walked on water. I believe it's because he just wanted to be with Jesus. "The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way;" - **Ps 37:23, ESV**

Prayer | Weekly Prayer Matrix

| <p>"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:</p> <p>"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." - Mt 6:9-14, ESV</p> | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | <p>Ministries & Missionaries Church Pastors Disciples Persecuted Church</p> | <p>Gratitude Thankfulness Praise</p> | <p>Work Business</p> |
| <p>"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." - 3 Jn 4</p> <p>For unity in the church (Jn 17) and the global mission of the gospel (Rev 5:9)</p> <p>"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." - 2 Tim 2:2</p> <p>"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." - 2 Tim 2:15</p> | <p>"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thes 5:18</p> | <p>"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." - Col 3:23-24</p> <p>"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." - Prov 16:3</p> | |

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Others</p> <p>Prayer Requests</p> <p>The Lost</p> <p>Enemies</p> <p>Persecuted Church</p> <p>Poor / Suffering</p> <p>Comfortable Christians</p> | <p>Family</p> <p>Friends</p> <p>Marriage</p> <p>Kids</p> | <p>State</p> <p>City</p> <p>Country</p> <p>World</p> | <p>Self / Sabbath</p> <p>Personal Needs</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” - Philemon 1:6</p> <p>“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” - Mt 5:44</p> <p>“Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.” - Prov 14:31</p> <p>“This is good, and pleases all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” - 1 Tim 2:3-4 (See also 2 Ptr 3:9).</p> | <p>“Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.” - Ps 127:4-5</p> <p>“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” - Eph 5:33 (See also 1 Cor 13)</p> <p>“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” - 1 Ptr 4:8</p> | <p>“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” - 1 Tim 2:1-2 (See also 1 Ptr 2:17)</p> <p>“Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper” - Jer 29:7</p> | <p>“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Phil 4:6-7</p> <p>“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” - 1 Ptr 5:7</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

Journaling | How to Journal

“Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord” - Psalm 102:18, ESV

“Journaling is a way to be a good steward of the Spirit’s illuminations.” - John Piper

“The dullest pencil is sharper than the brightest mind.” - Mark Twain

SUMMARY

Journaling is the process of capturing and collecting key thoughts, ideas, and concepts that resonate in one’s heart and mind to be reviewed, remembered, and retrieved at a later date.

We all took notes in school in order to help us learn new material, remember it for test day, and ultimately retrieve it for semester finals. And yet, to our detriment, most of us never transferred this important skill over into our personal lives. Cultivating the spiritual discipline of journaling has incredible benefits for ourselves and others as we make disciples. Studies have shown and stories have proven, time and time again, the value of note taking and journaling in the lives of highly productive people. As Christians, we must tune into the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives and journaling allows us to do just that.

JOURNALING

Journaling helps us hear God's voice more clearly, be more purposeful in prayer, and powerful in the Scriptures. By journaling, we remember His goodness in our lives and leave a legacy of faith for our loved ones when we are gone. As Ali Enos once said, *“Journaling helps us pay attention to God. It helps us to both hear from God and to respond to Him. It forces us to slow down and process what is going on inside our analytical minds.”* Below are some helpful hints about journaling.

- **Start by choosing a style of notebook you want to hold in your hands.** Choose a color, texture, and format you are excited to write in and make it your own. Get a leather cover, put your favorite Bible verse and stickers on it, or use markers and calligraphy pens. The goal is to get something you will enjoy and want to take with you everywhere.
- **Make the first 2 - 4 pages an index and number your pages.** By numbering the pages, you can easily retrieve the information at a later date when you need it.

Hint: save time by just numbering the even or odd pages.

- **Date and title each entry.** The title can be a general theme of what you end up jotting down, the name of the person you met with, or a sermon you are listening to. Keep it simple and memorable.

Hint: Once you are done taking notes, go back to the index and write one word (or two) that will remind you of the info you just entered in your journal on the correctly numbered index line matching the page of the entry.

Important! Fill out the index with a word that describes each entry AFTER you take notes. This will help the index work for you instead of feeling stressed or stuck at the beginning trying to think of a title.

- **Write simple, short notes.** Jot things down you want to go back and pray over, study, share with a friend, or remember for future reference. You'll find your own system that works for you. It could be one word, a catchy quote, the title of a video or sermon you watched, a podcast link or webpage, or a phrase you want to keep etc.
- **Create some symbols to use regularly.** Symbols help in retrieving information by allowing you to scan your journal pages very quickly and find what you are looking for. Examples include: Q = Quote | Vs = Bible Verse | Pr = Prayer | ID = Idea | Sg = Song | ☺ = time or ☑ = To Do's... whatever works best for you.
- **Carry it with you at all times!** Never leave home without it! *"Keep a notebook. Travel with it, eat with it, sleep with it. Slap into it every stray thought that flutters up into your brain. Cheap paper is less perishable than gray matter. And lead pencil markings endure longer than memory."* - Jack London
- **Review Often.** One of the best ways to remember information is to review it often. Therefore, after you have written down what's on your heart, invest five minutes reviewing it and praying through it.

"God is always speaking, the question is... are you listening?" - Trog Trogdon

Community | How to Connect and Foster Christian Community

From the beginning of the Bible (Gen 2) God tells us that it's not good for man to be alone. We are better together, and we were created to live life in fellowship with one another. Discipleship is a great start toward community because of the relational aspect of the process, but we cannot be all God has called us to be (or do all that God has called us to do) without being a part of a healthy Christ-centered community, a local church. The goal of discipleship is health and maturity of the whole person, that in turn blesses the whole body of Christ. It's in authentic community where our physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental needs become known and get cared for and where we use the gifts God has given us to care for others (1 Cor 12: 4-7, 14:12).

Therefore, the best way to connect to community is to become a member of a healthy, local, gospel preaching, Bible believing church. Don't just attend every Sunday, make a commitment to give and serve through this church and help to build up the body of Christ (See Heb 10:24-25). You will get out of it what you put into it so be open and authentic with others. Share your testimony, don't hide your struggles, and confess your sins when necessary. Most churches have a "new members" class and a process to join the church. Ask a friend or pastor what the next steps are regarding membership, make a commitment, and get involved. The church's role is to equip you for the work of ministry, and ministry starts in serving where you are worshiping. If you find yourself as a church spectator, hearing the sermon and sitting in the pew each week without serving, it's time to get up and get busy. Join a small group or Sunday school class, connect with a prayer team, or join a morning Bible study. All of these are great ways to enjoy community, get to know others, and become known. We all desire to be unique and yet be a part of something greater than ourselves. We all want to be known and loved. Christ-centered community is where these longings are fulfilled.

"Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man."

- D.L. Moody

"We simply cannot fulfill many of the commands in Scripture (love one another, serve another, weep and rejoice with one another) without living in community."

- J.T. Patton

Remember, the Church of Christ is vital in advancing God's Kingdom on earth. Jesus promised the devil cannot stop it. Organizations, rotary clubs, non-profits, and social groups will all fall by the wayside, but the gates of hell will not prevail against God's church. *"And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* - Mt 16:18, ESV

Note: Sheep bite! The church is not a place full of perfect, sinless people as we mentioned above. It's a hospital for sinners who are being sanctified daily. Experiencing Christian community is simple practically but can be difficult emotionally, especially for those who have been hurt by a church or professing Christians in the past. But we cannot allow church hurt to hold us back from being an active member in the body of Christ. Division amongst Christian brothers and sisters is one of the oldest strategies in the devil's playbook; therefore, we cannot let him win. The tough lessons of forgiveness and reconciliation must be walked through, and Christian community is not only the catalyst for taking action in these areas but also the cure for past wounds. A healthy church does not allow the cancer of bitterness and unforgiveness to grow in the hearts of men and poison God's people. Through church community we get to understand and practice confession, repentance, restitution, reconciliation, and restoration. This is because Christ-centered community fosters the vulnerability, transparency, and healing of the heart needed from a biblical, grace-filled standpoint.

For healing and wholeness, it's important to understand our identity in Christ. When you know who you are in Christ and Whose you are, you will gain freedom from the opinions of others, people pleasing, and endless efforts of striving to achieve. For more information on this topic, see Neil T Anderson's article below.

Lastly, be sure not to put people on pedestals in your mind or accidentally idolize the pastor or pastoral team. They are broken, fallen human beings like we all are and need your prayers and encouragement just the same if not more. They too will make mistakes and wrong decisions, so give them grace and keep Christ your King over all.

“People rarely walk away from Jesus, they walk away from people who claim to know Jesus but who have hurt them deeply.”

- Anonymous



Our Identity in Christ by Neil T Anderson - www.amazon.com/Identity-Christ-Harvest-Pocket-Books/dp/0736986243

Serving Others | How to Serve Others & Give Generously

"Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily." - Francis de Sales

There are so many reasons to love and serve other people. Loving others displays our love for the Lord and is a witness for the world to see our faith in Christ. Jesus includes loving others in the greatest commandment (Mt 22:36-40) and didn't come to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. (Mt 20:28) He tells us that helping other people is helping Him and is a litmus test for our eternal state (Mt 25:31-46). The Bible tells us that if we don't love other people the love of God can't be in our hearts (1 Jn 4:20). Furthermore, if we want to be great in the Kingdom, we are told to serve others here on earth (Mt 23:11-12). And finally, as my mentor Mike Fechner said, *"If we love others with Christ's love, we will have many opportunities to share the gospel. Service is a hinge on the door of salvation that opens one's heart to the gospel."* Therefore *"... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."* - Mt 5:16 ESV

There are countless ways to serve other people and use your time, talent, and treasure for Christ. Get creative and ask the Lord each day for wisdom and opportunities to help people. You will be amazed at how easy it is and how many chances you will get every day to make a difference and serve. Here are some ideas that cost less than \$50:

- Write a heartfelt letter to the top five people who made a big impact on your life and tell them why.
- Remember friends' birthdays and send them an encouraging Bible verse.
- Take your family to the park.
- Get some flowers for your wife today.
- Call your mom - she always wants to hear from her children.
- Visit a friend in the hospital and pray for them.
- Text your ministers at church and thank them for shepherding you.
- Pray for your family and friends and email them letting them know you prayed for them today.
- Have a "dad date" or "mom date" with each one of your kids individually this week.
- Own or manage a business? Give something free away to your best customers (and not for marketing reasons).
- Make a donation to your favorite gospel-centered ministry.

- Send your pastor on a coffee date with his wife and watch their kids for them.
- Buy the person's meal in the drive-thru line behind you.
- Do the dishes for your wife (without her asking).
- Mow your neighbor's lawn.

God wants us to give generously and joyfully. Therefore, it's important to read books and articles about needs locally and abroad in order to cultivate a generous heart. I read a book by Leesa and Denny Bellesi years ago called "The Kingdom Assignment" that launched me into serving the suffering and using my gifts for God's glory. Who knows what book might be the catalyst that changes the trajectory of your life!? There are many Christian authors and organizations to choose from with gospel goals that not only meet physical needs but advance the Kingdom of God through their humanitarian work. These are our favorite types of organizations because the Good News is the greatest gift of all. When I led an inner city ministry I would often tell people, "*if we give people bread we are wise for today, but if we don't give them Jesus, the bread of life, then we are fools forever.*" My missionary friend in Africa said it even stronger "***it does no good to send people to hell with a full belly.***" Review the resources section at the end of this booklet for more information. Below are some more quotes and Bible verses to inspire you to give and serve more.

"And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." - Mrk 12:41-44, ESV

You can't out-give God.

"One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." - **Prov 11:24-25, ESV**

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." - **Lk 6:38, NIV** (See also *Mal 3:10*).

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." - **Phil 4:19, ESV**

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give." - **Mt 10:8, NIV**

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." - **Heb 13:5, NIV**

Giving grows our faith and our hearts will follow what we treasure.

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose" - **Jim Elliot**

"A person's treasure is simply that which is most valuable to him, what he loves. Without exception, a person will be led throughout life by what he cherishes most." - **Steve Gallagher**

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." - **Lk 12:34, ESV**

We are God's stewards.

"It's time we stop asking how much of my money should I give to God and start asking how much of God's money should I keep." - **John Wesley**

"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name." - **1 Chron 29:11-13, ESV** (See also Deut 8:17-19).

Giving to others gives glory to God.

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." - **Heb 13:16, ESV**

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." - **Mt 5:16, ESV**

We are investing in eternity and our rewards are certain.

"Every penny given for the Lord's sake to poor brethren or to the work of God is a treasure laid up in the bank of heaven. When we go to heaven we go to the place where our treasures are, and we shall find them there." - **George Mueller**

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work." - **Rev 22:12, NKJV**

We'll leave you with this prayer from Bishop Julian Dobbs.

"May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father be with you. May the Holy Spirit come upon you, disturb and trouble you. May He set before you an impossible task and dare you to do it, until in your desperation, you fall upon your knees and remain there until He fills you with His power (which alone will enable you to accomplish it). And then, but only then, may the Lord grant you His peace. In Jesus name, amen."

Sharing the Gospel | Witnessing and Evangelism Philosophies

Here are some general principles to consider when sharing the gospel. We will discuss these first and then give you some good ideas and examples.

- 1. Always be prepared:** Always be prepared to share the hope of Christ that is in you and do the work of an evangelist (1 Ptr 3:15 and 2 Tim 4:1-5). Choose your favorite gospel presentation and practice, drill, and rehearse it like you would for a business presentation or a college final, only more. *“We plan for so many less important things; why not plan for our evangelism?” - Mark Dever*
Example: Practice using a memorable pattern of conversation like, “Good, God, Gospel.”
 - Step 1. Engage in good conversations with people.
 - Step 2. Look for opportunities to bring up God.
 - Step 3. Bridge from mentioning God to the gospel.Learn more about this method at: www.goodgodgospel.com
- 2. Pray:** Ask the Lord to use you in mighty ways for His Kingdom and in the salvation of souls. God loves bold prayers, they bless others and glorify Him. Pray like my pastor David Shivers does, *“Lord give me one person today that I can share the gospel with”* or like Isaiah did, *“Here I am, send me!”* Pray also for the Holy Spirit to open the hearts and minds of people to the things of God.
- 3. Show up:** Half of success in any endeavor is just showing up and being available for God to use you. *“You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take”* and this is true for sharing the gospel as well. The more casts a fisherman gets in the water, the more fish he will catch. It’s really that simple, so keep casting.
- 4. Treat people how you want to be treated (Lk 6:31):** We don’t preach out of pride, we preach out of His powerful love for us and for others (1 Jn 4:19). It’s the love of Christ and His forgiveness of our sins that compels us to share our faith in Him (2 Cor 5:14). Our delivery of the message and demeanor should display it. Our love for others and desire for them not to go to hell should break our hearts and bring us to tears. Displaying God’s kindness in our character helps in opening up hearts for the gospel and to the truth of God’s Word. *“I would have every minister of the gospel address his audience with the zeal of a friend, with the generous energy of a father, and with the exuberant affection of a mother.” - Francis Fenelon*
- 5. Method vs message:** Many people often aren’t rejecting our “message” (the gospel) but our “method,” how we present it. Candidly, the gospel itself will offend lost people who are living in their flesh and who don’t want their sin exposed (See

Jn 3:19-21, 1 Ptr 2:7-8). This is because it starts with us being broken, sinful, and in need of a Savior. This is why it takes admission of sin and repentance to come to Christ. The lost will even consider it foolish until God opens their hearts and minds (See 1 Cor 1:18). But just because the truth hurts and is not easy to hear does not mean we have to be hurtful in our delivery. *"The gospel message may offend people but we don't have to be offensive."* - Anonymous Speaking the truth in love might hurt someone's feelings, but it doesn't harm them. It's the only way to bring true healing. To speak anything other than the truth is to lie which is a form of hate, but authentic love rejoices in the truth (1 Cor 13:6). *"Truth sounds like hate to those who hate the truth."* - Todd Wagner

"Christians have nothing to be smug about; we are not righteous people trying to correct the unrighteous. As one preacher said, "Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find the bread." - R.C. Sproul

"Evangelism is not imposing anything on anyone; it's simply sharing the truth. | It's not our business to make the message acceptable, but to make it available. We are not to see that they like it, but that they get it." - Mark Dever and Vance Havner

6. **Partner with and invest in evangelistic organizations:** If you don't feel confident in sharing the gospel, don't let it stop you from engaging in gospel work. You can still promote others who are good at it and invest time and money with them (learning more) so they can have an even greater, global impact.
7. **Relational evangelism:** My mentor used to eat at the same place over and over again so he could get to know the workers, pray for them, and ultimately share the gospel with them. Familiarity fosters friendship and builds relationships, which is how we get to share the gospel in powerful ways. Some of the best evangelism is done over time through relationships that began by seeing a familiar face. *"A lot of Christians think evangelism is primarily about short, one-time conversations with strangers. But many of those same Christians never think about having meaningful gospel conversations with those people who are regularly available and accessible. Stop living in fear of cold-call evangelism, and just start talking about Jesus and following Christ with those you love and know best."* - Marc Minter
8. **Prayer evangelism:** One of the best (and easiest) things you can do for someone is to pray for them to get saved (Rm 10:1). There is no pressure, no worry, and no fear in talking to God about the salvation of souls. Prayer evangelism is rejection proof! (See page 64 for Prayer Evangelism Bookmark). *"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers."* - Sidlow Baxter

"We cannot all argue, but we can all pray; we cannot all be leaders, but we can all be pleaders; we cannot all be mighty in rhetoric, but we can all be prevalent in prayer."
- C.H. Spurgeon

Don't stop at praying for people, pray with them, and watch God use you to lead thousands to Christ! There is something unique and powerful about praying with people, often they can feel the tangible presence of Christ during the prayer. In a sense, you are not only telling them about Jesus, but through the Holy Spirit you are introducing them to Him. People want to be loved, and praying for them is a way to love them well.

One of my favorite pastors and philanthropists, George Muller, prayed daily for five men for 52 years. The first man was converted just 18 months after he started praying. The second was converted five years after. The third man came to Christ after 11 years of daily prayer. George kept praying for the other two daily until his death, and only after he passed did they both come to Christ. He is now in heaven with all five friends he prayed 52 years for. God desires that all men come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:4), and asking God to fulfill His desires for this are effective prayers. George was known for praying God's promises in the Scriptures, and we would be wise to do the same, especially for our lost friends. Read 1 John 5:14-15. *"Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still. He will never talk well and with real success to men for God who has not learned well how to talk to God for men."* - E.M. Bounds

"Prayer is crucial in evangelism: Only God can change the heart of someone who is in rebellion against Him. No matter how logical our arguments or how fervent our appeals, our words will accomplish nothing unless God's Spirit prepares the way."
- Billy Graham

9. **Put a pebble in their shoe:** When you live a lifestyle of witnessing and evangelism, you may not get to share the whole plan of salvation with someone or answer every question you would like to in one setting, but you can consistently and steadily point to Jesus and put a "gospel pebble" in their shoe. Sooner or later, it will get their attention. It takes an average of seven times for someone to hear the gospel before they give their life to Christ! Who knows if you are the first, fourth, or seventh person to share Jesus with them. Either way, if you continually and habitually honor Christ, you will see people get saved! *"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building."* - 1 Cor 3:7-9, ESV
10. **Invite people to church:** One of the best things you can tell someone is "come and see" for yourself who Jesus is. Invite them to church, a small group, a Christian concert, or a men's retreat. Statistics show that 83% of people come to church because they were invited by a friend. Just get them to experience the love of Christ and His presence through the Holy Spirit and they too will fall in love with Jesus when they meet Him (Ps 34:8). This is what Philip did when he found Nathaniel who became a disciple and also what the woman at the well

did after she met Jesus in John chapter four. The result... many believed in Jesus because of her testimony. But even more in verse 42 it says this, “They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”- ESV So, get people to encounter Christ and soon they will say, “we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.” “Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come for miles to watch you burn.” - Charles Wesley

11. Ask good questions: One good question can change the trajectory of one's life. This is especially true when it's a question a person either hasn't thought about before or one they can't really answer off the top of their head. And it's even more powerful when the question is dealing about eternity and life after death. My pastor friend, David Shivers, does this all the time with great success. Here are some good evangelism questions he uses in order to open hearts and minds and engage people in a gospel-centered conversation.

- On a scale from 1-10, if you died today, what are your chances of getting into heaven?
- Life goes by so fast, what do you think happens when it's over?
- Have you made any plans regarding your life after death?
- Do you believe in heaven? In your opinion, what does it take for a person to get to heaven?
- What's your purpose in life? What/Who are you living for? (These two questions are what changed David's life and ultimately led him into full-time ministry).

Example: My friend Nathan often prays for people and then says, “Thank you for sharing your heart with me. I'm glad we could pray together, *may I ask what gives you hope during this time?* After politely acknowledging their response he follows up by asking, *do you mind if I share with you what give me hope?* And then shares the gospel with them. This is an incredibly effective technique that the Lord continues to use in amazing ways.

12. Gospel fluency: “Gospel fluency” is a term coined by Jeff Vanderstelt in a book he wrote with the title. It's living a life so full of God's Word and His Spirit that He pours out of us in all we think, say, and do. Witnessing and evangelism then becomes a natural outpouring of the Holy Spirit within us that boldly proclaims the Good News to those around us. “*When our hearts are filled with Christ's presence, evangelism is as inevitable as it is contagious.*” - Coleman As St. Patrick once wrote about the gospel-infused life: “*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right,*

Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.” (Read Mt 6:22-23 and Lk 6:45).

Our goal then is to saturate our hearts and minds with the things of God because “we spill out what we are full of” (See Mt 12:34). When our hearts become overwhelmed with God's love and His Spirit is leading us, everything changes. The things of God consume us and we fall more in love with Jesus every passing day. There becomes nothing else we want to talk about more or spend time doing than being with Jesus and His people. Everything else seems so silly and meaningless in light of eternity, and what spills out into our lives and out of your lips is the love of Christ and the gospel message. When Christ is our all and all, we begin to realize that nothing else really matters as the song says, “the things of this world grow strangely dim.” Our words of His Kingdom overflow out of our hearts and manifest in our behavior as a natural byproduct of our affections for Christ, and we could no more hold it back than we could stop lava coming out of a volcano. Like Jeremiah in the Bible, the hardest thing to do is not talk about Jesus because He becomes our all-consuming passion and everything reminds us of the goodness of God. Then we can't help but to share the gospel with everyone we meet. Talking about Jesus becomes like breathing, and we can't help but to think about Him, read about Him, sing about Him, spend time with Him, and share His goodness with others. And that's why falling fully and completely in love with Jesus is paramount if we are going to be effective in our evangelism. So if you want to be a good preacher, teacher, disciple-maker, and evangelist, the number one goal is to fall in love with Jesus and much of the rest will take care of itself. “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” - Jn 7:38 ESV (Read Jer 20:9, Ps 63:1-4, Mt 22:37-38, Rev 2:4-5).

There will come a point in your life when someone asks for your opinion, and all you will care to give them is God's opinion because He is all you have and His Word is your daily bread. They will be stressed, and all you will be able to do is pray with them. They will be confused, and you won't be able to hold back God's truth. This is when you know you have become fluent in the gospel. When witnessing and evangelism is no longer something you do but who you are in Christ. “The tree beside running water is fresher and gives more fruit.” - Mother Teresa

Prayer of Devotion and Love for Christ: “Almighty and eternal God, so draw my heart to You, so guide my mind, so fill my imagination and affections, so control my will, that I may be wholly Yours, utterly dedicated to You; and then use me, I pray, as You will, and always to Your glory and the welfare of Your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” - Book of Common Prayer

Prayer for a Life of Love for Christ: “Oh, to be sick out of love for Jesus, to be daily, hourly longing, hungering, thirsting for His presence! That we may find our love for Him ever increasing and His likeness in us apparent to all. Pray that God supply all my need, Jesus be all my delight, His service be all my desire... Resting with Him is all my hope.” – Hudson Taylor

13. Be witnesses for Christ and fishers of men: Sharing the gospel does not have to be scary. There is a difference between being a witness for Jesus and evangelism, and both are important. In summary, being a witness is the non-verbal expression of the gospel and pointing people to Christ. Evangelism is the audible proclamation of the gospel. Everyone should invest the time it takes to study and learn how to share the gospel, but don't overlook the simplicity of wearing a Christian necklace or wristband. Identifying as a Christ follower is being a witness for Him and is the first step in evangelism, creating gospel curiosity. Letting others know you are a follower of Christ helps you learn where they are with Jesus and gauge if there's any interest in the things of God.

Jesus told us to follow Him and that He will make us “fishers of men” (Mt 4:19). Like fishing with different lures, finding creative ways to point people to Jesus is the fun part.

- Compliment someone on their cross necklace or wear one yourself.
- Pray for your meal at a public restaurant and ask the server if there is anything you can pray for them about as well.
- Buy a cup of coffee for the person in line behind you and say “God bless you” or better yet “Jesus loves you.”
- Ask someone how their weekend was and they will most likely ask you back. When they do, talk about something great that happened at church or even share a bit about the sermon you heard.
- Wear Jesus T-shirts, gospel wristbands, or carry a Bible with you everywhere you go.
- When you meet someone with a biblical name, say “That’s a great biblical name” as a conversation starter.
- If someone is going through a tough time, simply tell them you will pray for them or pray with them immediately.
- Use cultural events like Christmas, Easter, or St Patrick’s Day to ask people where they are going to church to observe? Today, just saying Merry Christmas identifies you as a believer in Christ.
- Pray Isaiah 6:8 and in faith go out and live your life, run errands, raise your kids, and eat dinner. Be ready, available, and willing to talk to people about Jesus, and watch God work in your life and others.
- As my friend Daron says, “live a life that demands an explanation and

people will ask you why.” Living selfless, generous, and gracious lives in a selfish world is counter-cultural and people take note. Often not doing bad things like cussing or drinking too much at an office party creates a gospel curiosity as well.

- Put up a prayer box in your neighborhood and post it on your community Facebook page. Kingdom Focus Coaching will donate to this idea if you send us an email with a picture of one installed.

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.” - Col 4:2-4, ESV

14. Faith farmers, more planting seeds: Biblically speaking, successful evangelism is being faithful in sharing the Good News. To be a good evangelist, we need to be way more focused on sharing our faith over the results of our efforts. God convicts, God convinces, and God alone saves; we are just His instruments proclaiming His message. Our job as disciples is to simply scatter gospel seeds everywhere we can. We water and we nurture but God gives the growth. *“Successful evangelism involves not only harvesting, but sowing and watering, too. We must never think that because a nonbeliever remained unconvinced by our case that our apologetic has failed. For one encounter is not the end of the story.” - William Lane Craig* I love the old saying... *“Man can count the seeds in an apple but only God knows the amount of apples that will come out of one seed.”* Think about the man who led Billy Graham to Christ; who would have ever known the fruit that would come out of that one seed! Quarterback Tim Tebow wore “John 3:16” on his eye-black during the college national championship in 2009. Do you know the result? 94 million people googled the Bible verse after the game! Now that is a strong witness. There are many ways to plant gospel seeds, below are just a few more ideas:

- Put a Christian painting or message on your wall in your office. Every Zoom call will see it in the background.
- Financially sponsor missionaries overseas and other people doing gospel work. There are goers and senders, be a sender (*see 2 Cor 8:1-7*).
- Write a Bible verse on the top of your dinner receipts, tip them well, and thank them for their service.
- Post Bible verses, memes, and pictures on your social media sites. Better yet, consider social media your ministry platform.
- Collect Christian books to give away to friends when they are wrestling with life issues.

The sky is the limit for ways you can plant gospel seeds. Be faithful in these ways and you will see God do incredible things.

Sharing the Gospel | Courage for Christ

There is no more important work to be done on earth than to share the gospel with those who are lost and perishing apart from Christ. The most loving thing you can do for others in all the world is to share the Good News with them so they can enjoy fellowship with God now and spend eternity in heaven with Him forever. One wouldn't think it would take courage to share such good news but it does because fear is very real.

As fallen human beings almost anything can scare us, and one of the biggest fears of man is rejection. Many surveys have been done about what we fear most, and one of the regular answers is speaking in public. In fact, most people are more scared of speaking in public than the fear of heights or snakes and spiders. Why? Because we care too much about what others think about us and are scared of being rejected by people.

In order to help overcome fear, specifically when talking about evangelism, Mark Cahill describes in his book "One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven" three things that can happen when you share the gospel and ALL three are good. I've added one more to drive home this truth... we cannot lose when sharing the gospel!

1. **Share the Gospel and Someone Accepts Christ = Win!**

If you share the gospel with someone and they repent of their sins and put their faith in Jesus, this is the biggest win there is. They are forgiven of their sins and now have a new relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and they will spend eternity in heaven!

2. **Share the Gospel and Plant a Seed = Win!**

If you share the gospel with someone and they don't put their faith in Jesus, you have still planted a seed for future growth. Like a pebble in a shoe, the Word of God sticks with people and gets their attention over time. God says His Word will accomplish His purpose; it will succeed in the reason He sent it and will not return void or empty. Remember, God's Word is living, active, and powerful - it discerns the deepest thoughts of man.

"so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." - Is 55:11, ESV (See also Rm 1:16, 1 Cor 2:4).

3. **Share the Gospel and Get Rejected and Persecuted = Win!**

If you share the gospel with someone and they reject it or worse persecute you, this is not a failure or a loss at all. It's a win because God tells us the Spirit of glory and of God rests on us (1 Ptr 4:14) and even more we are to leap for joy because our reward is great in heaven.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.” - Lk 6:22-23, ESV

4. Share the Gospel and Encourage Another Believer = Win!

Lastly, and this one is easy to forget. If you share the gospel with someone and they already know Jesus, you will most likely encourage them in their faith by being a good evangelist. Who knows, you might encourage them to become a member at a local church, engage in a deeper discipleship relationship, or to start sharing the gospel as well. This too is a win. Encouraging others to be a bold witness for Jesus is always a good thing.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,” - Heb 10:24, ESV

Sharing the Gospel | How to Write and Share Your Testimony

There are many great ways to share the gospel with others. The goal is to train - practice, drill, and rehearse the one you like best until it becomes second nature and natural to you. Make it your own and then learn another. It's always good to have a shorter version (think 2 - minute elevator pitch,) a medium version (think 10-15 minute) and then a long version (think 30 - minute conversation over coffee with questions, etc.)
"Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it." - Leonard Ravenhill

A great first step for any believer to share their faith with others is to be able to articulate their own salvation story clearly and succinctly. Most new Christians are so excited about what Jesus has done for them they tell everyone about the good news with excitement and without hesitation.

For those who are reserved about sharing their faith, do not worry about having all the answers or worried about if they will ask you questions you can't answer. You can always find good answers from a Christian friend or pastor, and there are some great online resources, as well, beginning with www.gotquestions.org. You are simply telling them your story, and they can't really deny or argue how Jesus has changed and transformed you.

You can develop your testimony in three simple steps. Write down your answers in this simple guide, and you will be able to tell your story in an easy and effective way. Try and limit your answers to 2-3 sentences, and you can add Bible verses if you'd like. Review it enough to know it by heart and say it with ease and confidence:

Step One - Before Jesus: What was your life like before trusting Christ?

One-sentence answer: "There was a time in my life when... (Example) I was sad, lonely and angry."

Three-sentence answer: _____

Step Two - Meeting Jesus: When and how did you get saved? Why did you decide to trust Christ?

One-sentence answer: "And then I met Jesus... (Example) my dad took me to church when I was 10, I heard the gospel and gave my life to Christ."

Three-sentence answer: _____

Step Three - Life After Jesus: What is your life like now as a Christian? (Your answer will typically be the opposite of your step one answers).

One-sentence answer: "And now... (Example) I have more joy, I have great friends, and I am much more patient and peaceful."

Three-sentence answer: _____

End your testimony by asking the other person, how about you? What's your story?

Sharing the Gospel | Gospel Sharing Methods

THE EARLIEST CHRISTIAN CREED

The most concise version of the gospel is found in the earliest creed of the early church in 1 Corinthians 15:3-7:

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."

This phrase is the earliest creed we have in the Bible and should be memorized as soon as possible. Scholars believe it was written within three to five years after Jesus' death and resurrection, and it's what Paul considered the most important thing to pass along. This should not only be memorized but studied, talked about, and continually passed down to every follower of Jesus until He returns:

- **That Christ died**
- **For our sins according to the Scriptures**
- **That He was buried**
- **That He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**
- **And that He appeared to Cephas**
- **And then to the Twelve...**

THE ROMANS ROAD

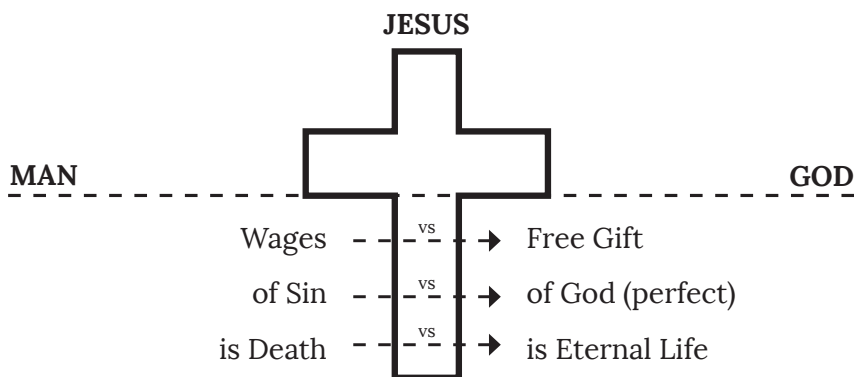
Another amazing way to share the gospel is called The Romans Road. This is a classic model that uses six verses in only one book of the Bible (Romans) detailing very clearly what it means to become a Christian through repentance and faith in Christ (page 8). With just a little effort one could memorize these passages and share them with anyone interested in the gospel message. Write these verses down in the front page of your Bible and highlight them in the text. Then you can turn to them one at a time when sharing the gospel and not worry about forgetting anything. Open up your Bible with an interested person and ask them one question after having them read each verse out loud, "What does that mean to you?" and let God do His work through the gospel message.



Time to Revive Ministries has created a Bible with this method already highlighted and ear marked. You can get copies on their website along with wristbands and cards to hand out: <https://shop.ironstreammedia.com/revivebible-gospel-tabbed-new-testament-english-edition/>

ONE-VERSE EVANGELISM

Another simple and powerful way to share the gospel is called the One-Verse Gospel Presentation. It uses Romans 6:23; "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord,*" and articulates the difference between wages versus a free gift, sin versus Holy God, and death versus eternal life. It is as follows:



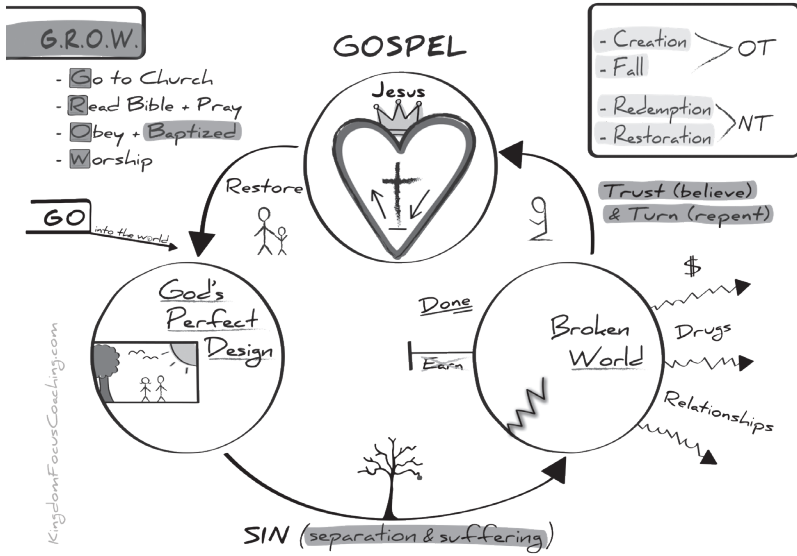
THE 3 CIRCLES METHOD OF EVANGELISM

The 3 Circles Method of Evangelism we use at Kingdom Focus Coaching is adapted from the original creator Jimmy Scroggins. The North American Mission Board has used the original 3 Circles with great success around the world.

The goal of our particular version is to infuse the Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration model of evangelism into the presentation and bring in other biblical elements of the gospel message that can sometimes be overlooked in shorter demonstrations. Our hope is to answer some of the most common questions that come up as we share our faith in Christ by using this process. It ends with a "how to grow" section for new disciples because our desire is for all new believers to become mature in Christ. Use it to teach a Sunday School Class, send it to a lost friend, post it on social media, or email it as a leave behind after a gospel conversation. Anyway you use it, people can be watching it at home while you are at work (now that's awesome evangelism). If you would like the transcript, we can gladly get you a copy of it and 4x5 leave behind cards.



Here is the link to our 3 Circles video:
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=hDGb0RfylbE>



You can get more information and training about 3 Circles here:
<https://www.namb.net/evangelism/3circles/>

USE GOSPEL TRACTS

Gospel tracts are effective ways to share the gospel. According to the American Tract Society, 53% of all who come to Christ worldwide come through the use of printed gospel literature. Bible Tract Inc. defines a “gospel tract” as “a short, simple presentation of the gospel message, printed in a convenient pocket size, designed for easy distribution and use” and note “there is no easier, more convenient (and I would add cost effective) way to share the good news of Jesus Christ than through the use of gospel tracts.”

The great preacher George Whitefield trusted Christ because of a gospel tract and went on to preach to 10 million people before he died. So did the founder of China Inland Mission, Hudson Taylor, whose organization has over 2,000 missionaries working with 100 different people groups in Asia. Ray Comfort (founder of Living Waters Ministry), Billy Graham, George Mueller, and Charles Spurgeon (the Prince of Preachers) all knew the importance of gospel tracts. “Nothing surpasses a tract for sowing the seed of the good news.” - **Billy Graham**

"Tracts are adapted to those persons who have but little power and little ability, but nevertheless, wish to do something for Christ." - **C.H. Spurgeon**

"There is a real service of Christ in the distribution of the gospel in its printed form, a service the result of which heaven alone shall disclose, and the judgment day alone discover. How many thousands have been carried to heaven instrumentally upon the wings of these tracts, none can tell." - **C.H. Spurgeon**

"Let each one of us, if we have done nothing for Christ, begin to do something now. The distribution of tracts is the first thing... "...do not go out without your tracts." - **C.H. Spurgeon**

"they can be used as conversation starters, leave behind pamphlets, apologetics resources and more. They get into people's homes and hearts when we can't and they do the talking for us when we don't know what to say. This is why they are called "silent preachers." Tracts don't argue or interrupt people, they're always ready when the person is interested and make their case without causing a stir. Anyone, even a child, can use them. They are inexpensive and can be mass-distributed easily which makes them incredibly effective." - **Ray Comfort**

There are many ways to use gospel tracts. Make sure to always use them prayerfully, tactfully, and respectfully.

- Eat at a restaurant once a week and leave a good tip and a gospel tract to every server that waits on you. That's 52 gospel seeds planted in a year. After 10 years you will have planted 520 gospel seeds!
- Do you have a friend struggling with an issue in life? Give them a "Where to Find it in the Bible" tract so they can easily look up verses about their specific struggle when they get home.
- Leave a business card-sized tract in the credit card slide at the gas pump once you're finished getting gas. You can be sure the next person will get it.
- Leave a tract in your hotel room when you travel. When you check out, call down front to get the name of the room cleaner. Then leave them a good tip with a hand written thank you note and a nice gospel tract.
- Give tracts to your Uber driver or leave one in the back seat when you get out of the car.
- Put tracts in magazines on the airplane when you are flying.
- Give a tract to every Door Dash and pizza delivery driver.
- Leave tracts on the table as you leave a coffee shop.
- Leave one in your cart or basket at the grocery store.
- If kids visit your house to trick or treat on Halloween, give them one with their candy.

- Hand one out to every salesman that knocks on your door. If they have the boldness to knock on your door, you can have the boldness to give them Jesus in return, after all God brought them to your house!

Order gospel tracts through:

Crossway Publishing:



www.crossway.org/tracts/

Living Waters:



www.livingwaters.com/product-category/gospel-tracts/

Bezeugen Ministries: They provide 30 free business card-sized gospel tracts a month if you sign up with them and commit to using them.



<http://enroll.tract.club>

More Helpful Resources

Becoming & Being a Disciple

Videos:

- Balance Beam - Francis Chan | www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA_uwWPE6lQ&t=14s
- Eternity Rope - Francis Chan | www.youtube.com/watch?v=86dsfBbZfWs&t=4s
- You Have One Life, Don't Waste It - John Piper | www.youtube.com/watch?v=mf-pmbmsvu3A&t=14s

Book List:

- Purpose Driven Life - Rick Warren
- More than a Carpenter - Josh McDowell
- Mere Christianity - C.S. Lewis
- Crazy Love - Francis Chan
- Pilgrim's Progress - John Bunyan
- Muller of Bristol - Pierson
- The Autobiography of George Muller
- Fresh Wind - Fresh Fire - Jim Cymbala
- God's Smuggler - Brother Andrew
- The Beauty of Christ through Brokenness - K.P. Yohannon | Free Download www.gfa.org/resource/detail/beauty-christ-through-brokenness/
- Victory Through Surrender - E. Stanley Jones
- Absolute Surrender - Andrew Murray
- Tortured for Christ by Richard Wurmbrand | www.voiceofmartyrs.com
- Jesus Freaks - Toby Mack
- Foxes Book of Martyrs
- Forged by Fire - Bob Reccord
- Failing Forward - John Maxwell
- Pilgrim's Progress - John Bunyan
- Heaven - Randy Alcom
- Every Good Endeavor - Keller
- Your Work Matters to God - Sherman & Hendricks

Discipleship

Organizations:

- Navigators: www.navigators.org
- The Multiply Movement: www.multiplymovement.com

Book List:

- The Master Plan of Evangelism - Robert Coleman
- The Lost Art of Disciple Making - Leroy Eims
- Leadership Through Discipleship - Hartman & Sutherland
- Multiply - Chan & Beuving
- Building a Discipling Culture - Breen

Quiet Time

Articles:

- Priorities - The Importance of Feeding our Souls First - Mueller | <https://www.georgemuller.org/devotional/george-muller-to-j-hudson-taylor-excerpt-of-letter>
- Praying God's Word - Mueller | <https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-george-mueller-can-teach-us-about-prayer/>

Videos:

- Priorities - Franklin Covey "Big Rocks" | www.youtube.com/watch?v=zV3gM-TOEWt8
- Godspeed | www.livegodspeed.org/watchgodspeed

App:

- First 15

Journal:

- Start a Gratitude Journal

Book List:

- Redeeming Your Time - Jordan Raynor
- What Matters Most - Hyrum Smith
- Tyranny of the Urgent - Charles E. Hummel
- Practicing the Presence of God - Brother Lawrence

Devotionals:

- My Utmost for His Highest - Oswald Chambers
- Streams in the Desert - L.B. Cowman
- Beside Still Waters - C.H. Spurgeon
- Morning and Evening - C.H. Spurgeon
- Our Daily Bread
- Baptist Hymnal
- The Andrew Murray Daily Reader - Bethany House

The Holy Spirit

Articles:

- Who is the Holy Spirit and What Does He Do? <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/holy-spirit.html>

Videos:

- Your Inner Strength: The Filling of the Holy Spirit | <https://vimeo.com/276792964>

Book List:

- Holy Fire: A Balanced, Biblical Look at the Holy Spirit's Work in Our Lives - R.T. Kendall
- The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts - Sam Storms
- Practicing the Power - Sam Storms
- Surprised by the Power of the Spirit - Jack Deere
- Surprised by the Voice of God - Jack Deere
- Spirit Walk: The Extraordinary Power of Acts for Ordinary People - Steve Smith
- Forgotten God - Francis Chan

Bible Study

Articles:

- Discovery Bible Study: <https://discoverapp.org/discovery-bible-study>
- Bible Translation Chart | <https://www.thenivbible.com/bible-translations-compared/>
- George Mueller on Reading the Bible Systematically | <https://www.wholesome-words.org/etexts/muller/study.html>
- Robert Murray Mcheyne on Reading the Bible Systematically | <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/robert-murray-mcheyne-read-bible/>
- 10 Reasons You Can Trust the Bible | <https://alwaysbeready.com/can-we-trust-the-bible/>
- 10 Reasons to Believe the Bible | <https://saltandlight.sg/newchristian/10-reasons-to-believe-in-the-bible/> Downloadable Pdf: <https://d3uet6ae1sqvww.cloudfront.net/pdf/ten-reasons/in-the-bible.pdf>)
- Finding the Right Bible Translation | www.olivetree.com/blog/a-guide-to-finding-the-right-bible-translation/
- Interpreting Scripture | www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/interpreting-scripture-a-general-introduction/
- Inductive Bible Study Method | <https://www.navigators.org/resource/inductive-bible-study/>
- H.E.A.R. Bible Study Method | <https://westheightsbaptist.org/h-e-a-r-method/>
- Bible Reading Plans to Choose From | www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/?version=NIV
- What was Jesus' View of the Old Testament? | www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/bible-authoritative-word/question17-jesus-view-of-the-old-testament.cfm

Videos:

- Chinese Christians Get Their First Bibles | www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvgfCNiK-p0A&t=2s
- Tribe Receives the New Testament in Their Language for the First Time | Bible Society | www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag2AzWgRKAk&t=7s

Podcasts:

- Imaging God (Attachment Theory - Nathan Wagnon) | <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-equipping-podcast/id1437331176?i=1000526268883>

Apps:

- Dwell
- Olive Tree
- Faithlife Bible Study
- ESV
- YouVersion

Apologetics

- www.gotquestions.org
- www.carm.org
- www.crossexamined.org
- www.christianthinkers.com

Bible Lookup / Concordance

- www.biblegateway.com
- www.biblehub.com
- www.blueletterbible.com
- www.openbible.info
- www.logos.com

Book List:

- The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable? - F. F. Bruce
- 7 Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible - Erwin Lutzer
- Final Word: Why We Need the Bible & The Inerrant Word: Biblical, Historical, Theological, and Pastoral Perspectives - John MacArthur

Bible Study Books:

- Systematic Theology and Christian Beliefs by Wayne Grudem
- MacAuthor Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible

Devotionals:

- Bible Promises Book
- Daily Light - Anne Graham Lotz
- A Walk to Wisdom - 31 Days Through The Proverbs - Trog Trogdon (*The Proverbs Challenge*)

Prayer

Articles:

- Joni Eareckson Tada on Suffering | www.epm.org/blog/2023/Jan/2/suffering-knowing-jesus
- A Prayer Meeting that Lasted 100 Years - The Moravians by Leslie Tara | <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-1/prayer-meeting-that-lived-100-years.html>

Videos:

- Prayer Causes Things to Happen - Piper | www.youtube.com/watch?v=krzwmhD-Mvv8&t=91s
- Though You Slay Me | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyUPz6_TciY&list=RD-qyUPz6_TciY&start_radio=1

Book List:

- Answers to Prayer - George Mueller
- With Christ in the School of Prayer - Andrew Murray
- The Secret - Hudson Taylor
- The Kneeling Christian - Richardson
- The Valley of Vision - Arthur Bennett
- A Simple Way to Pray - Martin Luther
- The Circle Maker - Batterson
- The Book of Common Prayer - 1979 Version
- E.M. Bounds on Prayer
- The Power of Extraordinary Prayer - Bob Bakke
- The Autobiography of Hudson Taylor

Journal:

- Ebenezer Journal (found in KFC material)

Journaling

Articles:

- Rods of Remembrance | www.carlbrettle.com/post/leaning-on-the-top-of-his-staff
- The Forgetful (*Ebbinghaus*) Curve | <https://elearninginfographics.com/memory-retention-and-the-forgetting-curve-infographic/>

Videos:

- Understanding Stress with a Glass of Water | www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGT-fEfVcMqA

Book List:

- Praying the Bible - Donald Whitney
- Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life - Donald Whitney

Community

Pamphlets:

- Our Identity in Christ by Neil T Anderson - www.amazon.com/identity-Christy-Harvest-Pocket-Books/dp/0736986243
- A Father's Love Letter Tract

Books:

- I Am a Church Member: Discovering the Attitude that Makes the Difference - Thom Rainer
- Life Together - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Boundaries - Townsend and Cloud
- The Bait of Satan - John Bevere

Serving Others

Organizations:

- Generous Giving
- The Master's Program - Bob Shank

Personality Tests & Resources:

- DISC Profile: www.discprofile.com/what-is-disc
- Strengthfinders: store.gallup.com/c/en-us/assessments#catcs
- Spiritual Gift Test - <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/gifts-survey/>

Articles:

- John Wesley's Austerity | <https://seedtime.com/living-or-giving-more-financial-lessons-from-john-wesley/>
- Reporter's Notebook: Shoeshiner Donates \$200K in Tips to Kids' Hospital by Byron Pitts: <https://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2013/06/reporters-notebook-shoeshiner-donates-200k-in-tips-to-kids-hospital>

Videos:

- Schindler's List | www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9vj2Wf57rQ

Book List:

- How to Win Friends and Influence People - Carnegie
- The Treasure Principle & The Law of Rewards - Randy Alcorn
- A Life God Rewards - Bruce Wilkenson
- The Kingdom Assignment - Denny & Leesa Bellesi
- The Hole in Our Gospel- Richard Stearns
- Revolution in World Missions - Yohannon
- Gospel Patrons - John Rinehart
- Halftime - Bob Buford
- Cricketer & Pioneer - C.T. Studd

Sharing the Gospel / Evangelism

1 Pagers & Articles:

- Asking Good Questions - The Columbo Tactic - Greg Koukle
- How to Write Your Testimony | www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/legacy/2012/03/Preparing-Your-Personal-Testimony.pdf
- WhyUseGospelTractsbyLivingWaters:<https://livingwaters.com/use-gospel-tracts/>
- Misquoting Francis of Assisi: www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/factchecker-misquoting-francis-of-assisi/
- Lord, Liar, Lunatic (cru.org) <https://www.cru.org/content/dam/cru/legacy/2012/01/lordliarlunatic.pdf>
- Jesus Claimed to be God <https://www.str.org/w/where-did-jesus-claim-to-be-god->

Videos:

- I Am Second - Testimonies: www.iamsecond.com
- The 3 Circles: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9o9ROPaK4PA
- A 3 Circles Rendition | www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDGB0RfylbE&t=9s
- The Importance of Using Gospel Tracts | George Street Testimony | www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CQ9amtIOTY
- Penn Jillette Getting a Bible | www.youtube.com/watch?v=6md638smQd8
- Jordan Peterson Tears up at Just the Thought of the Gospel | www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD_9shz80MQ
- Jeff Vanderstilt Youtube Video | www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2Gypwh9Eck

Apps:

- Life on Mission - 3 Circles

Organizations:

- Perspectives (Global Mission Courses/www.perspectives.org)
- Gospel Fluency Training | www.gospelfluency.com
- Groundwire | www.groundwire.net
- Follower of One: followerofone.org (marketplace mission trips).

Websites:

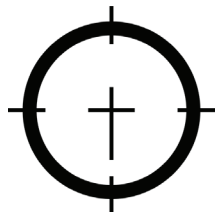
- To purchase gospel tracts: www.livingwaters.com | www.christianbook.com | www.bibletractsinc.org | www.crossway.org/tracts/ | www.bezeugen.org
- We have produced a tract specifically for servers here at Kingdom Focus Coaching. Email info@kingdomfocus.life to get a free packet of tracts specifically for this purpose.
- www.goodgodgospel.com

Book List:

- Operation World (prayer strategy for the world): <https://operationworld.org/publications/>
- The Five Who Changed the World - Akin
- Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions - John Piper
- God's Heart for the Nations - Jeff Lewis
- Tactics - Greg Koukle
- One Thing You Can't Do in Heaven - Mark Cahill
- How to Share Jesus without Fear - New Testament

Other Resources:

- Gospel tabbed Bibles <https://www.timetorevive.com/resources>



Kingdom Focus Coaching

kingdomfocuscoaching.com