



# GROW

## DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

### GROW Format/Guide:

The purpose of GROW is to establish a lifestyle of obedience-based discipleship that is passed on to others who will pass it to another generation. *Obedience to the ways of the Kingdom is valued over knowledge.* We do this through three LOOKS:

- LOOK BACK
- LOOK UP
- LOOK AHEAD.

**“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, *2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.* 3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.” - 2 Timothy 2:1-3**

### PROCESS

GROW is a tool that can help facilitate a disciple-making movement, but it is vital that we understand that a move of the Holy Spirit and obedience are far more important than the ten lessons of GROW. These lessons serve as a starting place and have been written with new and passionate followers of Jesus in mind. They will also work as a “pre-believer” study for someone who is very interested in Jesus. *The “7 Signs of John” or “Prophets Story” are great starting places for someone who is searching to learn more about Jesus, but not yet following Him.*

GROW may require “unlearning” for some who have been following Jesus for a while. The disciple-maker must help the disciples grasp that they are learning, not simply for the sake of knowledge, but in order to pass what they’ve learned on to others (2 Tim. 2:2). With GROW the process of making disciples is as important as the content for making disciples.

As you take someone through GROW, encourage them to begin the same process with someone else. If time is a constraint, move your meeting to every other week and have them meet with the person they are leading on the off week. (Multiplication of generations of disciple-makers is our goal, not racing to finish the materials.)

As you finish the first ten lessons, transition to reading a book of the Bible. This will require you to journal the Discovery Bible Study portion and discuss your notes and thoughts when you gather. Consider starting with a book like Mark, John, or Acts and read 1-3 chapters a day.

Remember, the process of GROW will always include the “Three Looks” and “Seven Parts”:

- Look Back (Pastoral Care, Accountability)
- Look Up (Vision, Worship, Discovery Bible Study Lesson)
- Look Ahead (Practice, Set Goals and Prayer)

### **(LOOK BACK)**

#### **Pastoral Care: How are you doing today?**

When we live on mission, it’s crucial that we receive ministry. Often times people’s reasons for not living out God’s purposes reveal their unbelief, hurt, or rebellion; ultimately, it reveals their need to receive ministry. Pay attention to those you are coaching and mentoring. Don’t simply ask the question above but appropriately inquire into the lives of the people you are leading. Often this requires your own transparency and vulnerability. Pastoral care is critical to raising healthy disciples who will be able to fulfill their mission.

*“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes Lord, you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’”  
John 21:15*

#### **\*Accountability:**

- **How were your interactions with the people you are praying for and pouring into?**
- **Who did you share the Gospel with since we last met?**
- **How did you obey the lesson from last week?**

*What you expect, you inspect.* Asking people specific questions about their life and the things that you have agreed to live out is crucial to helping them grow. Conviction doesn't equal life change. Life change is lived out *intentionally* and with others over a time, not simply accomplished in a moment. As a leader, you have a responsibility to ask *questions that encourage growth*. Accountability asks others to give an **account** for their **ability**. Ask questions about obedience to the things you agreed to do the last time you were together and that you have agreed to do consistently. Ask questions about praying daily for people in your life who are far from God, sharing the Gospel regularly, and daily spending time with God. Celebrate every little win without comparison. Accountability should be encouraging and building-up. Avoid shame-based accountability, which only encourages performance, not life-change. Healthy, life-giving accountability will often lead you back into ministry.

As those in your groups are in the process of making disciples who make disciples, these specific accountability questions will become necessary:

- **WITNESS: With whom are you sharing the Gospel? Who has believed?**
- **STARTER: When are you discipling them in the same process?**
- **DISCIPLE-MAKER: How are these new believers doing in their witnessing and winning others to Jesus?**
- **TRAINER of DISCIPLE-MAKERS: When are they training their groups?**

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." James 1:22*

*"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." 1 John 1:7*

## (LOOK UP)

### **Worship:**

Worship re-centers us on the supremacy of God in our lives and in the world. "Missions exist because worship doesn't" (John Piper). The goal of a life on mission is that everyone would know and worship God. However you choose to worship, take time to focus on the glory and goodness of God. Often worship can look like *reading and praying scripture or conversation and prayer about God's work in your life and His goodness*.

*"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" Psalm 100:4*

### **\*Vision:**

Vision is essential to disciple-making because it helps people see beyond themselves to the generations they can impact. As you cast vision for people, they will have clarity about how a disciple lives and the life God is calling them to.

*"Where there is no prophetic vision people cast off restraint." Proverbs 29:18a*

### **Discovery Bible Study (SOS):**

- **What does this passage SAY?**
- **What do you need to OBEY?**
- **Who do you need to SHARE this with?**

*"Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, feed him for a life time."* Teaching people to discover, understand, and obey Scripture gives them a way to grow for the rest of their life. The goal of this portion of GROW is to discover and experience Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to teach and shape your life. This requires trust on the part of the leader not to spend time cross-referencing and teaching, but to **let the group discover for themselves as the Holy Spirit in each person teaches what is needed**. *Don't try to impress, simply encourage and challenge.*

*"It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me." John 6:45*

*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:15-16*

*"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love"  
John 15:10*

## (LOOK AHEAD)

### **\*Practice**

Practice is preparation for DOING and SHARING WITH OTHERS, making this a crucial part of the disciple-making process. Discipleship is about receiving the information on a level that brings personal transformation and creates a working knowledge of the lesson so that each participant is capable of leading others through the lesson with clarity and conviction. In order to do this well a participant is going to need *competence* and *confidence*: *Competence* in their specific working knowledge of the lesson and *confidence* in their ability to pass it on to others. It will often require talking through or role-playing the “Three Looks”:

- Look Back: *What questions will you ask for pastoral care and accountability?*
- Look Up: *What will be helpful for casting vision, entering God's presence in worship, and encountering God through Discovery Bible Study?*
- Look Ahead: *How will you encourage confidence and competence through practicing the process and content, and walking out their commitment through setting goals and prayer? Take time to practice!*

*“Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”*  
2 Corinthians 3:4-6

*“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”* Philippians 4:9

### **\*Set Goals and Pray**

Setting goals corresponds with accountability. The goals you set for this week, you will ask about in next week's accountability. If there is no plan for action, don't expect anything to happen. Take time to hear what God is saying for the next week. Writing it down and being prayed for by the group is an act of commitment, not unlike being re-commissioned each week. Finish by praying for each other's needs, the goals you set, and the people you are praying for who are far from God.

*“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”* Philippians 1:6

**\*Accountability, Vision Casting, Practice, and Setting Goals & Prayer** are the 4 parts most vital for reproduction. The other 3 parts are important for biblical conviction, caring for needs, and encountering God.

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## Lesson 1: The Gospel

Allow 2 hours for this 1<sup>st</sup> gathering. It is crucial to hear one another's stories and have enough time to practice.

### (LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you? Have each person share his/her story (briefly): How'd you come to know Jesus? How was life before? How is life now?

### (LOOK UP)

**\*Vision:** There are three reasons most people don't share their story/gospel. These reasons come in the form of three questions:

**QUESTION #1- WHY** should I begin sharing my faith (or become bolder)?  
**Discovery Bible Study—Matthew 28:18-20**

**Background:** Jesus is speaking the last words He will speak to His disciples in person before His ascension.

#### What does this passage SAY about our mission in life?

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?

#### What do you need to OBEY?

- What is one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**QUESTION #2- With WHOM** should I share my story/gospel? (Name List)

- *Pray:* Bring to my mind people in my sphere of influence (friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, fellow students) who are 'far from God.'
- Make a list of the people who came to your mind. *Pray again:* Circle the names of 5 people you will pray for and with whom you will share your story/Gospel (when the opportunity is right).

**QUESTION #3-HOW** do I start and share the complete gospel?

- There are two keys: 1) A "bridge" to share the Gospel and 2) A "Gospel presentation"/Discovery Bible Study
- **BRIDGE:** A short 3-minute testimony (your story) can be an excellent way to transition conversation to spiritual matters, especially the Gospel: 1) My life before Christ 2) How I came to Christ and 3) My life since I began following Jesus.  
*\*Would you be interested in reading about God's plan and purpose in the Bible?*
- **Other bridges:** 1) A problem I had 2) How God changed the problem 3) Freedom since then (e.g. freedom from alcoholism, drugs, temper, forgiveness, healing) 4) CAN I PRAY FOR YOU?  
*\*Would you be interested in reading about God's plan and purpose in the Bible?*
- **GOSPEL PRESENTATION** (This can be done as a Discovery Bible Study— "What does each passage SAY?" and "What do I need to OBEY?")
  - **GOD'S PURPOSE:** He loves us has a plan for our lives. (Gen. 1:26-28; Jer. 29:11-13; John 3:16-17)
  - **MAN'S PROBLEM:** We all have sinned. No one is innocent. (Rom. 3:10,23); Sin is having or wanting to have your own way—apart from God; the result of sin is *shame, fear, guilt, and death!* (Gen. 2:9, 15-17,25; 3:1-10)
  - **GOD'S SOLUTION-LOVE:** God sent Jesus to die for our sins! (Rom. 5:8; Rom. 6:23—Gospel in 1 verse; John 14:6)
  - **OUR RESPONSE:** We must trust Jesus as our savior and receive Him into our lives by grace. (Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12)
  - **CALL TO COMMITMENT:** Would you like to follow Jesus now? (Rom. 10:9; Mark 1:14-18)

### (LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) Practice sharing your 3-minute "bridge" (story) with one person. (Help each other remove unnecessary information and words that are too "churchy," etc.) 2) Practice sharing the four primary points of the Gospel message.

**\*Set goals and pray:** 1) Pray, with your practice partner, for the five people on your list. 2) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story and the Gospel. 3) Pray for each other—that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing/listening.

**\*Accountability Question (next time you meet):** With whom did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met? How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?



## Lesson 2: Father Heart of God (Identity)

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?

(LOOK UP)

**\*Vision:** The purpose of GROW is to establish a lifestyle of obedience-based discipleship that is passed on to others who will pass it to another generation. Obedience to the ways of the Kingdom is valued over knowledge. The goal of GROW is to build *multiplying generations of disciple-makers!* We are building a movement of *confident* and *competent disciple-makers* who can pass on the DNA from generation to generation. The following verse summarizes the GROW vision:

*"... the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2*

- Question: How many generations are represented in 2 Timothy 2:2?
- **Take time to memorize this verse this week!**

**Worship:** Read together Zeph. 3:17 and John 1:12-13. Take time to pray the truth that stands out to you from these passages.

- Question: What do you suppose God is really like? What does He think of you? Jesus told the following story to reveal the Father heart of God:

### Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Luke 15:11-31

**What does this passage SAY about God's father heart?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does it say about God? What does it say about you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who is one person who you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) Practice memorizing/quoting 2 Timothy 2:2 with a partner -this is the goal of GROW! 2) Practice sharing the (4) primary points of the Gospel.

**\*Set Goals & Pray:**

- **Goals:** 1) Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2; 2) Who is one person with whom you will share the message of the Father's Heart?
- **Prayer Targets:** 1) Pray, with a partner, for the five people on your list. 2) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/Father's heart. 3) Pray for each other~ that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

### Teaching guide

- There are two ways to leave the Father: being bad (younger son) and being good/religious (older son).
- Repentance is "coming to our senses" and returning to Father (God).
- God will always receive us when we leave Him.
- God doesn't want us to live with false ideas of His character and His nature as Father. He is generous, sacrificial, affectionate, present, and gracious.

**Digging Deeper**

- Understanding the true identity of God as Father is crucial to having a personal, intimate relationship with Him (John 15:9-11). Perhaps your experience with your own father or other men has skewed your view of God as Father. Ask for prayer from your group and/or make an appointment with Prayer Ministry Team
  - Seeing yourself as a son or daughters of God is vital to living out of your true identity (John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14-17; Heb. 2:10-11; Gal.4:4-7).
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## Lesson 3: Son of God

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Whom did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Who did you share with about God's Father heart last week?
- Did you memorize 2 Timothy 2:2? Quote it to each other.

(LOOK UP)

**Worship:** Listen to (sing) "*Jesus at the Center*" or another Jesus-focused song.

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Matthew 16:13-28**

**Background:** There are many ideas about who Jesus is. The time has come for Jesus to share with His disciples who He is and what He has come to do.

**What does this passage SAY about who Jesus is?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this say about God? Jesus? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is the one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who do you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

**\*Vision:** Jesus is center of it all... "*People are hungry for some real good news and Jesus is the game-changer who is that good news. Jesus is the Good News (Gospel)! He is saying, 'I love you, accept you, and forgive you ~ Now, will you follow Me?'*" ~ Tim Timmons

- "*In the past God spoke through the prophets in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son...*"— Heb. 1:1-3
- God became flesh and lived among us in the form of Jesus— John 1:1,14,18
- "*Jesus Christ is the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form and in Christ we have been brought into fullness*"— Col. 2:9-10
- We are to carry the life and message of Jesus: "*As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.*" ~ Jesus (John 20:21)

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) Practice quoting 2 Timothy 2:2 (goal of GROW) with a partner; 2) Practice sharing the (4) primary points of the Gospel - add 1 Scripture verse to each point.

**\*Set Goals & Pray:**

**Goals:** 1) Memorize 2 Timothy 2:2; 2) Who is one person you with whom you will share Discovery Bible Study Matthew 16:13-28— "Who is Jesus to you?" (see the other verses in John & Philippians in Teaching guide)

**Prayer Targets:** 1) Pray, with a partner, for the five people on your list. 2) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 3) Pray for each other~ that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Teaching guide**

- Jesus claimed to be God (John 1:1-3; 5:17-18; 8:58; 10:33; 14:9; 17:21-22; Phi. 2:5-11)
  - As Jesus prophesied ~ He was crucified and then rose from the dead.
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## Lesson 4: Water Baptism

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Who did you share the DBS of Matthew 16:13-28 (Who is Jesus?) with last week?
- Did you memorize 2 Timothy 2:2? Quote it to each other.

(LOOK UP)

**\*Vision:** Baptism is an important aspect of our walk with Christ, so much so that when the apostle Peter shared the Gospel in Acts 2:38, he concluded by saying, *"repent and be baptized, everyone one of you."* Baptism is a symbol of our new covenant with Christ, much like a wedding ceremony symbolizes the covenant of marriage. When we are baptized, the reality that we are dead to sin and alive in Christ comes alive in us in a fresh way. **Baptism is the first step of obedience after you begin following Jesus.** This public commitment is a "stake in the ground" that will give great assurance in future days when your feelings don't match the reality of your new (true) identity as a son/daughter of God. *Have you responded to the command of Jesus to be baptized? Are you encouraging those you disciple to be baptized?*

**Worship:** Take time to prayerfully thank God for the work that He has been doing in your life.

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Matthew 3:1-12**

**Background:** John the Baptist is calling large crowds to repent of their sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

**What does this passage SAY about water baptism?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does it say about God? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is one thing God speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who is one person who you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** *Get with a partner and discuss why baptism is so important for a new believer (practice sharing today's Vision). Use the Teaching guide to supplement your discussion. This will help as you talk to people about baptism this week.*

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1) Memorize 2 Tim. 2:2 (if you haven't yet); 2) Have you been baptized? Set a time to be baptized and/or encourage someone to be baptized who needs to be baptized. 3) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 4) Pray for each other~ that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Teaching guide**

- Baptism is a **picture/reminder** of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is a symbolic act through immersion in water. When we go down under the water, it reminds us that our old self (our sin) has been buried with Jesus. When we come up out of the water, it reminds us that we have been raised with Jesus to a new life.
- Baptism is also a **special sign to God and others** that we love Jesus and want to follow him. When people marry, they often take on a sign that expresses to their spouse and others that they are married. [At this point, you can use an illustration from the culture in which you work.] *When you follow Jesus, you want to say to God and everyone else how much you love Him and want to belong to Him only. It does not have the power to forgive sin. But water baptism is the public confession that you believe in Jesus.* Baptism is not optional, but the first command Jesus has given new believers (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

- The New Testament word baptism means 'to be dipped or immersed.' It pictures death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4).

**Digging Deeper: Baptism Pattern of Acts—Who, When, Where, How**  
Study Acts 2:41; 8:6-13; 8:36-38; 9:18-19; 10:47-48; 16:13-15; 16:33; 18:8; 19:1-5; 22:14-17.



## Lesson 5: Spirit of God (Baptism of the Holy Spirit)

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Did you memorize 2 Tim. 2:2?
- Did you set a time to be baptized and/or encourage someone to be baptized who needs to be baptized?

(LOOK UP)

**\*Vision:** Have you ever felt powerless? Maybe you were trying to do something and got too tired to finish. Or maybe you have taken on a task that was just too big for you. Well, God has called us to live a life that is entirely impossible for us to live. We are powerless on our own to make the blind see, heal the sick, and be fruitful witnesses throughout the world. We also struggle to live with sustained joy and boldness. Yet, God doesn't leave us without a supernatural power source. He has given us the Holy Spirit. The scripture describes an ongoing experience of being filled with His power as the baptism of the Holy Spirit. God wants us to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit and encourage others to do the same.

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Acts 2:1-41**

**What does this passage SAY about the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does it say about God? The Holy Spirit? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is one thing God speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?
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**Who is one person who you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** There is no one method for being baptized with the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Neither is there only one manifestation of the Spirit. The following are common biblical characteristics of those who experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit: A hunger for more of God (Matthew 5:8), desire for spiritual gifts and God's power (1 Cor. 14:1), confession of all known sins (Acts 19:18), coming to Jesus and believing His promise (John 7:37-38), asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13), and expecting manifestations like *prophecy or tongues or joy or boldness* (Acts 19:6). See also Acts 4:31-35; 13:53.

Put on some worship music. Focus on Jesus. Repent of any known sins. Read a few of the scripture promises about the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-38; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8). **Lay hands on one another asking Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Believe and receive Him in faith.**

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1) Ask God every morning this week to be filled with the Holy Spirit. 2) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 3) Pray for each other- that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Teaching guide**

- The Holy Spirit is God! He is referred to as "the Spirit of God" and "the Spirit of Jesus. He is not an "it."
- The Holy Spirit came into your life when you received Christ (John 3:3-8). The Holy Spirit will be with you into heaven (Eph. 1:13-14).
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a unique experience from salvation, but they can happen at the same time.
- Jesus was "born of the Spirit" at conception (Luke 2:26-38), yet He was "baptized in the Holy Spirit" (filled or anointed) when the Spirit descended upon Him like a dove at his baptism (Luke 3:21-22; 4:1,14,18-19). The same is true for us: We are "born of the Spirit" when we receive Christ (John 3:5-6; John 20:22; Eph. 1:13-14) but are baptized in the Spirit (Acts 1:8, Acts 2; Acts 19:1-7) when the Spirit "comes upon" us in power.
- The baptism of the Spirit is not just a one-time experience, but we are encouraged to "be continually filled" with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18; John 20:22; Acts 2:4; 4:31).

- We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that we can do the works that Jesus did - even greater ones (John 14:12-13).
  - The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve the church and extend the Kingdom of God. These gifts are abilities that are supernaturally empowered by God (1 Cor. 12:1-8).
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## Lesson 6: Abiding in Christ

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Did you ask every day to be filled with the Holy Spirit? Did you notice anything different?
- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?

(LOOK UP)

**Worship:** Read Galatians 5:22-23 aloud, and then ask the Father (in prayer) to overflow the fruit of His Spirit from your life.

**\*Vision:** Jesus said, *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them...It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from Him comes to Me.”* (John 6:44-45) Clearly, God wants to be our primary teacher; and His drawing and teaching will always lead us to Jesus!

Our responsibility is obedience! Jesus said, *“If you love me, you will obey my commands.”* (John 14:15) In His famous story of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus said, *“...everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock...everyone who does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand...”* (Matthew 7:24-26)

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): John 15:1-17**

**What does this passage SAY about abiding in Jesus?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this say about God? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is the one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who do you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) Read John 15:7. What does this say to you in regard to the Word of God and prayer? 2) Do you struggle in your prayer/Bible reading? Why?

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1. Awaken 1 hour earlier and dedicate the first hour to abiding (remaining, resting, being present) in Jesus by engaging in 4-15's: (1) 15 minutes Reading the Bible (start with John and meditate on Jesus' words); (2) 15 minutes Praying the Scripture you just read back to God; (3) 15 minutes Listening to the Holy Spirit's response and direction; (4) 15 minutes Sharing with someone (during the day) what you learned in your time with Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit. 2. Ask God every morning this week to fill you with the Holy Spirit. 3. Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 4. Pray for each other~ that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Teaching guide**

- What is abiding? “To remain, to stay connected, to settle in for the long term, to rest securely.”
  - What is fruit? Fruit is the “excess life” that overflows out of a believer who is intimately abiding in the true vine ~Jesus! *Inner fruit of the Spirit* (Gal. 5:22-23)/*Outward fruit includes sharing Jesus and serving others.*
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## Lesson 7: Perseverance

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- How is your daily 4-15's going? Are they from a place of abiding or sheer discipline?
- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?

(LOOK UP)

**Worship:** Consider reading Rom. 8:31-39 and singing songs about the love of God.

**\*Vision:** PRAYER IS THE WORK! In Luke 22:31-32 Jesus tells Peter that Satan has asked to "sift" Him. Jesus reassures Peter that He has been praying for him and that ultimately his faith won't fail. In response to this passage Charles Spurgeon said, "*Our intercession outruns the schemes of the enemy.*" As we pray for people in our lives, our prayers are more powerful than the plans of Satan to steal, kill and destroy. Continue to pray for those in your life who are far from God. Believe that your prayers will outrun the plans of the enemy. Intercession ('standing in the gap') is the greatest spiritual work we can do on behalf of our friends, family, co-workers, fellow students, and neighbors.

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Matthew 26:36-46 & James 1:2-4**

**What do these passages SAY about perseverance?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this say about God? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is the one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who do you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) Read John 12:24. Discuss this kingdom principle: *The only way to fruitfulness is through giving up our lives—death. It was the way Jesus had to walk.*

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1. *What is a situation you need to persevere through?* 2. Awaken 1 hour earlier and dedicate the first hour to abiding (remaining, resting, being present) in and persevering through Jesus by engaging in 4-15's: (1) 15 minutes Reading the Bible (start with John and meditate on Jesus' words); (2) 15 minutes Praying the Scripture you read back to God; (3) 15 minutes Listening to the Holy Spirit's response and direction; (4) 15 minutes Sharing with someone (during the day) what you learned in your time with Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit. 3. Ask God every morning this week to be filled with the Holy Spirit. 4. Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 5. Pray for each other—that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Digging Deeper:**

- **Who suffers in Disciple-making Movements?** Disciple-makers (Gal. 6:17); New Believers & their families.
  - Persecution Study in Acts (9 passages to study): 1) Acts 3:1-4:31; 2) 5:12-42; 3) 6:8-8:4; 4) 12:1-24; 5) 13:13-52; 6) 14:1-28; 7) 16:16-40; 8) 17:1-9; 9) 18:1-17
  - Fear is contagious, but so is faith! "Boldness is acting in spite of fear!"
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## Lesson 8: Forgiveness

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Share a situation you are persevering through.

(LOOK UP)

**Worship:** Pray the Lord's prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13). What does verse 12 mean to you?

**\*Vision:** 2 Cor. 5:17-21 is a transformative passage!

- Verse 17 states that when we begin following Jesus, we get a completely **new identity—we are new creations** (literally "a new species").
- Verses 18-20 declare that we are given a **new ministry and message—the ministry of reconciliation!** As disciples of Jesus we become God's ambassadors (representatives) heralding the message: "Be reconciled (restored to right relationship) with God" and "be reconciled to one another." (Matthew 5:23-24)

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Matthew 18:23-35**

**What does this passage SAY about forgiveness?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this say about God? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is the one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who do you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) *Who is someone that you need to forgive?* 2) *Who is someone you need to ask forgiveness from?*

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1) Go be reconciled to someone you need to ask forgiveness from (Matthew 5:23-24). 2) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 3) Pray for each other- that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

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## Lesson 9: Church

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Did you extend forgiveness to someone since we last met? Did you ask forgiveness from anyone?

(LOOK UP)

**Worship:** (Prepare ahead of time). Take the Lords Supper together. Read 1 Cor. 11:23-33. What is this passage saying to you? Take time to remember what Jesus has done for you. As you receive the bread and juice, remember Jesus' unconditional love and sacrifice for your sins. Reflect on His forgiveness of your sins. Express thanksgiving for Jesus and for each person in your group. Though broken and imperfect, we represent Jesus' body to the world.

**\*Vision:** In Luke 9 & 10 we see that Jesus sends His disciples to look for "People of Peace." The person of peace is the one God has prepared in advance to receive the Gospel and who has relational favor in a family, community, or group of people. You can identify a person of peace as one who 1) receives you as someone sent by God 2) receives your messages as being from God 3) refers you to others. *In actuality, each believer in our group was at one time a person of peace whom God was drawing to Himself. We were receptive and willing to give a referral.*

Examples of people of peace in the Bible include **the woman at the well** (John 4); **the Geresene demoniac** (Mark 5); **Cornelius** (Acts 10); and **Lydia and the Philippian jailer** (Acts 16). Making disciples is easier if we're working with God and the people He has prepared, rather than trying to force the Gospel on people who aren't ready or receptive. Ponder: *If we are truly living for and with Jesus, the person of peace may find us!*

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): 1 Peter 2:9-12**

**What does this passage SAY about the church?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this say about God? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is the one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who do you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) Practice memorizing 1 Peter 2:9. Say it out loud together. 2) How might you transition your GROW discipleship group into a community group?

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1) Pray about starting a Community Group. 2) Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 3) Pray for each other~ that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Teaching guide**

- Living in community as church is the King's way to equip His people to be what they were designed to "be" and "do" what they were called to do. (Eph. 1:23; 3:21; 5:27; Rev. 19:7-8; 21:9)
- The word church actually means "the called out ones." The church is not a building or program or even a doctrinal statement. The church is people; people who have been called out by God to follow Christ.
- The church is called the body of Christ because it does His work on earth. (Eph. 2:22; 3:10-11)
- The mission of the church is to declare the good news of who God is and what He has done to the world. (1 Peter 2:9-12)



- God encourages us to gather consistently with other believers for encouragement. (Heb. 10:24-25)
  - You cannot love Christ and not love the church ~ as imperfect as we are. (Acts 9:1-6)
  - The local church is the hope of the world! (Eph. 3:20-21)
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## Lesson 10: Love God and Love Others

(LOOK BACK)

**Pastoral Care:** How are you doing today?

**\*Accountability:**

- Who did you share your story and/or the Gospel with since we last met?
- How were your interactions with people you are praying for and pouring into?
- Quote 1 Peter 2:9.
- How are you transitioning your GROW discipleship group into a community group?

(LOOK UP)

**Worship:** Read Psalm 145.

**\*Vision:** Just before Jesus ascends into Heaven, He asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter responds that he does. Jesus replies, "Feed my sheep." As God gives us spiritual influence (leadership), it seems to me that there is a correlation between loving Jesus and feeding His sheep, taking care of His people entrusted to your care. I've seen so many of you do this well. As you take care of (pastor) the people in your lives, you are really 'loving Jesus well.' The goal of pastoring people is that they would learn to feed themselves- moving from dependence to interdependence (see Heb. 5:11-6:3) and at the right time begin feeding and leading others (see 2 Tim. 2:2). **As this happens a movement of disciple-making breaks out! It starts by loving Jesus well, and using your influence to see others grow in Jesus.**

**Discovery Bible Study (SOS): Mark 12:28-31**

**What does this passage SAY about our call to love?**

- What verse is God highlighting to you? What is He saying?
- What is the main point of this passage?
- What does this say about God? About you?

**What do you need to OBEY?**

- What is the one thing God is speaking to you to do this week?
- What needs to change this week for you to obey?

**Who do you need to SHARE this message with this week?**

(LOOK AHEAD)

**\*Practice:** 1) What are the two great commandments? What are some ways you show your love for God? Your neighbor? (Who is my neighbor?) 2) Discuss the statement in the Vision: "As you take care of (pastor) the people in your life, you are really 'loving Jesus well.'"

**\*Set Goals & Pray:** 1. Make an intentional plan to serve someone (who's already in your life) this week. 2. Awaken 1 hour earlier and dedicate the first hour to 'abiding (remaining, resting, being present) in' and 'persevering through' Jesus by engaging in 4-15's: (1) 15 minutes Reading the Bible (start with John and meditate on Jesus' words); (2) 15 minutes Praying the Scripture you read back to God; (3) 15 minutes Listening to the Holy Spirit's response and direction; (4) 15 minutes Sharing with someone (during the day) what you learned in your time with Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit. 3. Ask God every morning this week to be filled with the Holy Spirit. 4. Pray for openness and opportunity to share your story/the Gospel/today's DBS. 5. Pray for each other- that you will have boldness to share and sensitivity while sharing & listening.

**Digging Deeper—"We love because He first loved us"~ 1 John 4:19**

- Embracing the love of God requires *knowing God's acceptance, receiving God's forgiveness, and experiencing God's care.*
- Embracing the love of God requires *accepting others, forgiving others, and caring for others.*
- Embracing the love of God requires *accepting myself, forgiving myself, and caring for myself.*
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**Question:** Which of the above is most difficult for you?

