



JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Be amazed by hearing the voice of God every day!



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TIME2RISESA

Contents

GOD WANTS TO USE HIS PEOPLE TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE	4
A Bible discovery-programme to prepare God's people.	4
Introduction.....	4
Use the JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY App and Programme	5
WE ARE USING THE DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY TOOL.....	6
Let Luke 10 be one of these maps	7
Back to the teachings of the apostles	8
THE VALUES OF THE BIBLICAL ECCLESIA	8
The practical how and what.....	9
The expected outcomes of the Journey of Discovery and the Luke 10-discipling programme.....	10
OTHER TRAINING MATERIAL THAT CAN BE USE	10
DISCOVERING GOD'S VOICE VIA DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY.....	11
A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY	11
Welcome on this Journey of Discovery!	11
The App, JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY	12
DIFFERENT JOURNEYS.....	13
BEING ON THIS JOURNEY - HOW?	14
Your Bible	14
YOUVERSION.COM	15
BIBLEGATEWAY.COM	16
DIFFERENT ROUTES FOR TAKING PEOPLE ON THIS JOURNEY	16
USING DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY AS YOUR TOOL.....	17
PRACTICAL: USING THE DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PROCESS.....	17
The Discovery Bible Study (DBS)- Questions	17
DIFFERENT ROUTES USING DBS.....	18
ROUTE: JOURNEY FROM CREATION TO CHRIST	19
ROUTE: DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR YOUR DISCOVERY JOURNEYS.....	25
10 Stories for Lost People	26
Creation to Christ (19 Stories).....	26
Commitment to Christ.....	27
Are you ready to be a disciple?	28

Basics of a Disciple Lifestyle	28
Baptism	29
Being a Disciple of Jesus	29
Obeying Jesus	29
Commitment to Obey the Commands of God	30
Commitment to the Example of Jesus.....	30
Commitment to the Great Commission	30
Prayer.....	30
Living in the Power of the Spirit	31
Being the Church/ecclesia.....	31
What is a Church?.....	31
Other possibilities:.....	32
Some of the Greatest Needs of the Lost – Stories about Peace, Hope, Healing, Purpose, Rest, Relationships.....	32
Stories... ..	32
Following Jesus	35
Kingdom Parables	35
Money #1 – Our Relationship with Money & Possessions.....	36
Money #2 – Generosity	36
Money #3 – Money wisdom from Proverbs.....	37
Being Leaders.....	37
ROUTE: THE 7 DISCOVERY BIBLE-JOURNEYS OF SHOAL CREEK.....	39
1. From trying to Earn God’s grace to becoming Heir of God (Trusting Him)	39
2. From Self-hearted to Soft-hearted (Obey).....	40
3. Changing from Receiver to Giver (Share).....	41
4. From Isolation to Community (Relate).....	41
5. From Consumer to Producer (Serve)	41
6. From Charitable to Extravagant (Give).....	42
7. From Traveler to Guide (Disciple)	42
ROUTE OF EXPERIENCE - A 10-week experience of being a Biblical ecclesia	44
10 KEY ELEMENTS OF THE JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY-PROGRAMME	44
BEFORE THE TEN WEEK-EXPERIENCE STARTS - A letter to the believers involved.....	48
Use the time beforehand to listen to God’s voice through these Scriptures	49

WEEK 1 - A normal Christian Birth process starts with a biblical conviction of sin, followed by repentance	50
WEEK 2- BELIEVING IN FAITH IN JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD	52
WEEK 3 – TO BE BAPTIZED IN WATER.....	55
WEEK 4 – BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT	57
WEEK 5 – LEARN TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD AND START MINISTERING IN OBEDIENCE.	64
WEEK 6 – BEING A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD OR HIS ECCLESIA	69
WEEK 7 – OBEYING HIS VOICE IN YOUR FINANCES.....	75
WEEK 8 – USING THE LUKE 10 STRATEGY TO DISCIPLE COMMUNITIES	79
WEEK 9 – LIVING A HOLY LIFE	86
WEEK 10 – BE MY WITNESSES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.....	89
ADDENDUM A - STUDY GUIDES AND OTHER TRAINING MATERIAL.....	95
1. Training videos	95
Video 1: Watch the following video animation to get the bigger vision behind this Disciple-making Movement worldwide.....	96
Video 2: Making disciple-making disciples	96
Video 3: Study the Bible	96
MENU.....	96
ADDENDUM B –SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE AND BUILDING NETWORKS	98
ADDENDUM C – ROY MORAN’S BOOK, SPEND MATCHES.....	102

GOD WANTS TO USE HIS PEOPLE TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Lord Jesus, help us to recognise Your Voice!

A Bible discovery-programme to prepare God's people.

Calling: To create a Bible Discovery Programme to help the People of God hearing the voice of God

Introduction

What you have in front of you, is not meant to be complete or perfect. It is meant to be a map with different routes to help you, your family at home, together with others close by, and even those further away Family members of the bigger Family of God, which the Bible calls in Greek, His Ecclesia, to hear from God Himself.

There is only one way to create a new generation of God's Family that can be used to make a difference in this season, and that is by doing it the way King Jesus told His people in Matt. 28:19 and 20.

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

We trust that this Bible Discovery Programme will help people to hear the voice of God and what He is saying to them in a time like this.



Because the Bible is the WORD OF GOD, reading the Bible is like sitting at the feet of the Master and King, Jesus Christ Himself, and hearing from Him what is in His heart and what is truth and His will.

We believe the whole Bible, Old and New Testament, is as 2 Timothy 3:15 to 17 described,

“Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of

God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”



Use the JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY App and Programme

Our suggestion to you is to use what you have here in front of you yourself and share it with your own family and loved ones.

We believe that hearing the voice of God becomes easier in a group of people, listening and sharing with one another what they hear while reading and listening to the Bible.

So, trust God to show you a small group of people, there in your local and close-by community, or among other believers if you are part of a congregation or group of believing people.

Along the way of life you will discover all kinds of people who, because God already started working in their lives like in yours, who would show a definite interest in Jesus, in what He said and did while on earth, but also show signs of someone really seeking for what the will of Jesus as Lord and King is, and for where they fit into His bigger plan and the Coming of His Kingdom here on earth.

Whatever the case, what you will find in this programme can be an excellent roadmap on this journey of yours. It will help all of you to know what to do each time you meet and how to create a safe place for all of you to get to know one another, talk to one another, but also to help you to start hearing the voice of the One and Only God of the Bible, speaking to all of you while you are reading and studying the Bible.

Many people have problems nowadays with “church” and what they see and hear in and about “church” around them. You will discover on this journey of discovery God is busy all over the world, showing us that there is nothing wrong with “church”, or in Greek, His ecclesia, as He originally intended it. The problems we have, are with what we today made of “church”, and how we are doing “church”, in all the thousands of variations of church structures and church denominations.

So, a part of this journey of discovery will also be to learn from God Himself and let Him show you His picture of the Ecclesia, and then be willing to obey and even change what is necessary so that we will look much more like His original picture of the Ecclesia in the book of Acts, and in the rest of the New Testament.

Part of this journey will also be to discover when speaking with others this same longing that is in your heart, a longing for “more”!

What you will be really hearing is the voice of the Holy Spirit telling us that God has more in mind than what we are seeing and hearing and experiencing around us.

For that reason, all of us need to go and sit at the feet of the Master, with only His Word, the Bible on our laps, and in there in His presence, among His people, with two or three around us, to experience Him being there (Matt. 18:20), and to hear His voice and Him speaking to us.

WE ARE USING THE DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY TOOL

We are using one of the most effective disciple-making tools in the world, called DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY (DBS in short).

And we will be using it in two ways:

1. Using DBS among people who know the Bible

Most of us will do DBS with groups of people who know the Bible, and or, who are already believers. Among these people we can use different other passages of Scripture to explain a certain important passage of Scripture that we are busy with. We can even expect, while reading and listening to a certain passage of Scripture, to hear from people in the DBS-group, quote or mentioning other Scriptures that can help us understand this passage of Scripture better.

2. Using DBS in a group where no one or only a few know something of the Bible.

When reaching out in different communities and helping them to meet the needs of that community, we will use DBS to also effectively bringing about change in that community. In

these DBS-groups, we will help the members in the group to only focus on what is written in the passage of Scripture in front of us.

We are choosing to be a new generation

We are part of a generation who are not satisfied by being just religious, even if that religion is Christianity.

We are not satisfied with being just members of some or other Christian church or organization.

No, through the working of God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, we have this desire to be as radical and as effective as what we have seen and heard about those first followers or disciples of Christ in what we usually call the Early Church or Ecclesia, during the first years, from 30 to about 330 AD.

For that reason, an important part of what we will be reading on this journey will be what we read in these books of the New Testament. And you will discover it to be this Map to a radical and life-changing lifestyle.

Let Luke 10 be one of these maps

In Luke 10 we read how Jesus send His disciples and about 72 others, on this mission to minister “peace” in the homes and businesses everywhere they went. And as they went, they found people, whom the Bible call “*the man of peace*”, who are already prepared beforehand to receive this Good News, the Gospel of peace.

This prophetic action of Jesus in Luke 10, “*to send out workers into God’s harvest field*”, teach us so many simple but powerful principles and dynamics that been ignored and even substituted by many so-called other formulas and evangelic strategies, that never had the success of what happened in that 300 years in the Early Church.

Just think of it, in those about 300 years, without having any of the modern evangelic tools and media we today have to our disposal, the people of God saturated the whole of the known world! Today, missions’ societies are telling us that with everything we have nowadays to our disposal, we are only effectively reaching about 10% of the world’s population with the message of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Because according to their calculations, only about 10% of the total population on earth, can really be described as what the Bible calls the true Ecclesia or believing disciples and followers of Christ.

So, we also are praying that this Journey of Discovery will also be a tool in the lives of millions in the next year and thereafter, that will prepare people to minister the Gospel of the Kingdom more effectively everywhere they go, but also to prepare God’s Family to make a real difference wherever they are.

Back to the teachings of the apostles

With only the Word of God, the Bible, on our lap as our map on this journey, we will discover how, over the 1600 years and more, after that first 300 years in the beginning, what Jesus and the Holy Spirit taught us, consequently, had to be replaced by all kinds of self-centred, program-based, institutionalized, fragmented teachings and ministries that became denominations or kingdoms on its own, but also became totally impotent and unable to perform God's intentions.

But even in the midst of all this brokenness, God still remained graceful and found ways to remind His people through the ages of His true intentions and what true biblical ecclesia really would be like.

Whenever we find people who were willing to make room for God's Spirit and His Word, we will discover people being changed and minds renewed, and signs of reformation and transformation.

THE VALUES OF THE BIBLICAL ECCLESIA

- Our basic mission is to be doing what Jesus told us in Matt. 28:19-20, and what God's Spirit since Pentecost learned to His people very practical to do. So, by following what Jesus taught His people at the beginning, we will be discovering the DNA of God's plan for the ecclesia. As Jesus said, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”*
- If people no longer come to church, we need church to go to the people, to be within walking distance a showcase and space where people can experience God's presence and something of heaven on earth (or Kingdom of God).
- This Journey of Discovery comprises of different maps or ways to enable anyone to become involved, to disciple others as Jesus taught us, without having to leave their work.
- For that reason, the aim is to make it as simple as possible. Therefore, we follow Jesus' example of “teaching them a little bit and let them exercise it well.” All of Jesus' teachings were such that even children could understand, but it also changed people's lives.
- Our aim is to continually “seeking God's Kingdom and His will” first. So, this journey will as far as possible be blind to all traditional church boundaries and won't allow any organization or service to be promoted. It will focus on the local community and as far as possible, respect and accept that community's culture and values.
- Our goal is to have more and more “families of God” established. Therefore, part of this journey will be to encourage people who decided along the way to become followers of Christ, to trust God to show them there in their local communities, other members of the Family of God, to be their spiritual family, with whom they can be

together, eat together, share together, commit to each other and commit to living according to the values of the Kingdom.

- This Journey of Discovery is not meant as some kind of academic study program. No, it is rather intended as a journey and an experience where followers of Jesus, who are infected with the Biblical lifestyle of a disciple of Jesus, and the heart of God, and the DNA blueprint for the Ecclesia, can share and experience it.
- Most of the initial training will be done by servants of Jesus who was entrusted with one of the five-fold ministry gifts of Ephesians. 4:11 to 16, and who have learned to serve God's people with these gifts without competing among themselves.
- Together we will discover then how, on this journey, how we will experience God's voice leading us all the way and giving us these learning moments like a string of pearls assembled to prevent anyone to be bored or allowed to just sit back and wanted to be fed.
- Of course, this Journey of Discovery is also aimed at multiplication. So, every person on this Journey, when deciding to become a believing follower of Jesus, will also commit to sharing with two or more other people, this Journey of Discovery (in order of 2 Tim. 2:2).
- There will also be practical exercises and even homework that everyone should do as a part of their journey of discovery, to reorganize their own lives, but also to learn to teach it to others.

The practical how and what

WHO: You can expect the people who will be willing to go on this journey will be believers and followers of Christ, some new and some already mature and many years along the way. But everyone will be willing to commit to this journey and be willing to submit to others on this journey, to keep them accountable, so that the honour and glory of our Lord and King Jesus, will never be tainted.

Because we will become family, we will do everything necessary to get to know one another. So, at least, we will need one another's full names, addresses, birthdates, email addresses, cell phone numbers, etc.

Creating a WhatsApp-group for the members of your Family on this journey, will be a very practical way to communicate 24/7.

TIME: Although the places and time to meet will differ from group to group, it is important to plan and schedule meetings with the other members of your Family on this Journey of Discovery. There need to be time to meet on a weekly basis, when you can meet in a relax way, get to know one another, sit together with only the Word of God, the Bible, on your lap and be open to hear the voice of God speaking to you.

But there need also be time to have the typical Bible-way of "m-eating", where the Family of God meet and eat together, as part of their serving of one another.

HOW MANY AND WHERE: Although there is no limit to how many members can be in this Close Family of yours on this Journey with you, it will only be a practical suggestion that your group needs to fit into the place where you meet on a weekly basis, being an ordinary home or office of someone in the group. So, maybe 7 to 12 people can be a very practical number for such a close family.

The expected outcomes of the Journey of Discovery and the Luke 10-discipling programme

- One of the outcomes of the Journey of Discovery Bible Study groups and the Luke 10-discipling programme is to create in this way a model of training through which millions of followers of Jesus are invited to join in what God is doing all over the world. But also to plant quality ecclesia which can infect communities and nations with the Gospel message, and Kingdom lifestyle.
- With this programme 50 people can disciple and train 250 to 500 people every three months per year. Can you think at the rate of multiplying happening in this way!
- And with this tool available on an App, and available in 5 to 9 other languages, at least 100 nations can be disciplined in the next 5 years.
- This is a very practical way to equip God's people with the basic DNA of the Biblical ecclesia as happened in the very early church as in the Book of Acts.
- It is also a very effective and quick way to launch a new generation of disciples of Jesus to be workers in His harvest.
- During this whole process God will also equip the 5-fold leadership of Ephesians 4, to train and equip leaders among the new generations to train and equip the future leaders.

OTHER TRAINING MATERIAL THAT CAN BE USE

In Afrikaans – Every person that can understand Afrikaans, is encouraged to read the books of Dr Christo Nel, like WAARHEEN MET DIE NUWE WYN, and DIE STORIE AGTER DIE STORIE. And they are encouraged to watch his DVD-training in his YOUTUBE-channel on HOE HOOR EK DIE HERE SE STEM, and JESUS, DIE DOPER MET DIE HEILIGE GEES.

Similar material is also available in English and other languages.

For further information in this regard, please contact Dr Christo Nel, via cell phone on 0827702397, or via email at nchristo@lantic.net

DISCOVERING GOD'S VOICE VIA DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Here is the link to our webpage:

<http://journey-of-discovery.co.za>



Welcome on this Journey of Discovery!

What you are doing at the moment, has a very long and wonderful history!

Please watch the following YOUTUBE-video to understand what I am saying:

Here is the link to the video:

<https://youtu.be/pJq1N4PIH28>



Because of the importance of what you are doing at the moment in this DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP of yours, we've even designed a web-based APP for your smart phone to help you and your friends doing this as easily, but as efficient as possible.

The App, JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Here is the LINK to the JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY-APP that you can type into your SMART PHONE'S BROWSER to download this app to your phone:

<https://journey.beezer.com/>

You, most probably, are not alone and part of a group of two up to seven other friends joining you on this journey.



But if you are alone, you most probably already are a follower of Jesus who have heard of this webpage as a tool to use on your journey while following Jesus. If that is so, why don't you get a few other friends or co-workers to join you on this journey? You will immediately know who they are. Because of the fact that God already started working in their lives, they every now and then, shown definite interest in Jesus, in what He said and did while on

earth, but also shown signs of someone really seeking for the peace the Bible talks about.

Whatever the case, what you will find on this webpage, will be an excellent roadmap on this journey of yours.

It will help all of you to know what to do each time you meet and how to create a safe place for all of you to get to know one another, talk to one another, but also to help you to start hearing the One and Only God of the Bible, speaking to all of you while you are reading and studying the Bible.

I know all of you have questions and heartfelt needs that you just don't talk about to others. But on this journey together, you as a group, will discover that when you are together, it really is safe and exciting to dare to talk to one another about those things that are important. You may even experience how this journey together can change the lives of all of you.

So, I want to congratulate you on being gutsy enough to join me while I lead you and your friends on this journey.

DIFFERENT JOURNEYS

Because I know you and your friends have different questions and needs that are important to you at this moment, I want to invite you to have a look at our [MENU OF DIFFERENT JOURNEYS](#) that we've put together for you to try and meet those needs and help you discover answers to all of those questions.

We know it will, because what you have in front of you, are the result of many years of listening to the questions and needs of millions of others from all over the world that joined us and others on these same journeys of discovery.

You are free to take any of these journeys of discovery that we've made available especially for you, but if we can make a suggestion, we want to dare you to take these journeys one after the other, as we suggested down below, because, we believe, there is also a lot of benefits doing that.

But, as we said, that is your choice!

But first, have a look at the [STUDY GUIDES](#), because there you will find how and what to do when you meet to study the Bible with your group of friends.

Doing it this way, will help you as a group to really get to know one another, but, on the other hand, create a safe place between you where you can start opening up to one another, and experience something remarkable, namely, hearing the God of the Bible speaking to you!

Yes, that is what is going to happen! I can guarantee you that, because I know from experiencing it myself time and time again, that is what happens when you start reading and listening to the Bible, the Word of God.

BEING ON THIS JOURNEY - HOW?

We usually find that there will be two groups of people doing these JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY.

In the one group there will be what the Bible calls, “persons of peace”.

You will find this concept in Luke 10, where Jesus is training his disciples. He tells them to find a home where there is receptivity to the gospel and stay there. This home and its people would represent a “person or home of peace”.

They will most probably be joined by some friends or co-workers (because this “home” could also be at work, or some sports club, or some or other modern tribe we find now-a-days around us. So, these Discovery Bible Study-groups will start where people live, learn, work, and play.

For them these JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY is designed to disciple one another into a relationship with the Creator-God we get to know in and through Jesus Christ, who also wants to be their Father.

This will also be a place to make some friends, learn to read the Bible together, and hear what God has to say about life.

For them it will be all about discovering the voice of the One and Only true God who speaks to people while they are reading His Word.

A simple invitation to others to join a group like this, can be something like this: “I am starting a group that is going to read the Bible together to discover what God has to say about life. Would you like to join us?”

Then there will be also others who will already be in some or other group or church of believers. For them joining a Discovery Bible Study-group will be more of a spiritual journey where they will have an opportunity of reading the Bible together with others and learning to live a life of obedience to Jesus. These groups will give them an opportunity for spiritual growth.

It is important to know that, although there will be these two kinds of people in these groups, what they do and how they do it in these groups, WILL NOT BE DIFFERENT. Everything will be the same.

Your Bible



If you don't have a Bible of your own, click on any of the following links and download a suitable Bible translation in your language that you can use on your smartphone, desktop or iPad.

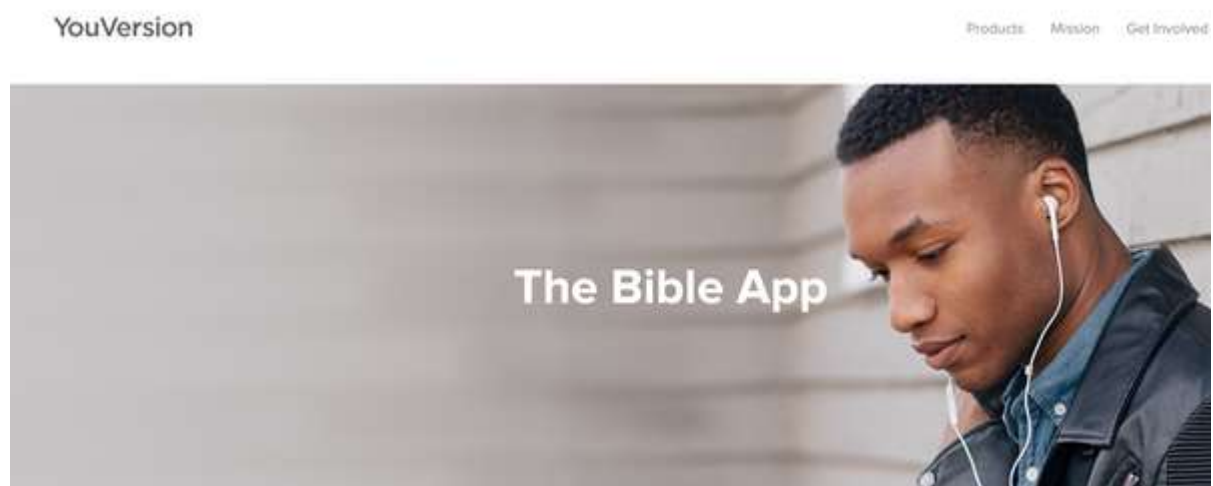
YOUVERSION.COM

Click on the following link to download the YOUVERSION-APP on your specific phone

<https://www.youversion.com/the->

[bible-app/](https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/)

On that page you will find the



And down below



Find the link and download an App for you APPLE phone or your ANDROID phone.

After you downloaded that App, find a suitable Bible translation or two in your language and download it also to your phone.

BIBLEGATEWAY.COM

As an alternative, go to the BIBLEGATEWAY.COM site and find the link to download an App for you APPLE phone or your ANDROID phone.

This site can be used to give people a choice of a language and what Bible translation they want to use – Shoal Creek-congregation uses this option.

Here is the link to that site:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/app/>



For every meeting, go to the Bible passage for that week and download it either through WhatsApp, Mail or SMS. You can even print the passage if you wish.

DIFFERENT ROUTES FOR TAKING PEOPLE ON THIS JOURNEY

Because I know you and your friends have different questions and needs that are important to you at this moment, I want to invite you to have a look at our menu of all the different journeys that we've put together for you to try and meet those needs and help you discover answers to all of those questions.

We know it will, because what you have in front of you, are the result of many years of listening to all the questions and needs of millions of others from all over the world that joined us and others on these same journeys of discovery.

You are free to take any of these ROUTES of discovery that we've made available especially for you, but if we can make a suggestion, we want to dare you to take these journeys one after the other, as we suggested down below, because, we believe, there is also a lot of benefits doing that.

But, as we said, that is your choice!

But first, have a look at the [Study Guides](#), because there you will find how and what to do when you meet to study the Bible with your group of friends.

Doing it this way will help you as a group to really get to know one another, but, on the other hand, create a safe place between you where you can start opening up to one another, but especially can experience something remarkable, namely, hearing the God of the Bible speaking to you!

Yes, that is what is going to happen! I can guarantee you, because I know from experiencing it myself time and time again, that is what happened when you start reading and listening to the Word of God.

USING DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY AS YOUR TOOL

PRACTICAL: USING THE DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PROCESS

It's crucial that you JUST ask questions during the Discovery Bible Study. Let the Bible and the Holy Spirit be their teacher. This allows them to reproduce this method quickly and start other groups without your help. Encourage everyone to participate by asking questions.

You can either coach an insider to ask the questions from the beginning; or you can attend the group for 2-3 weeks. Ask the questions in week 1, coach an insider to ask the questions in week 2 and then no longer attend the group. But, outside the group continue meeting with and coaching 1 or 2 insiders on a weekly basis.

If you are in the group longer than 2-3 weeks, they will be less likely to ever have a group without your help. It is not reproducible.

The Discovery Bible Study (DBS)- Questions

Thankful/Stress:

1) What are you thankful for today?

2) What are you stressed about or struggling with? How about your family, friends and neighbours?

3) Is there something that **this group can do to help** one of these needs?

Review of Last Week's Discovery Passage:

Ask someone to **retell the story** from the last meeting?

- 1) What did this passage teach us about **God**?
- 2) What did this passage teach us about **people**?
- 3) Did you **do** what you said you were going to do? How did that go?
- 4) Who did you **share** with and how did they respond?

This Week's Discovery Passage:

Have at least 2 people **read the verses out loud**.

Have *everyone* re-tell the passage in their own words.

- 1) What does this passage teach us about **God**?
- 2) What does this passage teach us about **people**?
- 3) What should you **do** this week in response to this passage? (I will . . .)
- 4) Who should you **share** with this week?

This format is used in every meeting. While it may seem simplistic or redundant, it is to be repeated until it becomes something the group knows to do without thinking about it.

There is one more question that is needed at times: **"Where do you see that in this passage?"**

The group is trained to ask this question when someone says something completely wrong or tries to bring in topics that are not included in the text as a way to keep the group on track. Here they are being disciplined to depend on Scripture as their source of spiritual authority. Instead of you pointing out that they are wrong, the group learns to use Scripture as their guide.

DIFFERENT ROUTES USING DBS

Here are a few different routes to follow using the DBS tool:

ROUTE - JOURNEY FROM CREATION TO CHRIST

ROUTE - EXAMPLES OF DISCOVERY BIBLESTUDY JOURNEYS

ROUTE - THE 7 DISCOVERY BIBLE-JOURNEYS OF SHOAL CREEK

ROUTE OF EXPERIENCE - A 10-week experience of being a Biblical ecclesia

ROUTE: BE A WITNESS OF JESUS

ROUTE: JOURNEY FROM CREATION TO CHRIST

[Download the JOURNEY FROM CREATION TO CHRIST – GUIDED DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY](#)

1. God Creates – Genesis 1:1-25
2. God Creates Man and Woman – Genesis 2:4-24
3. Man and Woman Eat the Fruit – Genesis 3:1-13
4. God’s Curses – Genesis 3:14-24
5. God Regrets His Creation – Genesis 6:5-8
6. God Saves Noah and His Family – Genesis 6:9 – 8:14
7. God’s Covenant with Noah – Genesis 8:15 -9:17
8. God’s Covenant with Abram – Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
9. Abraham Gives His Son as an Offering – Genesis 22:1-19
10. God Spares His People – Exodus 12:1-28
11. The Commands of God – Exodus 20:1-21
12. The Sin Offering – Leviticus 4:1-35
13. God’s Righteous Servant – Isaiah 53
14. Jesus is Born – Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20

15. Jesus is Baptized – Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
16. Jesus is Tested – Matthew 4:1-11
17. Jesus and the Religious Leader – John 3:1-21
18. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman – John 4:1-26, 39-42
19. Jesus and the Paralyzed Man – Luke 5:17-26
20. Jesus Calms the Storm – Mark 4:35-41
21. Jesus and the Man with Evil Spirits – Mark 5:1-20
22. Jesus Raises a Man from the Dead – John 11:1-44
23. Jesus Talks about His Betrayal and the Covenant – Matthew 26:17-30
24. Jesus is Betrayed and Faces Trial – John 18:1-19:16
25. Jesus is Crucified – Luke 23:32-56
26. Jesus is Resurrected – Luke 24:1-35
27. Jesus Appears to the Disciples and Ascends to Heaven – Luke 24:36-53
28. Enter into the Kingdom God – John 3:1-21

ROUTE: THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

WITNESSING TO PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE BIBLE OR WHO ARE JEWISH

Meditate on the following Scriptures

Isaiah 53

The Jewish feast, the PESACH – See Exodus 12:1-30

Genesis 22 – God providing a lam Himself

John 1:29 – Jesus is the Lamb of God

Luke 15:11-32

It is important to remember that Biblical faith starts when people discover their sins and repent.

When speaking to people who know the Old Testament or who is Jewish, that they need to discover Jesus as the Jewish Messiah of Isaiah 53.

Isaiah 53

The One the prophet is speaking about in this chapter, can't only be the nation Israel.

We read in Isaiah 53:3,

"He is He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand."

The LAW OF MOSES show all of us, we all sinned, and are lying, cheating, blaspheming, and adulterers of heart. We are all lost and under God's wrath, going to hell when we die.

The Bible is God's way of introducing Himself to us. In it we will find the stories of people who met and experience the presence of this God among them, and they also heard the voice of this God speaking to them in different ways.

But the Bible is also an instruction book, introducing people to God and His ways and will for us.

But humanity has thrown away this instruction book.

Looking at the Jewish nation, we see people among them who are trying to apply the instructions of the Old Testament, trying to make heaven a reality on earth.

But looking around us, we all see it is a real mess! And for that reason, the majority of people around us, have chosen not to believe the Bible and to be done with it.

The GOOD NEWS of the GOSPEL OF JESUS

The good news of the Gospel of Jesus is that God send a Messiah to suffer and die on a cross.

The feast of PESACH, PASSOVER

Let's go back Moses and the Law.

Where they slew an animal, a Lam. The Blood of the lam will be a covering for their sins temporarily.

This is celebrated every year during the Feast of PESACH, the PASSOVER.

Let's talk about the meaning of this feast.

Blood was taken and put on the doorposts.

And now they could celebrate Death pass over their children.

All because they had the faith to trust in God who promised that the Blood on the door would be sufficient for Death to Pass over, and their children would be saved!

People could say, what a crazy thing to do! But the fact is, Death passed over their children and their lives were spared!

In the New Testament, we read about John, who was a Jew and knew about this Feast, pointing to Jesus of Nazareth, and saying,

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

So, what John is saying is that Jesus was the Messiah and the Lamb God provided once and for all to take away the sin of the world, which includes you and me!

Gen. 22

Do you remember the story of Isaac and Abraham?

Abraham was going to slay Isaac. But then, miraculously, God gave him a Ram, caught in the thicket!

But in Gen. 22 we also read that Abraham believed that God Himself will provide a lamb.

That is what God did in and through Jesus.

The Gospel message says, Jesus was the Lamb slain as part of God's Plan He made before the foundations of the world, before creation, and before time.

Jesus, the Son of God, God's Messiah sent as a gift of grace to the world, came to be born as a baby here on earth. The Gospel says: He was God in human form.

Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Do you see and hear? Already here in the Old Testament, about 800 BC, God already promised that He will give a Son.

Ps. 2:12

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”

Jesus

Jesus called Himself the Son of God. But the Bible tells us He was God in human form and expressed in the body of a man the Invisible God.

The Lam of God needed to be perfect, without sin. So, when God created a body for His Son here on earth, He used that body as a sort of glove to accommodate Him as a human being.

When we are looking at Jesus, we are looking at Jesus, as a real human being, who really lived here on earth, most probably from 3 BC to 30 AD, historians are saying, but also as God manifested in the flesh.

Isn't that remarkable! That really is GOOD NEWS!

Jesus on the Cross and after

When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, He cried out: It is finished! And what He is saying is that the Law is satisfied!

That means God can legally grants us grace, absolution of our sins, everlasting life, and can legally dismiss our case!

All because of the fact that Jesus suffered and died on the cross as the Lam God provided once and for all and so, took the punishment for the sins of the world.

Then He rose from the dead and so, defeated death!

So, if you repent of your sins, and trust in Jesus and what He did also for you, the Bible says, God will remit your sins that very second, and grant you everlasting life as a free gift.

Not because you are good enough, but because He is good and kind and rich in mercy.

Contrition

So, are you sorry for your sins?

Do you know that it is called “contrition”?

The Bible says, Godly sorrow works repentance.

So, when you have a contrite heart, that brings about true repentance, which the Bible calls “repentance unto life”!

Are you ready to repent and put your faith in Jesus and what He did also for you?

Maybe you are still uncertain or even afraid.

But think of it, God is the God of Israel and He is the Lover of your soul! Go and read Ps. 139 and hear the voice of God telling you that He was the One who created you and formed you in your mother!

All it takes, all that is needed, is a little step of faith! Make a choice to believe what God is saying and promising you.

Just say,

“God, I am going to trust You and Your Word and Good News to me.

So, I am going to yield my life in faith to You.

I ask You to forgive my sins because of what Jesus did on the cross.”

That is all that it takes.

It is so simple, even a child can understand it.

That is why Jesus said, unless you become like a little child, you can't enter in to the Kingdom of God.

Luke 15

Ever heard of the story of the Prodigal Son?

Let me share it with you.

A young man went to his dad and said, I want my inheritance now!

So, his father gave him his inheritance and he went to a far country, away from his father. And the Bible says, he went and spend in on sinful living and prostitutes.

Then there was a famine in that country, and the only way the son could survive and only job he could get was to tend a herd of pigs. All he had to eat was the pig food!

And while he was sitting there in the pigsty, he said to himself:

“How many hired servants of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.”

So, he got up and went back to his father.

And the Bible says, his father saw him from a far way off, and ran to him!

Remember, this was a Jewish father, running to a rebellious son!

And he put his arms around him, fell upon his neck and kissed him.

“And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put [it] on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on [his] feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill [it]; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.”

That is a picture of God’s love for you! You have been a rebel, and turned your back on God, and desired unclean food, pig food!

And yet, God runs to meet us half-way!

That is what the Bible teaches. That is what Jesus was teaching us through this story.

Now it is your turn to respond to the GOOD News

So, if I were you, I would just say,

God, be merciful to me as a sinner! Please forgive my sins and be merciful to me!

Thank you that You have already provided all. You provided a Jewish Messiah, to suffer for us. So that we can have a righteous standing in our sight. Not because of what we did, but because of Your love and grace.

And because of what Jesus did, You want to give us peace of mind and peace of heart.

That is what You are promising us in the Bible, in John 1:12:

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

So, if we put our trust in Jesus and choose to follow Him from now on, You give us life and it for everlasting.

Do you have a Bible, and if not, let’s get you a Bible.

(See this conversation also on YOUTUBE: <https://youtu.be/c3KwDXoq29Q> And you can also find a lot of material and other helpful resources you can use in conversations with others at www.livingwaters.com

ROUTE: DIFFERENT OPTIONS FOR YOUR DISCOVERY JOURNEYS

To give you more options and different kinds of journeys you and your friends can follow, the following DBS sets are broken down into 6 categories:

→ **Stories for Lost People** - These are sets that are typically used for Disciple Groups (DG) of lost people to help them discover Jesus.

→ **Commitment to Christ** - This set is used when people begin asking direct questions about following Jesus. Wherever they are at that point, we recommend taking them through this set.

→ **Basics of a Disciple Lifestyle** - These are essential 'basic' sets for new believers. They are also great for existing churches to go back to as God would lead.

→ **Being the Church** - As a DG begins their journey of following Jesus these sets help them understand what it means to be a 'church.'

→ **Following Jesus** - These sets are a wide array of topics about a life of following Jesus.

→ **Being Leaders** - These sets can be used in a variety of settings and are focused on Kingdom leadership.

10 Stories for Lost People

Mark 2:1-17 - A Party at Levi's

John 3:1-17 - Nic at Night

Mark 5:1-20 - A Transformed Life

Luke 7:36-50 - A Memorable Act

Luke 15:11-32 - The Lost Son Returns

Luke 17:11-19 - Men with Leprosy

Luke 18:9-14 - What God Sees

Luke 19:1-10 - Coming to Your House

John 4:1-42 - Hungry for God

Mark 4:1-20 - Four Soils

Creation to Christ (19 Stories)

God Creates - Genesis 1:1-25

God Creates Man & Woman - Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7-9; 15 -25

How Sin Came into the World - Genesis 3:1-24

Noah & the Great Flood - Genesis 6:5-22

The Tower of Babel - Genesis 11:1-9

Abram/Abraham Father of Nations - Genesis 12:1-8 & 15:1-6

God Tests Abraham's Faith and Obedience - Genesis 22:1-18

God Spares His People - Exodus 12:1-28

Moses & The Ten Commandments - Exodus 19:5-9; 20:1-21

The Sin Offering - Leviticus 4:1-2, 13-21, 27-31

God's Offering for Sinners - Isaiah 53:1-12

Jesus is Born - Luke 1:26-38 & 2:1-20

Jesus is Baptized & Tested - Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11

Jesus & the Paralyzed Man - Luke 5:17-26

Jesus Talks about His Betrayal & the Covenant - Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus is Betrayed & Faces Trial - John 18:1-40 & 19:1-16

Jesus is Crucified - Luke 23:32-56

The Resurrection - Luke 24:1-53

How to Enter into the Kingdom of God - John 3:1-21; Mark 16:15-18

Commitment to Christ

If someone begins asking commitment type questions about following Jesus, we recommend they go through the following set of Bible passages immediately.

The following are often done in one long session or 2-3 shorter sessions.

For each session ask four questions:

- "What did Jesus ask of his followers?"
- "Are you committing to do this with God's help?"
- "How will you obey this in your life this week?"
- "Who will you share this with?"

Are you ready to be a disciple?

Do you know who Jesus is, and will you obey him as your Lord?

- Colossians 1:15-23
- Romans 10:9-10

Will you study Jesus' teachings and obey them?

- John 15:1-8
- John 8:31-32

Will you truly love the other believers even if they are from a different tribe, country or religious background?

- John 13:31-35

Will you meet with the other believers and follow Jesus together?

- Acts 2:42-47

Will you tell other people about God's salvation through Jesus, and train them to be disciples?

- Matthew 28:16-20

Is following God more important to you than family or life?

- Matthew 10:37-42
- John 12:24-26

Do you believe that Jesus died to free you from your sins?

- Colossians 1:19-22

Basics of a Disciple Lifestyle

Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17

Acts 8:26-40

Romans 6:3-5

Acts 2:37-41

Acts 16:11-15, 25-34

I Cor. 1:13-17

Along with the DBS questions, here are some processing questions to ask after you finish reading all of the passages:

- What patterns do you find in NT regarding Baptism?
- What is the significance of baptism based on NT passages?

Being a Disciple of Jesus

Matthew 7:24-29

John 14:15-21

Romans 3:21-28

Matthew 22:34-40

Luke 9:21-27

Matthew 10:1-16

Acts 1:6-11

Acts 2:42-47

Luke 14:25-35

Matthew 28:16-20

2 Timothy 2:1-10

Galatians 5:16-26

John 15:1-8

Matthew 6:25-34

Obeying Jesus

(from: City Team International)

Commitment to Obey the Commands of God

1. Love your Lord your God - Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Commitment to the Example of Jesus

2. Jesus is Baptized - Matthew 3:13-17

3. Jesus Instructs others to Believe & be Baptized - Mark 16:14-20

4. New Commandment – Love and Obey - John 13:34-35, John 14:15-31

5. Remain and Love - John 15:4-12

Commitment to the Great Commission

6. Make Disciples - Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8

Prayer

Jeremiah 33:1-9

Matt. 21:18-22

John 15:1-8

Matthew 6:5-13

James 5:13-18

2 Chronicles 7:14

Mark 11:12-25

Acts 1:12-14

Acts 4:23-31

Luke 6:12-19

Matthew 7:7-11

Luke 18:1-8

Romans 8:26-28

Colossians 4:2-4

Ephesians 6:10-20

Living in the Power of the Spirit

A recommended way to go through this set is to go through a group of the verses each time you meet.

As you read each verse/passage, ask & answer this question: What role does the Holy Spirit play in the life of a disciple?

Then at the end of all the verses for that meeting, ask the 4 discovery questions below that we ask of new passages.

An addition to this study would be to read **Spirit Walk** by Steve Smith. (Steve is part of the foundation of modern movements and this book was written in a movement context.)

A breakdown of the verses by week:

Week 1: John 15:15-17, John 16:5-15, Acts 1:1-11

Week 2: Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:33, Acts 4:7-10, Acts 4:31

Week 3: Acts 6:3, Acts 6:10, Acts 7:55, Acts 8:29, Acts 8:39-40, Acts 9:31, Acts 10:44-46

Week 4: Acts 11:24, Acts 13:2-13:4, Acts 16:6-7, Acts 20:22-23

Week 5: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Week 6: Romans 8:5-6,10-11, Galatians 5:19-23, Ephesians 5:18-19

Being the Church/ecclesia

What is a Church?

Acts 2:37-47

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Ephesians 1:15-23

Romans 12:3-8

Ephesians 5:22-32

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

1 Peter 2:4-10

Other possibilities:

Ephesians 4:11-16

1 Peter 4:10-11

Acts 14:21-28

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Revelation 3:14-22

Some of the Greatest Needs of the Lost – Stories about Peace, Hope, Healing, Purpose, Rest, Relationships

The stories below speak to these needs and many others.

[In the brackets after each story: First: *Possible needs that this story would meet*. Followed by: Possible questions to ask either before or after telling them the story.]

We are seeking to find those who are hungry for God – The “man/woman of peace” (POP’s).

Here are some other questions you can use after the stories to draw out those who God is working in:

- What did you hear in that story?
- Who in the story can you relate to?
- What did you hear about God in that story? What did you hear about people in that story?
- What else could have done?

Other questions to bridge the gap to a Discovery Group:

- Are you near or far from God? Would you like to be nearer?
- If you liked that story there are many others, we can share with you. Could we come by tomorrow (?) and share another story with you & your family?

Stories...

Luke 15:11-32 - Lost Son [*Lack of spiritual hope or unworthy of forgiveness/love; Broken family relationship*. What do you think caused the father to respond the way that he did? How else could the father have responded? What does this teach you about God? How would it change your life to know that you are loved regardless of your past?]

Luke 18:9-14 - Pharisee and Tax Collector [*Hopeless, Lost, feel Unworthy*. Who do you identify with most in the story? What does Jesus' response tell you about God?]

Matt. 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water [Facing challenges. Which step do you think was the most difficult for Peter? When did Peter start to sink? How did Jesus respond? How else could Jesus have responded?]

Mark 5:25-34 - Bleeding woman [*Sickness*. What did it take for this woman to touch Jesus' robe? How did Jesus respond? How else could Jesus have responded? What would it look like for you to reach out to Jesus?]

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus Calms the Storm [*Stressed, Worried*. What else could Jesus have done when the disciples woke him up? How would it change your life if you knew that you didn't have to go through this storm alone? If this is true, what should you do next?]

Luke 17:11-18 - The 10 Lepers were healed & only one came back [*People who have seen God work*. What is the difference between the 9 and the 1?]

Mark 2:1-12 - Jesus heals man let down through roof [*Asking for healing/hope for someone else*. How can you help your friend? How else could Jesus have responded to this group?]

Matthew 13:44 - Treasure in the field found/hidden/purchased [*Not sure if God is 'worth it' or talking about what they would have to give up*. What would it take for you to give up everything for something/someone? What is it that you are holding onto that you think is more valuable than God?]

Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus [*People with many things but little Hope or Purpose*. Who or What can you relate to in Zacchaeus' story? Why did the people respond as they did to Jesus going to Zacchaeus' house? What would have made it difficult for Zacchaeus to decide to follow Jesus? How else could Zacchaeus have responded to Jesus' invitation? How else could Jesus have responded to Zacchaeus' statement about his life change? How do you think this relationship might have changed Zacchaeus' purpose in life?]

Luke 18:35-43 - Blind man shouted for Jesus. Jesus asked him: 'What do you want me to do for you?' [*People who are sick, broken, desperate*. How else could Jesus have responded to the man? What does his response tell us about God? Why do you think Jesus asked the blind man that question, shouldn't that have been obvious? What do you think this tells us about what God wants from us?]

These are not just "stories" but passages for the Hurting . . .

Psalms 9:9-10 - A shelter for the oppressed [*Overwhelmed, Oppressed*. What would it look like for God to be a shelter to you right now? What does it mean to you that God will not abandon you if you search for Him?]

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to me those who are weary & burdened [*Weariness, Struggling w/burdens; No Peace/Hope*. How would your life be different if you didn't have to carry this burden alone?]

For the Parent whose child is wayward . . .

Luke 7:11-17 - The raising of the dead son [*Discouragement/Grief over a child*. What would it mean to you to know that God has compassion on your child? If that is true what would you do differently?]

Other Stories . . .

Matthew 13:31-32 - Parable of the mustard seed [*People needing Hope, Purpose*. How does that picture of a mustard seed speak to you? What would it look like for you to have a mustard seed of faith?]

Matthew 13:45-46 - Pearl of great value [*Purpose, Direction*. Knowing God is worth everything! What are you searching for? What is worth everything to you?]

Mark 5:1-13 - Man with many evil spirits healed [*Demonic, Oppression*. Jesus has power over the demonic]

Matthew 14:15-21 - Feeding the 5,000 [Jesus can miraculously provide for our physical needs]

Matthew 9:18-21 9:23-26 – Jairus’ daughter raised back to life [*Sickness, Hope*. Jesus has power over death]

Mark 11:20-24 - Withering Tree [*Sickness*. Jesus has authority if we will believe and ask]

Matthew 18:1-4 - Whoever comes to me as a humble child . . . - [*Pride, Failure, Unworthiness*. Jesus wants us to come to him as humble as children]

Following Jesus

Kingdom/Jesus Passages for Spiritual Conversations

Primarily for Believers . . .

Matthew 7:24-27 - House built on rock vs. house built on sand [*Obedience, Following Jesus*. God desires and rewards our Obedience]

Matthew 6:25-34 - Don’t be anxious [*Stress, Anxiety, Troubles*. We must seek first the Kingdom & God will provide for all of our needs]

Luke 18:1-8 - Widow & Judge [*Hopelessness*. We must always pray & never give up]

Matthew 7:7-11 - Ask, and it will be given [*Any need*. Ask, Seek, Knock]

Matthew 15:10-20 - It is what is on the inside, not the outside, that matters [*Legalism*. You can follow the laws but that is not what makes you right with God]

Kingdom Parables

Soils - Matthew 13:1-23

Weeds - Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Mustard Seed & Yeast - Matthew 13:31-35
Hidden Treasure & Pearl - Matthew 13:44-46
Net - Matthew 13:47-52
Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:10-14
Unmerciful Servant - Matthew 18:21-35
Workers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16
Two Sons - Matthew 21:28-32
Tenants - Matthew 21:33-46
Wedding Banquet - Matthew 22:1-14
Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13
Talents - Matthew 25:14-30
Sheep & Goats - Matthew 25:31-46

Money #1 – Our Relationship with Money & Possessions

Psalm 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Matthew 25:14-30

Mark 4:18-20

Luke 18:18-23

Luke 10:30-37

Philippians 4:10-13

Luke 16:10-13

Money #2 – Generosity

Acts 4:31-36

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Malachi 3:8-10

1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19

Luke 21:1-4

Matthew 6:19-21, 24

Money #3 – Money wisdom from Proverbs

All the verses below come from the Book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 3:5-6; 11:28; 23:4-5 (Trust)

Proverbs 14:15; 27:23-24 (Planning)

Proverbs 12:11; 13:11; 14:23; (Work)

Proverbs 14:31; 22:9 (The poor)

Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24-25 (Giving)

Proverbs 22:7; 22:26-27 (Debt)

Proverbs 6:6-8; 27:12 (Saving)

Being Leaders

Beginning Studies on Leadership

Phil 2:1-11 Jesus as Servant

Mark 10:35-45 Leaders as Servants

1 Peter 5:1-7 What do good leaders do?

Ezekiel 34:1-10 What do bad leaders do?

John 13:3-17 Servant Leadership (washing feet)

John 17:14-26 Jesus' Prayer for Disciples

Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul's Prayer for Disciples

Matthew 28:16-20 Great Commission

2 Tim 2:1-7 Faithfulness and Multiplying

Ephesians 4:1-7; 11-16 Equipping the Saints

Acts 20:17-38 Paul's example and instructions to leaders

Romans 12:1-8; 9-21 A Sacrificed Life

Titus 1: 5-9 - Qualifications of a Leader in a new Church

Timothy 3:1-7 - Qualifications of a leader in an older church

Ephesians 4 – Five-Fold Gifting of leaders equipping all disciples

Barnabas: Life as a Leader

This can be done in one session

1. Acts 4:36-37
2. Acts 9:23-27
3. Acts 11:22-30
4. Acts 12:25
5. Acts 13:1-3
6. Acts 13:4-13
7. Acts 13:42-52
8. Acts 14:11-20
9. Acts 15:1-2, 12
10. Acts 15:22-26
11. Acts 15:35-39
12. Gal 2:1, 9
13. Gal 2:11-14
14. 1 Cor. 9:1-6
15. Col 4:10, 2 Tim 4:11, Philemon 1:24

Using the DBS in a Crisis

An example of how a crisis situation like the Coronavirus CAN BE USE (this was designed as an intro study over FB during Covid 19 to engage believers or unbelievers)

This was designed for a group of people who agreed to do DBS after an invite.

My discernment at this point is that these people are all believers. I will try to determine if that is true in week 1 and if it is not true I will adjust accordingly.

It is intentionally short as 4 weeks should be enough to discern if there is anyone who is hungry/willing to make disciples.

The idea is to meet the felt need of anxiety in week 1, and move to our response as believers in weeks 2-4. In week 4 I will share my experience with the soils and invite them to DMM Training if they want their life to be 4th soil.

The other goal is to introduce them to DBS. I will challenge them each week to immediately do this same DBS with family/friends.

Week 1 - Philippians 4:6-9 - We can choose peace as we focus on Jesus and fill our minds with the things of God

Week 2 - Philippians 2:1-11 - Think of others first as Jesus modelled (Gospel also weaved in)

Week 3 - Romans 12:1-12 - Give yourselves fully (also Priesthood of believer emphasized)

Week 4 - Matthew 13:1-23 - Parable of the soils (cast vision for being 4th soil and making disciples - next step DMM training?)

ROUTE: THE 7 DISCOVERY BIBLE-JOURNEYS OF SHOAL CREEK

Have a look at the following video where the Pastor of Shoal Creek explained what their intentions were with this Journey of Discovery.

These journeys can be used to disciple unbelievers and believers, and are originally from SHOAL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, 6816 N. Church Road, Pleasant Valley, MO, 64068.

"The 7 Journeys are our way of breaking down spiritual growth into navigable "journeys" that help us move, step-by-step, closer to the person God dreams of us becoming."

7 Journeys Overview & Short Descriptions

The 7 Journeys are listed below along with the different Bible Readings.

I want to suggest that you and your friends follow the different routes one after the other.

1. From trying to Earn God's grace to becoming Heir of God (Trusting Him)

EARNER

Genesis 1:1-31

Genesis 3:1-24

Genesis 6:9-22

Exodus 20:1-21

Leviticus 4:1-35

Isaiah 53

Hosea 3:1-5

Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20

Luke 5:17-26

TRUST

John 3:1-21

Luke 15:11-32

Luke 18:18-30

John 11:17-44

Luke 24:36-53

Romans 5:1-11

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 2:29-38

2. From Self-hearted to Soft-hearted (Obey)

Mark 7:17-23

Luke 9:21-25

Luke 18:9-14

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 John 2:1-6

Psalms 119:1-8

Romans 12:1-2

Proverbs 3:5-6

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

3. Changing from Receiver to Giver (Share)

Matthew 28:18-20

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Matthew 5:13-16

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Luke 10:1-10

Acts 1:6-8

John 4:27-37

Luke 19:1-10

Matthew 9:35-38

4. From Isolation to Community (Relate)

Mark 2:1-12

Hebrews 10:24-25

Philippians 2:3-8

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Acts 2:41-47

John 13:34-35

1 Peter 1:22, 3:8, 4:9, 5:5

Ephesians 4:2, 4:32, 5:21

Romans 12:9-21

5. From Consumer to Producer (Serve)

Luke 12:13-21

Luke 8:4-15

Romans 12:3-8

Luke 19:11-28

1 Peter 4:7-11

Galatians 3:26-29

1 Peter 2:1-9

Matthew 28:16-20

Matthew 23:14-30

6. From Charitable to Extravagant (Give)

Romans 8:32

Matthew 6:19-34

Luke 18:18-30

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

Proverbs 6:6-11

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Mark 12:41-43

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

7. From Traveler to Guide (Disciple)

Matthew 28:16-20

Luke 14:25-34

2 Timothy 2:1-10

John 15:1-17

Matthew 5:1-16

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Hebrews 5:11-14

Matthew 7:15-28

(See ADDENDUM C for another form of these readings)

ROUTE OF EXPERIENCE - A 10-week experience of being a Biblical ecclesia

This route is all about hearing from God, and then, in obedience doing what He is saying in this regard, and experiencing the blessings as a result of obedience, over a period of 10 weeks, together with other members of the Family of God, His ecclesia.

10 KEY ELEMENTS OF THE JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY-PROGRAMME

1. Participants can testify of a radical rebirth and life change

A Biblical rebirth and conversion aren't just knowing and accepting as true what we read in the Bible and about Jesus and what He did. No, it is about testifying of a personal encounter with a living God in Jesus Christ, when accepting Him in faith as Lord and Saviour.

That can only happen after discovering you are totally lost and living in sin, and on your way to hell. But then, after hearing and accepting in faith the Good News of what Jesus did also for you on the Cross and experiencing the joy and life-change after that. So, they will be able to testify of how a walk with Jesus radically changed their life to the core.

2. Baptized in water as believers

In the Early Church, usually on that first and same day people accepted Christ by faith as Lord and Saviour, after hearing them proclaiming their faith by mouth (Rom. 10:9), these new believers were immediately also baptized in water. Yes, there were a few exceptions, but there were always good reasons why this happened this way.

By baptizing the new believers, what Jesus commanded in Matt. 28:18 to 20 were obeyed and as Romans 6 teach, the new believers also experienced not only being dead in sin before, and now, buried with Christ, but also risen with Christ to live the new life we now have in Christ Jesus.

So, any new believer, in obedience to what Jesus said, need to say as the Ethiopian said to Philip, "See, [here is] water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

3. Baptized in/by the Spirit

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter's answer to those who asked how they can be saved in Acts 2:38 and 39 was,

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

For this reason, the Early Church not only baptized new believers in water that same day when they accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, they also laid hands on them and prayed that Jesus as the Anointer with the Spirit, will also baptize and anoint them with His Spirit and

equip them with the gifts of the Spirit in which He wants to use them to minister to other people.

Any new believer in the Early Church realized from Day 1 of their new life in Christ, that as His follower, we do nothing out of ourselves and our own power, but we are only channels through which the grace and love and power of King Jesus flow and minister into people's lives, ministering to others, from Day 1, through the gifts of the Spirit (see Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31; 1 Cor. 14) a word of prophecy, or a word of supernatural wisdom or knowledge, or healing, etc.

4. Being a member of the family of God in the Ecclesia

Acts 2:44-47 describes what happened in the ecclesia in the Early Church this way:

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

No believer and follower of Jesus is meant to be living this individualistic life on their own and all alone. No, we are meant and created to be a member in a family, together with other people of God, the ecclesia.

Because we are created and wired to love, within these spiritual families of faith, we are meant to learn to love and share and minister to each other's needs.

5. A new and clean beginning

Rebirth and this new life we received in Christ Jesus through faith and the work of the Spirit, means we can start on a new and clean page, where what is in the past, can stay in the past, because it is forgiven in and through the Blood of Jesus.

How important is this for new believers to know and accept in faith! So many believing followers of Christ around us nowadays, are wounded, depressed, paralyzed, and unproductive in the Kingdom of God because they don't want to believe and accept this lifechanging truth! For this reason, within the safe cushions of the unconditional love of the family of believers around them, new believers can have the opportunity to lay down and make peace with their past and healed of trauma of the past.

6. Discovering that being a follower of Christ also means being a disciple of Jesus and start making disciples

In the midst of the ecclesia new believers learn to follow and obey what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19, 20:

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

From the beginning of our new life as followers of Christ Jesus, we are meant to obey and seek His Kingdom and His will. This means, His agenda and bigger Plan, became our agenda.

God's will and heart, according to 1 Tim. 2:3-7 is,

"For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For [there is] one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ [and] not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth."

Within the safety of the family of God, the apostolic foundations of our faith are laid (Heb. 6:1-4), but there is also room for us to grow and mature in our new faith in Christ, first being just new babies in faith, but, steadily maturing and later being children, then teenagers, to become mature members in the family of God, through the working of the Spirit and His Word, renewed in their thinking and lifestyle (Rom. 12:2).

7. An important ingredient of this new lifestyle is to be renewed in the way you think about money

Before coming to Christ, all of us were of this world and thinking and doing as everybody around us. So, a very essential component of this new life and way of thinking in the life of a follower and disciple of Christ, is to break with their old way of thinking about money and things. This can mean to stop thinking and believing that there is never enough and that you are never enough, or even discovering that you have been letting Mammon and his ways to rule your life and what you are thinking.

As the Lord Jesus so truthfully said,

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great [is] that darkness!

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Somewhere along the line, every believer and follower of Christ has to choose who they are willing to trust in their life: God or Mammon!

8. The gifts of the Spirit and our calling or ministry

All of us are created uniquely and equipped uniquely to fit in uniquely into God's bigger plan for how He wants to use us.

That also includes the gifts of the Spirit with which God has anointed us.

Within the family of God we need spiritual discernment to see and discover these gifts in each other's lives and how to create room for exercising and ministry of these gifts in our midst. And we need to understand that we are a team with members with different gifts, passions, abilities, personalities, and life experiences that God wants to use to let His Kingdom come while we are ministering to each other and in the rest of the community around us.

9. Disciple one another

To allow other believers in the family of God to disciple you, can be a strange but wonderful experience. But true discipleship will always include you also discipling others.

Tragically within our Western culture and especially within many Christian traditions, many believers became accustomed to sitting in rows and allowing so-called Christian leaders, teachers and pastors to minister to and teach and equip you. But God, through the working of the Spirit, is busy showing us a new picture of being ecclesia, and of the Hebrew meaning of discipleship, where the lives of the disciples are being totally transformed while they are following and imitating their new King, Jesus Christ, and what He is doing in the lives of others around them.

10. Allow Jesus to build His ecclesia by being His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth

Jesus send His disciples to go to people's houses and to be on the lookout for that man of woman of peace, that God already prepared beforehand for the good news of the Gospel, and who will be the door to their family and the community around them. (Luke 10)

Within these homes and families and communities, by sharing meals and their lives and testimonies with them, God will create opportunities to minister through the gifts of the Spirit to them, and these people there will experience the presence of a living God and Jesus in their midst. So, it is not by inviting people to "come to a church" but rather the ecclesia going to wherever God is sending them and being people of God and ambassadors of the Kingdom there.

In this way God will grow His ecclesia and create supernaturally houses and families where the rest of the community, within walking distance, can experience the presence of a living God among them.

In a sense, in this way, the virus of the Kingdom of God, and the DNA of the family and ecclesia of God are supernaturally spread and naturally multiplied.

BEFORE THE TEN WEEK-EXPERIENCE STARTS - A letter to the believers involved

Experiencing over 10 weeks of what it means to be part of a Biblical ecclesia or Family of God!

Introduction

Can you believe it! We are there to start this coming week with this fresh and new experience there in your community!

I don't know about you, but I am so excited to see what God has in mind for this community of His people!

I know what God has told us about doing something new and teaching His people what a new wineskin looks like of being a Biblical ecclesia and family of God.

Week 1

Reading and listening what God is telling us in the Book of Acts and other passages of Scripture, the normal Christian spiritual birth, on man's side, can be described as a process of 4 distinctive things happening, and usually happening all on Day 1 of the life of the new convert coming to Christ. These 4 distinctive things happening as part of this spiritual birth are:

- Because you have discovered that you are a sinner, and on your way to hell, you experience this conviction of sin, and start repenting of all of your sins and sinful way of living
- This is followed by a deliberate choice to accept Jesus Christ in faith as Saviour and Lord of your life by believing it in your heart and confessing it with your mouth.
- After hearing your confession, the believers around you, usually on that same first day, will take you to water and baptize you in water.
- And there in the water, they will lay hands on you and pray to Jesus as the Baptizer with the Spirit, to anoint and equip you with the gifts of the Spirit in which He will use you in future to minister to people His supernatural love, grace, word and healing.

As part of this experience, we will be focussing during Week 1 on the first two things of this spiritual birth process, and in Week 2 we will be focussing on the next two.

Although there will be an opportunity during Week 1 for people to come to Christ for the first time in their lives and all 4 things will be ministered to them, Week 2 will also be an opportunity for anyone who wasn't baptized as a believer and who haven't experienced a

laying on of hands to receive the gifts of the Spirit, to also experience this as part of their spiritual birth process.

For Afrikaans speaking people, who have this material available, they can prepare themselves by reading the following:

WAARHEEN MET DIE NUWE WYN, chapter 5
DIE STORIE AGTER DIE STORIE, Day 6-8, 20,21

Use the time before our official meeting to pray for the meeting and the weeks after that, that God Himself, through His Spirit, will lead us in this experience and use it to minister to us and to equip each of us for our ministry.

May you be blessed and experience the Love of Jesus during this week and the weeks after that.

Use the time beforehand to listen to God's voice through these Scriptures

Isaiah 1:2-3,11-18; 55:1-7; Romans 3:10-28; Acts 2:21,36-42.

Focus in these Scriptures on...

1. The importance of a Biblical conversion

The only way you can be a member of God's ecclesia is through Repentance and believing the Good News that Jesus Christ is Saviour and Lord

2. That will result in a changed life bearing fruit that fit that life

Meditate on ...

A normal Christian birth

In John 3:3 and 5, Jesus said the following about this:

Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.'

Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?'

Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

In summary, a normal Christian birth, looking at it from man's point of view, is a process with 4 essential elements:

1. Standing at the foot of the cross, and seeing Him hanging there also for you as a totally lost sinner, deserving nothing but hell, leads to a conviction of sin, true repentance and a choice to make an 180-degree turn-around.
2. And a choice to accept Jesus Christ by faith as your personal Saviour and Lord, believing it with all of your heart and confessing it by mouth.
3. Believers around you, hearing your confessing of faith, in obedience to Christ, take you and baptize you in water.
4. And there in the water, lay hands on you, while praying that Jesus as the Baptizer with the Spirit, will also anoint and equip you supernaturally with the gifts of the Spirit according to His will to use you in future.

WEEK 1 - A normal Christian Birth process starts with a biblical conviction of sin, followed by repentance

Meditate on the core message of the Gospel.

John 3:16 Rom. 3:10-26 2 Cor. 5:19-21

Gal. 3:13 John 1:12 1 John 5:12-14

Repentance is... Luke 24:47, 2 Cor. 7:9,10, 1 Thess. 1:9

In your own words, summarize the core of the Gospel message.

Over the years different methods were used to explain this message to people, like the 4 Spiritual Laws-booklet of CAMPUS CRUSADE.

Use a POWERPOINT presentation to remind everyone of its content.

Let's start by meditating on the first element of this Normal Christian Birth.

A Biblical conviction of sin and repentance is described in Greek as a 180-degree turn-about, or different way of thinking, seeing things from God's point of view.

A true Biblical conviction begins by realizing the seriousness of sin in your life in the presence of a Holy God, who hates all sin, but who loves all people and wants them to be saved.

Sin means missing the mark, and rebelling against the will and authority of the Only, True God, because of wanting to be God in your own life.

Listen to passages of Scripture in this regard, like Rom. 6:23, 1 Cor. 6:9,10, and Gal. 5:19-21.

How do people discover that they are sinners and on their way to hell?

In Gal. 3:24 and 25, the Spirit reveals that the Law (or Ten Commandments), was put in charge to lead us to Christ. So, by testing ourselves and our way of life against each of the Ten Commandments, we discover no one is righteous and all of us are sinners and deserving God's righteous anger and punishment. Rom. 3:10-20

Let's examine ourselves in the light of each of the Ten Commandments.

1st Commandment – Is the God of the Bible really the Only God in your life? Do you trust and serve only Him in everything you do and speak?

2nd Commandment – Or is there anything or anyone else God in your life, getting more time and attention than He does? What is the picture of God like in your mind? Is it similar to what the Bible tells us about God? Do you really fear God with a Biblical fear?

3rd Commandment – Do you use the Name of God as a cursing word, or in disrespectful way?

4th Commandment – Is there at least one day of the week when you do things and spend time differently from the days of the rest of the week? Is there a day of the week when you make time for God and His things, and for meeting with other people around the Word of God, and focusing on ways loving and serving one another?

5th Commandment – Do you really honour and love your Mom and Dad? Do you show honour and respect towards people who are in positions of authority?

6th Commandment – Are there people who you hate, or who you just can't forgive because of what they did or say? Did you take the life of someone?

7th Commandment – Is there a man or a woman or a boy or a girl that you fantasize about? Do you look at porn on the internet? (Matt. 5:27,28)

8th Commandment – Do you steal? Do you take what is not yours? Do you pay your taxes and report honestly in your conversations with SARS?

9th Commandment – Do you talk negatively or untruthfully about others?

10th Commandment – Are you content with what you have, or always desiring or wishing you have more or what others have?

Other lists of sins in the Bible:

Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:17-19; 4:25-31; Rom. 1:29-32, 13:13-14.

Have you sinned in thought, deeds or words? Have you sinned against God, others, or even yourself? Or are you guilty of neglect or not be willing to act or do the right thing, even though you knew what God wanted you to do?

Trust the Holy Spirit to convict you of specific sins wherever necessary.

And then, start confessing those sins and ask for His forgiveness.

Remember, true Biblical repentance also means making a deliberate choice to turn away from those sins and not doing it again.

And then there is the need to do restitution, and to do whatever is necessary to make right what you have done wrongly in the past. See Luk. 3:8, 19:1-10, and Acts 19:18,19.

True forgiveness always begins with God forgiving us and restoring our relationship with Him which we have broken.

He forgives us and choose to immediately forget our sins.

And on our side, we need to accept His forgiveness in faith, and then, if needed, start forgiving ourselves.

An essential part of true Biblical repentance is choosing to forgive others who have sinned against you. (See the Our Father-prayer, and Philemon, verses 12 to 14, and verse 19.)

WEEK 2- BELIEVING IN FAITH IN JESUS AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR AND LORD

Meditate on the core message of the Gospel.

Joh. 3:16-18

Rom. 3:21-28

1 John 5:11-14

John 1:12

Rev. 3:20

Also read Acts 2:36 to 39, and Heb. 6:1 and 2 in this context.

Believing in faith in Jesus as your personal Saviour and Lord, is an essential part of the Normal Christian Birth. (See ACTS 2:38,39, and Heb. 6:1,2)

According to what God is saying in His Word, everyone who believes that Jesus Christ also came, and was crucified and died on your behalf, can know they became children of God and have eternal life.

Jesus gave His Life, as the Guiltless One, in our place and on our behalf, and took on God's punishment and wrath because of our sins.

He so became a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood.

How can I be saved?

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” (Acts 16:30-31)

5 Essential elements of Biblical saving faith

- True faith is based on historical facts. Jesus Christ historically truly died on a cross on Golgotha, just outside of Jerusalem. And He was risen after three days in the grave and appeared over a period of 40 days to more than 500 people as the Living Lord.
- Biblical faith is very personal. You must believe it with all of your heart that Jesus Christ also did it for you personally.
- True Biblical faith must be confessed with your mouth. (Rom. 10:9-11)
- The fruit of true faith must be seen in your life and lifestyle.
- True faith will hold on and endure till the end.

Answer these personal questions

Did you accept Jesus Christ as your Personal Saviour and Lord?

What would your answer be, say, if you die today and appear before the Living God, and He asks you, why should I allow you into heaven?

Faith is ...

Faith is the foundation and core of this whole process of a normal Christian birth.

This faith is not based on emotions but is based on what facts and what God is saying in His Word, the Bible. (Acts 4:12)

The heart of these critical important events is a cross and empty grave. (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

Biblical faith is believing that these events really happened and trusting that it has life-saving consequences for your life personally.

True faith not only believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world, but also believing that He truly also died for your sins and came to save you.

True faith is very personal and believes that everything Jesus did He also did for you. To this true faith hold on for dear life.

Biblical faith is not only obediently following and living according to certain laws. It is obediently following a Living Lord and Saviour, because you love and know Him personally and intimately.

According to the New Testament true Biblical faith needs to be confess by mouth. See what Acts 2:21 is saying about the Name of Jesus. And Rom. 10:9-10 is also talking about confessing with your mouth what you are believing in your heart.

Eph. 2:8 to 10, tells us that we are saved by grace in Christ Jesus. But that at the core of true faith is living a life in obedience, as the Message translation translates, *“joining God in the work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.”*

True Biblical faith is faith in action. (James 2:14)

In Heb. 11 you will find many examples of faith in action.

True faith endures.

Listen to what the following Bible passages are saying in this regard: Heb. 12:1-12, Heb. 10:19-25, Heb. 10:32-39.

John 20:31 and 2 Cor. 13:5 also tells us that true Biblical faith endures to the end.

Faith is walking and following Christ and what He is telling us, in obedience. Heb. 13:5 and 6, John 10:28, and Rom. 8:31,35 to 37.

An Example of teaching these truths

The Biblical Ecclesia is born there where the Gospel message is taught and God, through the working of the Spirit, revealing to people that they are sinners and on their way to hell, but also helping them discover what Jesus Christ also did for them and by accepting it in faith, they can be saved and become children of God.

Because I believe that ecclesia is in essence Family of God, I usually try and teach the message of the Gospel in such a way that both adults and children in the audience can understand it.

Teaching these truths can be a part of a Luke 10-outreach and will happen after trusting God to minister to the needs of the people over there, and explaining who the God is that met their needs.

Teaching these truths can also be an essential element of teaching what the Bible is telling us about a Normal Christian birth.

While teaching people what the core message of the Good News of the Gospel is, I usually use different methods doing it. One of the ways is using an A4-page to illustrate that the cross is the only way to God, and every other way only leads and spells H-E-L-L.

The Wordless Book is an excellent and very simple way of teaching the core message of the Gospel in such a way that children would understand it.

I also use the teaching of the 10 Commandments of the Law as God's way of revealing to everybody that they are sinners and deserving hell and God's punishment. (See Gal. 3:22-25)

After teaching about faith, specifically in an audience where there may be believers who were not already baptized as believers (because of the Church tradition they grew up in), tell everyone that there will be an opportunity for these believers (and new believers) to be baptized in water, and also be baptized in the Spirit by laying on of hands.

End the teaching and give an opportunity for everyone to have a meal together and just spend time with one another.

WEEK 3 – TO BE BAPTIZED IN WATER

Meditate on the core Scriptures on baptism.

Matt. 28:19

Acts 2:38-39, 8:11 and 12, 10:44-48, 11:11-18, 15:7-11, 11:14, 16:15,31, 18:8

Rom. 6:1-12

Col. 2:9-12

1 Cor. 1:16

Tit.3:5

1 Pet. 3:21

Teaching in this regard

In certain parts of the church world, babies are baptized because they believe that baptism in water replaced circumcision, and all because of their interpretation of the Bible passage, Col. 2:11 and 12. But any close examination of that particular passage will reveal that the "circumcision" in this passage is not a physical act but rather the circumcision of the heart or rebirth that Jesus is speaking about in Joh. 3:1-16, that will be revealed when someone repent of their sins and confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour with their mouth. (Rom. 10:9)

It is also clear that baptism in the Bible is always meant to be a baptism of believers, be they adults or children. For that reason, Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples of all the nations, and then baptize them and teaching them all that He has taught us. (Matt. 28:19)

It is also important to note that these new believers will be baptized *“in the Name of ...”*, which implies that at baptism every new believer is laying down their lives and everything else before Jesus Christ as Lord and is choosing that He is from now on King and Lord, and all that they are living for.

It is also clear from the context in Scripture that baptism in water implies being immersed under the water, and also being washed and cleansed from all the filth of sin. (See Acts 22:16, Eph. 5:26, and Heb. 10:22)

The baptism in water is also a picture of the death and burial of the old man in Christ. (See Rom. 6:1-12, Col. 2:9-12)

According to Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12, and 1 Pet. 3:21, baptism is this picture of how the “old man” is literally buried in a water grave. This new reborn believer is now “dead” to their previous life of sin and received a new life in Christ. For that reason, the person who is baptised, is now also lifted out of the water as a picture of being resurrected with Christ and able in Christ to live this new life when walking in the Spirit and letting Him bring new order to their lives.

This is such an important truth, that the New Testament even use the word “save” in this context when speaking about baptism in water. See Mk. 16:16, Acts 2:40-41, 1 Pet. 3:21.

In Titus 3:5 we read about the *“washing of regeneration”*, and so just emphasising that this baptism in water is an essential part of that new birth that is busy happening (see also John 3:5).

Ook Tit. 3:5 verwys hierna as hy praat van *“die bad van wedergeboorte”*, waar ‘n persoon gebore word uit of in water (Joh. 3:5). In 1 Pet. 3:21 Peter explains what is happening at baptism in water, this way: *“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”*.

In 1 Cor. 10:1,2 we read, *“I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”*

Out of the old life in Egypt, the nation of Israel, passing through the sea, were “baptized” to go into this new life in Canaan. (See Rom. 6:11 to 14 about the new reborn believer becoming an heir of this new life in Christ Jesus.)

When did baptism in water happened in the Early Church?

According to passages of Scripture like Acts 2:37 to 39, 10:48, and 16:33, baptism in water happened on that same day when people responded in faith, accepting Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Acts 26:20 also stresses the fact that a true Biblical new birth, with its elements of true repentance and faith in Jesus, and baptism in water, will also be seen afterwards in a life testifying about this change and transformation that happened.

Acts 19:4-5 emphasised the fact that while repentance was the only condition for receiving the baptism of John, baptism in water in the life of the new believer, only happened when that person repent and testified with their mouth about their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Without evidence of faith in Jesus, nobody was baptized in the Early Church.

It is important to also stress that baptism in water was totally done voluntarily. See 1 Pet. 3:21 and Acts 2:38 describing it this way: *“Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...”*

This also explain why the very unique form of the verb, the middle voice, is used in Acts 22:16 for example. The active form of the verb would mean “baptize yourself”, while the passive form of the verb would mean “to be baptized”. The middle voice of the verb just stresses the fact that the new believer should get themselves baptized immediately, by other believers around them at that time.

So, baptism in water emphasised the end of the old way of living and the beginning of a new life in Christ.

Of course, this new life in Christ won't just happen automatically. It will be a choice from day to day, surrendering to the Spirit and obeying His voice. And when there is sin again, that sin should be confessed, and a choice made again to live this new life. (1 John 1:9)

The Old Testament parallel can be found in Ex. 29:4,7 and Lev. 8:6,12, when the priest in the Old Covenant, were separated and cleansed in water, and then anointed with oil.

In the New Testament and Covenant, all believers are priests and also need both these baptisms, a baptism in water and a baptism in the Spirit.

In the next section we will talk more about this.

WEEK 4 – BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Reflect on the following Scriptures in this regard:

Jn. 14-16

Acts 1:8, 2:36-39, 8:4-24, 19:1-7

Rom.8:1-16

Luk.11:9-13

When you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour in faith, as Jesus promised in Jn. 14-16, the Holy Spirit came to live within you. That is not something you need to worry or wonder about. See 1 Cor. 12:3 and Romans 8:1 to 16.

But according to Jesus, who is also the Baptizer with the Spirit, that is not only what God wants for us. He also wants to baptize us “in the Spirit” and so equip every believer with the “Spirit on us” and with the gifts of the Spirit.

See the following passages of Scripture in this regard: Luk. 24:46-49, Acts 1:8, 2:36-39, 8:4-24, and 19:1-7.

According to Acts 2:36 to 39, and all the other Scriptures I’ve quoted in the previous paragraph, baptism in/with the Spirit, was part and parcel and essential element in what we can call the “normal Christian birth”, all happening normally on Day 1 in the new believer’s life.

To summarize this normal spiritual re-birth process, we see someone, while listening to the Gospel message about Jesus and what He did, through the working of the Spirit in them, became aware of their rebelliousness and sin, and God’s wrath on them, and start repenting and call out for God’s forgiveness. Hearing what Jesus did for them on the cross, they choose to accept Him as their personal Lord and Saviour in faith and start confessing that with their mouth. (Rom. 10:9)

Believers around them, hearing their testimony, recognise that as a spiritual birth happening, and as typical spiritual midwives, immediately start attending to this newborn spiritual baby, and take them by the hand and lead them to water to be washed in the baptism water.

And there in the water, according to what the Spirit taught them, they lay hands on that spiritually newborn believers, and start praying and asking Jesus, as the Baptizer with the Spirit, to anoint and baptize this newborn believer also with His Spirit, coming on them, and so, equipping them supernaturally with the gifts of the Spirit that He know He want to use them in later in their ministry as His ambassadors and witnesses.

This was, according to Scripture, the normal way this spiritual birth happened in the life of every new believer, all normally on Day 1 of their new life as new believers, in the Early Church, according to the Book of Acts.

I don’t know about you, but because of the fact that the part of the Church of Christ I grew up in (in an Afrikaans DRC congregation, and because of what they believed, what was Biblically a normal process all happening on Day 1 in a new believer’s life, became in my own life a very long and strenuous process of more than 40 years, since the day I came to Christ in October 1969, and then to be baptized with the Spirit in April 1992, and only to be baptize in water in October 1993!

If your spiritual walk and life with the Lord are similar to mine, and one or two of these crucial elements of the Normal Christ birth process is still missing, I want to plead with you, listen to what God is telling you in and through His Word, and obey what He is saying.

If you need to be baptize in water as a believer, find yourself a group of believers who will understand and already obeyed and experienced what God promised in this regard, and ask them to baptize you in water, but also to lay hands on you in the water, and to ask Jesus as the Baptizer with the Spirit to also baptize you with His Spirit.

If you hear the voice of God speaking to you in this regard, become a doer of the Word and choose to obey Him as your Lord and King. Tell Him, Lord, I've heard what you have said in this regard. And this is what I believe is also part and parcel of Your gift of grace to me in Christ Jesus!

In Mrk. 11:24 we hear God promising us that if we ask Him for His Spirit, He will also give Him to anoint and come on you.

In Luke 11:9 to 13 God is encouraging you to keep on asking till it happens, because it will happen if you just keep doing obediently what God Himself told you to do.

So, let's check if everything in your spiritual birthing process happened in accordance to what God is teaching us in His Word:

1. Was there this element of a specific time of contrition and repentance of the sin in your life at the beginning of your conversion and spiritual rebirth? Although this is a necessity in the life of every new believer coming to Christ, repentance of sin and even deliverance is especially crucial in the lives of people who struggled and were involved in the occult and other organizations and activities which clearly were demonic inspired.
2. Did you accepted very deliberately, in faith, believing it in your heart and confessing it with your mouth, that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour in your life? And if that happened quite a while back, can the fruits of this new life clearly be seen in your actions and words?
3. Have you been baptized in water as a believer? Remember, the only baptism in water in the Bible, is the baptism of people who have chosen to believe and who have accepted Him as their Lord and Saviour in faith.

What does the Bible mean when we read about to be baptised with the Spirit, or to receive or be anointed with/by the Spirit?

It was quite a discovery in my life as a pastor in the DRC to discover that something similar happened in the lives of certain individuals in the Old Testament. See in Num. 11:25 and 1 Sam. 10:6.

We especially find this happening in the Old Testament in the lives of people God has chosen and appointed as kings and priests, where He commanded that they be anointed with oil.

Right through the Bible oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and what He is doing.

For that reason, as in Ps. 2:2, the Messiah is literally “the Anointed One”, because He will be anointed and supernaturally equipped by the Holy Spirit for what He need to do. See also Isaiah 61.

In the New Testament, the word, Christ, in the Greek, is literally, “*the Anointed One*”. And we read in the Book of Acts, the followers of Christ are later called “*Christians*”, or literally, “*anointed ones*”, or even “*supernaturally anointed ones*”.

In Matt. 3:11, we read, that Jesus Christ will be the One who will baptise or anoint us with His Spirit.

In Isaiah 7:14 He is called “*Immanuel*”. And in Matt. 1:20, we read, that the Angel told Joseph that “*which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit*”.

And about thirty years later, when Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptise Him in water, “... *for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*” (Matt. 3:15)

And while He was standing there in the water after being baptized, we read in Luke 3:21 and 22, “... the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

Right after this happening in the life of Jesus, His public ministry started and we saw Jesus operating and ministering in the supernatural power and gifts of the Spirit.

About this we hear John testifying in John 1:14 and 16, saying, “*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*”

A few weeks later after what happened there in the Jordan river, we find Jesus in a synagogue in Nazareth, reading from the Book of Isaiah, chapter 61: 1 and 2 (see Luke 4:18 to 21):

“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, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’”

“Anointed by the Spirit” ... “*echrisen*” in the Greek, means to be supernaturally equipped by the Holy Spirit with His gifts and power, to be supernaturally used by God to minister to people as He want to.

Be it to be minister the Good News of the Gospel to the poor. Or to tell people the good news that God is able to provide a key to unlock the prison cell they are in at the moment in their lives.

Or to minister healing to people who can't see, physically or spiritually.

Or to deliver people supernaturally who are oppressed demonically or for whatever other reason.

Yes, to tell them prophetically that God's Year of Jubilee, and His favour is about to change everything in their lives.

"Chrio" or the word "chrisma" in the Greek, can be translated with "anoint" or "equip supernaturally for a task". Or in English, "to pour oil upon someone as a means of conveying a supernatural blessing and endowment for a task ..." And "to pour oil upon someone ...preparatory to set a person on fire ..."

Baptism in/with the Spirit is always about a supernatural, Godly anointing and equipping for ministry as people of God in this world.

This is what happened to specific individuals in the Old Testament, like with a king, or a priest, or a prophet.

En so sien ons dit in die Nuwe Testament gebeur.

And this is what happened in the New Testament with ordinary believers.

After a ministry of about three years, we see disciples of Jesus, experiencing the first three elements of a normal spiritual birth: contrition and repentance of sin, coming to faith, and being baptised in the Name of Jesus.

And just before His ascension to heaven, we hear Jesus saying to His disciples,

"not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4,5)

And, in verse 8:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you", Jesus said, and this meant at least the following in the light of other similar passages of Scripture:

- The Holy Spirit is a Person, God, giving and equipping us with supernatural power through which He can minister into the lives of people; ministering life and the power of God and His Kingdom here on earth.
- This baptism or anointing with/in the Spirit must be "received" as a gift from God. We literally need to take and accept it with empty hands in faith. And as is certainly already a fact that the Holy Spirit is already indwelling in the body of every believer,

it is also a fact, according to the promises of God in His Word, that He wants to anoint and equip every believer with what Jesus described in John 7:37 to 39: *“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”* Everyone asking for this, as a child asks his father, will receive this from his Heavenly Father. (Luke 11:13)

- If and when you are baptized in the Spirit, you and people around you will know and experience it. Jesus promised His disciples that they will be baptized in the Spirit, and they experienced it personally. (See Acts 2)

When reading Acts 2, just remember that at that stage there was nobody that could lay hands on these believers for them to be baptized in the Spirit, and because of that, God did it Himself. He anointed them Himself,

“and divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

So, people around them heard them praising God, and prophesying and telling everybody that came to look what was happening there, about God, and Jesus and everything He did, just as Jesus said they would.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...”

When asked, Peter told the crowd who looked on in total amazement to what happened there in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost that day, that what was happening was a fulfilment of the prophecy of the prophet, Joel, in chapter 2:28 to 32 of the book of Joel.

“But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.’” (Acts 2:17 and further)

In Acts 4:31 we, again, read how the place where the believers were together, were shook when the Holy Spirit, again, came to fill these believers and to give them the courage and a new boldness to testify freely about what God was doing.

So, this filling or baptism in/with the Spirit can happen again and again!

Another important thing to see is that there can be different signs and manifestations when it happens. Like the new unity and love that will be among these believers.

As we read in Acts 2:44 and further:

“And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

Acts 4:31 and further, continues by describing how the believers...

“Continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

It is also important to note, when you read Acts 8:14 and further, that people were baptized in/with the Spirit when other believers, who were already baptized in/with the Spirit, prayed with them while laying hands on them.

This happened in Acts 8:17, 9:17, 19:6, and in 2 Tim. 1:6-7.

(There were two exceptions, Acts 2 and then in Acts 10:4 and further, but as I already said when explaining what and how it happened in Acts 2, there were very good reasons why there were these exceptions to the normal birthing process.)

In Acts 9, we read, Paul was baptized in/with the Spirit. And in Acts 10:44 and further, verse 46 is telling us about the signs that the Holy Spirit also came upon Cornelius and his people, because *“... they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”*

I don't know about you, but don't you desire this also for yourself and those around you? Why don't you go to God and ask Him? Why don't you go then to believers you know who already were baptized in/with the Spirit and ask them to pray for you and to lay hands on you as God taught us in His Word.

And He will do it, as He did in the lives of millions and millions of believers all over the world.

The way this happens, is from man's side, believing and taking it by faith.

In John 7:37 and 38 Jesus said:

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

Deel van hierdie ontvangs is natuurlik 'n vat daarvan. Hoe vat en ontvang jy dit?

Thirst, and go to Jesus as the Baptizer in/with the Spirit, and drink!

Because, in Eph. 3:20, God promises us,

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.”

Of course, contrition and true Biblical repentance is a prerequisite. (Acts 2:38, 1 Joh. 1:5-10)

Ask it from Him in prayer. (Luke 11:9 to 13)

And then, in faith, expect and believe it happened, whatever way it does. (Acts 9:6 and 17)

And expect it to happen even a few times with the same people. (Acts 2:1-4, 4:29-31)

It is important to note that you and I accept the baptism and anointing with the gifts of the Spirit by faith. God said in His Word, this is the way it will happen, and we accept in by faith, and that is the end of it. Just as we accepted by faith God promises that by accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we are now children of the Living God. (Gal. 3:13-14, Mark 11:22-24, 1 Joh. 5:14-15).

TEACHING AND MINISTERING IT TO GOD’S PEOPLE

One way of teaching and ministering this to people, I usually ...

1. Uses a POWERPOINT – presentation to teach the important material.
2. Some of the important Scriptures I usually uses, are: Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:4,5,8, Chapter 2. And then, when teaching about the Life of Jesus, Luke 3:21-22, 4:1,14,16-21,31,32,40,41 and 5:17. And when teaching on the gifts, 1 Cor. 12:4-11, Rom. 12:6-8, Luke 11:9-13 and Gal.
3. Then I usually read from Rom. 6:1-12 in preparation to baptize believers who are still to be baptized in water.
4. As soon as the newly baptized believers are clothed in dry clothes, we pray for them that Jesus as the Baptizer with the Spirit, will come and baptize them for the first time or again, with His Spirit and His gifts. This we usually do by laying hands on them.

WEEK 5 – LEARN TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD AND START MINISTERING IN OBEDIENCE

Reflect on the following Scriptures in this regard:

John 10:3,4,14,15,27 and 28

Ezekiel 36:26,27, John 14:16,17

1 John 2:26,27

Rom. 8:14

Rom. 12:1,2

Introduction

When reading the Bible, we clearly hear God telling us that He wants an intimate personal love-relationship with all of His children. This is what we hear Him saying in John 10:3,4,14,15,27 and 28. His sheep will experience everyday that He is leading them with His voice.

“Hearing the voice of God”, is really this 3-fold process of a) Hearing God’s voice, b) Recognising it as the voice of God, and c) Obeying that voice.

Even in the Old Testament already, we see and hear about God speaking to His people in a very personal manner. Hebrews 11’s list of heroes of faith are perfect examples of some of the people.

But now we, as people living after the coming of Jesus Christ, are even in such a much more privilege position. Listen to what God is telling us in this regard in Hebrews 1:1 to 5:

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’?”

So, Jesus Christ came to earth, to die and be resurrected as the New King also here on earth, but also to send us His Spirit, to come and live within all of us as His people (John 14:26).

Yes, He as our King, through the Spirit, is now living in each of us as His people! (John 14:18)

His Spirit in us, is the One who wants to lead and speak to us, day by day, from situation to situation. (Ezekiel 36:26,27, and John 14:16,17) He is the One who wants to lead us in what is true, but also wants to help us distinguish between what is right and wrong, and what the will of God is.

As a young Samuel had to learn to distinguish God’s voice from all the other voices we hear from day to day, we also need to learn to know God’s voice. (1 Samuel 3:1 to 10, 19,20)

- 1 John 2:26,27 - The Holy Spirit will be the One who will speak to us in different ways.
- Rom. 8:14 – He is the One who will lead and teach us as God’s people from day to day.

- Rom. 12:1,2 – He will change us by changing our way of thinking, feeling and the choices we make.

How will the Holy Spirit do all of this?

He will speak in different ways to us, of which the most important will be...

- Through what is written in the Bible as the Word of God. (Ps. 119:105, Eph. 6:17, Heb. 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:16,17). This is really the only voice we don't need to test to distinguish if it is really God's voice we are hearing. So, this will always be our final test to hear what God is really saying, if and when He uses any other way of speaking to us. And of course, it is important that we read Scripture in context to understand exactly what God is really saying in and through a specific Scripture. And remember, God never can contradict Himself in Scripture. And if that is what it looks like, the chances are a 100% that we are misunderstanding that particular Scripture!
- God will also use other believers in our lives to speak to us through the gifts of the Spirit. (See 1 Cor. 12 to 14, Eph. 4:11-12)
- An important element of learning to hear the voice of God speaking to us, is to hear when He is speaking to us through His Spirit living within us. (Rom. 8:16) Because God's Spirit is living within us, within our bodies, we can expect Him to speak to us from within. A very good example already from the Old Testament, was in 1 Kings 22, where we read about King Jehoshaphat, just experiencing that what he is hearing the prophets in this case saying, is not from the Lord! According to Ps. 37:4, God can use your desires to speak to you. The way we will experience God speaking to us from within, will be via spontaneous thoughts or feelings. Yes, it can even be through an inner gut feeling or via your conscience. I believe that our spirit is where the Spirit of God is abiding and living within us. So, this will also be the place from which He will be speaking to us. And this is the way I understand a passage like Acts 16:6 to 10. God was leading them in the midst of all of this, maybe through a still voice from within, of a vision, or even a dream, but what is very important is that Paul and his friends knew this was God, showing them at least 3 times, in different ways, what His will for them was in that specific situation.
- But sometimes God will even use very strange ways to speak to us, as through doors opening, or through a burning bush, or even a donkey, as in the life of Bileam. (Num. 22)

I really believe that most of us, especially as Westerners, are struggling to hear the voice of God because of our inclination to be so rational and even very sceptic as far as these supernatural are concern.

But even more important, because we believe that all our thoughts and feelings are our own, and our own doing, this really can make us deaf to the voice of God speaking this way.

An important element and step to take to hear the voice of God, is to just understand the basics of what being a Christian and follower of Christ really is. Being a Christian and follower of Christ, is not in the first instance to live by some kind of ethical code or set of rules. No, according to the Bible, it is an intimate, very personal, loving relationship with a Living, Resurrected Jesus Christ, who wants to lead us and speak to us through His Spirit.

For that reason, we also just need again to meditate and rethink the way we see and understand and believe the Bible really is. That we don't just have here an ordinary book, written by more than 40 people. No, we really have here a compilation of 66 books, all and everyone of them written by people who were supernaturally inspired and supernaturally used by God Himself, to reveal Himself, and His heart, and His plans and will, to man to understand what He meant man to be, and how man can have Life and Life in Abundance.

That is what passages in Scripture, like in Heb. 4:12 and in 2 Tim. 3:15 to 17 is saying.

For that reason, we need to make time and be sensitive to hear the voice of Jesus speaking to us. (Joh. 10:3,4,10b,14,15,27,28)

It is also important to know, when trying to distinguish His voice from any other voice, that each of us are hearing these four voices every day:

- The voice of your own flesh or soul (your own thoughts, emotions, desires, and choices. (See James 1:14, 4:3, and Gal. 5:16-20)
- The voice of important people, and your community around you.
- The voice of the enemy. (See 2 Cor. 11:3,14, and Eph. 6:12)
- The voice of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:14, and further)

Here is a few hints how to help yourself hearing and distinguishing when the voice of God is speaking to you:

1. Set aside time to be still enough and to discipline yourself to focus on hearing God speaking to you.

- This can be when you are on your own and alone, and when you are reading from His Word, the Bible, or prayerfully listening to hear His voice speaking to you in any other way.
- But it can also be when you are in a meeting together with His people. (See Heb. 10:24,25)

2. Discipline yourself to make time every week to spend time with other people of God, meeting together.

- Jesus promises that He will be there in a very real way when two or three of His people are meeting together in His Name. (Matt. 18:20)
- This is also when His Spirit will use these other believers to minister to us through the gifts of the Spirit, and through these gifts we will hear and experience God

speaking to us and revealing Himself in a very tangible way to us. (1 Cor. 12:1-11,12-13,18, 14:26, and Eph. 4:11-16)

3. But also through testing what you hear and experience.

- Do you experience peace beyond reason or understanding? (Col. 3:15)
- Do what you hear and experience, is also what you read and hear in and through the Bible? (See Deut. 13)
- Is the Spirit confirming what He is saying to you through what other believers are also hearing?

4. And when you heard from God, choose to obey and do what He is telling you. (See Acts 16:6-10, and in James 2)

A PRACTICAL WAY TO TEACH AND MINISTER THESE TRUTHS

I usually use a POWERPOINT presentation to teach these truths.

An important part of teaching these truths, is to allow time for believers to hear the voice of God themselves, and to start ministering to one another as the Spirit is leading.

A practical exercise:

a. Allow time for believers to get to know one another.

This can be done in different ways.

I usually divide a big group of believers into smaller groups of about 6 to 8 people. (And I let the teenagers of 12 years old and older, to join these groups. The younger children will be separated from these groups in groups of their own, where we will minister to them as under Point b, down below.)

Remember what Floyd McClung once said: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!"

Give everyone in these groups the chance to introduce themselves and to share whatever they are willing to share with one another. (Allow about 3 to 5 minutes per individual for this).

b. Trust the Spirit of God to minister to people through the gifts of the Spirit.

Remind everyone there just again what each of the gifts in 1 Cor. 12:7 to 10, and in Rom. 12:6 to 8, entails and what it would look like when the Spirit of God is working through each of these gifts among us.

Allow time for everybody to be still at the Lord's feet and to listen to what He is saying to them. Be very sensitive to His voice, especially when and how He is showing you that He wants to use you in the lives of others in the group.

And then, give sufficient time and opportunity for ministering to one another.

One of the ways I teach groups to do it practically, is to put two chairs in the middle of the group, and allow members in the group, to come and sit and be ministered to by the members of the group as the Spirit of God is leading.

WEEK 6 – BEING A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OF GOD OR HIS ECCLESIA

Reflect on the following Scriptures in this regard:

John 13:34,35

Acts 2:41-47

Matthew 18:20

Matthew 28:18-20

1 Cor. 12 tot 14

Introduction

All over the world God is busy in the hearts and minds of His People changing their picture of and what Church or Ecclesia of Jesus is really about.

For so many years, all the church traditions and the way of doing church, have contaminated our picture of what God revealed in His Word, the Bible, what the Ecclesia of Jesus should look like and what it really meant to be His Ecclesia in the local community.

For that reason, God is taking us back to His Word and His revelation in this regard.

When looking at the Ecclesia in the Book of Acts, we see at least the following two characteristics that made them to stand out in their local community:

- The way they loved one another in a very practical way from day to day, but also the way they loved people in the community around them, and
- Change in the lives and relationships of the believers, was definite proof that something remarkable happened to each of them.

See the following Scriptures as examples of this:

John 13:34,35 – *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Acts 2:41-47 – “So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

It is very important to distinguish being a member of a specific church denomination or church group, and being a member of the Body of Christ, His Ecclesia.

Being a member of the Body or His Ecclesia, means at least that you have been Biblical born-again as we have already seen from Scripture.

The different church denominations or church groups, or even different ministries, each with their own names, buildings, and even specific teachings, are the work of man, and the outcome of a long and very tiresome tradition and history.

But the leads to a very practical choice in each of us, namely where is the people in my local community who will be my family’s close family in faith, and how will I relate to them, and how will I relate to the bigger family of families of believers there in my bigger local community.

Because I believe there, in my family’s close family in faith, we will meet on a more regular basis during the week, because it is there that we learn to love one another as Jesus loved us, and minister to one another as the Spirit leads us to.

But is also important to make time and ways to practice being Ecclesia and meet where and when possible, with the wider Body of Christ there in our bigger, local community. Because of the fact, that our Lord and King, Jesus Christ, taught us, we are all One in Christ, and part of His One Body!

Frustrations with “being church” in the midst of the thousands of different churches and denominations and church groups around us!

All over the world we see and hear of this growing frustration with “church” as we got to know it.

A study done in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands, showed that a 100% of the people were interested in Jesus, but about 99% of them were not interested in “church”.

A study done worldwide, showed that 50% of church leaders were totally frustrated by what they experienced of “being and doing church” in the structured and organized “churches”.

In Luke 5:37 to 39, we hear Jesus’ teaching about “new wine” that needed “new wineskins” to develop and flourish.

For that reason, someone said, we need a new and third Reformation again.

In the time of a Luther and a Calvin, we experienced a Reformation that impacted our theology and our theological content especially.

In the time of a Wesley and thereafter, a second Reformation happened all over the world, focussing much more on our intimate relationship with God, as our Father, Jesus Christ as our Lord, and the Holy Spirit as God within and on us as believers.

What now was needed, was a Reformation of structures, because the old wineskins can’t accommodate what God is busy doing in and through the working of His Spirit in the lives of people and in communities!

So many of us can testify of the challenges we experienced leaving a part of the church where we grew up or where we have been a member and going to another group or church.

And another very practical question is the question, here in South Africa for instance, to which church or group of churches do I go now with my family? Which of the more than 30 000 different churches or groups of churches, is the right one to go to?

For that reason, a well-known Christian writer, Tom Peters, said, Renewal won’t be enough! What we really need is a total Reformation, and a new revelation of the new wineskin of the Biblical Ecclesia!

And I believe that we will see the new (of very old, Biblical) picture of the Ecclesia, if we go back and study the Ecclesia in the Book of Acts and in the rest of the New Testament.

That will be when we discover...

Being Ecclesia...

≠ Not very organized meetings of people in special places of specially build building.

= But much more the meetings and supernatural life together as a believing family of Jesus, with Him in our midst, where He is ministering to us through the gifts of His Spirit in power and grace.

We will also discover Ecclesia happening...

In a group of two or three of more believers together in the Name of Jesus. (Matt. 18:20)

Believers coming together in a house or any other building or place in the local community. (Rom. 16:5)

Among believers in a town or city. (Rom. 16:1; 1 Cor. 1:2)

Among believers in a bigger area, like in a province of a country. (Rev. 1:4)

When the Bible is referring to the Body of Christ all over the world. (Heb. 12:22,23)

A new experience of being ecclesia

I believe the Lord is inviting us to allow Him to show and lead us into a new experience of being ecclesia and rediscovering the New Testament DNA of ecclesia.

When looking at what we find of ecclesia in the New Testament, as in Acts for example, we will discover that ...

The new wineskin was what I want to call, m-eatings

The five elements of the New Testament ecclesia were at least the following:

1. "M-EATINGS" – They were together to eat together

This they saw and learned from Jesus and the way He did it.

So, the "Lord's Supper" was a very natural part of this coming together. (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:33)

At the table, while eating and drinking together, we share life!

And a real family always find time to eat together!

2. "TEACH THEM EVERYTHING I TAUGHT YOU"

This was a very important element of Jesus' command in Matt. 28:19,20

At the table, while the family were eating together, was a very important opportunity for the typical believing Jewish Father-figure, to teach and train his children and everyone there, about this new lifestyle and life following Christ.

In the New Testament, the elders and gifted leaders also followed this example of Jesus.

The Word of God, and Biblical wisdom, and New Testament faith, were fed to God's people via dialogue and these stories of faith shared at the table.

Of course, it wasn't just about sharing just another piece of knowledge. No, it was sharing about practical doing and obeying what God said and taught us. (Rom. 1:5)

The focus was growth and development closer to the image of Jesus in us.

3. IT WAS ALSO ABOUT SHARING MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

See Acts 2:42 to 47, and 4:34,35.

See also in Luke 18:22, teaching us that since everything belongs to the Lord and one another, why holding on to it so tightly?

See also 1 Cor. 12 to 14, and Eph. 5:19, and 2 Tim. 2:2. God can use any anointed believer to minister and share His grace, blessing, love and life with the others around them.

4. THEY PRAYED TOGETHER

See Acts 2:42.

They prayed for one another, but also for abundance, and for peace. (Phil. 4:6,7)

Biblical prayer is always a dialogue with God. We are talking to Him, and He is talking to us.

For that reason, we can expect Him to speak to us, giving breakthroughs, giving us a word of prophecy, or even speaking to us in visions. (See Amos 3:7, and 1 Cor. 14, the whole chapter, but especially verse 29)

They also prayed for one another and prayed for the sins in the lives of people. (James 5:16)

5. ECCLESIA IS ABOUT SHARING LIFE TOGETHER

For this reason, the teachings of Jesus and the new Life of the believers were called "The Way".

A key element of New Testament faith was to obey the will of God. (Matt. 7:21)

Biblical faith without deeds is dead. (James 2:14-26)

Think what it means when Jesus said: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:31-46)

6. SEEKING THE "MAN OF PEACE"

In Luke 10:1 to 12, Jesus taught His disciples to trust God, when entering the homes of people, and at the table, to show them that man or woman seeking the peace of God, because God already prepared their heart for that.

For that reason, Wolfgang Simson wrote a book with the title, "Houses can change the world".

Because there in the houses of people, can God use His people to minister through His Spirit to the people of that house. (1 Cor. 14:26).

And of course, there, in their houses, Jesus can use the five-fold gifts of Eph. 4:11 to 16, to minister to them.

I want to close.

We can't just accept the fact that only a third of the world's population know about Christ and have the Bible in one way or another to their disposal.

Jesus came because He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim. 2:4)

He came so that all can have Life and it in abundance. (John 10:10)

I believe for that reason, God is restoring the ecclesia in the homes of people. For, there in the home, God will teach us how to be a family, and how to love one another, and how to serve and minister to one another.

And in this way, ecclesia can be within a walking distance to anyone, wherever they are on this earth.

But I also believe, this is the way the Body of Christ, the Ecclesia, from the youngest child to the oldest people, as ordinary people, will learn that God can use anyone of us as His ambassador for His Kingdom coming in this world.

Let me close with the story of the man with 17 camels, to show you what the Bible is teaching us about the place and role of the five-fold ministry.

A man had 3 sons, and when he died, he owned 17 camels.

But in his testament, he said that his eldest son should get a half of what he had, and the second son a third, and the last son a ninth of everything he had.

This, of course, left the executor of the estate with quite a dilemma!

Till someone suggested to him to go and borrow a camel from the neighbour!

Then, giving a half of all the camels (now 18 camels!), became very easy!

And giving the second son a third of the camels, just as easy!

And giving the third son his ninth of the camels, came to giving him 2 of the 17 camels.

Which left the executor with the borrowed camel, which he could give back to its rightful owner!

I believe, we in the five-fold ministry is given by Christ to His Body and the Ecclesia for a time, to help them get going and to do what God needed them to keep on doing even after they are gone!

How to teach these truths practically

I use a POWERPOINT presentation to teach the basics to God's people.

The film, "COURAGEOUS"

I use those passages in the film to show men making promises to be men of God in their marriage and families. And then stress the fact that this, of course, is meant for everyone in the family of God, to make that commitment to serve Jesus Christ there, and in every other place where He has positioned us to be.

WEEK 7 – OBEYING HIS VOICE IN YOUR FINANCES

Reflect on the following Scriptures in this regard:

Matt. 6:24-34

Matt. 25:14-30

Matt. 25:31-46

Luke 16:9-13

Introduction

An essential element of the DNA of the Ecclesia in the Book of Acts was to discover how they handle money and everything else the Lord entrusted to them.

Remember, they learned that from nobody else but from Jesus, their new King, and what He taught them through His Spirit and through what the disciples of Jesus taught them what they learned directly from Jesus while they were walking with Him those 3 years while He was still on earth.

And this was what they learned directly from Jesus:

- You can't serve God and Mammon together. (Matt. 6:24)
- We need to discover that everything we need will be there on the land while we are harvesting and doing what God wants us to do. (Matt. 10:9)
- To learn how to give freely, will free us.

But it is also important that the events of Acts 5 happened right in the beginning of the life of the ecclesia there in Jerusalem.

My question was, but why did this happen? Was God teaching His family of believers there right at the beginning of everything something important about how we need to handle and manage money? And I believe the answer to be, yes!

Because the way we manage our money will reveal the depth and core of our obedience and love for God and our love for the other believers around us.

Reflect on passages of Scripture like Matt. 25, James 2:14 and further, and 1 John 3 to 5.

(At this stage, I teach on God, myself and finances, using POWERPOINT)

See an example of such a teaching down below.

GOD, ME, MONEY AND OTHER THINGS

When someone really met the Living God face-to-face, everything changes! Especially the way you manage money and other things!

See the teachings of CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES (www.crown.org) and the book of Larry Burkett - HOW TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY.

And discover that there is at least 2350 passages in Scripture about money and other property.

Matt. 28:19

“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.”

= Everything I owe, really belongs to the New King I am following.

Acts 4:34-35

“Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”

Acts 5:1 ,2

“But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.”

Luke 16:9-13

“And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Mat. 6:24-34

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Phil. 4:12-13,19

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Prov. 4:23

“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

My “worship service”

1 Cor. 10:31

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

Col. 3:23,24

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

At work

Gen. 2:15

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

Ex. 34:21

“Six days you shall work...”

2 Th. 3:10

“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

6 Biblical principles for my ministry in the marketplace

1. Be willing to serve Jesus as Lord and King as He leads you through His Word and the Spirit. (Luke 16:9-13).
2. Be willing to give account of what you are doing and saying there in the marketplace. (Gen. 2:24, Job 31:37, Ps. 10:4, Eccl. 12:14).
3. Treat others as you want to be treated. (Luke 6:31) = Serve true value: quality service, quality produce, at a reasonable price.
4. Owe no one anything, except to love each other. (Rom. 13:8). Pay your creditors. (Pr. 3:27,28 in the NIV, James 5:12).
5. Pay and treat the people who is in your service with respect and fairly. (James 4:17 – 5:5).
6. Treat your clients with love, respect and honour. (Phil. 2:3; James 3:2-18).

Financial breathing

Learn to be contented. (Phil. 4:11-13,19, and 1 Tim. 6:8).

Choose in faith to trust God to supply. (Prov. 3:5-6).

Manage everything as a responsible and faithful ambassador of the Kingdom and of Jesus the King. (1 Cor. 4:2, Luke 16:2).

= budget, spend and manage responsibly. Keep a balance in a responsible way between what you need, owe and desire.

Be very wary of debt as far as possible. (1 Th. 4:11-12).

Learn the discipline of regular giving. (Acts 20:35, Phil. 4.17, 2 Cor. 9:6-11, 1 Cor.13:3).

Let God speak to you about what you should let your children and the future generation inherit. (Prov. 21:20).

Repent when necessary and be willing to change immediately. (1 John 1:9)

Learn the discipline of giving regularly!

Acts 20:35 – To give away, brings freedom!

2 Cor. 9:6-11 – To give, is to sow!

To whom shall we give?

Gal. 6:6, Phil. 4.17, 1 Cor. 9 – Give to the anointed people God is using to feed and train you spiritually first.

James 2:14 and further, 1 John 3:17 – Give to believers in need.

Luke 18:22, Prov. 28:8 – Give to the poor and others where God show you to.

WEEK 8 – USING THE LUKE 10 STRATEGY TO DISCIPLE COMMUNITIES

Reflect on the following Scriptures in this regard:

Luke 10:1-24

Introduction

We never should forget what the bigger picture of being the Ecclesia is about. Being ecclesia is never about the ecclesia. It is always about being ecclesia in service of the King and the coming of the Kingdom.

For that reason, the great command of Jesus to His people has never changed. It always was and shall always be:

Matt. 28:18 to 20

“And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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

Luke 10 – A method to disciple a community

In this passage Jesus taught us four steps to step into a community in the Name of the King and His kingdom.

The four steps are:

1. Start walking around in that community while you are praying and proclaim God’s blessing, or in Hebrew, His Shalom.
2. And there where God is opening doors to families and people, go in you and start sharing your time and life with them. (“Fellowship”).
3. Stay sensitive to hear the voice of God and how He want to use you through the gifts of the Spirit to minister to the needs of those around the table and in that family and community.
4. This will create and build bridges to people which we need to cross with boldness and use to tell them about Jesus and the message of the Good News of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

I call this process: LUKE 10-TRANSFORMATION.

When I use a POWERPOINT to describe this process of transformation, these are some of most important points I would stress:

LUKE 10’S ROAD TO TRANSFORMATION

You would agree that there is at least 3 main groups in South Africa that need to be in our focus: (Lets call them the “harvest” Jesus spoke about.)

- There are those who are calling themselves Christians and members of some or other Christian church or Christian group, but they are not fully committed and willing to obey and even die for the sake of the Kingdom. (They are at least 50 to 70% of this group)

- Then there are those who are Moslems, Buddhists, Hindus, and followers of many other beliefs. (They are about 4% of the population of South Africa)
- And then there are those who describe themselves as atheists or totally neutral or apathetic to any form of religion. (They are about 15% of the total population of South Africa)

In Luke 10:2 Jesus is saying,

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Let’s have a look at the facts about the workers in the field and their way of doing at the moment in the church all over the world.

In most congregations the majority of active members are involved in more than one service or ministry and already overcommitted.

Most of these services or ministries are focussed on people “coming to church”.

If we need to put numbers to this, we find that 90 to 95% of all church programmes are focused on those already involved in that church or congregation. With only about 10 to 15% of the congregation actively involved in these activities, of which 4% of them are involved in what we would call direct evangelism and witnessing.

It is also important to note that 75 to 90% of people that committed their lives to Christ, did it because of a relationship over a long period of time with a friend or family member who was a committed Christian.

But the fact is that most of the potential harvest is still “on the outside of typical church life”! And 50 to 70% of them are even nominal “Christian”, with 4 % believers of other faiths, and 15% atheists.

QUESTION: HOW CAN WE MOBILIZE THE OTHER 96% OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION TO START DISCIPLING PEOPLE IN THEIR EVERYDAY LIFE?

Ephesians 4:11 to 16

“And he (Christ) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

According to these Scriptures, it is the role of the five-fold gifts to equip the believers exactly for what Jesus told us to do, namely to disciple “all the nations”.

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.”

How should they do it?

Matthew 22:37 to 39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’

And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’

And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

What groups of people are Jesus referring to?

Those in need. Those who are hungry, thirsty, without clothes, etc.

QUESTION: HOW CAN CHRISTIANS FIT ALL OF THIS INTO THEIR BUZY PROGRAMMES EVERYDAY?

Luke 10:1-9

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'

And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.

And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

We can summarize what Jesus is saying to them with pointing out 4 steps that a follower of Christ can use to effectively minister in their ordinary daily lives to obey these words of Jesus.

These 4 steps are:

1. As the Lord's blessing or "shalom" wherever you go.
2. Spend time with them and be willing to share life with them. (Let's call it "fellowship")
3. And where the Spirit makes you aware of any need, minister to that need.
4. Share also Jesus with them.

Let's talk about this very practically.

STEP 1: BLESS THEM

What is the meaning of praying that God will bless this place and these people?

God's blessing people imply that He will be present there and willing to minister His grace, salvation, prosperity, and goodness into the lives of these people.

Jeremiah 29:7, 11-14

"But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

STEP 2: "HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH THEM"

Looking at the ministry of Jesus and what He taught His disciples, we see Him spending time with people in their houses and businesses, and sharing life with them.

That is also what we must do wherever we go and are everyday.

It is also important to be sensitive and respectful to the way and customs of those people.

And when you are talking about your faith and beliefs, do it in a language that people will understand, and don't use the typical "Christianize language" we are used to using in Church and among believers.

Romans 13:8 to 14:23 (go and read it please!)

In our socializing with people from the community around us, we need to be very aware that we are allowing them time to watch us and see that there is something different in what we do and the way we do it. And these differences could be in the near future, the "bridges" that would allow us sharing our testimonies with them to whenever there is a suitable time or even question from them in this regard.

STEP 3: MINISTER TO NEEDS IN THE POWER AND GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

You will find that people, all people, even those from a different faith like Muslims, will be willing to accept you praying for their needs.

And even when that one of two are saying No to pray, be willing to walk away while still praying for them and their needs on your own.

STEP 4: TELL THEM ABOUT JESUS AND WHAT HE DID IN YOUR LIFE

Be willing and always ready to share your faith with people.

PRAYER EVANGELISM

The TAKE FIVE-INITIATIVE is a prayer evangelism strategy where you trust God to show you five people who need it, and to start praying for them.

1. Make a list of five people in your circle of friends and around you with whom you have interactions nearly every day, that don't know Christ or in whose life you can see that they are, for some or other reason, backsliding in their faith.
2. Pray for one minute every day for everyone of these people, and pray very specifically for their salvation and for any other need in their lives that you know of.

And pray for these 5 areas in their lives:

- Physically – for their health, protection, and strength for every day
- Their workplace – their job and responsibilities, finances, and security
- Their emotional life – for more joy, peace, hope, and love in their lives
- Their relationships – their marriages, families, friends, and other relationships
- Their spiritual life and relationship with God – their salvation, faith, and for them to experience more of the grace, goodness of God in their life

And be very sensitive for that God-given opportunity when they start asking questions that could give you an opportunity to testify about your faith and what God is doing in your life.

This could be some of these following questions:

- Who can I really trust in times like these?
- What is the real purpose of my life?
- When will I be free of debt or all of these challenges in my life?
- Am I ready to die?
- Why can't I trust God as you do? Or, why am I always running from Him?'

3. Be very sensitive to the voice of the Spirit, especially when He shows you needs in the lives of these people.

4. And be ready to share your testimony with them about what Jesus did in your life and how He can change their lives.

5. Keep on praying for those people on your list of five, atleast till they met Jesus, of atleast for a year.

WEEK 9 – LIVING A HOLY LIFE

Reflect on the following Scriptures:

Luke 13:18-21

A Summary of the teaching

- God wants to restore our past
- All the hurts and trauma in the past needed to be minister to
- Sins need to be repented off
- There need to be deliverance if needed
- Restitution needs to happen where needed
- Any false teaching needs to be corrected
- And all of this need to happen in a safe environment of love, grace and an experience of the healing presence of the Lord

Teaching

Where the Lord Jesus is present, people experience (Luke 13:18-21) ...

- Freedom
- Life change
- The hold of sins and the enemy are broken
- The presence of the King and fellowship with Him (Luke 13:29)
- Their identity in Christ (Sag. 3)

Read Gal. 5:16-25, and Ephesians 4:21-6:20.

God loves you and me so much that He gave His Son to die for us to give us Life and it in abundance, but He loves us to much to leave us as we were.

For that reason, Hebrews 12:14 is saying what it is saying.

And for that reason, God send His Spirit to come and complete what needed to be complete in you and me. (Philippians 1:6)

In Jesus, God became our Father, and we, His children.

We experienced His grace and love. (Ex. 34:5-8, Eph. 2:4,5)

But in us, His Spirit is reminding us also of the fact that He is a Holy God, and that we need to be holy as well. (Eph. 4:17 and further, and Hebrews 12:14)

God the Spirit is our Counsellor and He “opened up an office” right in our bodies and spirits. (1 Cor. 6:18,19) And He will use the Word and other believers to minister to you through the gifts.

The Spirit’s presence in us is as a light in us to reveal and remove any darkness.

For that reason, we hear God saying:

Finish with any darkness from the past! (Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17 and further)

Make choices other than in the past! (Eph. 4:22-24)

Choose to let His Spirit control your life and let Him live the life of Jesus in you. (Eph. 5:1 and further)

- In your relations with others
- In your marriages
- As parents and children to one another
- At work
- And let people see you are followers of Christ.

Let us remind one another about the Good News for each of us:

According to Scripture, God created man to His image.

That also means, that man, like God, is primarily spirit, with a soul, living in a physical body.

In the beginning God and man were in this perfect relationship, in total harmony and with perfect communication between them.

But we also know that there was another spiritual being in the Garden in the beginning, that was also in heaven in the beginning, but then, rebelled and who was an enemy of God.

That moment when man has chosen to believe his word rather than God’s, man gave the enemy the power and authority that was his, and that moment planet Earth became the headquarters and kingdom of Satan and his forces.

That same moment the whole of creation was affected and came under the judgement of God and the penalty of that rebellion is death.

What was a perfect creation, then became total corrupt and start the decay. (Romans 3)



The spirit of man died, and he is no more able to hear the voice of God, and not able to recognise truth and obey God. From that moment man was following their own heart and desire and tried to be their own god, totally corrupt and sinful.

But we read, even before creation, God decide on a plan of saving this corrupt and sinful man and to restore them back to His image. He will send His Son to die and be punish in our place, for our sins, and to destroy the works of the enemy on the Cross. (1 John 3:8) And through His resurrection from death, He would give life to everyone who trust in faith in Jesus and what He did.

To every man who believe in faith in Jesus Christ, God will give through His Spirit life. He will literally give new life to our spirit. It is as if we are plugged in to Christ and all grace that available to us in Him.

He gave us a new spirit, and now He wants to also restore our souls and even heal our body.

Let us meditate on what the Spirit of God is doing in each of us as believers.

IN OUR SPIRIT

He renewed our spirit and changed it into the home and dwelling-place of the Spirit and of the Sun of Righteousness. (Malachi 4:2)

And His rays and light will burst forth in every area of our lives.

And in that light, He will minister to us with Truth and Salvation because of what Jesus did on the cross and through the open grave.

And we will understand and experience more and more of what Jesus meant when He said that He came to give us Life and it in abundance.

IN OUR SOUL

A portion of this abundance will also penetrate every area of our lives and of our soul.

He will change our minds and the way we are thinking about ourselves, others, and everything around us. (Romans 12:2)

Have a look at the picture of this in 2 Cor. 10:4 and 5. He will help us identify which of our thoughts are from God and which of them are out of hell.

He will lead us to repentance and then change them into new life-giving, positive thoughts, together with the accompanying positive emotions and feelings.

In this way we will be taught how to be obedient to the Word and God's will for every area of life. (Romans 6:12 to 14)

IN OUR PHYSICAL BODIES

God's plan of restoration also includes what He wants to do in our physical bodies. (Romans 8:11, 1 Thess. 5:23, and James 5:14-19)

Being a follower of Jesus, also means ...

1. Finishing with sin and darkness in every area in life!
2. Allowing God to bring order in your life and restore your personal relationships. (1 Cor. 11:3, and Eph. 5:21-25)
3. Accept God's promises about His total provision for your life and every need. (Matt. 6:25-33)
4. Remove everything from your life and home that can give the enemy any foothold. (Matt. 16:18, and Eph. 6:12, 3:10, and Matt. 7:21-23)

Let us pray, Lord, reveal any darkness in our lives, and cleanse us from it. And let Your river of Life flow through us to others! (John. 7:38,39)

Let Your Glory be visible in us! (2 Cor. 3:18)

WEEK 10 – BE MY WITNESSES TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Meditate on the following Scriptures

Matthew 28:18 to 20

Acts 1:8

Ephesians 2:9,10

1 Cor. 10:31

1 Peter 4:10,11

Summary of teaching

The great command Jesus gave all of us is, Be My witnesses! (Matt. 28:19,20, and Acts 1:8)

There is a supernatural growth potential in the seed we need to sow. (Mark 4:26)

Just see what happened in Jerusalem since that day of Pentecost, according to the Acts of the Apostles!

Jesus is leading us through His voice and our intimate love relationship with Him is our life-source!

Through the gifts of the Spirit, He wants to use each of us as a new generation that can change the world around us.

Let me use an example to demonstrate what can happen when we make us available.

Do you know, elephants can have 1 baby elephant after 22 months of pregnancy, and only when they are 18 years old. That means that it will take 3 years for elephants to multiply from 2 to 3.

Rabbits, on the other hand, are fertile the whole year. They can have babies from being 4 months old and from then on, will have ± 7 babies every time. They are only 1 month pregnant before giving birth. That means that in 3 years rabbits can multiply from 2 to 476 million!

The reason why I am using these examples is because I want to demonstrate the growth potential of the Biblical church or ecclesia.

At the moment between 2000 to 10 000 new churches or ecclesias are planted per week all across the world! And this is happening because the Body of Christ is learning to be ecclesia and meet in new ways wherever God is showing them new platforms in their communities.

God's message to you is...

He has a very specific plan for your life. (Eph. 2:9,10)

He can and will use every available follower of Christ every day fulltime in His service in a unique way. (1 Cor. 10:31, and 1 Peter 4:10,11)

And you don't need to become a pastor or a typical missionary to be use by Him, except if He specifically call you and tell you that this is the way He wants to use you.

All you need to do, is to be available and allow Him to use you wherever He already gave you a platform and a place of authority.

In your home and family.

Between your friends.

At work or at school.

Wherever and whenever, someone crosses your path.

You need to be sensitive to hear the voice of the Spirit speaking to you.

He will tell you when, where and how He wants to use you.

Remember, according to the Greek of the New Testament, you are an oikonomos, which is basically a manager in the service of God's Kingdom, within a specific sphere of influence that the King gave you, with the task to serve people around you in the Name of the King. (Luke 12:42)

Let us talk about your sphere of influence (your oikos).

How many people are there with whom you spend at least 60 minutes in a week?

Who are they? (Make a list of them.)

How many of them are already Christians?

And how many of them are simply religious people or totally unbelievers or agnostic?

Be on the lookout for what Luke 10 spoke about, that man or woman looking for peace.
(Luke 10:5-9)

These people usually have 3 characteristics in common:

They already have shown an interest in spiritual things and even to the good news of the Gospel.

They also have a reputation and a natural ability to draw people to them.

They have the connections and network to open doors to a much bigger group of people.

It is with people like this, we need to spend time with...

To discover how they can be the builders of bridges to the lives and hearts of others around them.

To minister to their individual needs and to develop common grounds between you.

To develop a relationship of trust with.

To give them the opportunity to really get to know the real you.

To give them the opportunity to see what God in His grace already have done in your life.

To give them an opportunity to ask the right questions that will give you an opportunity to start witnessing to them.

Are you aware of the fact that your home or place at work can be a meeting place where people can experience the presence of a Living God and His power and love?

Trust God to show you how you can make a difference there where you are.

Be available, with everything to your disposal.

See in your spirit how you and a few friends spend time together there in your home or at work and experience the presence of King Jesus as your “Host” there among you!

Remember, from the very beginning of the Early Church, the homes and workplaces of believers were ...

These wonderful places of ministry and loving service (Acts 2:46, 5:42, Rom. 16:5, and 1 Cor. 16:19)

Where they experienced sharing life and the abundance of the Life in Christ.

Where they experienced what it was like to be ministered to and loved as a member of the Body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-16)

Where they were trained and equipped for ministry and service in the Name of Jesus, the King, and where they learned how to love as He loves us.

These meetings together with other believers had at least 5 important elements:

1. It was “M-EATINGS”

Because it was where they ate together with other believers.

As Jesus has shown them.

And it was where they had the Lord’s Supper together. (Acts 2:26 and 1 Cor. 11:33) Jesus Himself was their Host.

At the table they learned to share life and the grace of God with one another.

And there they experienced to be members of a much bigger, even worldwide Body and Family of Christ.

2. This is where we are taught to BE OBEDIENT

In a typical Jewish family, it is the father who is the teacher at the table where they are busy having their meal.

This is where we learn how to handle situations and learn new skills.

This is not about just collecting more knowledge, but it is more about share what a life of following Jesus is really about.

It is about obeying the Word of God. (Matt. 28:19,20; Rom. 1:5; James 1:19-26)

So, it is about growing in faith and growing in maturity, and become more and more in the image of Christ.

3. This is where WE SHARE material and spiritual things

Have a look at Acts 2:44-45, and 4:32-34.

This is also where we learn to work and support one another so that everyone can have enough. (1 Thess. 4:11,12, and 2 Thess. 3:6-10)

This is where we experience what it is like when God is the Owner of everything, and that we are there to support one another.

This is also where we experience that it is not about what we are willing to give, but much more about what we are keeping just for ourselves. (Acts 4:32-35)

This is where we share spiritual blessings with one another. (1 Cor. 14:26, Eph. 5:19, and 2 Tim. 2:2)

This is where we are taught to love one another as Jesus told us to in Matt. 25:31-46.

4. This is where WE PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

This is where we pray for one another, for the government, and for peace. (Acts 2:42, 1 Tim. 2:1-11, and Phil. 4:6,7)

This is where we discover that prayer is a dialogue with God, where He is talking to us, and we with Him. (Amos 3:7, and through the gifts, like prophecy, 1 Cor. 14:29)

This will also be a way that God can communicate with us about what His will is and what He is planning to do.

This will also be a way we can pray for the sins of one another. (James 5:16)

5. In this way OUR HOME WILL BE A DISPLAY OF WHAT KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ON EARTH IS LIKE to the unbelievers in the local community

Through that window they will see something of God's grace, power, love and glory, at work.

Just go and see how many times Jesus ministered to unbelievers in their homes. (Luke 5:27-32, 7:36-50)

In this way we are creating a display of Kingdom-life within walking distance of every person on earth.

This will also be a possible meeting place where people can meet with a Living Jesus as Saviour and King.

MAKE PEOPLE MY DISCIPLES – Matt. 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.”

If there is extra time, you can also share this with them.

3 PHASES OF BEING A DISCIPLE

PHASE 1

They know about Jesus.

They want to know more about Him.

They believe He is a wonderful Teacher, and a remarkable Example of what man should be.

PHASE 2

They came to Christ in faith.

They can testify that they believe that He also was crucified, died and resurrected on their behalf and for their sins.

They want to follow Him as Lord.

PHASE 3

They are totally committed to Christ Jesus and are His family on earth.

They are spiritually mature.

They are busy discipling others to disciple others.

HOW DO WE MINISTER TO PEOPLE IN THESE DIFFERENT PHASES?

PHASE 1

Meet them where they are and minister to their specific needs in the Name and power of Jesus.

Lead them step by step to meet Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

PHASE 2

Lead them to Christ, to repentance of their sins, and to confess their faith with their mouths.

Baptise them in water.

Lay hands on them and pray Jesus as the Baptizer with the Spirit to baptise them with His Spirit.

Teach them everything that Jesus taught us and how to disciple others.

PHASE 3

Teach them everything that Jesus taught us.

Disciple them and teach them how to disciple others.

Teach them how to take on their cross and to lay down their lives for others.

Let them minister to others in the gifts of the Spirit.

SIEN: ADDENDUM A – AN EXTRA WEEK – SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE AND BUILDING NETWORKS

ADDENDUM A - STUDY GUIDES AND OTHER TRAINING MATERIAL

Down below you will find wonderful video's, training material and a menu to help you in making your DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP exiting and a remarkable spiritual experience for everyone there.

[1. TRAINING VIDEO'S](#)

[2. A MENU FOR YOUR DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP](#)

[3. WHAT EXACTLY IS DMM? \(DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENT\)](#)

1. Training videos

This method of using the Bible in these DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS to evangelise and making disciple-making disciples has proven itself to be the most successful evangelizing and disciple-making tool used worldwide.

Down below you will find 3 very important short video's that will help you understand so much more about this wonderful tool.

Video 1: Watch the following video animation to get the bigger vision behind this Disciple-making Movement worldwide.

<https://youtu.be/pJq1N4PiH28>

Video 2: Making disciple-making disciples

See the video about disciple-making: <https://vimeo.com/51367722>

Video 3: Study the Bible

About Studying the Bible:

See series of videos about studying the Bible:

Why study the Bible?

<https://vimeo.com/51355997>

MENU

A Menu to follow in your DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Here is a menu that is suggested to follow in these Discovery Bible Study Groups.

I want to suggest that you follow the following script in the weekly group.

TO DOWNLOAD THIS MENU as a WORD-DOCUMENT, click here:

[A Menu to follow in your DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY GROUP.docx](#)

"Welcome to the Journey/Discovery Group."

Discovery Process

- Question 1- How did you do with what you learned last week?
- How did you do with last week's "I will" and "sharing"?
- With whom did you share last week's lesson?
- How did you put into practice what you learned from last week's lesson?
- Question 2 - What are you Thankful for?

An easy way to jump into the group.

Call on someone by name, "Sara, what are you thankful for today?"

This question will help you expose the group to prayer. Prayer is expressing our thanks to God.

Eventually you will be able to show them to how to express thanks to God rather than one another.

- Question 3 - What is the biggest challenge you are facing today?

Authenticity is key to a community of Jesus followers. This question helps people learn how to relate deeper.

Be careful though, this question can lead to time management issues in the group. Using the word, "today" or "one thing" can help limit the discussion so this question doesn't derail the group.

- Question 4 - Do you know someone you could serve this week?

This could be one of your neighbours, workmates or then someone in this group.

- Question 5 -What is God saying?

- Read the designated passage aloud in 2 different versions if available.

- Have one person re-tell the passage in their own words.

- You may want to appoint that person before you read.

- Ask others to help add to what may have been missed or their insights

- Question 6 - If this is God speaking what will you do about it?

Develop a tangible statement that will put into practice what you learned from the designated passage.

For example, "I will take 10 minutes a day to reflect on how much God loves me"

"I will begin to recycle because God has given me the earth to take care of."

To get them to make good "I will" statements you might need to take a few minutes of silence to let each person think about an "I will" statement then ask someone to start sharing what they have developed.

Work to get "I will" statement specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.

Make sure someone records the "I will" statements so you can ask next week about them.

- Question 7 -Who will you Share with what you learned this week?

ADDENDUM B –SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE AND BUILDING NETWORKS

DMM?

What is a Disciple-Making Movement?

A DMM (disciple-making movement) is a new and exciting strategy for reaching people with the Gospel.

Traditional Missions

Traditionally, a missionary would be responsible for going out into their community to evangelize daily, disciple as many people as they could, start churches, and pray something would stick.

It put a lot of pressure on the missionary, who was solely responsible for the spiritual well-being of all their disciples. It also severely limited the reach of the Gospel because it could only travel as fast as the missionary could!

The DMM Approach

DMMs, however, can move much more quickly because it removes the missionary as the sole disciple-maker.

With a DMM, a missionary finds a Person of Peace in their community. They start a group with the Person of Peace and their friends and family. These groups are self-led (meaning the missionary does not need to be involved regularly) through Discovery Bible Studies, where the group members are constantly encouraged to share what they're learning with their own friends and family.

Eventually, each group member will go out and start their own group, then each of those members will start their own groups, and the cycle continues, multiplying the number of disciples exponentially.

With this strategy, thousands of people could be reached in months, something that would have seemed impossible to one missionary under the old system!

(It's important to note that not each DMM starts or progresses the same way. These movements tend to be messy and can look different depending on the culture and country of implementation. This is, however, the textbook structure for DMMs.)

Needless to say, God is doing big things through DMMs!

Do DMMS work?

See illustration down below.

In short, YES!

DMMs have proven to be extremely effective across the globe. Team Expansion started implementing DMM principles in 2014 and has seen incredible results.

From 2003 to 2014, our attendance at Team Expansion planted churches grew by 10,000. Then from 2014 to 2017 it grew another 10,000! God did in 3 years what took 11 years before DMMs.

The number of churches and groups started from 2014 to 2017 was 4 times faster than the previous years. And the number of baptisms more than quadrupled!

DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENTS

How do they work?



The missionary finds a person of peace (as described in Luke 10)



The missionary begins a group with the Person of Peace's friends and family

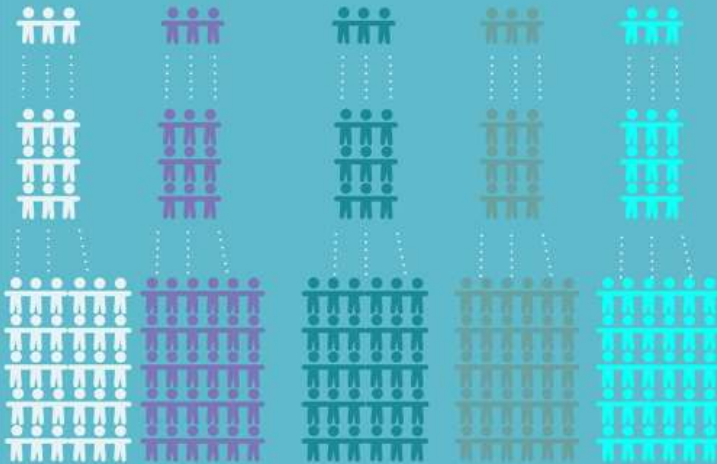
Groups do DBS or 3/3 Bible Studies, which are self-led (missionary not needed) and are encouraged to share what they learn with others



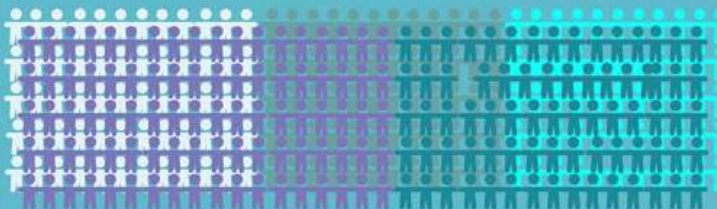
Eventually, each member branches out and starts a new group



The cycle continues with each group member continually starting new groups with new disciples.



Groups continue to form and spread until the entire people group is reached with the Gospel!



Definition of a disciple making movement

A disciple making movement is the rapid spread of the Gospel and obedience to it among people who have previously not known and loved God. This was the goal of the Apostle Paul and something he saw happen in Thessalonica (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Disciple making movements are measured in four dimensions: obedience, and the breadth, depth and rate of reproduction.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDIES

Discovery Bible Studies are different from the other disciple making tools I have emphasized in one significant way:

Discovery Bible Studies are designed to be used by people who have yet to fall in love with Jesus, not by those who already have.

In fact, one of the main reasons I [use the Bible](#), practice [active listening](#) and do [intentional inquiry](#) is to find people of peace who do not yet know Jesus, in order to help them facilitate Discovery Bible Studies for their circle of family or friends.

Here is what I equip people of peace do:

Build Community.

They do this by gathering their circle and asking four questions:

1. What are you thankful for today?
2. What is causing you stress?
3. How can we help each other?
4. Who else can we help?

Initiate and Sustain Change.

They do this by asking their circle three questions:

1. What did we discover last time we met?
2. Who did you share it with?
3. How did you put it into practice?

Hear and Learn from God.

They do this by having their circle:

1. [Read the Bible](#)
2. [Re-tell the Bible](#)
3. Respond to three questions –
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - What does this passage say about people?
 - If this is true, what will you do?

Reach Out to Other People.

They do this by asking their circle two questions:

1. Who needs to hear what we just learned?
2. How are we going to help each other and someone else?

Your turn:

1. What people of peace can you equip to lead a Discovery Bible Study for their circle of family or friends?
2. What excites you about this possibility? What concerns you?

Contact Us

Please feel free to contact us.

If you have any questions or if we can help in any way, click on the following email to contact me, Dr. Christo Nel.

nchristo@lantic.net

082 7702397

ADDENDUM C – ROY MORAN’S BOOK, SPEND MATCHES

	Pathway	scripture
1	Earners to Heirs - Trust	Gen. 1

8	Earner to Heir - Trust	Gen. 3:1-19
15	Earner to Heir - Trust	Gen. 6:9-22
22	Earner to Heir - Trust	Ex. 20:1-21
29	Earner to Heir - Trust	Lev. 4:1-7
36	Earner to Heir - Trust	Is. 53
43	Earner to Heir - Trust	Hosea 3
50	Earner to Heir - Trust	Luke 2;1-20
57	Earner to Heir - Trust	Luke 5:17-26
2	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Mrk. 7:17-23
9	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Lk. 9:23-25
16	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Lk. 18:9-14
23	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Eph. 2;1-10
30	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	1 John 2:1-6
37	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Ps. 119:24-33
44	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Rom. 12:1-2
51	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	Prov. 3:5-6
58	Self -hearted to soft hearted - Obey	1 Cor. 6:12-20
3	Receiver to giver- Share	Mt. 28:16-20
10	Receiver to giver- Share	2 Cor. 5:16:21
17	Receiver to giver- Share	Mt. 5:13-16
24	Receiver to giver- Share	1 Cor. 9:19-23
31	Receiver to giver- Share	Luke 10:1-11
38	Receiver to giver- Share	Acts 1:6-8
45	Receiver to giver- Share	John 4:27-35
4	Isolation to community- Relate	Mrk. 2:1-12
11	Isolation to community- Relate	Heb. 10:24-25
18	Isolation to community- Relate	Phil. 2:3-8
25	Isolation to community- Relate	Ecc. 4:9-10

32	Isolation to community- Relate	Acts 2:41-47
39	Isolation to community- Relate	John 13:34-35
46	Isolation to community- Relate	1 Pet. 1:13-23
53	Isolation to community- Relate	Eph. 4:20-29
60	Isolation to community- Relate	Rom. 12:9-21
5	Consumer to Producer - Serve	Lk. 12:13-21
12	Consumer to Producer - Serve	Lk. 8:4-15
19	Consumer to Producer - Serve	Rom. 12;3-8
26	Consumer to Producer - Serve	Lk. 19:10-27
33	Consumer to Producer - Serve	1 Pet. 4:7-11
40	Consumer to Producer - Serve	Gal. 3:26-29
47	Consumer to Producer - Serve	1 Pet. 2:1-9
54	Consumer to Producer - Serve	Mt. 28:16-20
61	Consumer to Producer - Serve	1 Cor. 12:1-12
68	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	Rom. 8:31-32
6	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	Mt. 6:19-24
13	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	Lk. 18:18-25
20	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	2 Cor. 9:-15
27	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	Ecc. 2:1-11
34	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	Prov. 6:6-11
41	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	1Tim. 6:6-10
48	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	Mrk. 12:41-44
55	Charitable - Extravagent - Give	2 Cor. 8:1-7
8	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	Mt. 28:16-20
15	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	Lk. 14:25-33
22	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	2 Tim. 2:1-7
29	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	Joh. 15:1-8
36	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	Mt. 5:3-12

43	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	2 Cor. 5:16-20
50	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	Heb. 5:11-14
57	Traveler to Guide - Disciple	Mt. 7:21-27