

Becoming a History Maker

Discipleship Handbook

By Joshua C. Y. Kim

www.TeachusMission.org
Following & Finishing

Becoming a History Maker

Teachus Mission, Inc
B.P. 438 – Conakry
Guinea, West Africa

www.teachusmission.org

For additional information, please email us at: m4missions@gmail.com

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Edited by Keith Lee

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Introduction

There was a man who wanted to become a missionary to Africa. He contacted me, and we met at a cafe. During our conversation, I learned that he had not made any disciples yet. I advised him to make some disciples before he goes out to the mission field. I told him, "If you can make disciples here, you are ready for the mission field." He thanked me for my advice and added these words, "*No one told me to make disciples before, even though I completed many missions training programs.*"

Making disciples is not an option! Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples of all nations, and it is our mandate as the followers of Jesus. It is not only for the missionaries and pastors. Making disciples is for every follower. (Matthew 28:19). Jesus came to make disciples who will follow Him and conquer the world with the gospel. Nevertheless, the task of reaching all peoples in the world is not yet finished. Why?

Since 1993, I have engaged in making disciples as a missionary in a remote part of Africa where there is no access to the gospel. Here, the villagers live in circular mud houses without electricity and running water. As our family lived among them, we always focused our ministry on making disciples. Since then, I also had the privilege of visiting Asia, North America, and Europe to mobilize churches for finishing the task. I always ask active Church members, "Are you making disciples at the moment?" To my surprise, their responses have always been "No."

Spirobesity (spiritual obesity) is our greatest enemy in finishing the task! Worship, fellowship, and discipleship are the three essentials for a healthy Christian. However, discipleship is often lacking or missing altogether. Thus, Christians live an imbalanced life. Christ-followers easily become spiritually obese without discipleship. They inundate their lives with Christian activities that are circling around worship and fellowship only. We must balance our lives with discipleship and bear God's fruit in our lives so that we can finish the task of reaching every tribe on earth.

This workbook is designed to guide you to personally make disciples. You can engage in one-on-one discipleship that will transform someone's life as well as your own. As you make disciples, you will realize that it is not you but Jesus who is making disciples through you. More importantly, you will form Christ in your own life as you engage in discipleship. Slowly but surely, the unfinished task will be completed in our generation as Christians around the world obey God's call and make disciples. Your obedience to making disciples will make a difference in the world mission.

Jesus made disciples! True followers in Christ will engage in discipleship, but at the same time, also not neglect worship and fellowship. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you obey God's call. You need to commit 15-20 minutes each day to read the material in this book and answer the questions and make notes. There are five days of materials per week over six weeks, totaling about 40 days. I pray that this book helps you to balance your spiritual life.

The Holy Spirit will continue to empower you more and more as you make disciples. Let us follow the History Maker, Jesus Christ, and finish the task in our generation!

Joshua C. Y. Kim
M4 Missions Consultant
Founder of Teachus Mission, Inc.
Sambouya Village, Guinea, West Africa

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If you answered “No” or “I don’t know,” I urge you to accept Jesus Christ now as your Lord and Savior and be certain of your salvation. God invites you to have eternal life and a relationship with Him.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - John 3:16

The gospel is simple. Jesus came and paid for our sins once and for all. Our salvation cost Him His own life on the cross, and He made it available as a free gift for everyone who truly believes and follows Him. When you accept Him, ***you must surrender all of your life*** to enter into a relationship with God.

Jesus justified us through His death. Once again, I repeat, “Salvation is the free gift.” If there is no justification for your sins, you would have to pay for your sins in hell. Because Jesus paid the penalty, He has justified you once for all.

Salvation has the three essential parts: (1) ***justification***, (2) ***sanctification***, and (3) ***glorification***. Thus, no one can condemn you for your sins if you have received salvation. You can be free from guilt and live in freedom with God. This is the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. Justification is done by the death on the cross. Later, we will cover the sanctification and the glorification parts of salvation.

If you have not received this gift, what is holding you back from accepting Jesus into your life? According to the Bible, you can become a child of God when you accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. You can begin a new life with God.

Be Certain of Your Destiny!

God became a man to communicate His love in a way that no one could miss. The empty cross is the symbol of His death and resurrection. You will live forever with Him who rose from death if you have become a child of God.

If you are not sure about your salvation, you can accept Jesus Christ now. Why would you continue your life without having the confidence in your salvation? Make the commitment to God in a concrete way so that you won’t forget it. This new relationship will transform you, and you won’t miss His house at the end.

Salvation is attained by the Grace of God who justified you on the cross where He paid the full price for your sins.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:8-10

Do you think some people can go to heaven by being a “good person”? (why or why not)

Romans 3:23 teaches us, “*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*” God is perfect and holy, and no one is good enough to meet His standards.

Death of the Spirit - Broken Relationship

Genesis Chapter 3 describes Adam and Eve’s original sin which caused us to depart from God after breaking our relationship with Him. God warned them not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because they would surely die when they do. Satan came along and enticed them to believe in his lies.

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." - Genesis 3:4-5

What were the serpent’s lies?

Adam and Eve called God a liar when they chose to eat the fruit. Just as God warned them, death came upon them. Immortal beings became mortal beings on that day because they chose to believe the lies.

Human beings have a body, soul, and spirit. On the day when Adam and Eve ate the fruit, the spirit died instantly. The death of our spirit led to spiritual disconnection with God. However, by the mercy of God, the soul and body of Adam and Eve remained for many years, and their lives continued. Nevertheless, the body and soul ultimately had to die, too. Death of all mankind is the last and ultimate appointment that no one can avoid.

What died instantly when Adam and Eve sinned against God?

Christianity makes dead people alive!

What is Christianity? I think that the best answer comes from the mouth of Jesus Christ in the following memory verse of the week:

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- John 10:10*

Jesus came to restore our spiritual life. Not only that, He provided the way to attain “fullness” of our spiritual, emotional, and even physical life.

Christianity ultimately sets itself apart from all other religions. The common denominator of all religions is making “bad” people into “better” people. But Christianity’s central theme is making “dead” people “alive” so that they may enter into an eternal relationship with God. Immortality is regained through Jesus Christ.

On the other hand, *"The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy."* Satan was able to kill the spirit, and he is trying to kill and destroy the soul and body. We can easily find the enemy working all around us: broken families, violence in society, drugs, wars, etc.

According to the memory verse of the week, what are the three objectives of the enemy, Satan?

The exclusive tenet of Christianity offers the solution for everyone. All other religions offer improvement of one's life. Christianity offers new birth of the spirit and an eternal relationship with God. He will meet you where you are and will lead your life to what it was meant to be.

Total Surrender for an Eternal Relationship with God!

Imagine a young man kneeling before a young lady at the beach. He says, "I will devote 95% of my life to you and I will reserve only 5% to go out with other ladies. Will you marry me?" Obviously, no lady in her right mind would even consider such a proposal. How about God? When you decide to follow God, you must surrender all, knowing that He who died for you is trustworthy.

If you are not sure that you are a child of God, once again, I urge you to accept Jesus Christ right now. If you don't know how, simply say this prayer aloud as your commitment to follow Christ:

"Lord Jesus, you have died for me on the cross to pay for all of my sins. I accept you as my Savior and Lord. I commit 100% of my life to enter into this relationship with you. Come into my life and make me your child. In Jesus name, I pray, Amen."

You can be sure of this: you became a child of God when you accepted Jesus Christ into your life. The spirit is born even though you may not feel any different. Like a seed that is planted, you will grow and experience God in your life. Be patient! You have entered into a relationship with God, which is forever. He will guide you throughout your life.

Write the memory verse below and meditate on it.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
- John 10:10

Day 2: Saved through Faith Alone

Christians receive salvation by grace, which is a free gift. So, salvation is never obtained by our works. It is not something that we can earn. When we accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, our spirit was born again, and we entered into a personal relationship with God.

The spirit that is born, when you attained salvation, must grow in order to fully experience the spiritual life, which God intended from the very beginning of creation. Spiritual growth takes time, and we must be patient as God works in us.

Being a Christian is not about doing many activities at church or serving in ministries. It is about a relationship with God which will lead you to intimate spiritual worship, fellowship, and discipleship. Thus, you must focus on your relationship with God first.

Salvation through Faith

Grace is an act of God’s love and mercy through Jesus Christ. On the other hand, faith is mostly an act of our free will. We can choose to follow Christ who offers the free gift of salvation or we can reject or ignore the gospel.

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. - Romans 3:22-23

How do you attain righteousness from God?

By God’s grace and through our faith, our salvation is attained.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. - Romans 10:10

According to this verse, two things must happen, in order to receive salvation. What are they:

Through faith, we must believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Believing and confessing are our part of the salvation process.

Some choose not to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ even though they are actively involved in church programs. They can have the title of a deacon, elder, or even missionary, but they may not have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many will be surprised when Jesus says, “*I never knew you,*” on the last day. (*Matthew 7:21-23*)

Christians are those who choose to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and confess with their mouth that Jesus is the Lord of their lives. This is how they entered into a relationship with God and became His children.

Living by Faith!

Once a relationship with God is established, we must live by faith. Without faith, we cannot please God. We must trust in Him and follow Him wherever He leads us, knowing that He loves us unconditionally. When our family departed for Guinea, West Africa, we had to trust the Lord for our financial needs. At the time of departure, we only had one church that had committed to support us \$100 per month. Besides that, we had only a handful of brothers and sisters who were supporting us.

In June 2002, our daughter, Chelsea, was only three and our son, Caleb, was one and half years old. We left the United State because God had given us the vision of establishing a mission boarding school in a remote village where there was no electricity or running water.

We estimated the initial cost to build the elementary school was going to be about \$300,000, which was an impossible amount for us at the time. By comparison, we could not even adequately take care of our children with the regular support we were receiving.

Nevertheless, we went to Guinea, knowing that our God who put this vision into our hearts is faithful and trustworthy. We needed to step out in faith, going to a tribal village called Sambouya, which is about 450 km from the capital city. Within two years, God proved himself faithful and provided more than enough funds to construct eight buildings. Our school was opened in 2004. To this day, we cannot comprehend how this was possible. Throughout the construction period, we never mentioned our financial need and never raised funds for this school. We simply prayed and trusted in God. It was His vision, and he completed it. This experience taught me what it means to live by faith.

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." - Romans 1:17

The Object of our Faith

The object of our faith is Jesus Christ who never changes. He came to die for our sins and delivered us from eternal death. He offers us spiritual life. Our circumstances may change for the worse, and tragedies may come upon us, but He does not change. So when we look to Jesus, His encouragement and power will come from above. We are always rejuvenated by His presence.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." - Luke 17:5-6

What did the disciples request from Jesus?

The response of Jesus in these verses teaches us that the quantity of our faith does not determine our success. It is Jesus, who is the object of our faith, who will bring success in all things when we trust Him. He will bring His visions to its fruition in His time. We only need to look to Him for the power and strength at all times.

The Source of Faith

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. - Romans 10:17

How does one attain faith?

Definitely, faith comes by hearing God's Word. After many years of listening sermons and studying the Bible, the truth powerfully penetrated into my mind, and faith was conceived in my heart. My God, whom at one time I did not acknowledge his existence, revealed himself to me through the Bible.

How can an ordinary person believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ? How can he or she accept the feeding of 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish? How can anyone accept the fact that the Israelites, led by Moses, walked through the Red Sea on dry ground?

It is impossible for us to accept the miracles in the Bible unless we acknowledge the existence of God and His power. If God, by definition, is omnipotent, He can do all things. Raising the dead and creating the universe are easy for Him.

One of my students in Africa, Ousman (who was from a Muslim family), once asked me a surprising question. He was about 8 or 9 years old.

“Who made God?”

“God by definition,” I answered, “is self-existing and self-sustaining. If God is made, he is not God. Do you understand?”

Ousman nodded his head. Yet, I knew that he did not fully grasp the meaning because His English was not proficient at the time.

If God, exists as described above, nothing is impossible for Him. I came to Christianity as a skeptic and agnostic who did not believe in the existence of God. My high school friend invited me to his church, and Christianity became a part of my life, but not wholly. When I got used to Christianity, I simply wanted to be religious enough to put one foot in the church and the other in the world. Yet, Christ drew me to Himself through His Words. Eventually, I surrendered my life and entered into an eternal relationship with God. It changed everything in my life.

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 3: A New Creation – A History Maker

Christians are saved by _____ and through _____.

The Reformation took place in the 1500's with these three slogans: "Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture (Bible) Alone." Salvation came by grace as a free gift from Jesus, who died on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for us. Through faith alone, we accepted His offer of salvation and entered into a relationship with God who is unseen with our naked eyes.

The first time I went to a church, as a teenager, people were crying, praising, and praying during a special evening service. While standing in the back of the sanctuary, I thought, "These people are definitely crazy." The second thing I said to myself was, "I will never become like that."

Gradually, I became a regular Sunday service attender of my friend's Church because I liked the church members. I thought that I could improve my social life with the nice people at the Church.

When I was about to graduate from my high school, someone who graduated from UC Berkeley came to our Church in San Diego because he started his graduate studies there. After attending several Sunday services, he

asked me, "Would you like to have one-on-one Bible study?" I thought to myself, this guy is also one of those religious fanatics. Thus, I didn't want to get close to him, but he invited me over for dinner. So I went.

This began our one-to-one discipleship, which became a spiritual marker in my life. Through the discipleship, I found out that becoming a Christian is truly life-changing. I encountered a man who truly believed and lived his life with Christ and did not just simply attend Church activities regularly.

When I started my undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley, my discipler came up to Berkeley and led me to his Church. Here I studied the Bible more and learned that Jesus Christ died for my sins. After understanding the gospel, I was compelled to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Finally, I became a child of God after several years of seeking the truth.

Emotionally, nothing drastic happened to me at the moment, but I knew my commitment to Him was real. I entered into an eternal relationship with Jesus. From then on, God began to transform me.

A New Person in Christ

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! - 2Corinthians 5:17

According to this verse, you are a _____ because your old identity is gone, and a new one has been granted. As a new creation, your new identity is a **history maker** because you are following Jesus who is the true HISTORY MAKER who reigns in the world. You should often repeat this to yourself, "**I am a history maker!**"

As Christians, we received the status of a righteous person from God. Once again, it is not by anything that we have done. But it is by grace and through faith in Jesus Christ that we have received the status of a righteous person. However, righteousness does not come right away, it takes time to develop in us. In other words, we have been given the status of a history maker at the moment we received salvation, but it will take time for us to learn to be like one.

Choose to be a History Maker

We develop righteousness in our lives by choosing to obey the Holy Spirit who is leading us.

Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So, I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God— through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. - Romans 7:20-25

How many natures are working within us according to the passage?

Both sinful and spiritual natures now live together within us. We must learn to follow our new, born again, nature. The Bible teaches us that we have two natures fighting inside of us, and we must choose to live according to the Spirit. When we do that, we will be able to make "history" with Christ.

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. - Galatians 5:16-17

By the choices we make, we determine which nature we follow. We will obtain righteousness as we follow the Holy Spirit.

Righteousness Takes Time to Develop

A newborn baby cannot walk or talk, but she will gradually grow. When the time comes, she will be able to speak and run. In the same way, developing righteousness takes time. In due time, you will become a full-grown history-maker who will bear the fruit of righteousness, and it will be purely for the glory and praise of God. (*Philippians 1:11*)

The key factor of the Christian life is knowing who you are. Your identity as a history maker must be realized. When you know who you are, you can begin to do what you were meant to do. In other words, righteousness will be the outcome of a close relationship with the History Maker. It all starts with **being** which leads to **doing**.

Visions and Dreams are Extras

Never be anxious about doing the mighty things for God! Visions and dreams are extras. Being with God is the most important thing. If you are not content with God alone, you have no message for the world. First, you must recognize that God is the eternal lover of your soul who alone can satisfy your eternal heart.

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set **eternity in the human heart**; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. - Ecclesiastes 3:11.*

You must be touched by God so that you can touch the world with the message of the gospel.

The world is not looking for another preacher or teacher who knows facts about God. They are seeking for men and women who are genuinely changed. God is also seeking for men and women who are seriously interested in the relationship with Him.

God is dying to meet you. It is not an expression for Him. He truly came and died to meet us where we are. But His intention was never to leave us where we are. He desires to lead us to where He is so that we can experience God in real and tangible ways.

This Gospel must Become My Gospel!

Paul was preaching this gospel all over Eastern Europe and making disciples. One day, the gospel that he preached became his own gospel.

*Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is **my gospel**, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's Word is not chained. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. - 2Timothy 2:8-10*

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 4: Sanctified in God's Hand

You are a _____ because you became a child of God who is the History Maker. You are saved by _____ through _____. Because you belong to the History Maker, He will lead your life.

As we learned, justification what happens in our past experience of a Christian life. You are justified once for all, and you don't need to be justified over and over again. On the other hand, *sanctification*, which is growing and becoming like Jesus, it is the present experience of salvation that continues until we get to heaven. In other words, you experience sanctification daily as you walk with God.

The Aim of Discipleship is Forming Christ in You.

Imagine a woman who just delivered an infant girl and then abandoned her in a park. What will happen to the infant if no one helps her? She desperately needs someone to provide adequate care to survive and mature. Milk is not the only thing that she needs. Love must be given to her in order for her to mature emotionally as well.

God adopted us as his children, and he never leaves us alone in a park. We might feel as though He is not near us at certain times of our lives. But He is there with us always, and we will recognize His presence if we seek Him with all our hearts. He is forming Christ in us as we walk with Him, and this is the ultimate goal of discipleship.

Sanctification = Spiritual Growth

The history makers are the mature Christians who are sanctified by God. Jesus tells us how we are sanctified in the following passage. Jesus prayed for His disciples right before he was captured to be crucified.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. - John 17:15-18

What can sanctify us according to this passage?

Protection, Sanctification, and Commission were the three main topics of His last prayer in the passage above. Sanctification can be obtained by the truth in God's Word. Moreover, we must recognize the purpose of sanctification, which is going out to the world with the gospel message. Just like Jesus Christ was sent to us, God is sending us to the ends of the earth.

When we are sanctified, Jesus' vision becomes ours and His passion becomes our obsession. And we will go and make disciples like Jesus did on earth.

In college, I was fortunate to be nurtured by godly men. The transformation was real in my life. My value system was reshaped, and my passion was also altered. As I studied the Bible, I found out that God is on a mission to bring the gospel of salvation to all nations and all peoples. So I began to pray about world missions.

In my junior year in college, I committed two years for missions after my graduation so that I could learn about God's mission. Before entering any career path and marriage, I wanted to learn about His mission so that I could be available for His plans. At that time, I was not planning for a full-time ministry. I simply desired to be a part of His missions in the world.

No Growth = Spiritual Sickness

If you are walking with God, you will definitely grow as a history maker. If you don't grow, something has gone wrong. Maybe you are spiritually sick and need help. What is the ultimate goal of discipleship?

Sanctification should be tangible for history makers.

The transformation of your life should be the outcome of a daily walk with God. If you are nurtured adequately, you will grow into a mature Christian.

Imagine a child who does not grow over a period of ten years. If he or she cannot walk or talk, something is unnatural. If you do not grow spiritually and change into a history maker in due time, you should examine your spiritual life.

How long have you been a Christian? How are you doing in worship, fellowship, and discipleship? How many disciples have you made? How many of those are actively making disciples now? Just think about the answers. This is a good way to measure your spiritual walk with the Lord. Maybe you are ashamed to say that you have not made any disciples. This will change if you commit yourself to become a history maker and apply the concepts that you are learning now.

God Sanctifies His Children

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. - 1Thessalonians 5:23-24

Who is faithful to sanctify us according to the passage above?

It is not going to be any pastor or spiritual leader, but God, Himself, will personally sanctify you thoroughly if we come to Him daily.

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 5: Glorified on the Last Day

Let's review some important concepts in salvation: Justification & Sanctification. What are they?

Use the following words for the blanks below:

Faith, Grace, Justification, Sanctification

God is the primary agent of _____, transforming His children to be more and more like Him.

We are saved by _____ and that Jesus' death brought _____ for His children because he died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

And we live through _____ in Christ who leads us. When we trust Him, we can go anywhere and do anything for Him.

Today's topic focuses on the future, the **glorification** of salvation. We shall be changed into a glorified body like Jesus when we get to heaven. After Jesus resurrected from death, he was able to go through the wall into a room where disciples were gathered even though all the doors and windows were shut. In the same way, we will be glorified at the end.

Immortality in Glorification

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.
- 1Corinthians 15:50-53

According to the passage, what changes will take place on the last day?

Immortality is what God offered to us when He saved us. If we are justified in the past, we can be sanctified in the present, and at the end, we will be glorified in perfection.

Perfection in Knowledge

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. - 1Corinthians 13:9-12

According to the passage above, what will happen on the last day?

When Jesus Christ returns, perfection will come. On that day, the imperfect will disappear, and all questions will be answered when we see God face to face.

The Eternal Home in Glorification

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going. - John 14:1-3

According to the passage above, what did Jesus promise?

In this context, Thomas responded, “*We don't know the way to the place You are going.*” How about you? Do you know the way? Jesus responded to Thomas with the famous verse, “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*” (John 14:6 NIV)

The way to our eternal home is through Jesus Christ alone. We are just “*camping*” on earth for a while, and we will enter into His glorious home that is being prepared by God.

The Day of Glorification

When is Jesus coming back? When is the last day? The answer is found in Matthew chapter 24 where the disciples also asked Jesus the same question.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. -Matthew 24:14

From this passage, when will Jesus Christ return?

My son, Caleb's Korean name is Jae-Joon which means “prepare the second coming of Jesus.” It is my prayer for my son, as well as all my disciples, that they become history makers who prepare the second coming of the Lord.

Imagine a young man who just received a brand new car as a gift. He would drive it around with his friends. It would be strange if he just parked the car in his driveway and never rode it. What if he continues to ride his old bicycle to work even on rainy and snowy days? In a similar way, many Christians fail to fully realize the gift of salvation that they have received. They put it away and live as though God is not present in their lives.

We must enjoy the wonderful gift of salvation which is the relationship with the eternal God. In the coming weeks, you will learn to spend time with the Lord in God's word.

Would you pray this prayer now?

“Lord Jesus, make me a history maker that You want me to be. Thank you for justifying me by your grace. I commit to live by faith. Sanctify me daily so that I may be more and more like you. I look forward to the glorification when You return. In the mean time, I will follow You and participate in taking my gospel to all nations and all peoples. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Week Two: Following God



Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
James 4:8

God accomplishes His purpose through His followers, who are the true history makers in this world. Nevertheless, God is more interested *in you* than accomplishing His purpose *through you*.

Having an intimate relationship with you is the ultimate purpose of God, who initiated the relationship in the first place. Many Christians are forgetting this truth and focusing their lives on doing God’s work.

God, Himself Must Be Our Focus!

God will give visions and dreams to followers who seek Him, but as mentioned before, these are only extras. When we come to God and spend time with Him, we will know Him intimately. Then He will lead us to accomplish His visions in His way and in His time.

This week we will take a look closely at some of the history makers in the Bible. We will learn how they became God's mighty instruments. The common denominator in all of them is that it took a long time for them to participate in God's missions.

An intimate relationship with God is the key factor for each person we will study and for anyone to be truly used by God. If you want to live a godly life and to accomplish God's visions, you must be patient and walk with Him consistently. He will meet you where you are and take you to where He is.

Day 1: Jesus as Our Ultimate Goal

Our initial relationship with God began by _____ and through _____. Then we must grow to become more and more like our Heavenly Father who is the History Maker. As we spend time with Him, he will change our hearts and minds, so we may grow to be more like him.

Changed to Change the World!

If you are not changed in God, you certainly cannot change the world in godliness. Over the years, I realized that the majority of people who hear God's word often get blessed and challenged, but not truly changed. We can all be changed by God's word by listening and meditating and spending time with God. I am also convinced that only *changed* people can participate in changing the history of the world according to God's master plan.

Nowadays, I often start my sermons this way: "Jesus Christ did not come to challenge you. He came to *change* you so that you can follow Him to *change* the world."

The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"
- Mark 1:33-37

What did Jesus Christ do very early in the morning?

My son, Caleb's Korean name is Jae-Joon which means "prepare the second coming of Jesus." It is my prayer for my son, as well as all my disciples, that they become history makers who prepare the second coming of the Lord.

Imagine a young man who just received a brand new car as a gift. He would drive it around with his friends. It would be strange if he just parked the car in his driveway and never rode it. What if he continues to ride his old bicycle to work even on rainy and snowy days? In a similar way, many Christians fail to fully realize the gift of salvation that they have received. They put it away and live as though God is not present in their lives.

We must enjoy the wonderful gift of salvation which is the relationship with the eternal God. In the coming weeks, you will learn to spend time with the Lord in God's word.

Would you pray this prayer now?

"Lord Jesus, make me a history maker that You want me to be. Thank you for justifying me by your grace. I commit to live by faith. Sanctify me daily so that I may be more and more like you. I look forward to the glorification when You return. In the meantime, I will follow You and participate in taking my gospel to all nations and all peoples. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen."

Here is an example of Jesus Christ spending quality time in prayer with the Father. First, he went off to a solitary place where no one could disturb his appointment with God. The disciples had to look for him because he was nowhere to be found.

To know God and to know His will, we must spend time with Him alone. In order to do that, we must make a daily appointment with God and keep it no matter what happens. The time should be the first appointment in the morning, and the location should be a solitary place where no one can disturb you.

In His Presence!

Like many churchgoers, I did not come to the presence of God daily in the early years of my Christian life. When I heard challenging sermons, I would try to read and meditate God's word for several weeks. But I would fail and return to the distant relationship with the one who saved me by the blood of Jesus.

I knew that the great thing about Christian life is the fellowship with God in a real and personal way. Nevertheless, I could not have the consistency in my walk with Him until the turning point in my life. It happened during my short-term missions to the Native Americans in Canada when I was Junior year in college. After a week of orientation, I was commissioned as a missionary and sent out without a specific project. For 40 days, I, with two teammates, had to rely on God for the mission work. Each morning, we had to read the Bible and pray for His guidance because we didn't know what to do. This started the daily encounter with God in a real and intimate way.

God led us to a young native man, and we shared the gospel with him over the summer. At the end of the mission work, he accepted Christ into his life and he was baptized in the lake. It was an amazing experience.

On the last day of the mission, I confessed to the Lord, "You have blessed me so much during this summer mission, and I desire to continue this close fellowship with you." I stood on Thetis Island in Vancouver where all of the mission team members were gathered to share the testimonies of how God worked over the summer. I prayed the whole night and watched the sunrise. My final prayer was: "I want to experience you like this throughout my life." So I made a commitment, that day, to come to God first thing every morning. Even if I will be late for other appointments, I decided to keep the appointment with God. This revolutionized my life.

Reality Time with God

Keeping a daily appointment with God is a fundamental requirement for godliness. What do you do during the appointment? Basically, you read and meditate on God's Word, and write down your experience in your spiritual journal. Afterwards, pray according to what you learned in the Bible. We call this Reality Time (RT). It sounds simple, but it is one of the most difficult appointments to keep daily unless you are committed and trained. (*You can download the Reality Time Daily Reading from our website at: www.TeachusMission.org/following*). All Christians must train themselves to spend time with God, with the Bible alone. All devotional books and quiet time programs that contain devotional commentaries are beneficial for spiritual growth but they should never substitute God's Word itself. You must learn to hear God's voice directly from His Word.

What do you do during the Reality Time?

- Begin with a short prayer: "*Lord, speak to me personally and reveal yourself to me. I pray in Jesus name, Amen.*"
- Read the Bible passage several times and meditate on it.
- Answer the following questions by filling in the blanks. You must write them down to clearly express your thoughts. Don't just think about it. As you write, they will become concrete and personal.

1. What is God like?
God is _____.

2. What is the lesson of the day?
I learned that _____.

3. What is the application (obedience/commitment)?
I will _____.

4. Take time to pray
You may simply pray or write down your prayers.

The Memory Verse of the Week

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

Unless we abide in God and He in us, we can do nothing, and we cannot become history makers. It is pivotal that we remain in Him daily. Reality Time provides you with a concrete way to spend time with God.

Write down the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 2: Abraham, the Father of Faith

What is Christianity?

All religions offer help to improve and alter your life, but only Christianity offers a rebirth and an invitation to receive an eternal relationship with God.

This new relationship with God grows by following Him and enjoying His presence. Abraham's journey with God teaches us a great lesson in walking with God. Today we will examine his life, and how he became the father of faith.

Abraham Stopped Halfway

From Ur of Chaldeans in Mesopotamia, Abraham began his journey because God commanded him to leave his country and move to Canaan. However, initially he did not make it to his final destination, Canaan. Instead, he stopped and settled in Haran, which was the halfway point on his journey.

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there. - Genesis 11:31

Where Abram's final destination on his journey?

Acts 7:2 provides us with more details.

To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. - Acts 7:2

Where did God appear first to Abraham?

Why did Abraham settle in Haran? Before we speculate and point fingers at Abraham's disobedience, let's examine our own lives. Like him, I am sure we also failed to completely obey God on numerous occasions.

In my conversations with Christians, I often ask, "Would you go to Africa if God calls you there?" To my surprise, many people responded without any hesitation, "No!" They said that God will never send them to Africa because He knows them very well. This kind of response has always astonished me. To them, God is only their Savior, not the Lord who commanded and invited them to follow him.

Personally, Africa was my last choice, too. Having traveled to some parts of Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America and Africa, Africa is the most difficult place to be in my opinion. If I had it my way, I would choose a more comfortable place in the US, where there is a beach nearby. But I made my home in a tribal village in Guinea, West Africa, about 400 miles away from a beach, because God led me there.

A Christian life is following Jesus and experiencing joy. As history makers, we must train ourselves to leave our comfort zones, at His command, and march with Jesus wherever He leads us.

Abraham's Second Encounter

Abraham disobeyed God and lived in Haran for a long time. But there was a turning point in his life. God came and spoke to him again when he probably had settled down permanently.

The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. - Genesis 12:1-4

How old was Abraham when he left Haran?

With this second encounter, Abraham left Haran and went to Canaan directly. This time, he obeyed and went straight to Shechem in Canaan, which is about 426 miles. He seized the second chance and became the father of faith, as we now know him.

At the second encounter in Haran, Abram was 75 years old. At that age, we would naturally think he was too old to be adventurous enough to leave the comfort and security of his hometown. But he stepped out in faith, and God made his name great as He promised.

After walking with God for about 40 years, Abraham's faith grew, and he even obeyed God in offering his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice when God tested him. He did not hesitate because he trusted God who could even raise the dead. His long and intimate relationship with God transformed him.

God stopped the sacrifice of Isaac and provided a ram for Abraham. But He did not stop the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, on the cross. He looked away when Jesus was dying for the sins of the world so that we could be saved.

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. - Genesis 22:2-3

What time did Abraham get up for the journey? _____

Abraham did not hesitate or delay the mission. He prepared firewood and departed early in the morning so that he could obey God's command without any hindrance.

The Greatest Reward and Shield

Abraham learned that God is the greatest reward and that He is the shield of his life. I believe this revelation was the greatest lesson that transformed him.

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward." - Genesis 15:1

From the very beginning of his journey from Haran, maybe even from Ur of Chaldeans, God promised Abraham that he will be blessed. Over and over again, God repeated how he will be multiplied and will become a great nation, in Genesis 12 to 14. Then a life-changing lesson came to him in Genesis 15.

We must understand that God is the greatest treasure for our lives. Having Jesus is more than enough for us. God is the only one who is big enough to satisfy our eternal hunger. He is the only one that can fill the eternal size of our hearts.

Knowing God

Reality Time will help you to learn the same lesson that Abraham learned in his life. When you learn to be content in Him, you are ready to take on any task in the world!

What does it mean to spend real time with God? It means you become honest with Him and ask Him to take charge of every aspect of your life. Many Christians know a lot about God and the Bible, but they cannot honestly say that they know God personally.

For example, I know my wife, Sarah, and others know her as well. However, I have an intimate relationship with her, and I know her to a greater degree than anyone else. In the same way, Christians must come to know God personally and have an intimate relationship with Him daily.

Write down the memory verse and meditate on it.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5

Day 3: Paul, the Greatest Missionary

Who is the greatest treasure and shield of your life?

Like Abraham, you will become a faithful history maker when you spend real and intimate time with Him because God is faithful.

Persecutor to Preacher of the Gospel

Today, we will examine Paul, whose previous name was Saul. He had a dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, which began his walk with God that gradually transformed him to become the greatest missionary in the Bible.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." - Acts 9:1-6

Where did Saul encounter Jesus Christ?

Before Paul met Jesus, he was convinced that he knew God. He devoted himself to God and became a notorious persecutor of Christians. He thought they were perverting Judaism and leading Jews down a wrong path. In reality, Paul was persecuting Jesus, going against God whom he wanted to serve wholeheartedly. When Jesus revealed Himself to Paul in a bright light, he realized the truth and became a follower of Jesus. This started his journey of becoming the most influential preacher and missionary of the gospel in the Bible.

Becoming a History Maker is a Long Process.

While becoming a Christian is an instant event, becoming a mighty instrument to be used by God takes a long time. In other words, you can be born again in Jesus and you are justified by His blood at the moment that you accept the gift of salvation. However, it takes a long time for you to be sanctified by His word and the Holy Spirit. God breaks, molds, and shapes a person in His ways if he or she walks with Him intimately and consistently.

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-- Jesus,

who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." - Acts 9:15-17

Who was sent to open Paul's eyes? _____

God, himself could have healed Paul directly, but He chose to send Ananias. Sometimes, He directly intervenes and other times, He sends His servants.

God probably first wanted Ananias to experience His love of forgiveness and His power to heal Paul. At the same time, Paul needed to experience love from the very people whom he was persecuting.

Knowing God individually is not enough. We must be united with other history makers so we can work together as a big family of God to participate in His mission.

Since Paul was a notorious persecutor of Christians, many people did not believe his conversion. They were afraid of him. But later on, they accepted him into the community because Barnabas brought him and pledged for him.

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. - Acts 9:26-27

True or False

1. Disciples in Jerusalem were not afraid of Saul. (True / False)
2. Disciples did not believe that Saul became a disciple. (True / False)
3. Barnabas played a key role in Saul's life. (True / False)

Furthermore, Barnabas trained Paul for a whole year in Antioch. This internship at Antioch truly changed him (*Acts 11:25-26*). It was at Antioch that disciples were first called Christians, and later, they sent Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries to the Gentiles.

Changes Must Be Tangible

If you want to be used by God like Paul, you must be transformed. When the changes are real in your life, people around you will recognize them. How we think, how we perceive the world, and how we live our lives must be holy. Then we can participate in making "history" with God.

Paul learned that God is the God of missions. In his early writings, he writes, "the gospel" or "this gospel of Jesus." But later on, it becomes "MY GOSPEL." In the same way, we must make it our personal gospel, one that is engraved into our hearts and minds.

When our gospel is realized in our hearts and minds, God's mission becomes "MY MISSION." This occurs when we have an intimate relationship with God.

Once God's mission is personalized into our lives, it will become our passion. Our daily reality time will lead us to God, and He will lead us to the world. Ultimately, we will reach the whole world with the gospel.

Don't expect changes to occur overnight in your life. It took many years for God to shape Paul to become His chosen instrument. Rather enjoy fellowship with God daily, and soon real and tangible changes will slowly come in your life.

Fruits of Righteousness

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God. - Philippians 1:9-11

How can you tell if someone spent time with God according to this verse above?

We can discern the spirituality of a person by his or her fruits. A mango tree bears mangos only, and it can never bear oranges. When we spend time with God, we will bear the fruit of righteousness.

According to Philippians 1, Paul prayed for knowledge and depth of insight, which results in a close relationship with God. Many people know about God, but their knowledge of God is not personal and intimate. When we come to know Him intimately, we will be able to discern the best way to respond in all situations. Furthermore, the fruits of righteousness will be revealed.

- ⇒ **Knowledge**
- ⇒ **Discernment**
- ⇒ **The Fruit of Righteousness**

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. - John 15:8

According to the verse, how can we bring glory to God?

During your daily Reality Time with God, you must be brutally honest and ask Him, "Who are you?" On the road to Damascus, Paul's first question to God was "Who are you, Lord?" Although it was Paul's first encounter with God, it wasn't the last one.

His daily encounters with God are evident in the book of Acts. We must daily ask the same question as we spend time with God. Then we will come to know Him intimately, and we can introduce Him to others personally.

When it comes to the Lesson of the Day, we should ask, "What are you teaching me, Lord?" Then we come to the third section: Application. We must apply and obey the Word in a concrete way as much as possible. Write it down to make your thoughts clear in your spiritual journal.

Write the memory verse of the week and meditate on it.

Day 4: Moses, A Friend of God

For Paul, the Gospel became _____, and God's mission became _____.

When God becomes our true friend, we will have the same passions that God has.

Moses was known as a friend of God. Spending time with God was the central part of his life. He even spent 40 days with God on the mountain.

Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. - Exodus 34:28-29

He led the people of Israel out of Egypt in God's power and wonder, parting the Red Sea and crossing on dry ground. God spoke to him face to face, as one would speak to a friend. (*Exodus 33:11*) How did he become a man like that? Was it because Moses was an extraordinary person? Let us examine his life closely and learn how we can become a friend of God like him.

One day, God appeared to Moses in a burning bush and commissioned him to deliver His people out of Egypt. In response, Moses gave nine excuses, and then he simply rejected God's call.

God patiently addressed each excuse and provided a way for Moses to overcome his shortcomings. Even then he said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." This was Moses before he walked with God and experienced Him intimately.

The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say." But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." - Exodus 4:11-13

Paraphrase the passage in your own words.

Moses did not want to be a part of God's mission in the beginning. Nevertheless, God did not give up on him and commanded him to obey, just like a loving father who knows what's good for his son. Reluctantly, Moses began the journey with God while probably not expecting or anticipating such an amazing outcome. You may be a reluctant and skeptical Christian, who wants to control your own future, like Moses. But if you follow God, you will be transformed. He will show Himself to you, and in due time, your faith will grow. The important lesson is that you must follow God.

Show Me Your Glory!

One time, Moses asked to see the glory of God, which means the very presence of God. As a servant, he heard God's voice and followed Him. However, he did not see the glory of God. Until he had experienced God's goodness, he complained and grumbled as he was leading the rebellious Israelites. After seeing the glory of God, he became a totally different person.

And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my

goodness to pass in front of you... I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”
- Exodus 33:17-23

Paul reminds us that the glory that came to Moses was amazing. However, it eventually faded away. (2Corinthians 3:7) But in Jesus, this glory does not fade away, rather it grows in us because sin is gone forever. The glory of God, in the Holy Spirit, came to remain with us forever.

During the Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit could not stay because of the sin that separated us. But we are living in an exciting time when the Holy Spirit will never leave us, which means the glory of God remains with us forever.

Tent of Meeting

Moses pitched a “Tent of Meeting” to pray and commune with God. (Exodus 33:7) In the tent, he consulted on all matters with God, and all decisions were made. This is how we should live.

As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. - Exodus 33:9-11

Now consider this! Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us as friends because we are His followers.

You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. - John 15:14-15

Who are the friends of Jesus according to the passage?

Jesus reveals everything to His friends. So we must listen to Him with an undivided heart. It is essential for us to be in His presence and to listen carefully to God’s Word in the Bible.

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 5: David, the Man after God's Own Heart

The only requirement for us to bear fruit is that we remain in God. In order to remain in Him, we must balance our lives in worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

To fellowship with God daily, we must make an appointment to be with Him. Spending Reality Time with God is one of the practical ways to remain in Him daily, starting each morning with God.

David was known as "a man after God's own heart." How did he get this title from God? From the earlier years of his life, he tended his father's flock. As he watched them, he spent much time with God, praying and writing Psalms.

Sin = Missing the Mark!

Before David, Saul was the king of Israel, but he did not obey God's commands completely.

But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." - 1 Samuel 13:14

What was the reason for taking the kingdom away from King Saul?

For context, Samuel, the prophet, told Saul to wait seven days. But on the last day, Saul could not wait any longer for Samuel because the enemy was all around him, and his troops were quaking with fear. Saul took the role of a priest and sacrificed an offering to God, but just as he was finishing the sacrifice, Samuel showed up.

Saul missed the mark. He could not fully obey and wait another full day. Thus, he sinned against God and his kingdom was lost and given to David, whose heart was after God's own heart.

As much as partial truth is not the whole truth, partial obedience is not complete obedience. History makers must learn to obey God's Word fully and trust Him. When we trust Him, we will not become anxious like Saul. We won't miss the mark. We always will wait upon God who is leading us to accomplish His will.

The True Shepherd of Our Soul!

As a shepherd, David had to protect his sheep from bears and lions, and he also led them to quiet waters and green pastures. But that is not all he did as a shepherd. When we read Psalms, one of the books that David wrote, we see a man who had spent much quality time with God.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. - Psalm 23:1-3

For David, who was his shepherd? _____. David learned that his life would be safe in Lord's hands.

As the Bible teaches us, despite David's adultery and even murder, he was considered by God as a man after His own heart. If an adulterer and murderer can be touched by God and be used by God, you too can be transformed into a man after His own heart.

When you spend time with God intimately, a heart transplant surgery will take place. God replaces your heart with His. Like David, your heart can be after God's own heart. So set aside time to spend with God, preferably in

the morning, as it is the most important appointment with God. He must be your priority above all other matters and peoples.

Busy with Religious Activities

You might be attending early morning prayer meetings, Bible studies, and small group meetings for your spiritual growth. Great! They will help you to grow in Christ. Nevertheless, you should never rely on these activities for your intimate relationship with God. Your busy schedules at church can leave you feeling empty because you are lacking fellowship with God who alone can truly fill your heart.

God is knocking the door of our hearts, wanting to fill us with His joy. Revelation 3:20 tells us, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."*

He always works all around us, and He reveals to His people what He is about to do. But many people are simply too busy with their Church activities, and they are oblivious what God is telling them, even though God may be shouting at them.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." - John 10:27

True or False

1. God's people listen to his voice (True / False).
2. God knows His people (True / False).
3. God's people follow Him (True / False).

Humility & Repentance

David repented of his adultery and murder after he was rebuked by Nathan, the prophet. It happened this way; Nathan found out about the adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Uriah. He goes to David and tells him a story about a man who has committed a dastardly crime against his neighbor. David burns with anger against the man. Seizing the moment, Nathan directly points his finger at him and reveals the painful truth, which David thought was hidden from everyone, even God. Here is David's response to Nathan.

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die." - 2Samuel 12:13

To whom did David confess that he had sinned against? _____

David did not confess that he had sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah only. He knew it was primarily against God. Whenever we sin against anyone, God also receives the wrong because everyone belongs to Him.

A man after God's own heart has humility before God and man. Even though David was a king above all other men, he humbled himself before Nathan.

We should also notice that forgiveness comes after true repentance. *"The LORD has taken away your sin..."* came right after David's confession of his sins. God is ready to forgive but many of us are unwilling to confess and repent.

We have the choice to become a man or woman after God's own heart like David or to remain in following our own heart like Saul. Let us be history makers who follow after God's heart and accomplish His vision for the world.

Write the verse of the week and meditate on it.

Week Three: An Exchange



*Pray without ceasing.
1Thessalonians 5:17*

How can a person pray without ceasing? We are often too busy, going through our daily routines to find time to pray regularly. But we know that we must pray and truly learn to pray without ceasing. For true followers of Christ, prayer must be second nature, like breathing for living persons.

What is prayer? It is an exchange. When we pray, an exchange takes place, and we attain godliness. Through prayer, God's heart becomes ours, His thoughts captivate our minds, and His purposes alter our visions. Without our daily prayers of exchange, we cannot be changed and experience what God offers in its fullness.

This week, we will take a look at the theme of prayer. As you begin, pray for His guidance.

Day 1: Prayer is an Exchange

What is Christianity?

Christianity makes spiritually dead people alive. The spirit, which was dead, comes to life in Jesus Christ and when we enter into a relationship with God.

In this relationship, we can communicate with Him intimately and allow Him to sanctify our body, soul, and spirit. Through prayer, we can get a glimpse into his heart and catch his plans.

Prayer is an exchange as we mature in Christ. When true communication takes place, we will hear His voice and come to know His heart.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. -1Peter 5:6-7

Exchanging My Heart

If our hearts are not changed, our prayers are meaningless. Here is how David prayed for an undivided heart.

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. -Psalm 86:11

Take a moment to pray for an undivided heart that will focus on Jesus, who is our ultimate goal.

"Lord Jesus, give me an undivided heart so that my life may be focused on knowing and following you without any hindrance. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Exchanging My Mind

In prayer, we must surrender our minds to the Holy Spirit, and allow Him to take control of it.

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. - Romans 8:6-7

Fill in the blank.

The Bible says that the sinful mind is _____ to God, which means that our sinful mind will oppose God's ways and will not submit to His will.

Once our minds are controlled by the Spirit, we attain true life and _____. In prayer, our minds will be exchanged with God's mind.

Exchanging My Plan

Three young men got together every Sunday night to pray. It happened this way. When I was in Seminary, I was invited to speak on the topic of world mission, by Keith, to his Christian MBA student group. Later on, his roommate Joseph also invited me to his Christian Medical and Dental Student Association as a guest speaker.

After these speaking events, these men continued to appear in my mind whenever I prayed. They had such kindred spirits, and I did not want this to end up as a "hi-bye" relationship and remain just acquaintances. So, I sent them an email, "I know you guys are busy with your studies, but if you guys want, we can meet on a regular basis to pray together. Once a week or once a month... Whatever is possible for you..." The reply came in one word, "When?" Thus, our prayer meeting began.

Every Sunday, I went to their apartment around 8-9 pm. We ate together and shared what God had done that week. Then we sang a few worship songs together, and afterward, we knelt down in the living room to cry out to the Lord about the things God had put in our hearts.

Through our prayer meetings, our hearts were changed. All of us began to see God's heart and His vision for the world.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. - Isaiah 55:8-9

True or False

1. God's thoughts are always higher than ours. (True/ False)
2. History-makers must seek God's plans. (True / False)

When we pray, God reveals His thoughts to His to us in His perfect time. God has the great plans for the world and that includes you and me. He wants you to catch His plans in prayer so that you can participate in His vision.

Would you pray the prayer below?

“Lord, transform me. I want to give You my heart in exchange for Yours. I also surrender all my plans in exchange for Your visions. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

The Memory Verses of the Week

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." - John 14: 12-14

Day 2: Prayer is the Ultimate Strategy!

Prayer is an _____. When we are changed, we can change the world. First, we must pray and experience the joy of communion with God. Then tangible changes will occur in your life.

The Bible passage below is our memory verses of the week, and they are my lifetime verses that I cherish.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." - John 14:12-14

In this passage, Jesus revealed the four essential truths in Christianity:

1. The **Identity** of Christians | “anyone who has faith in me...”
2. The **Task** of Christians | “... will do what I have been doing ... even greater things...”
3. The **Strategy** of Christians | “I will do whatever you ask in my name...”
4. Christ’s **Promise** | “...I will do it.”

Joseph, Keith, and I began to pray about the vision God had given me in Africa in 1994: starting a boarding school in a remote village and establishing an M4 Missions center. The task was too big for the three of us as graduate students. But we prayed every Sunday.

"How much do we need for the project?" Keith, once, asked me. "About \$300,000", I told him. We all knew that we could not do it ourselves. But we had faith that God could easily do it, and He completed the construction of the school in 2004. Teachus Mission M4 Missions Center in Africa opened its doors with eight buildings in Guinea.

Prayer prepares us for the Task!

From 1994, the year I received the vision for the center, God prepared me for the task. He brought Keith and Joseph into my life, and we prayed together for the task. He shaped and molded our team members and me in many different ways in prayer.

The History makers must ask, seek, and knock!

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
- Matthew 7:7

We do not receive because we do not ask Him, James tells us. What are some things that you have been asking God for lately?

ASK

When we ask, *we must first ask for God's presence.* More than anything, we need Him in every aspect of our lives. God alone satisfies all our hunger. When we find Him, we find eternal joy. As we walk with God, we will experience peace and contentment.

SEEK

Second, we must seek God's vision. In prayer, we must seek His vision for the world, not a vision for our own lives. Don't make the typical mistake of Christians who plan out their lives, and then pray for God's blessing. Christians are followers who seek God's visions and plans, which are much higher than ours.

KNOCK

Third, we must persevere in knocking on God's door. The prayer of knocking requires patience and trust in God's time. When you catch God's vision, you must persevere with it. If it is from the Lord, He will do it, no matter what happens. So, in prayer, you must knock continually and press on. Remember, the vision for our M4 missions center in Africa took 10 years to come to fruition.

Begin to pray for reaching the whole world!

The ultimate strategy for reaching the whole world is prayer. We cannot do anything apart from God so we must pray for his power and presence to go before us.

When you pray, do not repeat the same things over and over again, which I often hear when I attend prayer meetings. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. - Psalm 2:8

What is God's promise according to this verse?

God is not a vending machine!

Many people, Christians and non-Christians, have a vending machine theology about prayer. To them, God is like a genie that comes out of a lamp to grant our wishes and solve our problems.

God is sovereign, and He invites His people to join Him in His missions. In prayer, we come to know Him and His will. When you start each morning with reality time, pray sincerely and honestly. Then you will begin to see changes in your daily life.

The Memory Verses of the Week

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." - John 14: 12-14

Write the memory verses and meditate on them.

Day 3: Lord's Prayer

What is the ultimate strategy for world evangelization?

Having an intimate relationship with God can only be possible when you pray and walk with Him. As you encounter God daily, you will experience a joyful life, and in addition, He will reveal His visions and dreams to you.

Prayer is not a stress-releasing time!

The Bible teaches us to cry out in our times of distress. Thus, some people spend much time in prayer, crying out to God in a loud voice. However, prayer is not a stress-releasing time. While we can release our burdens to Him, it also requires an exchange. You must surrender all that is in you and receive what God has for you.

Prayer Changes People!

If your prayers are not changing you, you should examine your prayer life. God is real and He will meet you where you are, but He does not leave you there. He will take you to where He is. This is true prayer.

I have encountered some people who attend the prayer meetings regularly, even the early morning prayers. Yet, they are not changing and experiencing peace and joy. It is easier to attend prayer meetings than to actually communicate with God. A true exchange will occur when we pray honestly with Him.

Let's examine the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

In this very short prayer, Jesus makes six main petitions to God. The first three prayers relate to God and the last three prayers relate to our daily life.

1. Our Father in Heaven

Out of all the names of God, this is the best description. He is our Father who is in heaven, who loves us. First, we must acknowledge God as our Heavenly Father who adopted us in Jesus.

Many social problems that teenagers have can be attributed to the absence of their fathers, who should have been there for them. If that is true, the main problem of humanity is the absence of our Heavenly Father, whom people rejected in their life.

In our prayers, we must regain a relationship with our Heavenly Father. His presence is essential for us. We can choose to live as orphans in this world, or we can choose to live with our Heavenly Father through our prayers.

2. Hallowed be your name

The first petition is "Hallowed be your name". It means that God's name is glorified or set apart from anyone else because He is holy.

God's name must be lifted above all other things in our minds and hearts. Many things, like money, power, or fame compete in the place of God's name. God must come first. In our prayers, we must set apart His Name in our lives first and foremost.

3. Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

God's kingdom is not of this world. (*John 18:36*) When the gospel of God's kingdom is proclaimed to the ends of the earth, the end of the world will come.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. - Matthew 24:14

In our prayers, we must focus our lives on God's kingdom, never wasting our time and energy on the earthly kingdom. We must truly exchange our plans for His. As we seek God's will, we need to lay down our desires and plans so that we can embrace His plan.

Some people confuse their plans and desires as God's will. I met people who said that God is leading them in a certain direction. However, in our conversations, I could not see the hand of God leading them in their lives. But they were convinced that God led them. If it is truly from the Lord, everyone who hears their testimonies should be able to see it without a doubt.

In our prayers, we must be brutally honest. As we commune with God, we must seek His will and catch His plans. Then we must adjust our lives to participate in them.

4. Give us today our daily bread...

In this part of the prayer, we focus on our basic needs, not our unending wants. Naturally, we cannot be satisfied with anything in this world because our wants are infinite as he has set eternity in our hearts. Thus, finite things in this world cannot satisfy our hearts.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. - Ecclesiastes 3:11

What did God put in our hearts?

No thing and no one in this world can satisfy our hearts. Only God is big enough for the eternal size of our hearts. In our prayers, we can learn to be content with God alone. Simply ask for our daily needs that will sustain us while we are here on earth.

5. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Without forgiveness from God and reconciliation with Him, we cannot become His children. We who are forgiven and reconciled must be reconciled with the people around us. If we cannot forgive someone, we should pray and make an exchange with God's forgiving heart.

In our prayers, we realize more clearly what God has done for us. Our unforgiving hearts will be changed, and we will be able to forgive those who hurt us.

6. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

We face temptations all the time. However, God is powerful enough to deliver us from all temptations and trials. In our prayers, we receive His power and wisdom.

The evil one is lurking, waiting to trap us. We must pray so that we can overcome the enemy's schemes in the spiritual battles that we engage in every day.

The Lord's Prayer simplifies our lives to what we really need and what is critically important to God.

Write the memory verses and meditate on them.

Day 4: Pray until You Exchange

Prayer is an _____. If your heart, mind, and plans are not exchanged in your prayers, you must examine your walk with God. True prayers will change you because He promised to sanctify you.

When you are making big decisions, like marriage or career choices, you must seek God in much prayer because you want to do His will. He will guide you in every decision if you come to Him humbly.

I know a young man who seemed sincere in his devotion to God. He told me that was getting married, and they will move far away to another state for their career opportunities.

"*Did you pray about this?*" I asked him gently. His eyes suddenly became big and responded, "NO" with his body language. I reminded him to pray together as husband and wife and also individually when big decisions are made in their lives.

The Quakers who came to America used the method, which is "***pray until you pray***." It means that you pray until our exchanges are done. Your heart must be changed, and then your plans will be altered to embrace God's will.

It is a good idea to pray regularly for long-term plans at least once a week or once a month. You must let God lead your life. Also, you must come before Him when you are facing important choices in life.

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. - James 4:3

What is the main reason that some prayers are not answered?

Unanswered prayers are sometimes caused by the wrong motives. God knows us and He will not give us what we ask for because it is not good for us. God always answers our prayer in three ways: **yes, no, or wait.**

God sometimes answers NO.

YES is easy to accept, and we hope that God answers this way more often. However, NO is His response, from time to time, and it is difficult to accept, even for mature Christians: healing for a mother's cancer, finding a spouse, asking for a job, etc.

We must humble ourselves before the Living God who knows everything and loves us unconditionally. He gives what is best for us, and He walks with us in the trying times of our lives.

No to Uzbekistan & Yes to Africa!

For my first long-term mission endeavor, I actually wanted to go to Tashkent, Uzbekistan. I spent almost two years in prayer, asking and planning for it, even taking a Russian class for one semester.

My pastor approved my plan and even wrote a recommendation to the mission board. They accepted my application. They asked me to contact them a month before my college graduation. Everything went smoothly for the mission to Tashkent. But God had a different plan that I did not know.

On a Sunday, a brother at church, as he was passing by, told me that I would work well in Africa. I took it as a compliment and did not think much of it.

The next morning, I spent time with God as usual. After reading and meditating on the Bible passage, I wrote down who God is and what I learned. Then I closed my eyes to pray. Suddenly, "AFRICA" appeared in my mind like seeing it on a screen. I was startled by it, and I quickly opened my eyes. I could not believe what just had happened. I didn't know what to think about the strange encounter. I just reminded God that I was all set to go to Tashkent.

The next day, the same thing happened. I sensed that God was asking me to change my plan, but I did not want to go to Africa. So, I simply responded "no" to Him, saying that the mission to Tashkent was confirmed by my church.

Throughout the day I did not think about Africa at all, but as soon as I closed my eyes to pray the next morning, AFRICA came back. For seven consecutive days, it repeated.

On the last day, I surrendered. "OK, God. I surrender to your plan. If you really want me to go to Africa, I will go. Show me." After surrendering to His will, peace came over me. For some reason, I was convinced that God would not give me any more signs for Africa. I thought that it was just a test of my faith.

On the day of my surrender, I got a call from my college pastor. He asked me to come over to his house. When I arrived, the first thing that he asked me was about Africa. "Would you go to the Gambia, West Africa?" My eyes got big. I could not believe what I heard. It was the first personal lesson that I learned from God: He truly reveals his plans clearly.

I told the pastor about my encounters in my prayers. Then I told him that I would obey God's plan. So I went to the Gambia, West Africa.

In our prayers, we need to train our ears to hear God's voice. He speaks and reveals Himself and His plans to His children, so we need to pray until we truly see Him and catch His plans.

God sometimes answers WAIT.

When you pray to seek God's will, you must wait for His time. He might be waiting for you to mature so that you can participate in His task.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." - John 12:23

We must trust in God's timing. Jesus knew the Father's timing, and He obeyed. When the Greeks came to see Him (John 12:20-21), Jesus knew that the time has come for Him. He prepared for His crucifixion. Within seven days, He concluded His ministry on earth and died on the cross for our sins.

Sometimes God says WAIT. Whatever the reasons may be, we need to trust in His time and be confident that all will work out for the best.

Pray until you know God’s will.

The major decisions in your life require hearing God’s voice: marriage, career, discipleship, and missions. You must come to God, seek Him, and listen to Him in your prayers.

When Jesus was choosing His 12 disciples, He prayed all night. If you want to be like Him, you need to follow His examples, emulating what He did.

After my initial experience of seven days of seeing AFRICA in my prayers, I packed my bags and departed for the Gambia. While I was serving there for two years, I had another experience for 30-days. Every morning, I was captivated by the M4 Missions vision, reaching the unreached and untargeted peoples who have no access to the gospel in the remote villages in Africa.

It happened when my heart was longing for the US, and I thought to myself, “*I will never come back to Africa again when I return to America.*” But God changed my heart in my prayers, and He led me to Guinea, West Africa where I still serve now.

Write the memory verses and meditate on them.

Day 5: Changes in Exchanges!

What is the ultimate strategy of God to reach the world with the gospel?

Prayer changes the person. And the changed person will follow God to change the world wherever He leads.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21

Paraphrase the verses in your own words?

God is beyond our imagination, and He is able to do more than we can ever imagine. We do not have the power or resources to change the world, but we know that He has. We simply need to trust and follow Him.

1,581 Unreached and Untargeted Tribes

Once I was praying in Africa, and a question came to my mind. "How many unreached tribes are left in this world?" It was a lightbulb moment for me. Sadly, I did not know the answer, and moreover, I never asked the question even though I became a missionary who wanted to finish the task of reaching every tribe in the world.

If our ultimate goal is taking this gospel to the ends of the earth, we need to know how many unreached tribes are left in the world. Thus, when I came back to Chicagoland on a home- assignment, I googled it. There were so many organizations and churches gathering data and working on it. After much examination, the most realistic estimate, I found in the year 2000, was 1,581 tribes that are unreached and untargeted (*The original list in Joshua Project II*). Therefore, we, at Teachus Mission, set 1,581 as our target.

1,581 Missionaries

Ever since then, we have been praying for 1,581 missionaries who will go to these places and make disciples. In addition, we are praying for 1,581 churches, which will pray and send the missionaries to finish the task.

Over the years, I have visited and spoken in many churches, yet only a few churches have actually asked for the list of 1,581 tribes. When someone shows interest in finishing the task, it is like a breath of fresh air to me.

Would you begin to pray and participate in M4 missions, which is reaching the unreached and untargeted tribes that are left in this world where there is no access to the gospel? You can either be a sender or goer. Remember, it is God who will prepare you for the task and will bless you.

In faith, we will accomplish the task.

We must realize that we can do everything in faith because God is omnipotent. When we pray, He can raise 1,581 churches and missionaries in our lifetime.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. - Luke 17:5-6

According to the passage, what is required to accomplish God's work?

We only need to trust in the power of God to accomplish all that He puts in our hearts. In faith, we follow Him and experience the power of God.

My Phone Number

One year, on my home assignment, I went to get some supplies at Walmart where I found a prepaid phone, which was available for the first time. It was \$14.95. I thought it was great for someone like me who only needs it for a few months during the year. So, I purchased one and called the service number to activate the phone.

*"What's my number?"
"(815) 342-1581."*

Week Four: Living in God's Word



*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.*

Ephesians 6:17

“Globesity” (*global obesity*) is a pandemic, threatening the health of many nations. The World Health Organization coined the term “globesity” in 2001 to tackle this problem. The solution is simple: eat better and exercise more. But obesity continues to rise around the world, even in low-income nations.

Similarly, “spirobesity” (*spiritual obesity*) should be our concern. It is paralyzing God's people among the dedicated church members. Sunday schools, Bible studies, seminars, retreats, conferences, missions training, and even discipleship programs should make God's people follow Christ and finish the task of reaching every tribe on the face of the earth. Yet they seem to increase their spirobesity.

The solution to spirobesity is simply: feed on God's word and make disciples. You can complete our one-on-one discipleship and still add many pounds to your spiritual weight if you do not exercise what you learned. Making disciples is not an option.

This week we are going to discover the secret of living in God's word: eating God's word daily, digesting his word, fighting spiritual battles with his word, and enjoying his word so that we can be set free to be what he created us to be.

Day 1: Spiritual Food

If prayer is the spiritual water that quenches our thirst, the word of God is the spiritual food that nourishes our soul and spirit. If you are eating and digesting the word of God daily, you will surely grow and experience God in extraordinary ways.

Craving Spiritual Food!

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. - 1Peter 2:1-3

What is pure spiritual milk?

It is God's word that is essential to our spiritual growth. How can one grow up in his or her salvation? Salvation has three parts as we have learned: Justification (*Past*), Sanctification (*Present*), and Glorification (*Future*). Sanctification continues in God's people as they pray and meditate on His Word. In other words, growing in salvation is the process of sanctification, to be more like Christ.

Growing into the Image of Christ

The aim of discipleship is to form Christ in us. As we follow Him and spend time in God's Word, we will transform into godly people.

*My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth **until Christ is formed in you**, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! - Galatians 4:19-20*

Paul is so perplexed about his disciples. Why? What is the aim of Paul's discipleship?

Digesting the Word of God!

Spirobesity often occurs to devoted churchgoers who attend many church programs. They listen and learn so much, but they don't apply and exercise their faith in their daily lives.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. - James 1:22-24

How would you summarize this passage in your own words?

If the Word of God is not well digested and obeyed, it will do more harm than good. For example, if you eat a steak and it is not digested well, you will experience a painful stomachache. Similarly, if God's Word is not digested and obeyed, you will become self-righteous like the Pharisees whom Jesus rebuked harshly.

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 5:20

What is the righteousness that surpasses the righteousness of Pharisees and the teachers of the law? They tried to obtain righteousness through obeying the letters of Mosaic laws, which is only a shadow of the real righteousness that is in Christ Jesus.

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. - Hebrews 10:1

In the Bible, you see the example of Pharisees and Sadducees who were sincerely devoted people, but they were sincerely wrong. They memorized and studied the Old Testament, yet they could not recognize Jesus as the Christ because they did not fully digest the Word of God.

When Jesus preached the message of repentance and showed many signs and wonders, the Pharisees and Sadducees were disturbed. They refused to believe that God sent Jesus. Even when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, they were determined to kill Jesus and Lazarus as well. Jesus showed so many signs and wonders, but they were not enough for them.

If the Word of God is not digested and does not become a part of us, we can turn out to be just like the Pharisees and Sadducees. In our reality times, we must digest God's Word so that we can be sanctified.

Write the following memory verse and meditate on it.

The Memory Verse of the Week

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." - John 6:35

Day 2: Our Weapon to Fight Spiritual Battles

What is our spiritual food for our soul and spirit?

God's Word is the weapon!

Every Christian must realize that we are in a spiritual battleground, not the playground. The enemy, who killed the spirit during the time of Adam and Eve, is trying to destroy the body and soul. He wants us to think that we are in the playground.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. - Ephesians 6:12-13

True or False

1. We are in a battleground, not a playground (True/ False).
2. We must be ready with the full armor of God (True/ False).

We should never fear the enemy because Christ has won the war by His death and resurrection. However, the enemy, who knows that he is defeated, does not surrender until we conquer the whole world with the gospel of Christ. He will continue to engage with skirmishes until the last day so that he can kill and destroy as many as he can.

To combat our spiritual battles, we have the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, the only weapon we need against the enemy. It will protect us against him who steals, kills, and destroys.

*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- Ephesians 6:17*

Before we march out into the world, in our daily lives, we must equip ourselves with His Word and proclaim victory in Christ wherever we go. More importantly, we must remind ourselves that we are victors because our sins have been completely paid for.

Legion Tormented Our Co-worker

In 2004, we experienced fierce spiritual battles as we were opening our school in Guinea. Our female co-workers were attacked by evil spirits, like the accounts we read in the Bible. On one occasion, a short-term visitor, who had more experience with spiritual warfare, asked a demon-possessed person, "What is your name?" To our astonishment, she responded in a man's voice, "Legion," just like in the book of Mark.

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. - Mark 5:9-13

One of the spiritual battles lasted three long days, which was the longest one we experienced in Africa. The evil spirit tormented one of our native co-workers, and she was rolling on the floor in agony. In the beginning, I thought she was suffering from a medical condition, but that was not the case. As the days went on, she said that she saw dead people whom she knew. They came to her and said, "Let's go to the sea."

As the battle continued with no end in sight, I divided the co-workers and formed a prayer chain to pray for her. Gradually, she could not recognize people, and she became extremely weak. Moreover, she lost her sight.

On the third day, I went to pray for her. The co-worker, who was nursing her, told her that I came in. With her eyes closed, she poignantly asked me to pray for her, laying my hand on her head. I was surprised that she spoke clearly.

To grant her request, I simply placed my right hand on her head and quietly said, "In the name of Jesus, I command you, evil spirits, come out and never return to her again." Then I prayed softly, "Lord Jesus, open her eyes now." At that very moment, her eyes were opened, and she regained her sight. The co-workers shouted, "She opened her eyes!" Everyone ran into her room to see her. The battle was over. Hallelujah! A few days later, she was resting under a tree as I passed by. We had a short conversation.

*"Why did you ask me to place my hand over your head and pray for you?"
"Jesus told me to do it."*

When she was tormented by the enemy, I read the Bible to her and instructed her to cling to Jesus. Obediently, she sought the Lord, and He spoke to her personally.

Legion will continue to fight against us, but he cannot stop us because Jesus is our commander in chief. We will continue to stand firm in our faith to save as many as we can.

The enemy knows God's Word!

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. - Matthew 4:1-11

The enemy tested Jesus with God's Word three times in this passage. You should notice that Satan only shows the partial truth in His word, out of context. Jesus combats the enemy with "It is written..." If we are not equipped with God's Word, we can easily fall into Satan's traps. He disguises himself as an angel of light, and it is hard for us to recognize him at times.

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve. - 2Corinthians 11:13-15

Paraphrase the passage in your own words.

Once again, Satan will constantly attack us, masquerading as an angel of God. Those who are deceived will become his servants, the false leaders within our Church communities. They will try to steal your joy and peace. Stand firm with the weapon, God's Word, in your heart and mind, so that you can win the battles against the enemy.

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 3: Listening and Reading the Word

What is our weapon against the enemy in our spiritual battles?

The Word of God is our spiritual food for our spirit as well as our weapon against the enemy who is trying to destroy us. Thus, we must keep God's Word near us.

We are living in an entertainment era when we can access almost everything through a smartphone. It is convenient to have the world at our fingertips. However, it is enslaving God's people and keeps them away from worship, fellowship, and discipleship. Often God's people are glued to their smartphones even when they are having friends over or when they are in the Church.

How can you set yourself apart and be holy in this world that pulls you down as we try to rise above this world?

You must listen to the Word of God!

Listening to the Word regularly is a great way to keep ourselves from the other voices that compete for our attention. I am talking about listening to godly sermons and teachings. You can also simply listen to the audio Bible, which is available online.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. - Psalm 34:11

How do you gain the fear of God according to the verse above?

When we listen to the Word of God, we will have the fear of the Lord. First, we must attend worship services on Sundays and listen to our pastor's sermons with an open heart and mind, anticipating God to speak to us personally. Then we can meditate on the Word of God throughout the week. If we do this faithfully, it will keep us from falling into the temptations of the enemy.

Word of God for Spiritual Surgery

There are many sermons online, but it is essential that you listen to godly messages from godly pastors. The Bible warns us that there are false prophets and teachers. Knowingly or unintentionally, they are leading God's people away from the truth.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12

Watered-down messages cannot perform spiritual surgeries in our hearts, and they will ultimately lead God's people astray. So when we choose to listen to sermons online, we need to select well. It is a good idea to receive recommendations from your local pastor so that you won't be led astray.

Listening to God's Word in Commuting Time

Let us use every moment for the glory of God. We are so busy in many ways, and it is difficult for us to set times to listen to godly sermons. Commuting times are great for that. We can easily download sermons into our smartphones and listen while driving.

When God's Word becomes entertainment...

God's Word should never be entertainment. When it does, you will begin to watch the worship service instead of worshipping God in truth and spirit. The Word must be obeyed, not simply listened to.

The Bible is given to us for transformation and growth. We must receive God's Word that demands action, reaction, and change.

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. - 2Timothy 4:3

Paul warns his spiritual son, Timothy about the people who will gather around teachers who will say what they want to hear. We must discern God's Word from the opinion of the people.

When you listen to God's Word, you must respond according to it. Practically, you can respond in prayer even with your eyes open on the road.

How do you define success? Is it having financial security and a wonderful family? Is it achieving your personal and career goals? Or is it making many disciples and participating in God's vision? Success in life should be a combination of all aspects of physical and spiritual life.

I simply define success as ***knowing the will of God and doing it***. How do we know God's will? Through his Word, we come to know it because his Word reveals it to us plainly.

The Secret of Success

Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. - Joshua 1:7-8

Joshua 1:8 tells us the secret of success. We must never turn to the right or to the left from the Word of God. So we must know the Bible inside and out. If we do not know the whole counsel of God's Word, we can easily fall away from God's direction in due time.

The command to take this gospel to the ends of the earth is still our unfinished task. Why? I strongly believe that the people of God do not know His will in this matter. Even for those who know it, they usually don't know where to begin and how to participate in making disciples.

A successful man keeps on reading God's Word!

If you don't have a comprehensive Bible reading program, I recommend the M'Cheyne's reading program, which can be downloaded from our website. (www.TeachusMission.org/following). It covers the New Testament and Psalms twice a year and the Old Testament once a year. It allows you to see the big picture instead of focusing on a few sections of the Bible, so that you may attain the whole counsel of God.

Establishing Sound Theology for Your Life.

Unless we know the whole counsel of God, we can easily fall into an ungodly lifestyle, listening to the lies of the enemy. When the enemy comes, he often tries to deceive us with the partial truth of God's Word. Thus, we must be ready with sound theology to combat the enemy. As we covered in the first week, the death of spirit occurred because Adam and Eve chose to believe in the lies instead of standing firm with the truth.

For example, the Bible states that divorce is not an option except for marital unfaithfulness, but nowadays divorce is accepted as the norm even in many churches.

But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery. - Matthew 5:32

We must develop sound theology from the Word of God for our friendships, family life, finances, and even what we eat, so that we can truly honor God in our body, soul, and spirit.

As you read God's Word daily, you will increase more and more in the knowledge and depth of insight so that you can discern God's will, which is the best choice for your life.

*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.
- Philippians 1:9-10*

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 4: Studying the Word

There is a man who led a revival in Israel. His name was Ezra.

For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. - Ezra 7:10

What did Ezra commit himself to do?

In the early years of my Christian life, the Bible was difficult to understand. I honestly could not grasp the spiritual meaning of the sermons and the Bible studies, although I acted as I knew it all.

Studying the Bible will help you to grow in the truth and the truth will set you free to be what God created you to be. You will understand the meaning of the sovereignty of God, the Trinity, salvation, church, missions, and other essential theology that will sanctify you to live a godly life.

For example, "What is salvation?" Now, you know that it has three parts: (1) justification, (2) sanctification, and (3) glorification. You should know that you were justified in the past when you accepted the Lord as your personal Savior and Lord. Sanctification is the present salvation that makes you more and more like Jesus as you follow Christ. Lastly, glorification is the future salvation that will happen on the last day when you enter heaven.

If you continue in this discipleship faithfully, you will master the basic fundamentals of Christianity. As you disciple someone, you will experience the Word shaping your mind and heart. Ultimately, you will experience the joy of Christ.

Understanding must be followed by Obedience...

Solomon devoted himself to studies and even wrote some portions of the Bible, yet he went after many women, even foreign women. It led him down the path of ungodliness.

I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind. - Ecclesiastes 1:13-14

We must study the Bible and obey it so that we can live a holy life. Satan will continue to fight to the last moment to steal, kill, and destroy us. We must stand firm in God's Word, obeying them in our lives.

When we study, we must ask the right questions. When, Where, How, What, Who, and so on. As you answer them, you will begin to see the real truth that God is trying to reveal to you in his book. As you mature, you will grasp the deeper meaning, and God's Word will sanctify you more and more.

Objective Truth! Not Subjective Opinion!

When you study the Word, you must pray and seek God's Spirit to reveal to you the truth. The truth cannot be relative. There are some gray areas when we must say that we don't know, but for the most part, we can be sure objectively.

When we deal with difficult passages, we must be honest with ourselves and admit when we do not fully grasp the full meaning. There is no reason for us, even a pastor like me, to pretend that we understand everything. That will make us proud and arrogant.

The Bible is a love letter, revealing God's heart to fallen people. We need to come to the Bible to catch God's heart and seek His righteousness so that we can live with Him and have an intimate relationship.

The Holy Spirit will convict us and implant His words into our hearts. When that happens, we can confidently proclaim, "The Bible says..." with conviction from the Lord.

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. - John 14:26

Who will teach us all things?

It does not say "*a few things*", but "*all things*" will be taught by the Holy Spirit. Thus, as we study his words, we must let the Holy Spirit teach us.

We cannot give what we do not have.

People without Christ are not impressed by us when we are not radically transformed by the Word of God. They see Christianity as merely one of the many religions of the world because our lives are not magnificently changed. We must show them the true difference that God makes in our lives.

Many Christians do not study the Bible even though they say it is important. They believe the lies that the enemy puts into their minds. "You are saved by grace and you can live freely without any restrictions."

Fish were meant to live in the water. If they leave the water, they will dry up and die in due time. We were meant to live with God, obeying his Word. When we decide to live outside of God's Word, we will not be truly free as we were meant to be. True freedom is attained through God's Word that set us free.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." - John 8:31-32

If there are Bible studies in your church, attend regularly with an open mind, humility, and teachable attitude. Also, there are many Bible studies online. Ask your local pastor for advice so that you will not be misled by the false teachers that the Bible warns us about.

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Day 5: Memorization & Meditation

Listening, reading, and studying the Bible are important, but memorizing and meditating on his Word surpasses them all. In your meditations, your spirituality is formed, and your mind and heart will be shaped.

Memorization is filling our minds with beautiful things!

Since birth, our minds are filled with so many things. Satan's hands are all over them, and he shapes our value system and worldview that is far from godliness. Remember his ultimate goal is to steal, kill, and destroy.

In our minds, there are many images stored, which should have never been entered through our eyes. There are also many words that should have never been entered through our ears. But they are always inside of us and they are tempting us to live ungodly lives.

What is done is done! From now on, we can fill our minds with new things – the Word of God. Christianity is a relationship with God that ultimately fills you up with godliness: we are filled with the Word of God; we are filled with the Holy Spirit; we are filled with the Love and joy of God!

*I have bidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
- Psalm 119:11*

According to the verse above, what will keep us from sinning?

Meditation is digesting the word of God.

Meditation must follow memorization, which is just regurgitating God’s Word. In Africa, I watched cows go out in the morning to eat grass. They fill their stomachs, and then they sit under a tree during the afternoon. Their mouths are constantly moving while they rest. They take the food out from the first stomach to their mouth and chew it again, and then they send it to the second, third, and fourth stomach to fully digest them. This is a good illustration of meditating on God’s Word.

Our spiritual food must be fully digested to nourish our spirit, soul, and body. When it does, we will be thoroughly transformed into God’s likeness so that we can live a godly life. Memorization and meditation are the ways to dissect and digest God’s Word.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. - Psalm 1:1-3

Who will prosper according to the passage?

Psalm 1 teaches us the secret of success, and I encourage all our students in Guinea to memorize it in our mission school. A blessed person does not entangle himself or herself with the ungodly people, and he or she meditates on God’s Word day and night.

Meditation is the way to the heart of God!

I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word. - Psalm 119:15-16

This is the passion of a man after God’s own heart. David was able to become such a man because he was committed to meditating on God’s Word.

In your Reality Times, pick a verse that has blessed you. You can start memorizing them. Write them on index cards and place them where you can see them easily. One of my disciples puts them on the bathroom door and kitchen cabinet doors.

Nowadays, I use an app called, "Keep" to record all my notes. It automatically stores online and on my smartphone so that I can meditate on them whenever and wherever.

Write the memory verse and meditate on it.

Week Five: Fellowship



*No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.
Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.
I will not leave you or forsake you.
Joshua 1:5*

A history maker is never alone. First, God is always present with him or her. And second, there are many history makers in the world who love the Lord. They will join together to finish the task of reaching every tribe on the face of the earth.

History makers must be united to form God's community, creating an army for God's mission in the world. This is the Church that Jesus envisioned when he made 12 disciples and sent them out to finish the task.

This week, we will cover the theme of Church. It is God who plants His Church through His followers. With a clear understanding of what God's Church is, we can attempt to establish one.

Day 1: The United People of God

What is Church? What is the task of Church? These questions must be answered adequately in order to build God's Church according to His design.

The Body

Often, people refer Church as a building where believers come together to worship. Is the building really the Church? In the Bible, we must find the clear concept of what God's Church is and its purpose.

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. - Romans 12:4-5

What is the definition of Church according to this passage?

The Church is described as a body, which is formed by the people who decided to follow Christ. We are the Church, and not the building.

First, you must belong to a body of believers.

Our civilization has built walls, visible and invisible. They alienate people from one another. To many of us, it is a lonely planet even though we are intertwined with many relationships. We may know each other well enough to play basketball together or to enjoy a meal together and may even live in the same house. But we may not have close fellowship where we can share intimately and spiritually with one another.

Christ came to free you from this alienation and to build a community of God. He first invites us to Himself, and then He unites the followers to establish His Church. They must become an intimate group of people who share all things.

Second, you must learn to work together as a body.

We must understand that the Church is a community of sinners who are forgiven. Each one of us carries scars, pains, and sinful habits. So it is difficult, almost impossible, to be united unless the Holy Spirit intervenes.

Like porcupines, we have sharp quills (needles) that can easily hurt others unintentionally and sometimes intentionally as we come close to each other. A porcupine is one of the 58 species of rodents, and they have many different sizes of quills to defend themselves from predators. Similarly, we have quills to defend ourselves from others, too.

We must lay down our quills in the Church, knowing that we don't need to defend ourselves. God accepted us as we are, and we must accept one another. We must love one another and be united in Christ. The unity in diversity is the noblest outcome of the true body of Christ. To that end, Christ died for us.

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. - Philippians 2:1-2

What makes Paul's joy complete in this passage?

When Christians are united in spirit and purpose, they can accomplish anything because God will be with them and use them for His mission.

The Building

In another passage, the Church is also compared to a building where each member is like a stone that is reshaped to fit into a building.

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. - Ephesians 2:18-22

In the Church, who is the chief cornerstone?

Christ is the Lord of the Church, and He is the chief cornerstone that binds the whole building together.

God's people must understand that their commitment to God is also their commitment to each other. Unless we are united, we cannot protect each other from the spiritual battles that we encounter every day. When we are united and become like a strong building, we can be a powerful community to shine God's love all around us.

You are reshaped in God's Church!

You must be reshaped in order to fit into the Church. Just as uncut stones cannot be laid on each other to build a wall, we won't be able to fit in right away to a community of faith. We need to cut away the rough edges and make it smooth. Our bad habits and blind spots will be sanctified.

As iron sharpens iron, we must help each other to cut away our rough edges so that we can build God's Church. Once we are united together, we will become the unshakable community that will draw all nations to Christ.

You are united for God’s visions!

The size of God’s work through you depends on your relationship with the Church. God will advance His work through His people who are united.

*"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
- Matthew 18:19-20*

In the passage, what should the two or three believers do?

God’s people must join together for worship, fellowship, and discipleship, which are the keys to a balanced Christian life. In the verses above, the keyword is "**agree**".

Write the memory verses of the week and meditate on them.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
- John 13: 34-35*

Day 2: United through Discipleship

What is the Church? What are the two things that the Bible compares to?

Yesterday, we learned that the Church is not a place where we come together for worship. It is you and I, building God’s community, the Church. It is a body of Christ within whom the Holy Spirit dwells.

Your commitment to Christ is also your commitment to other Christians, and together, you must balance your life for worship, fellowship, and discipleship. Only when you are discipled thoroughly and united with the other Christians, you can become a powerful community for reaching the whole world with the gospel.

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name— the name you gave me— so that they may be one as we are one.

- John 17:11

This is the main part of Jesus' prayer before he headed for the cross. Paraphrase this verse.

As Jesus was about to return home, He prayed for protection and unity for His disciples.

A 12 Membership Church

The unity of God's people is built through discipleship. Jesus made 12 disciples instead of having a 5,000 member Church. He handpicked 12 men through whom He envisioned conquering the world.

After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. - John 6:14-15

For context on the above passage, this is what the people said after Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. The crowd wanted to make Him their king in order to use Him like a genie. Worshipping and following Him was not on their minds.

In the passage above, what did Jesus do?

Jesus did not form an intimate relationship with the people who had their own agendas. They were not interested in Jesus; rather they wanted to use Jesus to gain their personal goals.

A crowd of people always surrounded Jesus for healings, miracles, and bread. A genuine love relationship cannot be established in this way. Jesus loved us unconditionally, and we must love him.

Jesus came to establish a love relationship with people. Moreover, He wanted to establish a Church where people are genuinely united together to share their lives together for God's glory.

Discipleship is forming Christ in you!

Jesus' followers will create a Church that makes disciples. What is the aim of the discipleship that unites God's people?

My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you! - Galatians 4:19-20

What is the aim of discipleship according to Paul in this passage?

Here, the greatest missionary in the Bible tells us that **forming Christ** in disciples is his goal and ministry. As Christ is forming in us, we will follow Jesus to finish the task of reaching the whole world.

Discipleship requires total surrender!

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. - Luke 9:23

What are the three requirements for becoming a disciple who follows Jesus according to this verse?

1. The Denial of Self... A Self-centered life must be changed to a God-centered life. God becomes the Lord over all aspects of our lives. It takes time, but we must press on.

When I was heading to Africa for the first time in my twenties, my parents told me, "You are not my son." They were disappointed that I did not obey them to become a successful person in a worldly sense like a doctor, lawyer, or professor.

Moreover, even Christian leaders and pastors discouraged me from going to Africa, saying, "You are not fully utilizing your education and gifts. You should be doing college ministry."

To participate in God's mission, I had to deny myself in almost all the relationships that I cherished. I focused on my relationship with God first.

Later, people, who discourage me from going to Africa, came around because they recognized God's hand in my life.

2. Taking up the cross daily... Discipleship is a continual process of denying and taking up our crosses on a daily basis. The key word is "daily."

To accomplish God's plan, we must take up the cross daily. The resurrection could not have followed if there was no death on the cross. Suffering had to come first before the glory. In the same way, we must embrace our crosses as we follow Him.

3. Follow Him... Our purposes must be laid down in order to follow Christ for his purpose. To follow, one must leave his or her comfort zones.

Many Christians make the mistake of attributing their own desires to God's purpose for their lives. So instead of following God, they want God to bless their own agendas and goals.

We must be honest about ourselves and seek God's purpose in prayer. To follow Christ, we must put down our plans and schedules. In His time, we must move. In His way, we must obey and accomplish His plans.

God's way is always the best. We must seek His will and adjust our lives and follow Him. In order to do that, we truly need to find out what is God's plan. As your relationship with God grows, you will catch God's heart and His vision because He always reveals His plans to His servants.

Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. - Amos 3:7

Disciplers are the spiritual fathers and mothers!

Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. - 1 Corinthians 4:15-16

Paul teaches us that God's discipleship is about becoming spiritual fathers and mothers. A discipler must enter into a close relationship with his disciples and form a lifetime relationship.

Who are your spiritual fathers, mothers, or mentors?

Does the person think that you are his/her spiritual child? The relationship should be based on mutual consent. It is a commitment that you make with one another.

Disciples are called!

Jesus called his disciples. Some followed but some did not. Those who followed Him experienced the wonders of God.

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. - Matthew 4:18-20

Who followed Jesus at once in this passage?

What was His promise to them?

These brothers were fishermen. Jesus said that they would not catch fish anymore. Instead, they will learn to catch men. In other words, they will become the disciplers.

Write the memory verses of the week and meditate on them.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13: 34-35

Day 3: What Church is NOT

What will unite us to Christ and also unite with each other?

In discipleship, Christ is formed in us. First, we will build an intimate relationship with God, and then we will be drawn to each other. Discipleship is more than having Bible studies where you grow intellectually. It truly binds disciples in the community of God so that together they can enjoy God and follow Christ to fulfill His visions.

A Church is not only a place to learn about the Bible!

It is more than a community of people who know the Word of God. The body of Christ must obey His word and live out what they have learned.

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that— and shudder. - James 2:19

According to the passage, who believes that there is one God?

Knowing and believing without obeying leads to spirobesity. It is dangerous because you can become like Saul who persecuted the followers of Christ before his conversion.

A Bible study is not discipleship!

Discipleship must include attaining the knowledge of the Bible. However, it is more than that. A Bible study should never substitute discipleship because it can easily remain in our minds and makes us spiritually obese. On the hand, discipleship is applying God's word in our lives as we imitate Christ.

We must understand the concept of discipleship that Jesus showed us through His ministry on earth.

A Church does not only offer a good and moral lifestyle!

A Church offers spiritual life. Christianity is making dead people live. If we forget the primary reason for the existence of the Church, we end up becoming merely a social gathering.

Some people may have the outward look of a Christian but inwardly, they are far from the spiritual life that Jesus offers. They may have the form of godliness, not its power.

People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them. - 2Timothy 3:2-5

How would you relate to the professing Christians who only have the form of godliness?

We must develop an intimate relationship with Christians who have true godliness with its power. They are the true history-makers who will spur us to participate in changing the world.

A Church is not a marketplace.

Christians must come together for worship, fellowship, and discipleship, and not for buying and selling.

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" - Mark 11:15-17

According to the passage, what is God's Church?

Jesus was angry with the people who were desecrating God's Church. We can easily make the same mistakes in our worship place, turning it into a marketplace.

A Church is not a place of self-improvement.

Improvements will naturally come as we are spiritually disciplined. But bettering our existing lives is not what Christianity is all about. It is a spiritual new birth.

If you are not growing spiritually, you must seek out help. Participating in Christian activities like worship, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and short-term missions should improve your Christian walk. If it does not, you must realize that they are making you spiritually obese.

The true condition of a person's spirituality will be revealed in his or her own words and actions. Through them, we can see where they are in their walk with the Lord.

A Church is not a social club.

It is pivotal to know that the Church is not a social gathering. A Church is a spiritual community of God's people. In the Church, forgiven sinners come together for growth in spirit and truth.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:1-2

How can one be transformed according to this passage?

Write the memory verses of the week and meditate on them.

Day 4: United for Discipleship

1. Church is a social gathering. (True / False)
2. Church is a house of prayer. (True / False)

The Task of God’s Church

God has communicated his mission on earth in many different ways. Every Christian must understand the task so that he or she can participate in God’s mission instead of wasting the time.

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

There are many verbs in this passage that are participles (*a word formed from a verb that is used as an adjective*): go, baptize, and teach. But there is only one imperative verb which is the primary verb, **MAKE** (disciples of all nations). Thus, going, baptizing, and teaching are the subordinates to the main task of making disciples.

God wants us to reach all peoples on earth. Thus, our task is making disciples of all tribes in the world. We have much work to do. Never forget the primary task that God has commanded us.

The Church must engage in God’s mission!

First, we must seek the heart of God in His presence. When we catch His heart, we can participate in His vision wholeheartedly. Here is a letter Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, wrote in his journal, which describes his departure from his homeland to China. He was leaving his widowed mother to obey God’s call to China.

“My beloved, now sainted, mother had come to see me off from Liverpool. Never shall I forget that day, nor how she went with me into the little cabin that was to be my home for nearly six long months. With a mother’s loving hand she smoothed the little bed. She sat by my side and joined me in the last hymn that we should sing together before the long parting. We knelt down, and she prayed-the last mother’s prayer I was to hear before starting for China. Then notice was given that we must separate, and we had to say good-bye, never expecting to meet on earth again. For my sake, she restrained her feelings as much as possible. We parted; and she went on shore, giving me her blessing! I stood alone on deck, and she followed the ship as we moved toward the dock gates. As we passed through the gates, and the separation really commenced, I shall never forget the cry of anguish wrung from that

mother's heart. It went through me like a knife. I never knew so fully, until then, what 'God so loved the world' meant. And I am quite sure that my precious mother learned more of the love of God to the perishing in that hour than in all her life before." [Henry Blackaby & Claude V. King, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*, (Nashville: LifeWay Press, 1990), 139]

Without leaving our comfort zones, we cannot follow God. We must leave everything, knowing and trusting God who will take care of all things for His followers.

The Church must make disciplers!

In the summer of 2002, I was preaching in a tribal village where the Muslim villagers had never seen electricity. When I connected lightbulbs to our car battery, it was so bright that the villagers were mesmerized. They were looking intently at the light instead of looking at me who was preaching God's Word. So, I went to the lightbulb. I touched it gently with my hands and asked them, "If I give you this lightbulb, would you like it?" They were clapping their hands and exclaimed that they would love to have it. I told them the bad news, "It would not work in your village because you don't have a car battery."

From then on, I explained the reality of humanity without God. Because of our sins, we are disconnected from our powerful God. Because of the disconnection with God, sickness, sorrow, despair, and ultimately, death came to us.

Then I told them the greatest story ever told. Jesus Christ came to reconnect us to God by dying on the cross for our sins. The Muslim villagers once again clapped their hands in excitement and received the Gospel. I never experienced this kind of reaction from the Muslim villagers in West Africa since 1993.

After this great evangelistic meeting, my native disciple said, "Pastor, it was great, wasn't it? Let's go together and preach every night."

I responded firmly, "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you. I did not come to preach the Gospel. I primarily came to make disciples. If I go and preach every night, I can cover 365 villages in a year. If I serve the Lord for 30 years, I can cover 10,950 villages. But there are more villages in the world than that." I continued and emphasized, "Making disciples is the answer to finish the task of reaching every tribe on earth. Each discipler will make disciples. Thus, 1 becomes 2... 2 becomes 4... 4 becomes 8... 8 becomes 16... This geometric growth will reach the whole population of the world within 40 years- one generation. I am serious about finishing the task in our generation because Jesus commanded us."

A Church must send out God's workers.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." - Matthew 9:37-38

God's workers who can make disciples must be sent. Thus, we must make disciples in our Churches and prepare them for the world mission.

Are you a participant in God's mission or a spectator? Would you become a disciple who obeys His command? Would you write out your commitment in prayer to become a disciple-maker?

Write the memory verses of the week and meditate on them.

Day 5: United to Finish the Task!

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. - Matthew 24:14

Jesus' Disciples wanted to know when the last day of the earth would be. The answer was given in the verse above. When is the last day?

We can decide when the last day of the earth will be because the end will come when the gospel is preached to all nations.

We must have the end in mind.

If we don't focus on our target, we won't hit it. 2,000 years have come and gone without completing the task. Why? I believe that ignorance and disobedience are the main reasons.

Can we finish the task in our generation? I believe we can if we have 1,581 history makers who will follow Christ at all costs because there are only 1,581 unreached tribes left in the world. (*Joshua Project II's original list of the unreached peoples, www.JoshuaProject.org*)

The Mission is divided into 4 categories:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

The Four Categories of God's Mission:

- M1: Jerusalem | where you are
- M2: Judea | People groups that are near you (Within your home country)
- M3: Samaria | Capital cities or major cities around the world (Foreign missions in the cities)
- M4: To the ends of the earth | Rural areas of the world (Foreign missions where there is no access to the gospel)

M1 Missions First

If you are making disciples in M1, you will be able to make disciples in M4 as well. On the other hand, If you are not making any disciples in M1, you will not make disciples anywhere. A change in location or the title of a missionary does not fundamentally change the person's spirituality.

You must be discipled to make disciples! Your future depends on what you are doing today. You can be an effective discipler in M4 when you are experiencing God in your daily life and make disciples where you are now.

Imbalanced in Foreign Missions

Out of every \$100 for missions, only 5 cents is invested for M4 missions. Only 0.05% of the foreign mission funds go to M4 missions. This is a clear imbalance in the world mission. We need to balance it.

Incarnational Missions

God became a man, and He walked among us on earth. The Incarnation is an amazing mystery. This is the strategy of Jesus to reach the whole world. Missionaries must follow the incarnational strategy, following the Jesus-style of discipleship.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." - John 20:21-23

With His commission, what did Jesus give His disciples?

Is it possible for those who have received the Holy Spirit to remain as they are, instead of following Christ to the ends of the earth? Yes! Unfortunately, Peter was the first one to do that, and the other disciples followed him. (*John 20:3*)

We may be the committed Christians who received the Holy Spirit, and yet, we can easily be distracted from obeying God's mission. We can faithfully attend Church programs and even become leaders in Churches, but we can still not make disciples as Jesus commanded us.

When Peter went back to fishing, Jesus went to meet Peter and asked, "Do you love me more than these?" Then Jesus once again appointed him to the task of God's ministry to feed the sheep, which is discipleship.

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." - John 21:17

A Comprehensive Mission Strategy

The M1 mission must grow, and we must send missionaries to M4 missions. Ultimately, we need to complete the task of reaching every tribe on earth. We must never settle ourselves in our local area or our own ethnic group.

God's mission is clear. We just need to follow Him who is moving in the world. He promised to be with us to the very end of the age. Would you be one of us who will follow Jesus in finishing the task?

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20

Fireman Analogy

This is a well-known story. There was a fireman who was respected by everyone because he would run into burning buildings to save the people who are trapped. One day, there was a big fire, and someone called 911. The firetruck came to the site, but they could not get near the building because it was surrounded by a crowd.

Some of them were holding water guns. They said to the fireman, "We could never be like you, but we want to help." They were shooting water at the burning building with their water guns. Their actions were useless because the water could not even reach the building.

The fireman shouted, "Get out of my way! We need to enter the building before it is about to come down. There are people trapped inside and they are dying. You are blocking the way."

Perhaps this is the reality of God's Church. We are called to rescue the people in the world that are trapped in sin, and they are dying without Jesus. We should not stand at a distance. We must leave our comfort zones and rescue them.

God's people must train themselves to be like the fireman, following Christ to wherever He leads.

Without looking back at this week's lessons, write what you have learned about the task of the Church.

Write the memory verses of the week and meditate on them.

Week Six: Making History Makers



*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.
John 20:21*

This is our final week. Afterward, you must go and make disciples. Are you ready? This is the highest privilege to serve God, making disciples as you follow Christ. You will do what Jesus has done and even greater things.

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. - John 14:12

Discipleship is not done by you, but God will do it through you. You are only an instrument. Nevertheless, as an instrument, you must be ready and available to act as God leads. As you do, you will experience God working through you.

Never be afraid! God always prepares his servants first before He leads them to the task. He will never ask you to do things on your own. He is the one who will guide you and accomplish His work in and around you.

Becoming a History Maker is designed for you to make disciples and to participate in finishing the task. This week, we will cover the practical ways that you can begin your first discipleship.

Day 1: The Call

When will be the last day of the earth?

In Matthew 24:14, Jesus tells us that the end will only come when the Gospel goes out to the ends of the earth.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. - Matthew 24:14

Who decides the end of the world according to the verse above?

The disciple-makers will finish the task of preaching the gospel to the whole world. Then the end will come and we will enter heaven, taking with us as many as we can.

You must call people to discipleship!

Jesus called his disciples in the following passage.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. - Matthew 4:19-20

When I was about 18 years old and just about to graduate from high school, there was a graduate student who moved to our area and came to our Church. One day, he asked me, "Would you like to do one-on-one Bible study

with me?" Initially, I was reluctant, but I went because he invited me for dinner. This was the beginning of my exposure to true Christianity and discipleship. To this day, I thank God for that man's courage to ask me for discipleship.

Pray First

You must pray first for God's direction this week. It is God who initiates his discipleship through you. God will bring people into your mind as you pray. Throughout this week, you should pray for these people whom God will reveal to you. Unless God draws them, they will not be interested in spiritual matters because the natural man does not accept the things of God.

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 2:14

After praying, you must call them to discipleship. Unless you go fishing, you cannot expect to catch anything. Discipleship works in a similar way. You cannot expect to make disciples unless you call them.

When God initiates discipleship, you must be there with Him. If you focus your life on discipleship, you will catch men. He will accomplish it through you. You must let God lead you in prayer.

You must be realistic! Anticipate NO!

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. - Matthew 19:21-22

Why was the young man unwilling follow Jesus?

This rich young ruler valued his wealth more than God. He could not give them up and follow Jesus even when he was called.

Do not be surprised or discouraged by "NO!" Even Jesus experienced rejection. When you go fishing for men, you may have bad days, but you should never give up. We must follow the Lord as He leads.

More YES than NO

As the Lord led me over the years, I have called many people to discipleship. So far, I only had a few people say, "NO" and reject the call. On some occasions, I asked the people whom I thought would surely say, "NO," but they said, "YES."

You can simply say, "I have been praying for you. Would you like to do one-on-one discipleship?"

Do Not Wait Until You Feel Ready

Many people feel they are inadequate to be used by God in discipleship. They want to learn and train themselves more to be ready. But that day will never arrive. We can never be used by God unless we engage in discipleship.

Can you imagine a person who wants to learn how to swim by studying books and training through videos without getting themselves wet? Can someone learn how to play piano without practicing with one? Can you expect to drive a car without getting into a car?

You are an instrument, and you need to be in God's hand. He knows what He is doing, and He will make disciples through you. In the process, you will become more and more like Jesus, and experience God's love, power, and peace.

An instrument by itself can do nothing. The success of discipleship depends on your relationship with Jesus Christ and how closely you are walking with him.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. - John 15:5

What is the secret of bearing God's fruit according to the verse above?

There are two types of fruits:

1. Internal Fruits – The fruit of Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc.
2. External Fruits – Disciples

Your spiritual life can be measured by looking at the fruits that you bear. After being a Christian for some years, you should have some disciples in your life. If you have none, you must repent.

Christ commanded us to make disciples, and you can start by obeying this command now. You will experience the joy of saving people bringing them to Christ and raising God's disciples who will conquer the world with the gospel of Christ.

Possible Candidates

Pray and ask God to show you possible candidates for your discipleship. List the names here.

Write the memory verses and meditate on them.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20

Day 2: Devotion to God

Once I met a doctor who disciplined a businessman at 5 AM because it was the only time that they were both available. Our first meeting happened on a snowy day at 7 AM, right after his discipleship. A huge snowstorm came over the night before and the streets were covered with tons of snow so I thought that he could not make it to our church that morning. But he showed up on time, right after his discipleship.

His devotion to discipleship challenged me. He reminded me that discipleship must be obeyed, and I must make myself available whenever or wherever God wants to use me.

The Danger of Discipleship without Devotion to God

Devotion to God must be the first priority of a disciple. If not, one can fall into the danger of becoming like Pharisees and Sadducees who were busy with religious activities.

Discipleship will be effective when the discipler spends intimate time with God in His word and prayer. Never forget that you can be devoted to discipleship without having devotion to God. In this case, we cannot bear God's fruit that we have discussed yesterday.

What are the internal fruits?

The danger of discipleship without devotion to God is that you may substitute God for discipleship. God must be the primary joy of your life, and all other activities and relationships are secondary.

You can be diligent at discipleship, and you may turn many people to follow Christ intimately. At the same time, however, you may lose the intimacy with God. Satan desperately wants you to fall into this mistake, and he will trick you into this state.

*Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.
- 1Corinthians 9:26-27*

When Christians substitute God for something else, they will be disqualified for the prize. They certainly will not lose their salvation, but they will miss the best that God has in store for them. The best in store for us is fellowship with Himself.

The greatest danger of any discipler, pastor, and missionary is departing from true devotion to God and intimacy with Him. Yet, at the same time, they may still carry out successful discipleship and ministry.

Often, they are convinced that they are doing the work for God as an expression of their love and devotion to Him. But in the long run, the truth will be revealed. If they do not have intimate fellowship with God, they will burn out.

Our aim as Christians is Jesus Himself, who is the way, the truth, and the life. (*John 14:6*) We were reconciled to God through Him so that we could once again have an intimate relationship with Him. Never forget that! Never substitute God for anything else.

Discipleship in itself must never be the goal of Christians. It is only a by-product of our intimate relationship with Him. When you are devoted to God, you can become a powerful discipler who will accomplish God's task, always filled with joy and peace in all circumstances.

Devotion to God Means Walking with Him

When we have daily encounters with God, we will be changed and sanctified in His likeness. So we must focus on daily appointments with God first and foremost.

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. - Colossians 1:10

Write Paul's prayer in your own words.

You cannot give up what you do not have! This truth must be remembered. The disciples must find their insights, wisdom, and power from their daily walk with the Lord.

Devotion to God Brings Genuine Changes!

If you are having devotions daily, you will change. If not, you should examine your devotion to see if your time with God is genuine. It's truly a miracle to remain the same after walking with God consistently.

"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." - Isaiah 6:5

What was Isaiah's confession after his encounter with God?

Isaiah saw the throne of God in the temple, and he repented. He saw himself as the man of unclean lips. He had been proclaiming woes to others, but in this verse, he proclaimed woe unto himself. His heart became broken before God's presence, and he rose to a new level as a prophet for his nation. God used him mightily during the reign of King Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, for about six decades.

Devotions for Devotion's Sake!

There are people, I know, who are devoted to attending prayer meetings at 5 AM, Bible Studies, small group meetings, and all other Church events. They truly desire to experience God. Yet, they aren't making disciples because they are not discipled, or they are not spurred on to make disciples.

Why not? Despite all the Bible studies and all the discipleship programs they had, none of it trained them practically to make disciples. Like Pharisees, they are missing the point of true devotion to God, which is obeying his Word.

Filled to Overflow

You must come to God and be filled first. Then you must love others genuinely, out of an overflow of Christ's love. That is the discipleship at its best.

Acts 1:8 says that we are empowered to become witnesses to the ends of the earth. When we let the Holy Spirit control our lives, we shall become the powerful witnesses for Him. Thus, we will complete his mission.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. - John 7:38-39

According to this passage, what will flow from the believers?

Write the memory verses and meditate on them. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Day 3: Perseverance in Discipleship

What is the aim of discipleship?

Discipleship is forming Christ in someone's life. It takes time, but we must persevere. As you engage in discipleship with someone, you will realize that Christ is forming in you.

Running the Race with Perseverance!

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. - Hebrews 12:1

What do we need to do in order to run God's race according to the verse above?

Hebrews chapter 11 lists many people who lived by faith in spite of being persecuted and suffering hardships.

... Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning... the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. - Hebrews 11:37-38

Hebrews writer encourages us to live by faith, knowing that we, together with them, will become perfect in God's house.

Since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. - Hebrews 11:40

The "race" for the history-makers is to live a godly life, balancing worship, fellowship, and discipleship. When we are balanced, we will take this gospel to the ends of the earth because we will continue to make disciples.

We must first look at the great examples of faith in the Bible so that we can imitate them. A great cloud of witnesses is watching, encouraging, and cheering us on to persevere.

Secondly, we must fellowship with men and women who are discipling others and form a team with them. They will spur you on to balance your life and accomplish God's purpose in this world.

Thirdly, we must throw off everything that hinders us from doing the will of God. To run a marathon, one must put away everything and simply run. Can you imagine a runner with a backpack? If you want to make disciples, you must put away bad habits and worldly concerns that may hinder you from running the race.

Fourthly, we must repent of the sins that take us away from God's presence and break intimacy with Him. We cannot and will not make disciples if we are living in sin.

Lastly, we must trust in God's time. Discipleship takes time. Spiritual growth may be slow but know that spiritual fruits will come forth in due time if we persevere.

Discipleship Failures!

You must anticipate failure at times. Jesus chose the twelve disciples and yet Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver.

Our responsibility, in discipleship, is not forming Christ in the disciples. We are simply God's instruments, and He is forming Christ in them through us. We simply need to keep in step with the Spirit so that we can be available for Him.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. - Galatians 5:25

True failure is when Christians do not even try to make disciples. They are like the servant in Jesus' parable who received one talent and hid it under the ground. The master came back and rebuked him for being a wicked and lazy servant. (*Matthew 25:14-30*)

The twelve disciples often did not understand the heart of Jesus Christ. When Jesus had to go through Samaria, He met a woman at the well. He had great compassion for her and a great lesson for his disciples. But the

disciples missed the lesson because they were occupied with having their lunch. They simply urged Jesus to eat something, but He reminded them of His food that they knew nothing about.

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." - John 4:34

What is this "food" that Jesus is talking about?

The disciples did not understand the spiritual meaning at the time. We must catch the meaning of this spiritual food that kept Jesus in fulfilling God's will.

Discipleship Takes Time

Three years of discipleship with Jesus was not enough for His disciples to stand firm with Jesus when He was captured and sent to the cross. But Jesus returned to them after the resurrection, and He commissioned them again. Jesus breathed on them the Holy Spirit in John 20. Nevertheless, Peter simply went back to fishing in John 21, and other disciples followed Peter's lead. At the Sea of Tiberias, Peter and his friends could not catch any fish all night until Jesus showed up and told them where to fish.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." - John 21:15

What was Jesus Christ referring to when he said, "more than these" in the verse above?

"Do you truly love me more than these?" Jesus repeated the question three times, and Peter was hurt because it reminded him of the three times that he denied Jesus. Here, Jesus once again gave a chance for Peter to take care of His flock and His Church.

True discipleship is dying to self!

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. - John 12:24-26

What does this passage teach us about discipleship?

Salvation is free, but taking this gospel to the ends of the earth will cost us a great deal of time and investment. A seed must die in order to produce many new seeds. We must persevere in dying to ourselves so that we can be used by God to form Christ in our disciples.

No Cross, No Glory!

The resurrection came after the crucifixion. Discipleship requires sacrifice, and we must carry our cross daily to make disciples. We will reap as much as we sow, so we must engage in discipleship diligently.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. - 2Corinthians 9:6

In discipleship, I often say, "I want you to stand up on my shoulders to look further and attempt greater things for God than I ever tried in my life." I believe this is the principle of God's discipleship. I pray that you will experience God more than I ever did.

Write the memory verses and meditate on them. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Day 4: Commission

When I completed my first discipleship with my leader in college, he asked me to make a disciple right away. I was excited even though I was unprepared and immature. Because my Church promoted one-on-one discipleship, it was easy for me to start quickly.

Over the year, I realized that discipleship benefits the leader more than the disciple. It is a spiritual exercise that will keep your Christian life in balance.

Jesus sent out twelve disciples!

Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff— no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town."
- Mark 6:7-10

How did Jesus send out His twelve disciples?

Jesus sent them out, not because they were ready, but because it was a part of their discipleship training. As they went, they experienced the power of God. Jesus was preparing them to stand on their own for the greater missions in the future.

Notice that he sent them out two by two. It is important for us to be in a team of believers who share the same vision so that we can encourage one another and never give up.

Jesus Sent Out Seventy-Two Others!

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."
- Luke 10:1-3

This time, there were seventy-two people. Notice that Jesus said that He was sending them out like **lambs among wolves**. The enemy will try to devour and destroy God's workers. We must march out to the world with the power of God. The enemy is strong, but we know that our God is stronger.

God is leading us all the way!

No one will be able to hinder and destroy you because God is with you. If you stand firm in His power, you will be protected by the almighty God. Remember that the war is already won by Jesus. We must simply proclaim victory everywhere we go.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. - John 10:28-29

True or False

1. God gave us eternal life. (True / False)
2. It is possible for Satan to snatch God's people. (True / False)
3. God is the greatest. (True / False)

When God gives us eternal life, no one can take it away from us because our spiritual life is eternal. This is the gospel that we must take to the ends of the earth.

Commissioning Disciples to Make Disciples!

New drivers must practice driving. If they do not get behind the wheel, they will never gain confidence. Likewise, discipleship must be practiced by attempting to make disciples. You must go out of your comfort zone to make disciples. You will gain confidence as you do.

Day 5: Never Give Up

Discipleship truly transformed my life, and I experienced God’s joy as I continue to disciple others. It will do the same in your life. So, persevere in discipleship and never give up.

As you disciple someone, you should not neglect worship and fellowship. Keep the balance across all three so that you can stand firm in the faith.

The fundamental concepts of Christianity in this discipleship book will become clearer as you continue to disciple someone using this book. Moreover, your knowledge of God’s heart will become deeper.

People need the Lord!

Never give up because Jesus never gave up on you. God sent Jesus to die for your sins. No sacrifice you make can come close to what He has done for you. He loved you unconditionally so you must emulate what He has done for you to others who are still lost without Jesus or distant from Him.

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. - Ephesians 2:4-5

All humanity is _____ in transgressions. People without Jesus are spiritually dead. They must be rescued by God through the people who walk with Him. We must engage in God’s mission to save as many as we can.

Lazarus was dead and placed in the tomb for four days when Jesus arrived. He commanded to remove the stone that covered the tomb. When the stone was rolled away, Jesus called out to Lazarus from the cave. He heard Jesus’ voice and came out of the tomb. (*John 11:38-44*) Our responsibility is to roll away the stone that blocks people from hearing God’s invitation for salvation.

Make Plans!

God is always working around you. You simply need to look around and find where God is working. People around you are communicating to you how sad and lonely they are, sometimes in words and sometimes in their actions. You must seize every opportunity and lead them to Christ.

No planning will result in no discipleship. You must pray and plan what God puts in your heart. You must engage in discipleship so that God can use you. If you pray, He will lead you to make disciples like Jesus who made 12 disciples.

In Christ, there is never a bad day.

We are living in a world where evil exists, and people experience pain and sorrow. Nevertheless, the reality is that when we became Christians, God is with us. We should not despair because our almighty God is always present with us. He is the light in the darkness; He is the solution to all problems; He is the living water for the thirsty.

Will you be a part of God’s army to go and make disciples? Start from where you are, and as God leads, you must go to the ends of the earth, finishing the mission that Jesus commanded us.

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." - John 5:17

Paraphrase the above verse in your own words.

As followers of Jesus, we will not have dull moments. He is working always so we must move with him.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. - 2Peter 3:9

Why is God delaying His return according to the above verse?

His heart yearns for everyone to repent and to become His children. This is the love of God. We must follow Him and save as many as we can. After they are saved, they need to be disciplined so that they can grow in Christ and enjoy salvation. Moreover, they also may participate in making disciples.

Satan will do all he can to stop you from discipleship because he knows that it will multiply God's Church exponentially. It will also increase your joy as you experience God working through you. Ultimately, it will equip God's people to finish the task of reaching every tribe on earth.

Satan wants God's people to be busy with other Church activities instead of discipleship. We must never stop discipleship because it is our ultimate strategy of Jesus for God's mission.

Let us balance our lives in worship, fellowship, and discipleship so that we can fully experience God and accomplish His vision. If you and I make disciples, we will finish the task of reaching every tribe on the face of the earth in our generation. We will see Jesus Christ returning in our lifetime. Will you obey God's command to make disciples of all nations with us?

Make a Plan now.

You wrote down the names yesterday. Now you need to schedule to meet or call them. Do not be afraid. If God is working in their lives, you will begin discipleship with them right away. If not, you will find out where they are in their spiritual journey.

Do not be anxious. God's timing is perfect. As you spend time with God, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit who gives you peace. He will also remind you of your final destiny.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." - John 14:1-4

We know that Jesus is preparing a mansion in heaven for us, and He will return when the gospel is preached to all peoples on earth. As you make disciples, you will participate in finishing the task. Let's finish it together.

Write the memory verses and meditate on them.

Now What?



Go and make disciples now!

Finally, you have gone through *Becoming a History Maker*. Now what? Do you know what you need to do? Do not worry! God knows what to do with you. Simply trust His power and wisdom.

Now is the true beginning of your discipleship! If you do not make a disciple, you are adding another pound to your spiritual obesity.

Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations. Begin where you are first. M1 missions must flourish in order to expand your ministry to M2, M3, and M4 missions. Ultimately, we will be a part of finishing the task of reaching every tribe on earth.

Discipleship must be done with the same gender. Sexual temptations and sins are destroying Church leaders, pastors, and missionaries. We must set a clear boundary so that Satan cannot steal, kill or destroy.

If there is no other option, you must meet with at least two of the opposite gender in a group setting so that you will not be alone with the opposite gender. Keep yourself holy so that you will not fall into the enemy's trap.

Pray!

When you do not pray for discipleship, you should not expect people to respond. God will put potential candidates in your mind as you pray. Practically, you can pray for six days and attempt to meet one person per week.

Plan!

After much prayer, call and make an appointment with them. For your first meeting, have a copy of the discipleship book ready for the candidate so that you can start right away.

When you invite them, you can offer to buy coffee or lunch for them if you are able. Most people will not say, "No" to a free coffee or meal.

Propose!

During the first meeting, you can tell them that you have been praying for them. Then simply ask, "Would you like to do one-on-one discipleship with me?"

When they say no...

Do not push it! Do not end the meeting on bad terms. Simply accept their decision and say something like this, "If you change your mind, please don't hesitate to call me."

When they say yes...

Set up a time and place to meet right away. Give them a discipleship book and explain how to do it.

Lastly, enjoy your fellowship with God and follow Him. Expect and anticipate God's wonders as you continue in discipleship.