

[First Name] [Last Name]

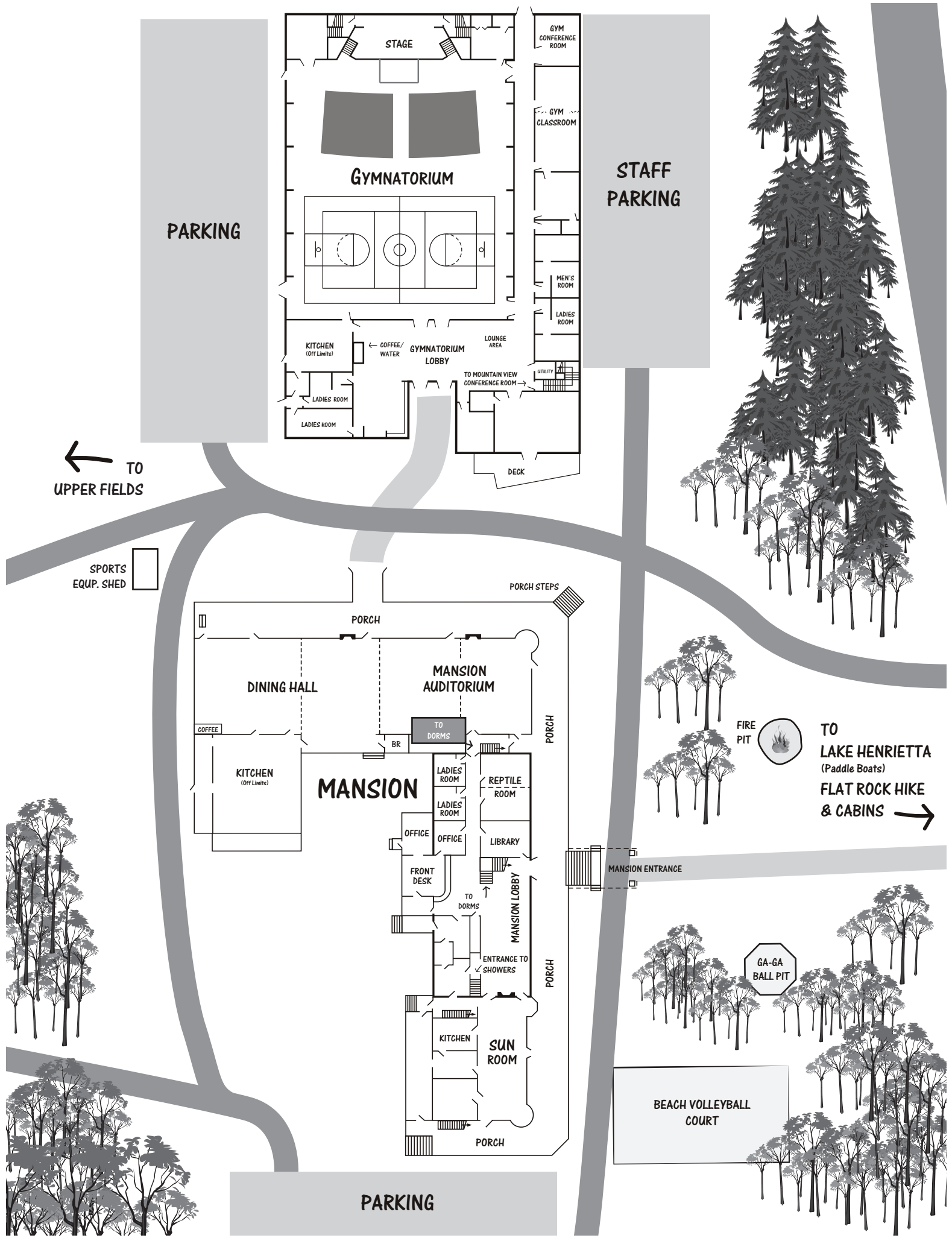
ABIDE

# A COMMUNITY ON MISSION

MAKING DISCIPLES WHO MAGNIFY JESUS



FOCUS 2024



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## Sunday

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 4:00–5:00 p.m.  | Check-in   |
| 5:15–6:15 p.m.  | Dinner   |
| 6:30–8:00 p.m.  | <b>Main session:</b> <i>First Things First</i> (Mark Fodale) |
| 8:00–9:00 p.m.  | Campus time  |
| 9:00–11:00 p.m. | Snacks and free time (Lights out @ 11:00)                    |

## Monday

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:00–9:00 a.m.        | Breakfast   |
| 9:00–9:30 a.m.        | Time alone with God   |
| 9:30–10:15 a.m.       | <b>Main session:</b> <i>What God's Mercy Will Do to You</i> (Peter Krol)  |
| 10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | <b>DM University – Abide</b> (Location: Gymnasium)  |
| 12:30–1:30 p.m.       | Lunch   |
| 1:30–5:00 p.m.        | Free time – Optional seminar at 1:30: <i>God, Government, and Politics</i> (Mark Fodale)<br>Seminar location: Mountain View Conference Room |
| 5:00–6:00 p.m.        | Dinner  |
| 6:30–8:00 p.m.        | <b>Main session:</b> <i>How to Become More Yourself Than Ever Before</i> (Peter Krol)   |
| 8:00–9:00 p.m.        | Campus time   |
| 9:00–11:00 p.m.       | Snacks and free time (Lights out @ 11:00)   |

## Tuesday

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 8:00–9:00 a.m.        | Breakfast  |
| 9:00–9:30 a.m.        | Time alone with God  |
| 9:30–10:15 a.m.       | <b>Main session:</b> <i>Loving Those Who Are Among Us</i> (Jordan Eyster)  |
| 10:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | <b>DM University – Abide</b> (Location: Gymnasium)   |
| 12:30–1:30 p.m.       | Lunch – <i>with your DM University Small Group</i>   |
| 1:30–5:00 p.m.        | Free time – Optional seminar at 1:30: <i>A Vision for Family</i> (Caleb & Kaylah Olshefsky)<br>Seminar location: Mountain View Conference Room |
| 5:00–6:00 p.m.        | Dinner   |
| 6:30–8:00 p.m.        | <b>Main session:</b> <i>Loving Those Who Are Against Us</i> (Jordan Eyster)  |
| 8:00–9:00 p.m.        | Campus time  |
| 9:00–11:00 p.m.       | Snacks and free time (lights out @ 11:00)  |

## Wednesday

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 8:00–9:00 a.m.       | Breakfast  |
| 9:00–9:30 a.m.       | Time alone with God  |
| 9:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. | <b>Main Session:</b> Ash & Heather Holleman <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Living a Life that Invites Others to Jesus</i></li><li>• <i>Loving Others Well Through Meaningful Connections</i></li></ul> |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 12:30–1:30 p.m. | Lunch   |
| 1:30–2:00 p.m.  | Campus photos (see chart below for location)  |
| 2:00–5:00 p.m.  | Free time (Chalk art competition happening during free time)                        |
| 5:00–6:00 p.m.  | Dinner  |
| 6:30–8:00 p.m.  | <b>Main session:</b> <i>Discipleship interview &amp; GO Initiative presentation</i> |
| 8:00–9:30 p.m.  | Game show night!  |
| 9:30–11:00 p.m. | Snacks and free time (lights out @ 11:00)   |

## Thursday

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:00–9:00 a.m.        | Breakfast   |
| 9:00–9:45 a.m.        | Time alone with God   |
| 9:30 –10:15 a.m.      | <b>Main session:</b> <i>Harmonizing for God's Glory</i> (Lincoln Fitch)   |
| 10:30 a.m.–12:20 p.m. | <b>Breakout Sessions</b> (see next page for options and descriptions)<br><b>Round 1:</b> 10:30-11a.m. • <b>Round 2:</b> 11:10-11:40 a.m. • <b>Round 3</b> 11:50 a.m.-12:20 p.m. |
| 12:30–1:30 p.m.       | Lunch – Optional: <i>DiscipleMakers Career &amp; Internship Reception</i> (Location: Reptile Room)  |
| 1:30–5:00 p.m.        | Free time   |
| 5:00–6:00 p.m.        | Dinner  |
| 6:30–8:15 p.m.        | <b>Main session:</b> <i>A Community on Mission</i> (Lincoln Fitch)  |
| 8:15–9:15 p.m.        | Campus time   |
| 9:15–11:00 p.m.       | Campfire & s'mores (lights out @ 11:00)   |

## Friday

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 8:00–9:00 a.m.        | Breakfast   |
| 9:00–9:45 a.m.        | Campus time   |
| 10:00–11:30 a.m.      | <b>Main session:</b> <i>To Him Be Glory</i> (Caleb Olshefsky) |
| 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Clean up  |
| 12:00–1:30 p.m.       | Lunch and depart  |

## CAMPUS PHOTO LOCATIONS

| CORNER STEPS  | THE AWNING  | AMPHITHEATRE  | CLIMBING WALL   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kutztown University<br>Albright College<br>Alvernia University<br>Wilkes University | Elizabethtown College<br>Juniata<br>Lebanon Valley College<br>Lancaster Bible College | Shippensburg University<br>Gettysburg College<br>Cedar Crest College<br>DeSales University<br>Lafayette College<br>Muhlenberg College | Bloomsburg<br>Bucknell University<br>Susquehanna University |

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS – Thursday Morning**

### **Round 1 (Thursday, 10:30am)**

#### **Becoming a Discippler: Navigating the Shift From Evangelism to Discipleship**

Maggie Enestvedt | Location: Gymnatorium

Did someone you've been sharing the gospel with recently become a Christian? (Praise God!) Or maybe you have a younger Christian friend who is eager to grow and you want to help? If knowing how to start discipling them feels tricky to you, come learn how to navigate that transition well.

#### **Adaptable Discipleship: How to Plan Without Turning People Into Projects**

Kevin Noyes | Location: Gym Classroom

Doing anything well usually takes preparation. Discipleship is no exception. So how can you plan for great discipleship without becoming enslaved to your plan? Join us as we discuss adaptable discipleship - how to disciple others without treating them like goods in a machine.

#### **Dim Discipleship: How Prayer Can Ignite Your Ministry**

Clint Watkins | Location: Sun Room

It's so easy to be plagued by prayerlessness in discipleship. We can minister with a shrunken vision of God's power and a warped view of our own abilities. Join us to fight self-reliant ministry, seeing the critical need for prayer in discipleship.

### **Round 2 (Thursday, 11:10am)**

#### **After More Than 30 Years: What We've Learned About Discipleship**

Mark & Shannon Fodale | Location: Gymnatorium

After over 30 years of discipling students, we have a lot to share (mostly from our failures!) Come and join us as we think through the four main lessons we have learned!

#### **Shepherding the Flock: Moving from Discipling Individuals to Creating a Culture of Discipleship**

Brian Seay | Location: Gym Classroom

One committed and trained disciple-maker can make all the difference to a fellowship. So what could a team, or even a whole fellowship of them do? Join us as we discuss what you can do to move beyond individuals discipling to creating a culture of discipleship in your fellowship.

#### **Who Should I Disciple?**

Josh Herring | Location: Sun Room

We all know how to select the juiciest, tastiest, and most delicious fruits in the produce aisle. How come we're not as precise when selecting someone to disciple? This practical breakout will examine how Jesus chose His disciples, and how that impacts who we choose to disciple.

## Round 3 (Thursday, 11:50am)

### **Discipleship is More Than a Weekly Meeting, it is a Lifestyle**

Tori Zbinden | Location: Gymnatorium

Often when we think of discipleship we think of a weekly 1-1 meeting. While this is valuable, discipleship is so much more. We are going to consider how Jesus had a lifestyle of discipleship and how we can do the same.

### **How to Fit Discipleship into a Busy Schedule**

Jenny Fitch | Location: Gym Classroom

“I am so busy, how am I supposed to disciple anyone?” If you’ve asked yourself this question this past year, this breakout is for you! Come and gain a vision for ministry in the midst of busyness, and enter the summer equipped and ready to make disciples for the sake of Christ.

### **How to Ask Questions That Get to the Heart**

Gene & Megan Williams | Location: Sun Room

Do you ever wonder if you’re really getting to the heart in your discipleship meetings? The Word of God can discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4), but how do you get there? Come learn what the Biblical “heart” really is, and how to ask questions that lead to heart level discipleship.

## Optional Seminar Descriptions (*Monday and Tuesday*)

### **God, Government, and Politics**

Mark Fodale • Monday, 1:30pm • Location: Mountain View Conference Room

With the presidential election looming, and politics a hot topic of conversation in our culture, it’s vital Christians know how to think about their role as citizens and God’s view of government. Join us to explore, consider and understand!

### **A Vision for Family**

Caleb & Kaylah Olshefsky • Tuesday, 1:30pm • Location: Mountain View Conference Room

We all have a family – both a physical family and a spiritual family in Christ. But what about your future family? What does God say about marriage or having children? And what might He be calling you to as you move into post-college life? So whether family and children are something you already desire, don’t desire, or something you’ve never thought about, join us as we explore these topics from the Bible.





“The main thing in the Christian life is to keep the main thing the main thing.” – CJ Mahaney

Who you are in Christ comes before what you do for Christ.

## I. Who You Were Before Christ

*“Wretched man that I am...” – Romans 7:24*

## II. Who You Are In Christ

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” – Romans 8:1*

### A. The reality of your condition

*“... no condemnation ...”*

### B. The timing of your placement

*“There is therefore now ...”*

### C. The location of your identity

*“... for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

“Would you like to be rid of this spiritual depression?”

The first thing you must do is to say farewell now & forever to your past. Realize that it has all been covered by Jesus Christ.

Never look back at your sins again. Learn to say, “It is finished. It has all been covered by Jesus.”

– Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression: Its Causes & Cures*

## Romans 12:1-2

<sup>12</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice.”  
*Romans 12:1*

**I. Total Commitment (v. 1)**

Motivation #1: “*By the mercies of God.*”

Motivation #2: “*Which is your spiritual worship*”

**II. Complete Transformation (v. 2)**

Change #1: Moral change

Change #2: Mind change

Change #3: Motive change

## Romans 12:3-8

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

“We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

*Romans 12:5*

I. We Don't Need You (v. 3)

II. We Need You (v. 6-8)

III. Grace Makes it Possible (v. 4-5)

# Scripture References

## Romans 12:9-13

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

## Matthew 15:7-8

<sup>7</sup> You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

<sup>8</sup> *“This people honors me with their lips,  
but their heart is far from me”*

**I. The Character of Genuine Love (v. 9)**

A. Without hypocrisy

B. Informed by good and evil

**II. The Measure of Genuine Love**

A. As deep as the heart (v. 10)

B. As long as it takes (v. 11-12)

C. As wide as the needs (v. 13)

**III. The Author of Genuine Love**

Holding fast to *who* is good: **Jesus**

# Scripture references & quotes

## Romans 12:14-21

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Deuteronomy 32:35-36

<sup>35</sup> Vengeance is mine, and recompense,  
for the time when their foot shall slip;  
for the day of their calamity is at hand,  
and their doom comes swiftly.'

<sup>36</sup> For the Lord will vindicate his people  
and have compassion on his servants...



“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.”  
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**I. Who We are Called to Bless (v. 14)**

- Our enemies

**II. How We Are Called to Bless Our Enemies**

A. Live in harmony with one another (v. 15-17)

1. By rejoicing & weeping with them

2. By refusing to be arrogant

B. Live peaceably with all (v. 18-21)

1. By not taking revenge

2. By lavishing good on them

### 3 Core Principles of a Sent Life

A. God is always at work to draw people to Himself.

- John 5:17 – “My Father is **always at his work** to this very day, and I too am working.”
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 – [God] has also **set eternity** in the human heart.
- Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of Man came to **seek and save the lost.**”

B. God uses us to lead people to Jesus.

- Acts 1:8 – “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and **you will be my witnesses.**”
- 2 Corinthians 2:14 –But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to **spread the aroma of the knowledge of him.**
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 – God reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation:** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. **And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.**

C. God invites into the work of telling people about Jesus.

- Matthew 28:18-20 – Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, **go and make disciples of all nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
- Matthew 4:19 – “Come follow me, and **I will make you fish for people.**”

### Sent people have a rich theology of place.

### Sent people become people of prayer.

- Ask for revelation (Ephesians 1:17-19).
- Ask that God turn their eyes from worthless things (Psalm 119:34-37)
- and that they come to their senses (2 Timothy 2:25-26).
- Ask God to send other to help (Matthew 9:38).
- Ask for an open door for the message of the gospel (Colossians 4:2-4).
- Ask for boldness (Ephesians 6:18-20).
- Ask that the gospel spreads quickly (2 Thessalonians 3:1).
- Ask God to instruct you in when, where, and how to communicate the gospel (Psalm 32:8)

### Sent people understand their titles and job descriptions:

- Fisherman (Matthew 4:19)
- Farmer (Mark 4)
- Royal Priest (1 Peter 2:9)
- Ambassador (2 Corinthians 5)

**Sent people leverage their best skills: asking great questions and telling great stories.**

**The 4 Best Questions:**

- What does your tradition say about Jesus?
- Do you consider yourself on a spiritual journey?
- I just learned something in the Bible that’s really helping me deal with this? May I share this with you?
- I’m in a fresh season of prayer. Do you have any prayer requests?

**Transitioning to Spiritual Conversations**

| Question   | Spiritual Connection  |
|--|---|
| What’s your biggest stressor lately?                                   | I can pray for this. This also reminds me of how God brought me through something similar. . .      |
| What are you celebrating--or what is going well for you?               | I’m celebrating this answer to prayer or this way God was faithful. . .                             |
| What question do you currently like people to ask you?                 | I love to talk about what I’m learning in scripture. . .  |
| What thought keeps going through your mind that you cannot get rid of? | I sometimes think of certain passages of scripture when I’m stuck. . .                              |
| How are you taking care of yourself?                                   | I’m doing some cool morning rituals for well-being like my Bible reading and gratitude journal. . . |
| How are you staying motivated?   | I’m thinking a lot about God giving me fresh power and ability to work.                             |
| What are you learning?   | I’m learning this great thing in the Bible. . .   |

**Consider your best stories of transformation to share with others as your best tool for living a sent life.**

1. Write / tell the story of God rescuing you. (*salvation*)
2. Write / tell the story of maturing you. (*maturity*)
3. Story of God meeting you in a time of need. (*provision*)

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What thoughts or feelings do you experience when you think of yourself as “sent?”
2. What evidence do you already see that God chose you for your present location?
3. Who did God send to help you begin or continue your relationship with Jesus?
4. Pick a few questions you can try to ask people that might lead to a spiritual conversation.

**The Problem:**

**The 4 Mindsets:**

1. Be curious
2. Believe the best
3. Express concern
4. Share your life

**Are they Biblical?**

- Philippians 2
- Romans 12
- Galatians 6
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8

**The Six Pathways:**

- |                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <b>Social</b>     | People (and pets!)         |
| 2. <b>Emotional</b>  | Feelings                   |
| 3. <b>Physical</b>   | Body, Spaces, and 5 Senses |
| 4. <b>Cognitive</b>  | Thoughts                   |
| 5. <b>Volitional</b> | Choices                    |
| 6. <b>Spiritual</b>  | Soul, Religion             |

**Easy Questions to Ask:**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Social</b>     | Which friends have you seen lately?                                     |
| 2. <b>Emotional</b>  | How did you feel about _____?   |
| 3. <b>Physical</b>   | How are you sleeping? Favorite place on campus to study?                |
| 4. <b>Cognitive</b>  | What have you been thinking about?                                      |
| 5. <b>Volitional</b> | What decisions must you make? How did you decide that?                  |
| 6. <b>Spiritual</b>  | How is your spiritual life? Are you using any spiritual rituals lately? |

**Questions for Teens and Young Adults (that don't annoy them):**

1. Who are you hanging out with?
2. What's your pet been doing lately?
3. What are you looking forward to?
4. What's frustrating you the most about school?
5. What song do you keep listening to?
6. Have you changed anything about your room?
7. Have you tried any new foods / restaurants?
8. What's the latest skin care or hair care routine?
9. Where do you need the most advice right now in your life?
10. Have you tried any new foods / restaurants?
11. What have you been doing just for fun?
12. How's your team doing (Fantasy Football or College / NFL)

**Spark Questions:**

1. Did you try anything new recently—restaurants, music, books?
2. What was the highlight of your semester or autumn?
3. On a scale of 1-10, how good has your week been? What would make it 10?
4. What is your good news? What are you celebrating?

**The 3 Fresh Goals:**

1. Encourage them.
2. Help them grow.
3. Marvel with them.

**Strong Verbs:**

How *was* your day? = What surprised (challenged, troubled, delighted) you about your day?

**Listening for Core Values: What they discuss:**

- Who they spent time with (Relationships )
- What projects they finished (Productivity)
- What they read or learned (Learning)
- What new thing they experienced (Adventure)
- Who they served (Generosity and Service)
- What they did on their own (Independence)
- What they overcame (Courage and Resilience)
- What they wore or how they looked (Aesthetics and Design)

# Scripture References

## Romans 15:1-13

<sup>1</sup> We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

<sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

*“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name.”*

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup> And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,  
*“The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope.”*

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## Romans 5:5

“...<sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

## Revelation 7:9

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

**I. Service in Spite of Preference v.1-6**

A. What we must do

B. What Christ has done

C. What God will do

**II. Closeness in Spite of Distance v.7-13**

A. What we must do

B. What Christ has done

C. What God will do

## Scripture references

### Romans 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

### Romans 15:14-33

<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; <sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,

*“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”*

<sup>22</sup> This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, <sup>24</sup> I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. <sup>25</sup> At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. <sup>28</sup> When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. <sup>29</sup> I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

<sup>30</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, <sup>32</sup> so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. <sup>33</sup> May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.



**I. Recognize How the Gospel Has Advanced (v. 14-22)**

- A. The power of ordinary Christians
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. The unique call of Christ's ministers
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. The priority of the unreached

**II. Take Up Your Role in the Gospel's Advance (v. 23-33)**

- A. Prepare to give
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- B. Strive in prayer
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- C. Be strengthened by God's presence



<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages  
<sup>26</sup> but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—  
<sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

*Romans 16:25-27*

## I. To Him Who Strengthens

A. Through His People

B. Through His Word

C. Through His command

## II. Be Glory

“God magnifies his glory by making you strong with his gospel. God feels no threat from your strength at all. In fact, the stronger you are in faith and hope and love through the gospel of Jesus Christ, the greater he appears. God does not secure his strength by keeping his people weak. He magnifies the glory of his strength by making his people strong.” – *Pastor John Piper*

# Scripture References

*Becoming a Disciple: Navigating the Shift From Evangelism to Discipleship*

## **John 14:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

## **Colossians 3:1-3**

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

## **Matthew 18:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## **Luke 6:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup> And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles <sup>14</sup> Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,<sup>15</sup> and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup> and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

## **Mark 3:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach

## **1 Corinthians 11:1**

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ

**I. Understanding the Goal**

Evangelism is investing in a \_\_\_\_\_ with the goal of \_\_\_\_\_.

Discipleship is investing in a \_\_\_\_\_ with the goal of \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Differences in Discipleship**

A. The Spirit's presence

B. The call to godliness

C. The call to mission

**III. How Jesus Began Discipling**

**IV. How We Can Begin Discipling**

# Scripture References and Quotes

*Adaptable Discipleship: How to Plan Without Turning People Into Projects*

## **Luke 6:12-13**

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

## **Ephesians 6:18b-20**

To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

## **1 Timothy 4:7-8**

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

## **Matthew 28:19-20**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## **Proverbs 20:5-6**

The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Many a man proclaims his own steadfast love, but a faithful man who can find?

## **1 Peter 5:2-3**

...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

## **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

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.

“Imagine if all Christians, as a normal part of their discipleship, were caught up in a web of regular Bible reading - not only digging into the word privately, but reading it with their children before bed, with their spouse over breakfast, with a non-Christian colleague at work once a week over lunch, with a new Christian for follow-up once a fortnight for mutual encouragement, and with a mature Christian friend once a month for mutual encouragement. It would be a chaotic web of personal relationships, prayer, and Bible reading - more of a movement than a program - but at another level it would be profoundly simple and within reach of all.”

- Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, *The Trellis and the Vine*

“Just because you made a good plan, doesn’t mean that’s what’s gonna happen.”  
*Taylor Swift*

“Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential.”  
*Winston Churchill*

**I. Key principle 1: Love your disciples through your preparation**

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.  
*Proverbs 16:9*

- A. Prepare by praying, and not presuming
  
- B. Prepare yourself, not just your content
  
- C. Prepare a strategy, not a sermon

**II. Key principle 2: Love your disciples through your conversation**

The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.  
*Proverbs 16:1*

- A. Be inquisitive, not inflexible
  
- B. Be directive, not domineering
  
- C. Share God’s word, not your own

# Scripture Reference

*Dim Discipleship: How Prayer Can Ignite Your Ministry*

## Ephesians 1

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



**I. Delight in God (v. 1-14)**

A. God's work to redeem

B. Our response of praise

**II. Depend on God (v. 15-23)**

A. God's work to reveal

B. Our reliance in prayer

1. Rejoice in their faith (v15-16a)

2. Remember them often (v16b)

3. Request God's transformation (v17-23)

“One cannot transform a world except as individuals in the world are transformed,  
and individuals cannot be changed except as they are molded in the hands of the Master.”

*Robert E. Coleman, The Master Plan of Evangelism*

**I. Discipleship is a Calling, Not a Meeting**

... being affectionately desirous of you,  
we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves,  
because you had become very dear to us.

*1 Thessalonians 2.8*

**II. Disciples Are a Gain, Not a Drain**

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming?  
Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.

*1 Thessalonians 2. 19-20*

**III. Discipleship is Stewardship, Not Ownership**

... we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God,  
who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

*1 Thessalonians 2.12*

**IV. Our Hope is in God's Promises, Not Our Labors**

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,  
and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

*1 Thessalonians 5. 23-24*

<sup>23</sup> Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds,  
<sup>24</sup> for riches do not last forever and does a crown endure to all generations?

*Proverbs 27:23-24*

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

*2 Timothy 2:1-2*

1. What do we mean when we say a “culture of discipleship”?
2. Why do we want a culture of discipleship?
3. What are the signs that it’s actually developing?
4. What are the things we’ve been doing to encourage this along?
5. What things tend to hinder this from happening?

# Scripture References

*Who Should I Disciple?*

## **Matthew 4:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> While walking by the Sea of Galilee, (Jesus) saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

## **John 1:35-37, 40**

<sup>35</sup> The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus ... <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

## **John 6:66-68**

<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..."

## **Ephesians 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

“It is much easier to ask a man to come with you than to ask him to leave if you learn, much to your chagrin and sorrow, that you have chosen the wrong man.” –*LeRoy Eims*

**I. What to do before the investment**

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve. Luke 6:12-13

**II. Who to consider for the investment**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_
2. The \_\_\_\_\_
3. The \_\_\_\_\_
4. The \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Practical suggestions as you begin the investment**

1. Commit yourself to Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_
2. Commit your time to \_\_\_\_\_
3. Commit to a \_\_\_\_\_
4. Commit to \_\_\_\_\_

“Jesus wasn’t concerned with programs to reach the multitudes,  
but with men whom the multitudes would follow.”  
*Robert E. Coleman*

# Scripture references

*Discipleship is More Than a Weekly Meeting, it is a Lifestyle*

## Mark 1:16-20

<sup>16</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

## John 13:1-4

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.

| What are three next steps? |             |               |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Invitation                 | Association | Demonstration |
|                            |             |               |
|                            |             |               |
|                            |             |               |

“So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.” –1 Thess. 2:9

**I. Jesus’ Lifestyle of Discipleship**

A. Invitation

B. Association

C. Demonstration

**II. Developing a Lifestyle of Discipleship.**

A. Invitation

1. Find those who are teachable and moved by God’s word.

2. Invite them

B. Association

1. Bring people along in what you are already doing.

2. Be okay if they say no

C. Demonstration

1. Prayer

2. Scripture

3. Service

# Quotes and Scripture References

*How to Fit Discipleship into a Busy Schedule*

“We have often tried to make machines that are like humans, but now we often expect humans to be like machines”  
– Kelly M. Kapic, *You’re Only Human*, page 126.

## Luke 4:31-44

<sup>31</sup> And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, <sup>32</sup> and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. <sup>33</sup> And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>35</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. <sup>36</sup> And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” <sup>37</sup> And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

<sup>38</sup> And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. <sup>39</sup> And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

<sup>40</sup> Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. <sup>41</sup> And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

<sup>42</sup> And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, <sup>43</sup> but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” <sup>44</sup> And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

## Luke 4:18-19

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

## Matthew 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup> 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,  
<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



“It’s not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about?”  
*Henry David Thoreau*

**I. Jesus Was Busy With a Purpose**

**II. How We Can Be Busy With a Purpose**

A. Diagnostic questions

1. Who am I doing it for?
2. Why am I doing it?
3. What have I said no to so I could say yes to it?
4. Can I change my yes to a no?

B. Practical suggestions

# Quotes and Scripture References

*How to Ask Questions That Get to the Heart*

“Insightful people are insightful not because they have the right answers but because they have asked the right questions.”

–Paul Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*

## **Proverbs 20:5**

The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.

## **Luke 6:45**

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

## **Deuteronomy 6:5**

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

## **Exodus 32:7–8**

And the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them.

## **Mark 7:20-23**

And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

## **Deuteronomy 30:6**

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

## **Matthew 11:28-30**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

## **1 Corinthians 3:16**

Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?

## **Hebrews 4:12**

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:14**

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

“The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.”  
*Proverbs 20:5*

1. **What is the heart?**

- A. The heart of a person (Proverbs 20:5, Luke 6:45)
- B. The problem with our hearts (Deut. 6:5, Exodus 32:7–8, Mark 7:20-23)
- C. The hope for our hearts (Deut. 30:6, Matthew 11:28-30)

2. **Why should we get to the heart? Why ask questions to do so?**

- A. True change happens when the gospel is applied to the heart (Luke 6:45)
- B. Questions are your #1 tool to get to the heart

3. **How do we ask questions to get there? (Proverbs 20:5)**

- A. Framework
  - Ask Biblically-informed questions
- B. Questions for them
  - 1. Ask survey and focused questions
  - 2. Ask about bookmarks
  - 3. Ask why questions
  - 4. Ask about a scripture
- C. Questions for you
  - 1. Ask yourself a question
  - 2. Ask 1 Thes. 5:14 questions
- D. Finally
  - Ask more questions

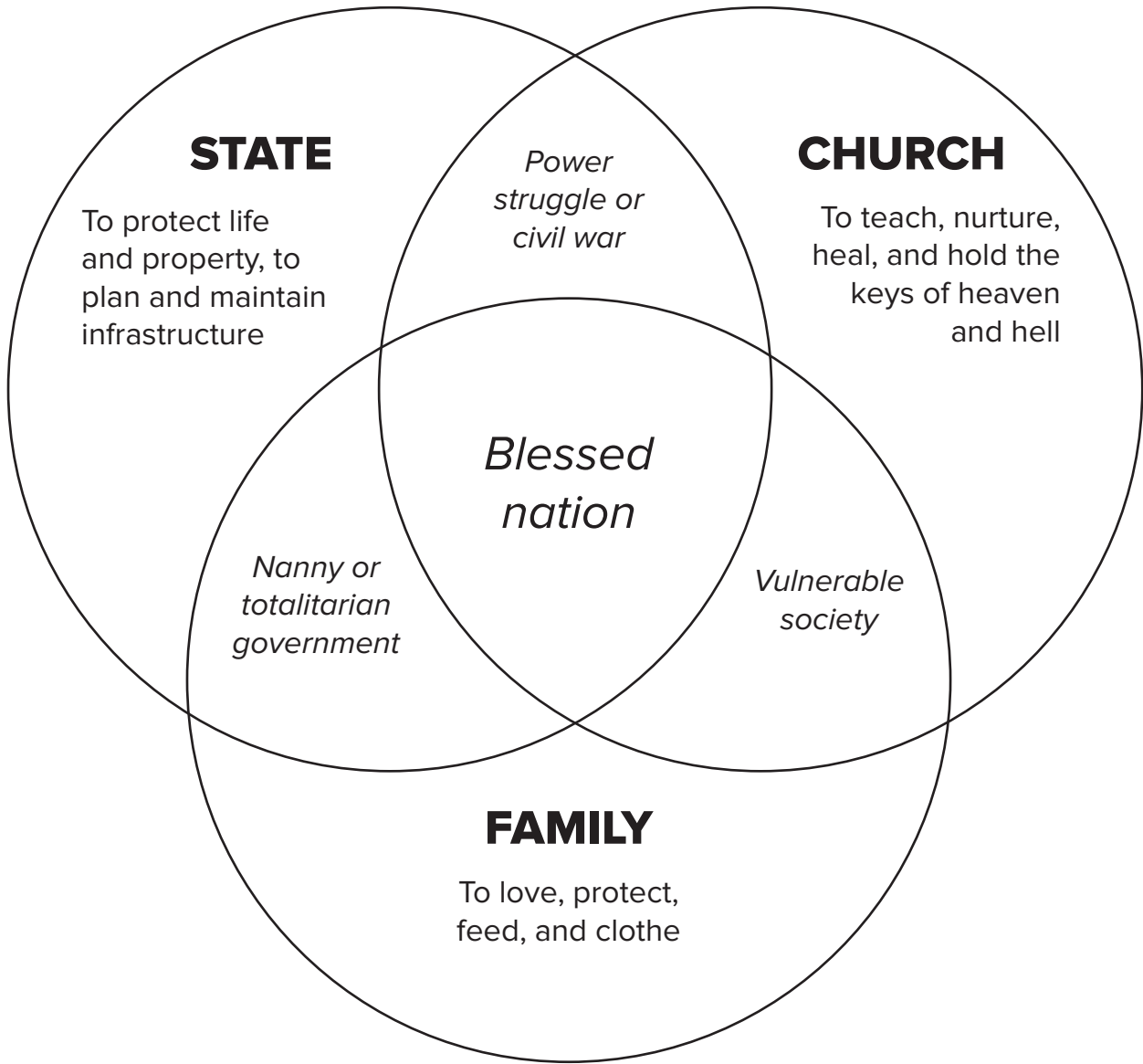
“One of the greatest challenges of Christian political engagement is to understand both God’s Word & God’s world.” – *John R.W. Stott, Between Two Worlds*

**I. Government in God’s World**

- A. Its place
  
- B. Its authority
  
- C. Its function
  
- D. Our expectations
  
- E. Its “representation”

**II. Our Role as Citizens in God’s World**

- A. Pray
  
- B. Agree to disagree
  
- C. Obey the 9th commandment & the 2nd great commandment
  
- D. Focus on working hard, blessing others, & winning influence for Christ & His church
  
- E. Strive to be informed, involved, thoughtful, and patient.
  
- F. Rest & rejoice in the reign of Jesus Christ



**BIBLICAL OR THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE**

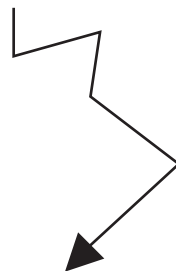
**STRAIGHT LINE JUDGMENT**



**WHOLE CHURCH POLITICAL POSITION**

**BIBLICAL OR THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLE**

**JAGGED LINE JUDGMENT**



**CHRISTIAN-FREEDOM POLITICAL POSITION**

# Scripture references

## *A Vision for Family*

### **Genesis 1:26-28, 31**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

<sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **Genesis 2:20-24**

<sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

### **Genesis 3:1-19**

<sup>3</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to

him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree

of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

### **Ephesians 5:22-27**

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

### **Ephesians 5:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. <sup>5</sup> 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.

Psalm 127:4-5

**Main Point:** God loves families and wants to build his kingdom through your future family.

**I. Families Made**

A. Image Bearers Made

B. Unity Made

C. Roles Made

**II. Families Broken**

A. Image Bearers Broken

B. Unity Broken

C. Roles Broken

**III. Families Restored**

A. Restoration through families

B. Restoration of families

1. Marriage

2. Children

## A “Start-Your-Day” Bible Study

As you begin your day here at Focus, spend some time before our morning session to do some Bible study. This will prepare you for the day ahead, give you time alone with God, and familiarize you with the sections of Romans we will be teaching through in our main sessions!

Here’s the plan - each day (except Friday!) read the following section from Romans ...

- Monday: Romans 12:1-8
- Tuesday: Romans 12:9-21
- Wednesday: Romans 13
- Thursday: Romans 15

As you read each chapter, think through the following questions (the text of each day’s passage is provided for you below so you can mark it up as much as you want!).

1. Are there any repeated words or images in this chapter? Any commands or promises?
2. What does this chapter teach you about God (His character, His works, etc)
3. What would you say is the main point of this chapter? Try to put it into one sentence if you can!
4. Finally, spend a few moments praying in response to your time in God’s Word. Maybe you want to thank Him for what He’s done, or ask for strength to honor Him, or simply pray that you would be open to learn & grow today.

### Monday

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

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

### Tuesday

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

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



## Wednesday

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## Thursday

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,  
and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said,  
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again,  
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,  
"The root of Jesse will come,  
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him will the Gentiles hope."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; <sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,

"Those who have never been told of him will see,  
and those who have never heard will understand."

<sup>22</sup> This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, <sup>24</sup> I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. <sup>25</sup> At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. <sup>28</sup> When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. <sup>29</sup> I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

<sup>30</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, <sup>32</sup> so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. <sup>33</sup> May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.





# **ABIDE**

**HOW THE GOSPEL AFFECTS  
OUR EVERYDAY LIFE**

# Scripture References / Questions

*The Key to Growth – Abiding in Christ*

## **John 15:1-11**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. will counsel you with my eye upon you. <sup>9</sup> Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. <sup>10</sup> Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

## **Hebrews 2:1**

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

## **Hebrews 10:23**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

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### **Small Group Questions:**

1. How does the idea of “abiding” to grow impact the way you think about growing in your faith?
2. What challenges to abiding do you typically experience?
3. What, even at the start, jumps out to you as a way you can grow in abiding in Christ?

**I. The Illustration of the Christian Life: The Vine and the Vinedresser**

**II. The Danger of Not Abiding**

**III. The Fruitfulness of Abiding**

A. Abide: to continue without fading. Live in. Dwell in.

B. We abide through:

1. His Words
2. Prayer
3. Through obedience (particularly to love others)
4. Through enduring pruning

**IV. The Result of Abiding is Abiding Joy**

“It may be said of one who is contented in a Christian way that he is the most contented man in the world,  
and yet the most unsatisfied man in the world...You will say, ‘How is that?’

A man who has learned the art of contentment is the most contented with any low condition that he has in the world,  
and yet he cannot be satisfied with the enjoyment of all the world...if God disposes of him...  
to have but bread and water for his present condition, he can be satisfied with God’s disposal in that;  
yet if God should give unto him Kingdoms and Empires, all the world to rule...he would not be satisfied with that.”

*Jeremiah Burroughs*

# Scripture References / Questions

*Abide through Communication with God*

## John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

## Hebrews 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

## John 15:3, 11, 15

<sup>3</sup> Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

## Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
<sup>6</sup> for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

## Reflection Questions on Psalm 1:

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. What does this passage say about people?
3. What do we learn about God's Word?
4. How does this point to Jesus, and how He saves us from sin?

## Zephaniah 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

## Psalm 3

O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

<sup>2</sup> many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God."

<sup>3</sup> But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. <sup>4</sup> I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill.

<sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

<sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

<sup>7</sup> Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

<sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people!

## Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. <sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. <sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. <sup>9</sup> Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

<sup>10</sup> Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

**Homework for tomorrow: Read John 15:10-17, answer the questions below, and pray through it.**

1. What does this passage say about God?
2. What does this passage say about people?
3. What do we learn about God's Word?
4. How does this point to Jesus, and how He saves us from sin?

**I. Abide Through Reading God's Word (Psalm 1)**

**II. Abide Through Praying God's Word**

A. Praying A.C.T.S.

1. Adoration
2. Confession
3. Thanksgiving
4. Supplication

B. Praying the Psalms

# Additional Resources

*Abide through Community with God's People*

## John 15:10-17

<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

### Small group questions:

1. How do we abide in God's Love?
2. What is the main command Jesus focuses on? Why do you think that is?
3. What do we learn from Jesus about friendship and love?
4. How does loving one another relate to abiding?

### One Another Commands:

- Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16 times)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be like minded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
- Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
- Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
- Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
- Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
- Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)
- Do not lie to one another (Colossians 3:9) Stop passing judgment on one another (Romans 14:13)
- If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you'll be destroyed by each other (Galatians 5:15)
- Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:26) Do not slander one another (James 4:11)
- Don't grumble against each other (James 5:9)
- We do all this because we are in a real sense "members of one another" (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25)



**I. Abide Through Christian Friendships**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you life.

2. Let people \_\_\_\_\_.

**Small group questions:**

1. How are you at being a friend? How can you grow?
2. How do you see christian fellowship helping you grow?

**II. Abide Through The Local Church**

**Small group questions:**

1. Are you a part of a church? Why or why not?
2. What is one step you can take to become part of a church?

# Scripture References

*Abiding Through Enduring Pruning*

## **John 15:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

## **1 Peter 1:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

I. The Unexpected Path to Growth (John 15:1-2, 1 Peter 1:3-7)

II. What things fall into the category of “pruning” ?

III. What does abiding look like in suffering/pruning seasons?

IV. How did abiding help you endure suffering/pruning?

V. How have you seen God grow you through pruning? What fruitfulness was produced by it?

# 9 Marks of a Healthy Church<sup>1</sup>

## **3 Essential Marks of a Healthy Church**

### **1. Expository Preaching**

Expository preaching first and foremost seeks to *expose what* the Bible says. It takes a passage of scripture, explains the passages, and applies the passage. This is in opposition to the topical preaching, where Bible passages are woven together to support a pre-existing point.

### **2. Biblical Theology**

Biblical theology flows out of and is similar to expository preaching. However, this emphasizes not only *how* we are taught but also *what* we are taught. A healthy church should teach a theology that is faithful to what the bible says and is in unity with all of scripture.

### **3. Biblical Understanding of the Good News**

Healthy churches need to have a proper understanding and necessary emphasis on the full *gospel*. The gospel message is that we are sinners who have rebelled against our Creator. But Jesus took the curse that was rightfully ours and all that remains is for us to have faith in Him so God may credit Christ's righteousness to our account. When we de-emphasize sin and damnation to make the presentation more friendly and less offensive we cease declaring the full gospel.

## **6 Important Marks of a Healthy Church**

### **4. A Biblical Understanding of Conversion,**

Conversion is a new birth from death to life and is a work of God. It is not merely a change of attitude or a change of affection, but a change of nature. Conversion does not need to be an exciting, emotional experience, but does need to produce fruit to be judged a true conversion.

### **5. A Biblical Understanding of Evangelism**

Healthy churches present the Gospel as an urgent call to repent, and relying on the Holy Spirit to do the true convicting, convincing, and converting. If churches believe that people are essentially good and are seeking Jesus, they evangelize using half truths and tend to elicit false conversions. When they present a watered-down gospel, we end up with a watered-down church. Churches need to be faithful to present the full gospel, the good news with the bad, and leave the results to God.

### **6. A Biblical Understanding of Church Membership**

Church membership is a privilege and a responsibility and needs to be regarded as such. People should only be members if they are dedicated to the church – in attendance, prayer, service and giving. To allow people to become and remain members for sentimental or other unbiblical reasons makes light of membership and may even be dangerous.

### **7. Biblical Church Discipline**

Discipline guides church membership. The church has the responsibility to judge the life and teaching of the membership since they can negatively impact the church's witness of the gospel. Leadership need to be firm in discipline as this is an expression of love to the congregation.

### **8. Promotion of Church Discipleship And Growth**

We need to recover true discipleship – discipleship that causes Christians to live lives of increasing holiness. The emphasis on growth needs to be directed at holiness rather than membership. True discipleship producing strong, committed Christians will present a clear witness to the world.



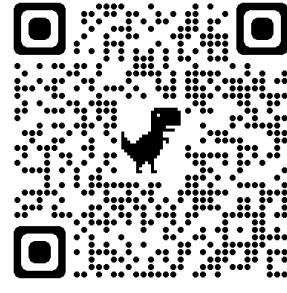
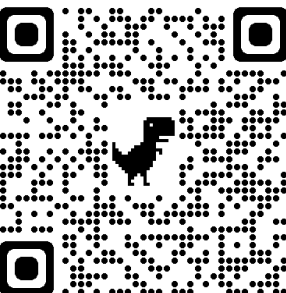
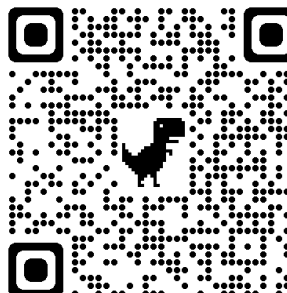
### **9. Biblical Church Leadership**

Until recent times, almost all Protestants agreed that in church government there should be a plurality of elders (which means that there should be an office of elder and not merely one or more pastors in positions of leadership). This is a Biblical and practical model that has fallen out of favor in modern times.

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from Tim Challies article reviewing: *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*  
<https://www.challies.com/articles/9-marks-of-a-healthy-church/>

**Church Search Engines:**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>TGC Church Directory</b></p>  <p><a href="http://thegospelcoalition.org/churches">thegospelcoalition.org/churches</a></p> | <p><b>Acts 29 Church Directory</b></p>  <p><a href="http://acts29.com/find-a-church">acts29.com/find-a-church</a></p> | <p><b>PCA Church Directory</b></p>  <p><a href="http://pcaac.org/church-directory">pcaac.org/church-directory</a></p> |
| <p><b>Efree Church Directory</b></p>  <p><a href="http://churches.efca.org">churches.efca.org</a></p>                          | <p><b>BCF Church Directory</b></p>  <p><a href="http://bfc.org/find-a-church">bfc.org/find-a-church</a></p>          | <p><b>Google Search:</b> churches in the [city/town/county] that believe the doctrines of grace</p>  |

**Church Hurt Resources:**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Sighing on Sunday: 40 Meditations for When Church Hurts</b> by Megan Hill</p>  | <p>Article: <b>We're Hurt, and Healed, in Community</b> by Jeremy Linneman</p>  | <p><b>A Painful Past: Healing and Moving Forward</b> by Lauren Whitman</p>  |
|---|--|--|

**Other Books:**

*What Is a Healthy Church?*  
By Mark Dever





*the*  
**GO**

**INITIATIVE**

*JUNE 5TH - JULY 28TH*

**BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS.  
SHARING CHRIST.**



# THE PLAN

## DAILY

### **PRAY**

Begin every day with a simple, specific prayer surrendering control to Jesus as you prepare to do this good work which may be far outside your comfort zone. An example could be something like this: *"Here I am, Lord; please use me for Jesus' sake and Your purposes. Introduce me to the people you want me to love, and please help me to stay alert and look for opportunities to share Jesus. Amen."*

## WEEKLY

### **INTAKE**

Read the assigned scripture and take in the weekly resource (a blog post, article, or a talk recording). These weekly teaching will encourage and equip you to build relationships and share Christ!

### **INVEST**

Spend casual time with a non-Christian friend or acquaintance. It could be the same person each time or 7 different people. It may even be one of the new people you meet! This is to be a casual, activity like grabbing coffee or going to play volleyball together. Record the *when, where, and what* of these activities in your GO Journal (starts next page.)

### **INVITE**

Ask one of these non-Christian friends to a "religious" activity that you feel is appropriate. They don't have to accept; you just have to invite them! It could be church, a Bible study, a summer fellowship meeting, etc. Record this in your GO Journal.

## GO GOALS

### **1. MEET 15 NEW PEOPLE**

This can be done any way or anywhere. To put it another way, you can meet people as the Lord leads as he answers your prayers for daily opportunities.

Try to record the names of those you meet. Review and pray for them daily. This will help you remember as people, not projects.

### **2. ASK 4 PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS**

You might start by asking about their church background and if they still go. Then move to the question of Jesus. The key is to be sensitive to the Lord's guidance. This might happen at a time you don't expect or a week when you feel unprepared.

But don't be afraid – you've been praying for moments like this! Remember your simple daily prayer? God hears and answers. You can expect Him to provide, whether through some miraculous opportunities or the daily good of obedience. You can count on wisdom from Him in the right moment as you obey. *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord.*" (Zechariah 4:6).

### **3. TAKE THE NEXT STEP**

At the end of this 7-week adventure, choose 1-3 specific goals to continue your momentum in the immediate future. Learn more on the last page of this packet.

# GOAL TRACKER

**MEET 15 NEW PEOPLE** *(Write names, contact info, and helpful information below. Pray as you plan.)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

**ASK 4 PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS** *(Summarize notes here & find next steps at the end of this packet.)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 1

| DAY       | PRAY? | INTAKE <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|-----------|-------|---|
| SUNDAY    |       |   |
| MONDAY    |       |   |
| TUESDAY   |       |   |
| WEDNESDAY |       |   |
| THURSDAY  |       |   |
| FRIDAY    |       |   |
| SATURDAY  |       |   |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| INVEST <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | INVITE <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|---|---|
|   |   |

## REFLECTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD *LESSONS LEARNED, IDEAS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK:*

# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 2

| DAY       | PRAY? | INTAKE <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|-----------|-------|---|
| SUNDAY    |       |   |
| MONDAY    |       |   |
| TUESDAY   |       |   |
| WEDNESDAY |       |   |
| THURSDAY  |       |   |
| FRIDAY    |       |   |
| SATURDAY  |       |   |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| INVEST <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | INVITE <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|---|---|
|   |   |

## REFLECTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD *LESSONS LEARNED, IDEAS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK:*

# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 3

| DAY       | PRAY? | INTAKE <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|-----------|-------|---|
| SUNDAY    |       |   |
| MONDAY    |       |   |
| TUESDAY   |       |   |
| WEDNESDAY |       |   |
| THURSDAY  |       |   |
| FRIDAY    |       |   |
| SATURDAY  |       |   |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| INVEST <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | INVITE <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|---|---|
|   |   |

## REFLECTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD *LESSONS LEARNED, IDEAS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK:*

# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 4

| DAY       | PRAY? | INTAKE <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|-----------|-------|---|
| SUNDAY    |       |   |
| MONDAY    |       |   |
| TUESDAY   |       |   |
| WEDNESDAY |       |   |
| THURSDAY  |       |   |
| FRIDAY    |       |   |
| SATURDAY  |       |   |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| INVEST <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | INVITE <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|---|---|
|   |   |

## REFLECTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD *LESSONS LEARNED, IDEAS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK:*

# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 5

| DAY       | PRAY? | INTAKE <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|-----------|-------|---|
| SUNDAY    |       |   |
| MONDAY    |       |   |
| TUESDAY   |       |   |
| WEDNESDAY |       |   |
| THURSDAY  |       |   |
| FRIDAY    |       |   |
| SATURDAY  |       |   |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| INVEST <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | INVITE <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|---|---|
|   |   |

## REFLECTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD *LESSONS LEARNED, IDEAS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK:*

# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 6

| <b>DAY</b> | <b>PRAY?</b> | <b>INTAKE</b> <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|------------|--------------|--|
| SUNDAY     |              |  |
| MONDAY     |              |  |
| TUESDAY    |              |  |
| WEDNESDAY  |              |  |
| THURSDAY   |              |  |
| FRIDAY     |              |  |
| SATURDAY   |              |  |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| <b>INVEST</b> <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | <b>INVITE</b> <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|--|--|
|  |  |

## REFLECTIONS & LOOKING AHEAD *LESSONS LEARNED, IDEAS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS FOR NEXT WEEK:*

# GO JOURNAL - WEEK 7

| <b>DAY</b> | <b>PRAY?</b> | <b>INTAKE</b> <i>(SOMETHING I LEARNED OR A NEW SKILL I CAN PRACTICE THIS WEEK)</i> |
|------------|--------------|--|
| SUNDAY     |              |  |
| MONDAY     |              |  |
| TUESDAY    |              |  |
| WEDNESDAY  |              |  |
| THURSDAY   |              |  |
| FRIDAY     |              |  |
| SATURDAY   |              |  |

## NEW PEOPLE I MET THIS WEEK *(WRITE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE GOAL TRACKER AND FOLLOW UP!)*

| <b>INVEST</b> <i>(WHO I MET WITH. WHAT HAPPENED? WHEN? WHERE? NEXT STEPS?)</i> | <b>INVITE</b> <i>(WHO I AM PLANNING TO ASK TO CHURCH, BIBLE STUDY, ETC.)</i> |
|--|--|
|  |  |

## FINAL REFLECTIONS & NEXT STEPS *(CONSIDER NEXT STEPS – ON THE NEXT PAGE.)*

# NEXT STEPS

**CONGRATULATIONS!** As this 7-week adventure comes to a close, please choose 1-3 specific goals to continue your momentum in the immediate future. Here are a few of the many possibilities to get your imagination moving. Choose something that excites you, seems to fit, and write down the steps it might take to reach it.

- Pray daily for non-Christian friends.
- Eat a meal with someone new twice a week.
- Volunteer to tutor a student who is weak in a subject you know well.
- Do the 7-week plan again with other friends.
- Join a club or sport to increase your involvement with non-Christians.
- Start an investigative Bible study for your non-Christian friends.
- Adopt an elderly person to visit regularly.
- Befriend someone you know who is lonely.
- Memorize an outline of the gospel.
- Study a part of the gospel in depth.
- Study answers to questions most asked by non-Christians.

## MY NEXT-STEP GOALS:

1.

2.

3.