

**COMMITTED TO THE
MISSION OF
JESUS TOGETHER**

BOOK 3



Committed to the Mission

Jesus had a mission for his disciples, and this mission has not changed. What is the original mission? The mission is to restore right relationship between God and us. Jesus's plan to reach a lost world was to use imperfect and broken people to bring the gospel. The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. He commissioned the disciples to bring this good news.

In looking at the example of Jesus, we see the importance of **demonstration** and **proclamation** of the gospel. He told his disciples that the world would be able to see Him through their love for one another. It is important that the world is shown Jesus through our character and conduct. Jesus also challenged his followers to share the good news. Paul shares it this way, *"How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"* and states *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* (Romans 10:14-15).

The good news is meant to be shown through the character and conduct of the messenger as well as proclaimed through the voice of the messenger. Jesus modeled both of these to his disciples. As we journey through this curriculum, we will see the importance of both demonstration and proclamation of the gospel.

Jesus's plan was for his followers to multiply through living as disciple-makers. We are meant to pass on everything that He taught to the original disciples. In reaching those who do not know Him, it is important to know that there is God's part, our part and the listener's part. God's part was providing a way to overcome sin and reconcile with God. He died and rose again for our sins and brought the Kingdom of God to us.

Our part as His disciples is to bring the good news and the kingdom of God to the lost world. We are to encourage following Jesus through encouraging repentance and baptism. We are commissioned to go and make disciples, replicating our faith in Jesus and all that following Jesus encompasses.

The listener's part is to receive the words of the messenger. Once they hear and see the message it is their choice to believe, be baptized, and commit to following Jesus. The journey we are about to embark on is quite the adventure. These passages share the messy challenges and the amazing opportunities for those that choose to actively be committed to the mission of Jesus. It will be clear that it is not an easy path, but it is a worthwhile path. As we see in the lives of the disciples, the path forward for us in committing to the mission is by being obedient in taking the step we are invited to take today.

SMALL GROUP COMPONENTS

WELCOME

Start by helping new believers, visitors, and members feel valued and welcomed. This begins with your phone calls and continues as they enter your home and throughout the evening. A warm welcome establishes a foundation for relationships and brings focus to the group.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite God's Holy Spirit into your presence. This prepares your hearts for what God has for you and shifts your attention from individual fellowship to the group.

PURPOSE

Express your purpose behind meeting as a group to help prepare your hearts and minds for the discussion. Remind the group the purpose is to grow as disciples and disciple-makers by applying the Word to our lives.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

Establish and agree upon boundaries for a healthy group. Establish a safe environment where everyone can share openly and honestly. This provides biblical guidance for healthy conflict and resolution. (*Review as needed with the group and when new people attend*)

ICEBREAKER

Do an activity that sets the stage for transparency and trust and helps create a safe environment. This may involve low-risk participation (e.g. small game, testimony, a "hook" question, or worship).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Check in on last week's application. Ask a few members in your group to share their follow-through on their actionable next step from the previous week. Help your group grow in action-oriented growth from week to week.

STORY

This is the topic of the group. This section is where you will look at God's Word together. Refer to the "How to Use this story Guide" section of this handbook as a tool to help lead your group discussion.

APPLICATION

How can we apply what we learned to our lives? Individuals in your group name actionable items as next steps based on what they learned today. Write them down for use during the week when you follow up with your group members. Ask group members to help other group members or assign tasks to group members to develop them spiritually as shepherds and disciple-makers. Designate or ask for a volunteer to facilitate the next group time.

CELEBRATION

Spend time recognizing what God accomplished in the group. Thank and praise God and encourage each other.

CLOSING PRAYER

Refocus your attention on God, share personal prayer requests, group needs, and praise.

BETWEEN GROUP TIMES

- Debrief with your co-leader
- Abide in Christ in prayer and personal Bible study.
- Pray for your group and each member by name.
- Use the check-in information, the application commitments and prayer requests you recorded to drive the conversation and discipleship you do with the group members outside of group.
- Read and pray through the Scripture passage for the coming week once per day.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

NO CROSSTALK

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

LISTEN

Value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

NO RESCUING OR FIXING

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

USE "I" STATEMENTS

It's easy to talk about the issues of others or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we need to use "I" statements.

DON'T OVER-TALK

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

FIGHT FOR RELATIONSHIP

It's not *if* conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict

BIBLE STORYING: HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The “storying” time of the group consists of the first 4 PARTS, followed by 4 discipleship questions, lifestyle application questions, and discipleship leader tips to practice throughout the week.



TRANSITION: Briefly summarize last week’s story and ask if it had any impact in their lives over the past week—this is a good share time. Then set up the scene for the scripture passage you are going to read today. **Note: we give you ideas or bullet points for the transition each week, but these are not meant to be read but only to guide you.*



READ THE STORY: Read the scripture passage through twice using different translations if available and having two different group members read.



TELL THE STORY: Tell the story the best as you can. Don’t stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story. The objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



REBUILD THE STORY: Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions and having the group look for what was added or left out.



QUESTIONS: You will have four discipleship questions you will use to start the conversation time each week. Be willing to ask multiple questions within each question. You may find that as you start to become adept at asking follow-up questions, you only get through one or two of these in your group time, and that is great! This question time is the primary method of finding out where your people are in their journey with Christ. Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?



LIFE APPLICATION: As the water and seed interact, growth starts to take place as we apply the principles we have learned from God’s Word into our lives. You may not always have time to ask these application questions in your group time, so we suggest that you use them in your personal growth time, or as take home questions for the group.



DISCIPLESHIP TIPS:

Use these questions and tips as you prepare to lead your group. Ask yourself how you can apply these when you facilitate and ask questions. When you see a “next week is review week” box, be sure to assign story telling for next week at the end of that week’s meeting time. This will be a time that you can use to review the last few stories.

Week 1: The Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20



Transition:

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He went to His small group of disciples. Jesus knew that His time on earth was drawing to an end. He had been training His disciples knowing that when He was gone, they would be able to continue His work. He commissioned His group to go and lead people to God and to Himself. Here is the commission from God's Word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about Jesus in this story?
2. What is Jesus teaching the disciples?
3. What is Jesus teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what Jesus is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What portion of this commission do you struggle with?
2. What are some practices that could make this mission easier?
3. How can you use your life to serve God and make disciples?
4. Has there ever been a time when you could feel that Jesus was with you?
5. How will you apply what he is teaching you?



Discipleship Tips:

God wants us to commit ourselves to His mission. In this passage, Jesus confirms His place of authority in heaven and earth and commissions us to make disciples for the Kingdom. Who should you invite to follow Jesus?



Week 2: Pentecost - Acts 2:1-21

Transition:

Before Jesus ascends, He tells His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus leaves the Earth, the disciples start the mission of spreading the gospel and growing the church. Pentecost was a celebration of thanksgiving for the harvested crops. Jews of many nations all came together to celebrate this festival. God used this diverse crowd as an opportunity to give the disciples the tools that they needed to spread the gospel to all people. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What has been a roadblock for you to share the gospel?
2. What are some ways God has provided an opportunity for discipleship in your own life?
3. Why is the spirit of God essential for your own missional living?
4. How do you personally connect to God's spirit?
5. How will you apply what he is teaching you?



Discipleship Tips:

What would you have believed if you heard the disciples speaking in tongues? Not everyone in the crowd believed that what they were hearing was a miracle from God but Peter allowed the Holy Spirit to work through him and used the opportunity to bring Jews from many nations to Christ. When you surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit, God can and will use you in miraculous ways to further His Kingdom.

Week 3: Peter Shares the Gospel - Acts 2:22-40



Transition:

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples allowing them to share the gospel to many nations. In this story we get to hear how Peter spoke boldly to the crowd in order to share the gospel message. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What are some fears you have about speaking about Jesus openly?
2. What are some things that can help you to speak boldly?
3. What are key components in how Peter shares the gospel? How does this help you think through what you share as the gospel?



Discipleship Tips:

Peter's words were bold. He was calling into question peoples' understanding about history and their religion. However, he brought 3,000 people to Christ. He did this by understanding and interpreting scripture that these people already knew and by testifying to the life Jesus had lived. He allowed the Holy Spirit to work through him and the outcome was extravagant.

Week 4: Fellowship of Believers - Acts 2:42-47



Transition:

Peter boldly shared the gospel with the crowd and broke through to the hearts of the people, adding 3,000 to their number. They formed a community of believers that modeled loving each other well, and how to follow Jesus. The loving and close-knit community of believers caught the attention of the people around them and made others want to join God's Kingdom. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. In what ways are you in community with other believers?
2. How does being in fellowship help you strengthen your relationship with God?
3. What about this lifestyle appeals to you the most?
4. What can you give up to get closer with other believers and with God?
5. How can our group meet the needs of others within the group and outside the group?



Discipleship Tips:

When other people saw how the believers were living, they were able to see how they loved each other and how they loved God. By just leading by example, the believers were able to bring people to Christ. How can you be a good example of God's love to the people around you?

Week 5: Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin - Acts 4:1-17



Transition:

The Apostles continued performing many miracles and preaching the Good News in Jerusalem. People were coming from all around Jerusalem to have Peter heal their sick and spiritually possessed. The religious leaders became jealous of the amount of attention the Apostles were receiving from the people and demanded that they be arrested again. Here is the story from God's word:



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What biblical commands, if obeyed, might result in discomfort for you today?
2. In what ways do we, as Christ followers, meet opposition today?
3. Has there been a time where you felt blessed to suffer for the name of God?
4. To what extent are you willing to suffer for the sake of sharing the gospel with others?



Discipleship Tips:

Even though the disciples were doing the right thing by telling people about Christ, they were jailed and beaten for their beliefs. They viewed themselves as blessed because they saw it as an honor to be persecuted for our God. Would you have the courage to take a stand like they did?

Week 6: The Church Scatters - Acts 8:1-13



Transition:

The new church was not without problems (external opposition, imprisonment, beatings, and death) but the apostles continued to spread the gospel and grow the church. Believers lived in community and shared their money and possessions. It wasn't perfect; there were disagreements and jealousy, but they found ways to make it work. However, after Stephen was stoned, a great persecution broke out and caused the church to scatter. Let's read from God's word to see how this affected the mission...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What change are you pushing against that could potentially be used for good?
2. Why do you think God scattered the church? Is God asking you to move?
3. Have you ever thought you couldn't minister to someone because "they wouldn't be interested"?
4. Who is someone that you have given up on that you could plant a seed with before our next meeting?



Discipleship Tips:

Even though the believers all scattered; the persecution helped to spread the gospel. God can turn something bad into something good. The persecution forced people out of their homes, out of their comfort zones, but sometimes we must be uncomfortable before we allow God to work through us, through our hurts. It allowed the Good News to be spread to many people, even those who you might not have expected.

Week 7: Saul - Acts 9:1-18



Transition:

The disciples continued to listen to God as He directed their path for spreading the gospel. They prayed for new believers to receive the Holy Spirit & baptized those who believed. Saul had begun a persecution campaign against anyone who believed in Christ. Let's read about how God used Saul from the Word of God...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Have you ever shared your testimony?
2. Who is someone you can share your testimony with?
3. Before next time we meet, write out your testimony
 - a. What was your life like before you met Jesus?
 - b. How did you come to salvation in Jesus?
 - c. How has your life in Christ made a difference?



Discipleship Tips:

Sometimes God comes into a life in a loud & spectacular fashion, similar to Paul's story, and sometimes it is a much "quieter" conversion. There is no right way to come to Christ; whatever way God brings you is the perfect way. Ananias was hesitant to believe that God could use SAUL for His good, but still he listened to God's guidance. He greeted Saul lovingly even though it wasn't easy to show loving acceptance to a man who would stop at nothing to end the spread of Christianity. God can find great and various uses for those willing to obey wholeheartedly. We should not limit God; he can do ALL things.

How to Write Out Your Testimony:

A three-point approach is very effective in communicating your personal testimony. This outline focuses on **before** you trusted Christ, **how** you surrendered to him, and the changes in your life **since** you began walking with him.

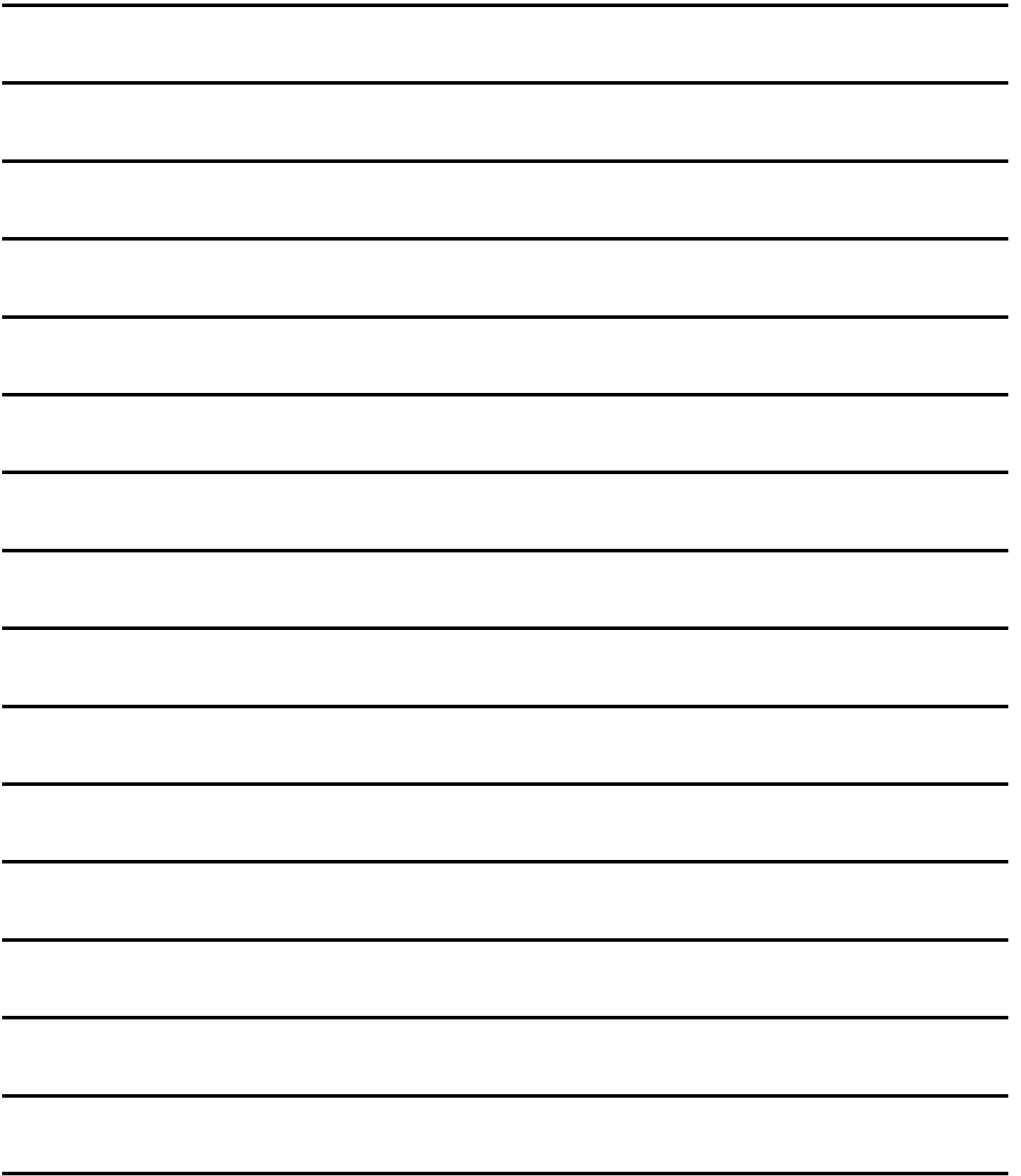
- **Before:** Simply tell what your life was like before you surrendered to Christ. What were you searching for before coming to know Christ? What was the chief problem, emotion, situation, or attitude you were dealing with? What motivated you to seek a change? What were your actions and thoughts at the time? How did you try to satisfy your inner needs? (Examples of inner needs are loneliness, fear of death, insecurity, etc. Possible ways to fill those needs include work, money, drugs, relationships, sports, sex.) Remember to use concrete, relatable examples.
- **How:** How did you come to salvation in Jesus? Simply tell the events and circumstances that caused you to consider Christ as the solution to your searching. Take time to identify the steps that brought you to the point of trusting Christ. Where were you? What was happening at the time? What people or problems influenced your decision?
- **Since:** How has your life in Christ made a difference? How has his forgiveness impacted you? How have your thoughts, attitudes, and emotions changed? Share how Christ is meeting your needs and what your relationship with him means to you now.

Or, if you grew up in home where you became a Christian at a very early age, you could write your testimony using these points:

- Start with a short sentence or two of introduction explaining that you grew up in a Christian home and became a Christian at an early age. Then answer the following two questions:
- Where or how have you seen God make a difference in your life? (Perhaps an area of struggle, pain, disappointment, etc. People relate with our struggles. And they need to know how God has made a difference/is making a difference in your areas of struggle.)
- How is your life different today because of how God has worked or is working in your life in this area?

Tips:

- Pray. Ask God for wisdom in writing out your story.
- Don't underestimate the power of your story. Some people have stories that may sound more dramatic. But God's work in your life is no less significant or special.
- Be real. Don't try to make things sound more dramatic than they are.
- Keep it short and simple. It's a good idea to have a testimony that you can share in a minute or less. (Aim for 100 words or less.)
- Use everyday language. Avoid overly religious language that most non-Christians don't understand or relate to.
- Sometimes it can be helpful to memorize a verse to go with your testimony that speaks to how God has worked in your life.



Week 8: Revelation 12:1-18



Transition:

In the second act of judgment, we saw 7 angels blowing 7 trumpets in a second view of judgment on the world. The sixth trumpet is followed by a mysterious second interlude in which an angel, a little scroll, and seven secretive thunders provide an opening for a bittersweet picture of two witnesses who proclaim God's message. The final trumpet presents heaven, the coming Kingdom of Christ the Lord. Now we will read about a series of three great signs and symbolic portraits. Let's read about the cosmic battle between good and evil, and the birth of the promised deliverer, Christ, whom God rescues from Satan's destructive intentions from the Word of God...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

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2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Share your 5 min testimony:
 - a. What was your life like before you met Jesus?
 - b. How did you come to salvation in Jesus?
 - c. How has your life in Christ made a difference?



Discipleship Tips:

God has been at war with Satan in the past, is still at war in the present, and will continue to be in the future. He is there fighting with us and for us. We can find hope in Him and should encourage others to do the same. We know the end result – God WINS!

Week 9: Aeneas & Dorcas - Acts 9:32-43



Transition:

Saul had started his journey of preaching the gospel and People were skeptical at first since he had previously tried to eliminate Christianity. Saul had to escape death several times. Saul's teachings were powerful, and he was able to speak boldly in the name of the Lord. He was especially effective in converting people since people were able to see how his life had changed. Let's read about how God was also working through Peter's ministry journey...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

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3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. How can you allow God's glory to reach others through you?
2. How can you make sure your presence in people's lives encourages them to take up a relationship with Jesus?
3. What makes it hard for you to trust God?
4. When have you taken the time and gone out of your way to help someone like Peter did for Tabitha?



Discipleship Tips:

Peter had a mission, to bring the Good News to as many people as possible. However, he didn't let that blind him from opportunities to help the communities he came across with more than just their salvation. Through the miracles and kindness of God, Peter was able to show, as well as tell, these communities how great our God is.

Week 10: Peter's Vision - Acts 10:9-23



Transition:

An angel of God had appeared to a man named Cornelius and told him to send for a man named Simon Peter who was staying in Joppa. Cornelius listened and sent his men to Joppa to bring back Simon Peter. Let's read to find out how God used Cornelius to fulfill His plan...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

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2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Why do you think God gave people in the bible vision and dreams?
2. Do you think God still uses visions and dreams to communicate today?
3. Has God ever given you a mission you didn't understand right away?
4. What can you do to make it easier for you to hear what God is telling you?



Discipleship Tips:

Neither Cornelius or Peter knew what was in store for them when they were called by God but both of them trusted that God knew what he was doing, and they allowed Him to use them to fulfill his plan. How can you make yourself more available to help in God's plans?

Week 11: Antioch Acts - 11:1-26



Transition:

Peter has just gotten back to Jerusalem from witnessing to the first Gentile believers receiving the Holy Spirit. God had proclaimed that Jesus' gift of life was made for everyone, including Gentiles. When the disciples heard about this, they praised God and began to teach Jews *and* Gentiles about God's gift of eternal life. Let's read about how this affected their mission...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



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2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Do you think scattering believers was part of God's plan to reach others with the good news?
2. How do you discern when to stop and share more about Jesus and when to move on to share with others?
3. What motivated the church to live generously? How can you grow in living generously?
4. Barnabas was known in his community as an encourager, who can you encourage this week?
5. Why do you think generosity and encouragement are important to a healthy faith community?



Discipleship Tips:

Although the persecution that caused the believers to scatter was terrible, good did come out of it. The scattering of believers became like the scattering of seeds. Churches began to grow all over, giving more opportunities to share the Good News with people that had previously been seen as unfit for God's kingdom.

Week 12: Peter's Escape - Acts 12:1-19



Transition:

Peter was in Joppa and had learned through a vision that he could take the gospel to the “unclean” Gentiles. Peter understood and faithfully shared the truth with Cornelius whose entire household became believers. The church praised God for the plan for all people to hear the Good News, thus expanding the church to many other areas. Let's read in God's word about how they shared with all people...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Has God ever been there for you in the midst of a struggle?
2. Have you ever asked for other people's prayers when going through a hard time?
3. Describe a time you were in awe of something God has done for you?



Discipleship Tips:

In the face of persecution, the believers prayed together and trusted that God saw what was happening. Telling others about God can be scary because we can be met with backlash and aggression from the people around us. This is why it is important to have a strong group of supportive believers behind you. Trust in God and the power of petition are very important when working towards growing God's kingdom.

Week 13: Paul's 1st Journey - Acts 14:8-28



Transition:

It was around this time that Saul started to be referred to as Paul (Acts. 13:9-10) and the focus was then shifted back to Paul's Ministry. After being run out of town by the people of Iconium, Paul and Barnabas moved on to Lystra and Derbe, to continue teaching the gospel. Let's learn from God's word how to always give God the glory...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. How can you use the successes that God gives you to turn people towards God?
2. Why do you think that when God is working in the lives of people, there are often trials and opposition?
3. Who are you discipling or who could you be discipling?
4. Who can you go to that keeps you accountable and who can you help with accountability?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul healed a crippled man in the crowd causing the people in Iconium to believe that the men were gods. Paul took the time to explain to them who the one true God is so that He could have all the glory, we should always point people to Jesus, only he deserves the glory. Paul and Barnabas then risked their lives going back to the cities where they were persecuted for starting churches. They knew they were responsible for encouraging the new believers to stay organized by appointing spiritual leaders who would help them to stay true to their faith. They also knew that it was important for them to have someone else to keep themselves accountable, so they went back to Antioch to tell their fellow believers about the work God had been doing in the new churches.

Week 14: Does the Law Save? - Acts 15:1-41



Transition:

The Jewish-Gentile controversy was still an issue and was threatening to divide the church, so a council met in Jerusalem to rule on the relationship of Gentile Christians to the Old Testament laws. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Why do you think the bible includes the debate on circumcision?
2. Why is correct understanding and teaching of the gospel news important?
3. How do you understand the relationship between Old Testament laws and God's grace through Jesus?
4. Why do you think God sometimes displays signs and wonders to accompany gospel proclamation? Have you ever witnessed a sign or wonder from God in your own life?
5. Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement where they chose to split ways. How can God work in and through us despite our brokenness?



Discipleship Tips:

We all have different experiences and different convictions. We should not compare our walk of faith to others or judge them. Instead like James, we should turn to the word of God as the test of truth. The more we know God's Word the better we will be able to discern what is right in times of controversy. Don't let disagreements separate you from other believers, bringing in a third party is a good method for resolving problems.

Week 15: Athens - Acts 17:16-31



Transition:

After the council Paul and Silas set off on his second missionary journey in many different areas while Barnabas and Mark went on their own journey each teaching and encouraging the believers. They established many churches along the way. In this part of Paul's journey, he is in Athens where he is very upset about the people who were lost and blinded by Satan. Let's see how Paul reacts in this part of God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Why do you think God strategically placed Christ followers throughout time and location?
2. Have you ever considered that God intentionally placed you in a specific time and space to be the light to those around you?
3. What do you think it means that God "is not far from any one of us"?
4. Why do you think God looks for repentant hearts?
5. How does judgement day impact how you live and share Jesus with friends, family, and coworkers?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul was in a place where he was able to be the light of Jesus to those around him. He looked for opportunities to share the gospel and to spread the truth about Jesus. Paul has spent a lot of time gaining knowledge about the bible and was able to share well. We should use the knowledge we currently have to teach the good word but always be hungry to learn more so that we can continue to grow and reach more people.

Week 16: Compelled by the Spirit - Acts 20:13-38



Transition:

On Paul's third journey he traveled through many more places encouraging and teaching the believers while establishing churches. Paul felt compelled to go to Jerusalem even though he was warned that he might be imprisoned. Let's read about how Paul was courageous and faithful from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. How does Paul display great courage and faith in going to Jerusalem?
2. Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit giving you a prompting? Did you ignore or follow the prompting?
3. What inheritance was Paul referring to in the text?
4. What type of inheritance is most important to you and why?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul was the greatest missionary of all time. His one goal in life was to spread the truth about Jesus. He followed the prompting of the Spirit EVEN when it meant he would be persecuted. He cared about others and loved them well. He wasn't worried about the things that he could collect, like gold, silver, or clothing, but cared most about the inheritance he would receive from God.

Week 17: Paul's Testimony - Acts 26:1-23



Transition:

Paul said goodbye to friends and fellow believers and continued with his journey to Jerusalem. He was eventually taken into custody and put on trial in front of many leaders and all the while he was witnessing for his Lord. In this part of the story we hear Paul's testimony from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Practice your 5 minute testimony
 - a. What were you doing before you met Jesus?
 - b. How did you become a believer?
 - c. What are you doing now?
2. How can your story shape how other people view Christ?
3. Who is one person you can share your story with in the next couple weeks?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul used his broken story to witness to anyone who would listen. He used the evidence of how his life changed after meeting God to draw others into becoming believers. We should speak boldly and share our stories with the people around us so that they see how God has changed us and will want to allow God to do the same for them. We should be more concerned for the hearts of others so that they may inherit the Kingdom of God as well.

Week 18: Unusual Kindness & Generosity - Acts 28:1-10



Transition:

Since Paul appealed to Caesar, he was sent to Rome for the final hearing. On the way, they found themselves in the middle of a horrible storm. Their ship was destroyed, and they were forced to swim to shore where they were shown unusual kindness. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

6. What do we learn about God in this story?
7. What is God teaching the disciples?
8. What is God teaching you personally?
9. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What is a way you can display “unusual kindness” and “generous hospitality” to a neighbor or stranger this week?
2. How have you experienced God's healing hand in your life journey?
3. What may be a bold prayer that you can pray throughout this week?
4. Why do you think it is important to be willing to both give sacrificially as well as receive blessings willingly?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul was following God's plan and because of that, God was protecting and providing for him. Even as a shipwrecked prisoner, he was still spreading the gospel message.

Week 19: Paul's Preaches to Rome - Acts 28:17-31



Transition:

Even in these horrible circumstances, Paul continued to share his faith. Eventually he arrived in Rome and was allowed to live alone in a home where a soldier guarded him while he awaited trial. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Have you ever let your circumstances come in the way of sharing the gospel?
2. Has there been a time where you were able to share about Jesus, even through your discomfort?
3. What stops you from persistently sharing the good news?
4. Do you ever catch yourself holding back from sharing because of what others might think?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul's journey wasn't easy, but through the trials, pain, discomfort, and unknown, God provided a way for him to preach the gospel, even in Rome. Paul never stopped sharing the good news, even when the people might not expect what he was saying; he was persistent. If you find yourself in a "storm" or unpleasant situation, do your best to look for ways to redeem the circumstances. There is never a bad time glorify God.

Week 20: Different Gifts – Romans 11:25-12:8



Transition:

In the opening of Paul's letter to the church in Rome, Paul said he was called to be "set apart for the gospel of God". Being set apart to be used and transformed by God is a choice we make that is lived out in our daily thoughts and actions. Here is the story from God's word...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. How are you doing at putting aside your own desires to follow what God wants you to do?
2. What gifts has God given you that would allow you to lead others to Christ?
3. How can you use your gifts to serve God?
4. What gifts do you see in the others in the room?



Discipleship Tips:

God gives each of us gifts that can be used for his Kingdom. We all have different gifts that we should be using alongside others to build God's church. Reflect on the gifts you were given and ask God for guidance & opportunities on how he would like you to use your gifts this week.

Week 21: Love in Action (a verb) – Romans 12:9-21



Transition:

In this letter to the Romans, Paul mentions several ways we can follow Jesus' example in showing love to others. Loving others is important when living on mission. Let's learn in this bible story how God wants us to love...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

5. What do we learn about God in this story?
6. What is God teaching the disciples?
7. What is God teaching you personally?
8. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. How are you doing at loving others sincerely?
2. Can you think of someone you have a hard time loving/honoring?
3. What stops you from serving those in need?
4. Are you treating all people, the rich, the poor, the homeless, & those who aren't typically in your circle respectfully?



Discipleship Tips:

God wants us to make disciples. If we aren't willing to make a concerted effort to sincerely love others, it will be hard to live a missional life. We should be intentional when loving others and do a better job of living in harmony with everyone, even if they are not like us. Ask God to place someone on your heart that you can do a better job of loving.

Week 22: The Weak and the Strong – Romans 14:1-13



Transition:

In this letter to the Roman's Paul tells us how we can be helpful and sensitive to those who are weak. We will come across people who are at different stages in their faith walk. We should not look down on anyone who is weak in faith. Let's learn in this bible story how God wants us to treat those who are weak in faith...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Do you tend to avoid those whose faith is not like your own?
2. Do you let the thoughts & opinions of others cause division?
3. What can you do if you disagree with someone in the church?
4. Do you ever feel the need to judge those who don't have the same convictions as you?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul says that we need to accept the ones whose faith is weak. We shouldn't worry about the issues that are a matter of opinion. Instead, we can use them as a source for learning. While we should not compromise on what is forbidden in the scripture, we should allow God to be the judge. We are each accountable of ourselves to God. Paul says we are to be strong in faith yet sensitive to others' needs and to keep the ultimate purpose in mind – to build others up in faith & to please God.

Week 23: It's about God's Glory – Romans 15:1-13



Transition:

In this letter to the Roman's Paul tells us we can love other's well, without pride or condescension, but with patience and self-restraint. Let's learn in this bible story how God wants us to accept everyone...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Can you think of someone who is hard for you to accept?
2. How can you be intentional this week to accept others equally?
3. Is there someone you could invite into your circle that you could disciple?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul said that we build our neighbors up. We should work to treat everyone the same. We should be inviting others into our homes, sharing meals and activities for the Kingdom of God. We should be intentional about greeting those we don't normally talk to and seek common ground for fellowship. How can you show others acceptance just as Christ has accepted you without hesitation?

Week 24: Paul Ministers to the Gentiles – Romans 15:14-22



Transition:

After we read Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul then addresses the Gentiles. He shares his calling with them and encourages them to consider doing the same. Let's learn in this bible story how God wants us to serve His purpose...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

Being a minister means that you attend to the needs of someone.

1. How has God called you to minister to others?
2. How do you affirm the ministries of others?
3. How do you feel if another believer challenges you?
4. How can you support other ministries to help move them toward completing the great commission?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul had delayed his visit to the church in Rome because he knew that they were doing well on their own. He shows us in these verses that it is important to affirm the ministries of others by challenging them and reminding them of what they already know. In order to do this well, we need be sure that we know and are personally applying biblical truth in our walk with the Lord.

Week 25: Supporting Missionaries – 1 Corinthians 9:1-18



Transition:

Paul had written a letter to the Christians in Corinth because they were struggling with their environment. They were surrounded by corruption and sin and felt the need to adapt. He wrote the letter to address their problems and help them. In this part of the letter, Paul was writing to them about how he felt discriminated against and wanted to teach them how to support the apostles. Let's learn in this bible story how God wants us to care for those who are working in ministry...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What are some ways to support a ministry?
2. What is one way that you can commit to supporting a ministry?
3. Have you ever been treated unfairly by other believers? How did that make you feel?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul had first-hand experience being discriminated against based on people's opinions of him. He was not being given the same level of support other apostles were being given. Paul was writing to tell the Corinthians that we have the responsibility to care for our pastors, teachers, and other spiritual leaders. We are called to see that those who serve in ministry are fairly and adequately compensated.

Week 26: Meet People Where They're At – 1 Corinthians 9:19-27



Transition:

In this letter that Paul was writing to the Corinthians he was giving them guidance to help them with their struggles. In this part of the letter, Paul helps them understand how to meet people where they're at. Let's learn in this bible story how God wants us to integrate with others in order to advance His kingdom...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Have you ever needed to find common ground with someone?
2. What is one way that you have gone out of your way to make someone feel accepted?
3. Are you able to be sensitive to other's needs & concerns?
4. What prevents you from sharing the gospel with other's who are not like you?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul had committed his life to telling others about Christ, no matter the cost. He was able to adapt to his surroundings and use every opportunity to share the good news. This allowed him to be able to reach more people because they felt understood and accepted.

Week 27: Share Your Faith – Romans 10:1-21



Transition:

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he tells his Jewish brothers and sisters about his concern for them and explains how they fit into God's plan. He highlights the obvious, you can only believe in Jesus when someone shares the gospel with you. Let's hear from the Word of God...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. Who taught you about the gospel?
2. What can you tell someone who asks you how to follow Jesus?
3. Can you think of someone who needs to hear about Jesus? How can you help them to hear it?



Discipleship Tips:

Paul points out that in order to make disciples, we need to tell others about Christ. Making disciples stems from having faith because someone once shared with us. Making disciples is about continuing the cycle of redemption, passing on the faith that was passed to you. Ask God to give you someone that you can share the gospel with.

Week 28: Become Mature In Faith – John 15:1-17



Transition:

John is writing to reveal who Jesus is; the Word, the One and Only, Lamb of God, Son of God, true bread, life, resurrection, and the vine. In this chapter we learn what it means for Jesus to be the vine, let's learn how we can stay connected to Him...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. How are you growing in your faith?
2. How do you stay close to God?
3. Can you think of someone who needs to hear about Jesus? How can you help them to hear it?



Discipleship Tips:

Jesus is teaching us how to be mature in our faith. In order to make disciples, we need to grow in our maturity. God chose his disciples for a purpose and in order for them to fulfill that purpose, they needed to stay connected to him. Are you making sure you are staying connected to God?

Week 29: Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-20



Transition:

While Paul was imprisoned in Rome, he wrote this letter to Ephesus to offer general instruction in the truths of God's redemptive work in Christ; the unity of the church among diverse peoples; and proper conduct in the church, the home, and the world. This part of the letter gives us instruction on how to defend against the devil and his allies. Let's learn from the word of God something that we can do to be mature in our faith and to protect ourselves from the evil one...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

1. What do we learn about God in this story?
2. What is God teaching the disciples?
3. What is God teaching you personally?
4. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

1. What lies/schemes does the enemy use that keep you from making disciples?
2. What piece of the armor are you good at using? Which one do you need to do better at using?
3. In what situations in your life have you found it useful that God already has tools in place to help you?
4. How can you use prayer to defend against the devil and his allies?



Discipleship Tips:

The devil knows what is declared to be true about us in the bible; we are forgiven, there is no condemnation for those of us in Christ, we have the victory, there is no shame or guilt, that we have not been given a spirit of fear, etc, but he will use schemes/lies to have us believe otherwise. When we come up against challenges in our life, like persecution, rejection, fear, or doubt to name a few, the enemy wants us to believe that we can't overcome them. With the armor of God & fervent prayer, we can conquer anything, and we can speak boldly to others about Jesus. We can stand firm in our faith and GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

Week 30: Eternal Perspective – Revelation 7:9-17



Transition:

John wrote this book explaining a series of revelations that he received from God. This part of revelation is about one of the visions that he had that portrays the future. Let's learn how making disciples of all nations will benefit the Kingdom from the Word of God...



Read the story:

Have two different group members read the story using different bible translations if available.



Tell the story:

Tell the story as best as you can. Don't stop and teach and try not to make points—just tell the story.



Rebuild the story:

Ask the storyteller how they learned the story and what stuck out to them personally as they read and practiced sharing the story. Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story.



Questions?

Here are the four discipleship questions to ask after you have told the story:

2. What do we learn about God in this story?
3. What is God teaching the disciples?
4. What is God teaching you personally?
5. What will you do with what God is teaching you?



Life Application:

2. Who does salvation belong to and why does that matter in how we share Jesus?
3. What is the connection between living missionally and as a worshipper?
4. How can you be a part of God's plan to redeem all "ethne" or peoples before Jesus in Heaven?
5. How can an eternal mindset impact how you share the good news of Jesus?



Discipleship Tips:

We are called to go and make disciples of all nations. The only way to stand before the throne of God is through the blood of Christ. True believers are protected and guaranteed a place in the presence of God. Are you sharing this with those who need to hear it? We must share this news so that everyone can stand before the throne of God.