

# **Follow**

A Kingdom Person Resource

Florida Baptist Convention  
Sunday School, Groups, and Discipling Team

## About the Author

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# A Kingdom Person

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A Kingdom Person is in the process of disengaging from the American Dream in order to live like Jesus and advance God's Kingdom at any price.

A Kingdom Person organizes his or her life according to the Great Commandment: loving God and loving people, as expressed in the following six dimensions:

**A Worshipping Person** – lives worship by surrendering his or her own agenda and embracing God's agenda.

**A Praying Person** – has learned to hear the Father's voice and respond to His mission, just as Jesus modeled.

**A Biblical Person** – is developing a healthy Biblical framework for living and is committed to following Jesus in every area of life.

**A Serving Person** - demonstrates love to one's neighbor through willingness to put the needs of others above oneself and live out the truths of the Gospel.

**A Generous Person** – extravagantly invests in the Kingdom of God and the well-being of His body.

**A Reproducing Person** – is a disciple maker who leads others to lead others to live like Jesus.

**A Kingdom Person is a:**

**Worshipping Person**

**Praying Person**

**Biblical Person**

**Serving Person**

**Generous Person**

**Reproducing Person**

## **How to Use this Book**

Each Week's lessons are divided into 5 days to build consistency in practicing the discipline of a daily time with God. Set aside time each weekday to read the lesson for the day and pray about what God is teaching you. On Saturday and Sunday, review the lessons for the week and reread the Bible passages. Also, spend time praying that God would help you to be transformed into a Kingdom Person.

This guide can also be used in a one to one discipling relationship or in a small group setting. There are discussion questions throughout each chapter that can be used to facilitate one to one or small group discussions.

**What you will learn  
this week:**

**Day 1**

Living Worship

**Day 2**

Daily Worship

**Day 3**

The Heart of Worship

**Day 4**

Celebrating Worship

**Day 5**

A Worshipping Person  
Evaluation

**Memory Verse**

**Romans 12:1 (HCSB)**

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.

# Week 1

## A Worshipping Person

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### **Day 1: Living Worship**

Eric Liddell, also known as “the Flying Scotsman” was a devout Christian as well as an accomplished athlete in Rugby and Track. Though he qualified to run the 100 meter race in the 1924 Olympics, Liddell refused to compete. One of the preliminary heats was scheduled on Sunday, and Liddell believed it would dishonor God to compete on the Christian Sabbath. Because of the sacrifice of a teammate, however, Liddell was able to compete in the 400 meter race in which he won the gold medal.

Liddell’s faithful stand made a great impact on many people, and years later it inspired the Motion Picture “Chariots of Fire.” Liddell’s life of faith and obedience made him a hero to many people. But there is a part of his life that few know about.

In 1925, Eric Liddell became a missionary to China where he served with great faithfulness and dedication. In 1941, with World War 2 in full swing, most foreigners left China for the relative safety of their home countries. Liddell, however, chose to stay in China to continue his ministry. Shortly thereafter, Liddell was placed in an internment camp by the Japanese military. In 1943, Eric Liddell died while a prisoner.

Langdon Gilkey was a British journalist also interred in the camp. While critical of some of the other

missionaries in the camp, Gilkey spoke very highly of Liddell,

"The entire camp, especially its youth, was stunned for days, so great was the vacuum that Eric's death had left."

According to a fellow missionary, Liddell's last words were, "It's complete surrender", in reference to how he had given his life to God. Eric Liddell demonstrated the essential characteristic of a worshipping person; he was willing to surrender completely his own agenda and even his life in order to follow God. Whether he was running in a race or serving the poor on the mission field, Eric Liddell demonstrated a life of worship.

**Romans 12:1(HCSB)**

Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship.

Becoming a worshipping person requires learning to surrender our own agendas to follow God.

**In what ways does my own agenda prevent me from fully following God?**

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**Before he ran the 400 meter race, a trainer from the American Track Team slipped a note in Liddell's hand that referenced 1 Samuel 2:30**

**"I will honor those who honor Me."**

**A Worshipping Person is willing to surrender one's own agenda to follow God.**

**Jesus indicated that those who were not willing to give up that which was most precious to them were not worthy of following Him.**

Jesus Christ invites us to join Him on a wonderful journey of participating in His Kingdom work in the world, but He does not allow us to bring along our baggage. If we are to live as Kingdom People and live a life of worship, we must first surrender ourselves to God's purposes and His plan for our lives.

Surrendering ourselves to God may require that we give up something that hinders our hearing and obeying Him. Jesus indicated that those who were not willing to give up that which was most precious to them were not worthy of following Him.

**Matthew 10:37-39 (HCSB)**

The person who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; the person who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And whoever doesn't take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. 39 Anyone finding his life will lose it, and anyone losing his life because of Me will find it.

Years ago, I preached a sermon in which I asked the question, "What are you afraid that God might ask you to give up in your life?"

A few weeks after I preached, Gary—a man from our congregation—thanked me for asking that question. He had been wrestling with God's call on his life. Gary owned a successful construction company, but knew that God was calling him into ministry. My question really made him think about his life and whether or not he was really following God. Sometime later, Gary gave up his company and enrolled in Bible College. Today, Gary pastors a growing church and is experiencing the blessings of following God.



Gary learned one of the great principles of living worship: God asks his followers to give up those things that hinder them from hearing and obeying Him.

Living worship is not for the fearful or the weak of heart. It takes courage and commitment to follow God wholeheartedly. If you desire to follow God in a life of worship ask yourself this question:

**What am I afraid that God might ask me to give up?"**

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Whatever you wrote on the lines above may be hindering you from hearing and obeying God, and from experiencing a life of worship. What will you do about that hindrance? Pray and ask God to give you wisdom and discernment to deal appropriately with anything that keeps you from hearing and obeying Him.

## **Day 2: Daily Worship**

Living worship does not happen by accident, but is built into the fabric of a person's life through the practice of

daily worship. The practice of daily worship involves two things: spending time with God in order to recognize and hear His voice, and obeying each day what we hear God saying. In the Bible, we get a glimpse of Jesus' modeling the practice of daily worship.

**Mark 1:35 (HCSB)**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place, and He was praying there.

Jesus was in the midst of a busy schedule of traveling and preaching the gospel, but He made time to spend with His Father. Jesus recognized the need to spend time with God regularly.

**Luke 6:12 (HCSB)**

During those days He went out to the mountain to pray and spent all night in prayer to God.

As the Son of God, Jesus was able to recognize and hear His Father's voice. As followers of Jesus and children of God, we can also learn to recognize and hear the voice of the Father.

Recognizing and hearing God's voice is a learning process that involves spending time each day in Bible reading and prayer. By reading the Bible we learn who God is and what He has said and done in the world. Through prayer, we submit ourselves to God and open our hearts and minds to His voice.

When we spend time each day in Bible reading and prayer, we train ourselves to recognize and hear God's voice.

**Express your commitment to spend time each day in Bible reading and prayer this week by writing out when and how you will do this each day.**

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In addition to spending time with God each day in Bible reading and prayer, daily worship involves living out what we hear God saying.

**Luke 11:28 (HCSB)**

He said, "Even more, those who hear the word of God and keep it are blessed!"

True followers of God are not hearers only, but are doers of the word. They live out God's word daily in their lives.

**James 1:22-25 (HCSB)**

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his own face in a mirror; 24 for he looks at himself, goes away, and right away forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts—this person will be blessed in what he does.

**The practice of daily worship involves two things:**

1. Spending time with God in His word and prayer in order to recognize and hear His voice.
2. Obeying each day what we hear God saying.

**When we spend time each day in Bible reading and prayer, we train ourselves to recognize and hear God's voice.**

**Reviewing the scripture verses in week 1 is a great starting place for daily Bible reading, if you do not already have a Bible reading plan to follow.**

Romans 12:1

Matthew 10:37-39

Mark 1:35

Luke 6:12; 11:28

James 1:22-25

Genesis 4:3-7

We must seek to be doers of God's word and not hearers only. God expects us to live out the truths of His word and teach others to do this as well. This is the heart of the Great Commission.

**Matthew 28:18-20 (HCSB)**

Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Following God requires knowing how to hear His voice and living out each day what we hear Him saying. Ask yourself:

**Am I living out God's word? What is one thing I can change in my life to more faithfully be a doer of God's word and not only a hearer?**

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### **Day 3: The Heart of Worship**

As a new Christian, I struggled with the Bible story of Cain and Able. I never really understood why God accepted Able's offering, but rejected Cain's. Then, I started teaching children in Sunday School, and as I taught this passage of Scripture, I determined to wrestle with this story in Bible study and prayer until I truly understood its message.

#### **Genesis 4:3-7 (HCSB)**

In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also presented [an offering]—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he was downcast. 6 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why are you downcast? 7 If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it."

In studying this passage, Genesis 4:5-6 indicates that God would not accept Cain's offering, because Cain was not doing right before God. This passage does not describe what Cain's unrighteousness was, but apparently, it was significant to God. God tells Cain that he will be accepted when he does what is right.

Apparently, Cain thought he could live in an unrighteous way and God would accept him because he gave the required offering. In other words, Cain attempted to worship God on his own terms: with an unrighteous heart and life.

**True followers of God are not hearers only, but are doers of the word. They live out God's word daily in their lives.**

**God will only accept worship that comes from a right heart and right life.**

God, however, would have nothing to do with Cain or his offering as long as his heart and life were characterized by unrighteousness.

Abel's offering, on the other hand, was accepted by God because it was offered with a righteous heart and a righteous life.

**Hebrews 11:4 (HCSB)**

By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain [did]. By this he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through this.

God refused to accept Cain's worship offering, because Cain was harboring unrighteousness in his heart and life. Abel's worship offering was accepted because he was a righteous man.

The story of Cain and Abel teaches us another foundational truth about worship: God will only accept worship that comes from a heart and life that are right with Him.

Are you ready to worship God? Is your heart and life prepared and right? If not, the Bible clearly proclaims that God is willing and ready to cleanse our hearts and make us fit to worship Him.

**1 John 1:9 (HCSB)**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In the space provided, write a prayer to God asking Him to cleanse your heart and prepare you to worship Him.

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**Day 4: Celebrating Worship**

When we understand what worship is, and we begin practicing daily worship, making sure that our hearts are right, we are ready to celebrate worship with other Christians.

### **Preparing to celebrate worship:**

1. Yield your agenda to God.
2. Practice daily worship.
3. Cultivate a heart of worship
4. Gather with other Christians prepared to experience God's presence and celebrate who He is and what He has done.

When I was in elementary school, I attended a birthday party for one of my classmates. When I arrived, I realized that I had forgotten to bring the birthday present that I had carefully picked out for my friend. Everyone else at the party brought a beautifully wrapped present and set it on a big table. They seemed so happy to give their gifts.

I had a difficult time enjoying the party. My friend tried to encourage me and said that I could give him my gift later. I appreciated his graciousness, but when he was opening the presents given to him by the other guests, I missed out and was not able to fully participate in the celebration.

Each week, in churches all across America, too many Christians are unable to fully participate in the worship celebration because they are not prepared. Their lives are not prepared to be acceptable offerings unto God.

In my own life, there have been times when I was unable to truly celebrate worship because I came unprepared. I missed out on a great time of joy and blessing in addition to the shame of not having a suitable gift of worship for my Lord.

The Bible calls us to come before God ready to experience His presence, and celebrate who He is and what He has done.

### **Psalm 95:6-7a (HCSB)**

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. 7 For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care.



Worship celebration happens when Christians gather together to experience God's presence and celebrate who He is and what He has done. A worship celebration can include (but is not limited to): singing, prayer, Bible reading, offerings, and preaching. This is what many people think of when they hear the word "worship", often calling this experience a "worship service."

Unfortunately, too many people believe that worship is a passive experience that happens to them when they attend a worship service. People that have this view of worship seldom spend time in daily worship or preparing their hearts to be right before God. As a result, their celebration of worship is often lacking.

Ask yourself: When was the last time I truly celebrated worship? What is keeping me from experiencing the power and joy of genuine spiritual celebration? In the space provide below, tell how you will prepare yourself to celebrate worship this week.

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**Unfortunately, too many people believe that worship is a passive experience that happens to them when they attend a worship service.**

**What is keeping me from experiencing the power and joy of genuine spiritual celebration?**

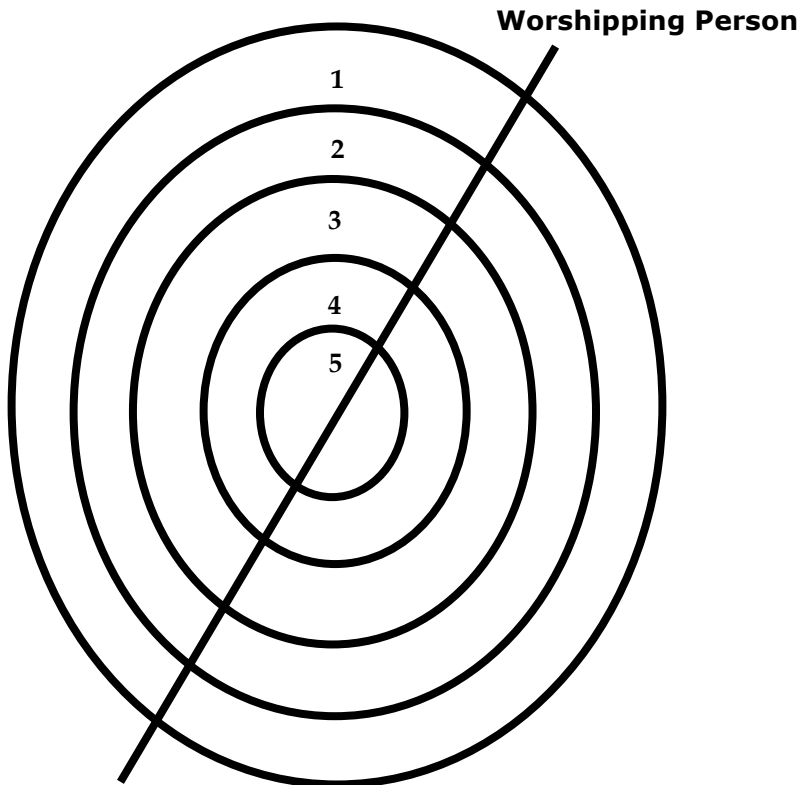
## Day 5: A Personal Worship Evaluation

Instructions: Respond to each statement by marking the choice that best describes you. Please take your time and seek to provide a genuinely accurate response to each statement.

1. I regularly spend time in private worship. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
2. I experience life change through worship. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
3. I look forward to worshipping with other Christians. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
4. I worship God every day. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally  
\_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
5. My life is characterized by peace, contentment, and joy. \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
6. My worship is a response to what God has done for me. \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
7. I attend church worship services (choose frequency): \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
8. Participating in the Lord's Supper draws me closer to Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
9. I seek to obey God's teachings and commands as an act of worship. \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always
10. My life demonstrates that worship is a priority. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=almost always

### **Worshipping Person**

Add the numbers for the responses you chose in the above Statements 1-10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Divide this number by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Plot this number on the line marked *Worshipping Person* on the graph below.



Think of the graph as a target. Our goal should be to hit the center of our target. If you are not hitting the center of the target with regard to worship, this represents a challenge area. Use the questions below to help you evaluate what steps you should take to grow as a worshipping person.

Worshipping Person (Below are some suggestions for growing as a worshipping person)

1. Attend a church worship service weekly.
2. Establish a daily time of private worship.
3. Participate in a Bible study about worship.
4. Other suggestions:

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Based on what you learned this week, what changes will you make in your life to grow as a worshipping person?

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# Week 2

## A Praying Person

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### **Day 1: Prayer Makes a Difference**

George Müller (1805-1898) was a Christian evangelist and director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England. During his life, he cared for more than 10,000 orphans and established 117 schools which offered Christian education to over 120,000 children.

Müller, one of the mightiest men of prayer of his generation, raised the English equivalent of \$7,200,000.00 by prayer. But George Müller never prayed for a thing just because he wanted it, or even just because he felt it was greatly needed for God's work. When it was laid upon George Müller's heart to pray for anything, he would search the Scriptures to find if there was some promise that covered the case. Sometimes he would search the Scriptures for days before he presented his petition to God. Then when he found the promise, with his open Bible before him, and his finger upon that promise, he would plead that promise, and so he received what he asked. He always prayed with an open Bible before him.

R. A. Torrey on George Müller; "The Power of Prayer," 1924 (P. 81)

George Müller learned to prevail in the power of prayer. Below is just one of the many accounts that demonstrate the power of prayer at work in Mueller's life.

### **What you will learn this week:**

#### **Day 1**

Prayer Makes a Difference

#### **Day 2**

The Missing Link in Prayer

#### **Day 3**

The ACTS of Prayer and How to Pray for an Hour

#### **Day 4**

Praying Constantly

#### **Day 5**

A Praying Person Evaluation

### **Memory Verse Colossians 4:2 (HCSB)**

Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving.

**Müller followed 2 simple principles when praying.**

**1. He would open the Bible before him, and place his finger on a promise, he found there. So he received What he asked.**

**2. After meditating on Scripture, Müller found that he was more able to experience a meaningful prayer time.**

## **Food for Orphans**

Samuel Chadwick, in his book, *The Path of Prayer*, relates an occasion when Dr. A. T. Pierson was the guest of George Müller at his orphanage. He says: "One night when the household had retired, Müller asked Pierson to join him in prayer, and told him that there was absolutely nothing in the house to feed the orphans for next morning's breakfast."

Pierson mentioned to Müller that all the stores were closed. Müller knew that, but he prayed as he always did, and he never told anyone of his needs but God. So, they prayed and they went to bed and slept, and breakfast for two thousand children was there in abundance at the usual breakfast hour.

Neither Müller nor Pierson ever knew how the answer came. The details of it are thrilling, but all that need be told here is that the Lord called a wealthy neighbor out of bed in the middle of the night to send breakfast to Müller's orphanage, and knowing nothing of the need, or of the two men at prayer, the neighbor sent provisions that would feed the orphans for a month.

Have you ever experienced the power of prayer in your life? Would you like to? Below are some reasons that have been given for why some people struggle with praying. With which of these might you identify?

I can't find the time to pray.

I don't know how to pray.

I have a hard time focusing my mind to pray.

I fall asleep when I try to pray.  
I don't really believe that prayer changes anything.  
I feel guilty praying because of sin in my life.

In the space provided, write down anything that keeps you from praying. Ask God to help you overcome these obstacles and learn how to prevail in prayer.

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## Day 2: The Missing Link in Prayer

Christian meditation (thinking deeply on Scripture) is "the missing link between Bible intake and prayer." If there was a "secret" to George Müller's prayer life, it was his discovery of the connection between meditation on Scripture and prayer. Müller's discovery was that after meditating on Scripture he was more able to experience a meaningful prayer time.

Donald S. Whitney, "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life"

**If there was a "secret" to George Müller's prayer life, it was his discovery of the connection between meditation on Scripture and prayer.**

God encouraged His people to meditate on His word so their hearts would be turned toward Him and their minds focused on His agenda. Practicing Scripture meditation will have a powerful impact on a person's prayer life. Below are some Scripture passages to encourage meditating on God's word.

### **Joshua 1:8 (HCSB)**

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night, so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

### **Psalm 119:15-16 (HCSB)**

I will meditate on Your precepts and think about Your ways. 16 I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

### **Psalm 1:1-3 (HCSB)**

How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path of sinners, or join a group of mockers! 2 Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.



3 He is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

### **How to Meditate on Scripture**

Meditating on Scripture involves focusing on a particular Scripture passage in order to fill one's mind with God's word and truth.

Donald Whitney, in *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* suggests the following guidelines for meditating on Scripture.

1. Select an appropriate passage. (In the margin there are several passages to help you get started.)
2. Reread the passage several times while emphasizing different parts.
3. Say or write the passage in your own words. When meditating on longer passages, divide them into smaller units to make rewording more manageable.
4. Spend time reflecting on how this passage might apply to your life.
5. Pray through the passage as God brings insights, needs, and discernment into your mind.
6. Take your time. Allow the words of the passage to soak into you mind and heart.

Choose one of the passages in the margin and spend some time meditating on it using the steps described above. Try one or two of the methods above and spend some time focusing your mind and heart on the passage and seeking to hear God speak to you through it.

### **How to Meditate on Scripture**

- 1. Select an appropriate passage.**
- 2. Reread the passage several times.**
- 3. Say or write the passage in your own words.**
- 4. Reflect on how this passage applies to your life.**
- 5. Pray through the words of the passage.**
- 6. Take your time.**

### **Scripture Passages for Meditation**

Genesis 1:26-31  
Deuteronomy 6:4-5  
Micah 6:8  
John 1:1-3  
Romans 5:1-2  
Romans 5:6-8  
1 Corinthians 1:4-9  
1 John 1:1-4

## Memorizing Scripture

Another way to meditate on Scripture is to memorize it. This will also help empower a person's prayer life by allowing a more constant focus on God's word. We will talk more about the practice of Scripture memorization later.

## Day 3: The ACTS of Prayer and How to Pray for an Hour.

### ACTS of Prayer

**A**doration

**C**onfession

**T**hanksgiving

**S**upplication

Use ACTS to help you develop a Biblical prayer life.

The ACTS of Prayer is an acronym that represents a plan for praying. Following this simple plan can help develop a prayer life that is intentional and is consistent with Jesus' teaching about prayer. When using the ACTS of prayer, go through each letter and focus on its meaning while talking and listening to God. See the descriptions below.

**Adoration** is praising and exalting God for who He is and what He has done. This is a time to think about God's goodness and righteousness and focus on Him alone.

### Psalm 100:1-5 (HCSB)

Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. 3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God. He made us, and we are His — His people, the sheep of His pasture. 4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. 5 For the Lord is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations.

**Confession** is admitting to God and that we have fallen short of His standard. During this time, we should ask God to bring to mind anything that we have done or failed to do that stands in the way of our relationship with Him. We also need to ask God to forgive us of these things and restore us to a strong and steadfast spiritual walk.

**1 John 1:8-9 (HCSB)**

If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Thanksgiving** is a time to celebrate the blessings of God in our lives. A great way to give thanks is to recall specific things in our lives for which we can be thankful.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (HCSB)**

Rejoice always! 17 Pray constantly. 18 Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

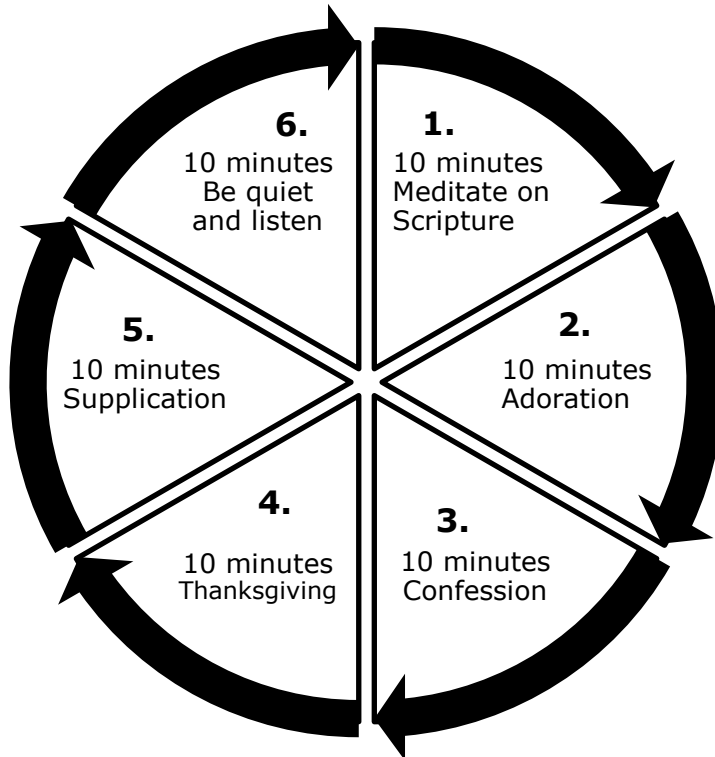
**Supplication** is a time to bring our requests and petitions before God.

**Philippians 4:6-7 (HCSB)**

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## How to Pray for an Hour

Many Christians do not believe that they could pray for an hour. Extended prayer, however, for an hour or more, is a discipline that can empower a person's spiritual life in a tremendous way. We have already examined the importance of meditating on Scripture as the starting place for prayer. In addition we learned how to follow the ACTS of prayer. By combining these two prayer strategies we can develop an effective plan for a meaningful 1 hour prayer time.



1. Meditate on Scripture – Follow the guidelines on pages 24-25 to spend about 10 minutes meditating on God's word.

2. Adoration – Spend about 10 minutes praising and exalting God. Be specific in praising God for who He is and what He has done in your life. Below are some Bible passages to focus your heart and mind on adoring God:

Exodus 15:1-11; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; 2 Samuel 22:1-4; 1 Chronicles 16:8-11; Psalm 8:1-9; Psalm 19:1-14; Psalm 24:1-10; Psalm 30:1-12; Psalm 33:1-9; Psalm 96:1-9; Luke 1:46-55; Ephesians 3:1-14;

3. Confession – Ask God to bring to mind any sins you have committed. Ask God to forgive you for these sins and restore you to a right relationship with Him. Here is a guide to help you examine your life. Spend about 10 minutes in confession.

**Forgiveness** Mark 11:25-26 - Are you guilty of the sin of unforgiveness? Who do you need to forgive?

**Humility** Romans 12:3 - In what ways might your life not reflect humility?

**Hope** Romans 15:13 Have you lost hope? Do you need to repent of the sin of hopelessness and turn toward God in faith?

**Impartiality** James 2:1-4 - Have you committed the sin of partiality? Do you show favoritism based on outer characteristics such as finances, race, gender, etc.

**Self-control** 1 Peter 1:13 - In what areas of life do you need to ask God to help you establish greater self-control?

**Faithfulness** Luke 16:10 – Have you committed the sin of faithlessness? In what ways do you need to be more faithful?

**Mercy** James 3:17-18 - Have you been unmerciful: with family members, co-workers, other drivers on the road?

**Anger** Matthew 5:21-26 – Have you nurtured the sin of anger? Ask God to help you overcome this anger and live in peace with others and with God.

**Lust** Matthew 5:27-30 – Jesus warned against the sin of lust.

**Coveting** James 4:1-3 – Do you covet what you do not have? Ask God to release you from this sin and help you focus your heart and mind on Him.

4. Thanksgiving – Thank God for who He is and what He has done in your life. Recall specific things for which you can be thankful and express your thankfulness to God. This should take about 10 minutes.

5. Supplication – This is a time to make your requests to God. Pray for your needs as well as the needs of others. Here is a short list of people for whom you can pray: self, family, friends, church leaders, government leaders, missionaries, persecuted Christians in other countries, and specific people who do not yet know Christ.

6. Be quiet and listen – Spend about 10 minutes quietly listening. Now that your heart and mind have been focused on God, listen to hear what He might be saying to you.

**Praying constantly involves:**

1. A regular and consistent private prayer life.
2. A commitment to corporate or group prayer.
3. A heart and life consistent with and conducive to the ongoing practice of prayer.

Will you commit to setting aside an uninterrupted hour this week to pray? In the space provided, write a day and time that you will spend an hour in prayer this week.

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**Day 4: Pray Constantly**

Paul admonished the Thessalonian Christians to pray constantly: to pray whenever they had the opportunity. Prayer is to be an ongoing practice that characterizes the life of the believer.

Praying constantly involves at least three elements:

1. A regular and consistent private prayer life.
2. A commitment to corporate or group prayer.
3. A heart and life consistent with and conducive to the ongoing practice of prayer.

Let's look at each of these elements and how they can help us to pray constantly.

## **1. A regular and consistent private prayer life.**

### **Luke 5:15-16 (HCSB)**

But the news about Him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 Yet He often withdrew to deserted places and prayed.

Jesus often spent time alone praying. Even in the midst of a hectic ministry, Jesus demonstrated regularity and consistency in His prayer life. Jesus provides a great example for us to follow.

Jesus demonstrated the need for regular and consistent private prayer. Private prayer seemed to be the fuel that powered His ministry. If Jesus felt the need to spend time in private prayer, how much more so do we need to devote ourselves to this practice?

## **2. A commitment to corporate or group prayer.**

### **Acts 1:13-14 (HCSB)**

When they arrived, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. 14 All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.

Jesus' disciples were continually united in prayer. They had an ongoing prayer focus that characterized their private as well as their corporate lives. It is not surprising that immediately after this prayer focus the miracle at Pentecost occurred where 3,000 people were added to the church through faith.

**Jesus often spent time alone praying.**

**Jesus' disciples were continually united in prayer.**

**God made it very clear to His people that He would not listen to their prayers when they lived in rebellion and had unrepentant hearts.**

**3. A heart and life consistent with and conducive to the ongoing practice of prayer.**

**Isaiah 1:15 (HCSB)**

When you lift up your hands [in prayer], I will refuse to look at you; even if you offer countless prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.

During the time of Isaiah, the Israelites believed that they could live any way they wanted as long as they participated in the correct religious rituals and said the right prayers. God, however, made it very clear to His people that He would not listen to their prayers when they lived in rebellion and had unrepentant hearts.

Constant prayer is vital if we want to become Kingdom People. A life of constant prayer involves a regular and consistent private prayer life, a commitment to corporate or group prayer, and a heart and life consistent with and conducive to the ongoing practice of prayer.

Ask yourself: What can I do this week to move closer to a life of constant prayer?

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## Day 5: A Praying Person Evaluation

Instructions: Respond to each statement by marking the choice that best describes you. Please take your time and seek to provide a genuinely accurate response to each statement.

11. I set aside time each day for prayer.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5=almost always

12. When I pray, I recognize that I am completely dependent on God for everything in my life.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally  
\_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5=almost always

13. My prayers regularly focus on discovering and obeying God's will for my life.  
\_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently  
\_\_\_5=almost always

14. My prayers include a balance of thanksgiving, praise, repentance, and requests.  
\_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently  
\_\_\_5=almost always

15. I wait patiently for God to answer my prayers.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5=almost always

16. I pray regularly in a group with others.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

17. I maintain an attitude of prayer throughout the day.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_ 2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

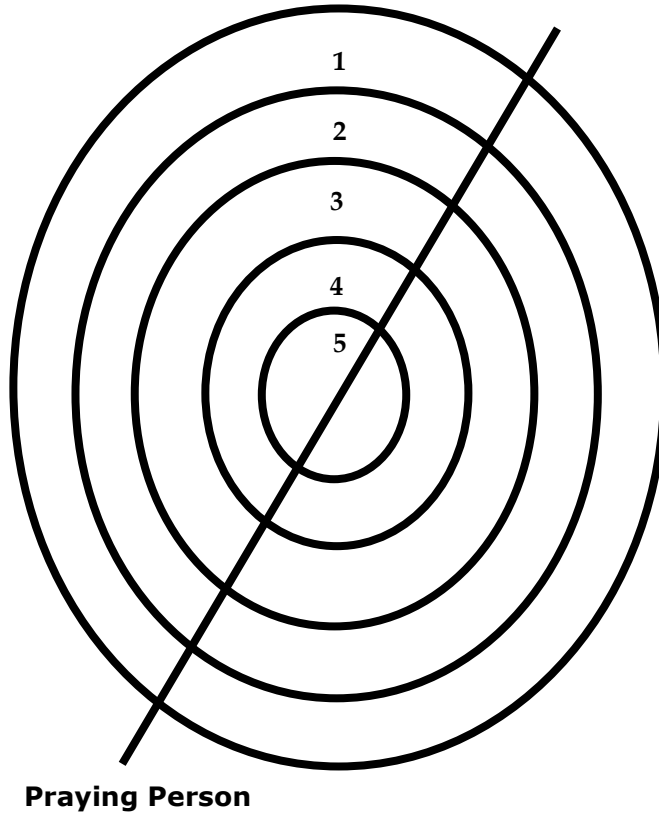
18. My prayers impact my life.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

19. My prayers impact the lives of others.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

20. I take time to listen to God when I pray.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_ 4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

**A Praying Person**

Add the numbers for the responses you chose in the above Statements 11-20 = \_\_\_\_\_. Divide this number by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Plot this number on the line marked *Praying Person* on the graph below.



Think of the graph as a target. Our goal should be to hit the center of our target. If you are not hitting the center of the target with regard to worship, this represents a challenge area. Use the questions below to help you evaluate what steps you should take to grow as a praying person.

Praying Person (Below are some suggestions for growing as a praying person)

1. Set aside time each day to pray.
2. Participate in the prayer ministry of your church.
3. Participate in a Bible study about prayer.
4. Other suggestions:

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Based on what you learned this week, what changes will you make in your life to grow as a praying person?

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**What you will learn  
this week:**

**Day 1**

Why The Bible is  
Important

**Day 2**

SOAP - Daily Bible  
Intake

**Day 3**

How to Study a Bible  
Passage

**Day 4**

Memorizing Scripture

**Day 5**

A Biblical Person  
Evaluation

**Memory Verse**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17  
(HCSB)**

All Scripture is inspired  
by God and is  
profitable for teaching,  
for rebuking, for  
correcting, for training  
in righteousness,  
so that the man of God  
may be complete,  
equipped for every  
good work.

# Week 3

## A Biblical Person

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### **Day 1: Why The Bible is Important**

For many years now a debate has been brewing within the church concerning the truthfulness of the Bible. Words like inerrancy and inspiration have been argued back and forth by theologians, pastors, and church members as they try to determine how to read and understand the Bible. Within many Evangelical denominations, there is a growing acceptance of the most conservative side of this debate. This has resulted in many Christians embracing the assumption that the Bible represents a completely true and reliable presentation of God's word. While there is a willingness to accept the Bible as God's word, there seems to be a decline in the actual practice of regular reading, studying, and living out the truths of the Bible.

Many pastors I speak with bemoan the difficulty in getting people into God's word regularly. Some have even given up and are beginning to accept Biblical illiteracy and the lack of daily Biblical application as the norm for the Christian life. This turning away from the Bible as the essential foundation of the Christian life may account for many of the current struggles of the contemporary church and the seeming lack of spiritual power and vitality in the lives of many Christians.

The Apostle Paul has much to say about the role of the Bible in the life of Jesus' followers.

## **2 Timothy 3:14-17 (HCSB)**

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing those from whom you learned, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

In this passage, Paul tells Timothy that the Scriptures are profitable in the lives of those who desire to follow and become more like Jesus Christ. Here is a summary of how and why the Scriptures are profitable:

**God Breathed** – The Bible is the very words of God and represents His thoughts and intents.

**Teaching** – The Bible teaches who God is and what He expects.

**Rebuking** – The Bible sets a standard for life and helps identify where one might be inconsistent with the purpose and plan of God.

**Correcting** – The Bible gives instruction for realigning a wayward life with the purpose and plan of God.

**Training in Righteousness** – The Bible provides ongoing insight concerning how to live in a way that honors God.

The Bible was intended by God to help His people live in spiritual power and victory. The Bible, however, cannot fulfill its intended purpose if it is not learned and applied to a person's life.

Ask yourself: Will I renew my commitment to God's word? In the space provided, ask God to help you become a Biblical person by committing to spend time reading the Bible and applying it to your life.

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## **Day 2: SOAP - Daily Bible Intake**

For the Bible to be effective in accomplishing its divine purpose, daily Bible intake must become a reality in the lives of God's people. It is through that daily time in Scripture that God's people submit to His authority and are empowered by His word. A great way to practice daily Bible intake is to use the SOAP Bible study method.

SOAP Bible study involves reading a Scripture passage each day, then writing observations and applications for life based on an understanding of that passage.

SOAP is an acronym that guides one through 4 essential steps of daily Bible study: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer.

Here is a summary of the SOAP Bible study method:

**Scripture:** Open your Bible to the daily reading passage. Read the passage and allow God to speak to you through His word. Look for a short section or verse that speaks to you in a particular way and write it in the S section.

**Observation:** What does this passage mean? What principles is the passage teaching. What is God saying to you through this passage? Write what the passage means in your own words in the O section.

**Application:** Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life. What actions do you need to take in your life based on what you have learned from this passage? Write this down in the A section.

**Prayer:** Write a prayer to God. This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture in your life, or it may be a greater insight on what He is revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two way conversation. Be sure to listen to what God is saying and write it in the P section. Spend time praying, using the ACTS of prayer.

*SOAP Bible Study Method was created by Wayne Cordeiro  
<http://www.enewhope.org/aboutus/pastorwayne/>*

**Use the Outline on the following page to practice the SOAP method.**

**Here are several Scripture passages from which you can choose.**

2 Tim. 3:10-17

John 3:1-21

Matthew 6:19-24

**Bible Passage** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**S:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**O:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**A:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**P:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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## Day 3: How to Study a Bible Passage

As a person grows in spiritual maturity, it is important that he or she learns how to study God's word instead of relying on Bible teaching that is prepared and produced by someone else.

Studying the Bible for oneself involves learning a few basic methods that will aid in reading and understanding God's word. These include:

1. Reading the passage in context.
2. Understanding the words in the passage.
3. Discovering the main idea.
4. Relating the main idea to life.
5. Committing to live out the truths of Scripture.

### **1. Read the passage in context.**

In basic Bible study, there are three essential steps to reading the Bible in context. These are the grammatical context, the literary context, and the historical context.

With regard to the grammatical context, the smallest section of scripture one should ever study is the paragraph. More than one paragraph may need to be considered to get the full understanding of the passage, but it is unwise to study less than a paragraph.

It is quite easy to tell where a paragraph begins and ends in most modern Bibles. The beginning of each paragraph will be set apart either by indentation or blank lines will separate the paragraph from the ones immediately before and after it. If the passage is difficult

**Studying the Bible for oneself involves learning a few basic methods that will help you read and understand God's word for yourself. These include:**

1. Reading the passage in context.
2. Understanding the words in the passage.
3. Discovering the main idea.
4. Relating the main idea to your life today.
5. Commit to live out the truths of Scripture.

**If you do not have access to Bible references or commentaries the following websites can be a great help.**

[biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com)

[biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com)

[blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)

to understand with a simple reading, expand the section to include more paragraphs or maybe the entire chapter. Once the right size section of Scripture is determined, it is time to explore the literary context of the passage.

There are several different types of literature in the Bible and they should be read with their particular characteristics in mind. Most experts agree that there are eight different types of literature in the Bible: Law, History, Wisdom, Poetry, Gospels, Epistles, Prophecy, and Apocalyptic Literature.

It is important to know the particular type of Bible literature being read and how to understand and apply its meaning. Commentaries, Bible Handbooks, and Bible study websites can help give insight in this area.

Finally, it is important to understand the historical context of the passage. The various sections of the Bible were written over a period that spanned more than 1,500 years. To understand a particular passage it is vital to know something about the time period, the situation, and the reason for which it was written. There are many resources both in print and online that can provide the necessary historical insights to read the passage in its historical context.

***Note: A good study Bible will often include notes and articles that will help determine the context. Ask your pastor to help you find a good study Bible.***

## **2. Understand the Words and phrases In the Passage.**

While reading a passage, there may be words or phrases that are difficult to understand. Many Bibles include notes that can help in understanding many of these. Study Bibles include dictionaries and concordances that provide insight into what these words and phrases mean. Commentaries, Bible handbooks, dictionaries, and various online resources can be a great help in understanding difficult words or phrases.

It is important not to assume that a word or phrase used in the Bible has the same meaning as a similar or even identical word or phrase used in contemporary language. If the passage seems confusing or difficult to understand, consult one of the above mentioned resources. Commentaries often explain the meaning of difficult to understand words and phrases.

## **3. Discover The Main Idea.**

The main idea is the most important thought in the passage. Every Bible passage will have a main idea that the author intended to communicate to the reader. There are a few simple tools that can help in discovering the main idea.

1. Ask who, what, when, where, and why? Use these simple questions to help discover the main idea:

Who is the passage about? Who is the author? Who is the intended audience?

**A commentary is a reference book that explains Scripture verse by verse.**

**Commentaries can be on a particular book of the Bible or on the entire Bible.**

***Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible* is a good commentary to start with.**

**There are many others options to choose from. Visit a Christian bookstore or look online to find one that works for you.**

**There are also some great free commentaries that can be accessed online at the websites listed on the previous page.**

Where are the events of the passage taking place? How does the location affect what is going on in the passage? What is taking place in the passage? What events, issues, or circumstances are being discussed?

When are the events in the passage taking place? What is the historical setting and context? Why is the passage being written? What message is the author trying to communicate?

Discovering the main idea may take some time. Be patient and spend time researching anything that seems difficult to understand. Once the main idea is clear, it is time to consider how the passage relates to life.

#### **4. Relate the main idea to your life.**

Bible study is never complete until learning has been applied to life. Once the main idea of the Bible passage is discovered, spend some time praying and thinking about how this truth impacts your life.

Based on the main idea of the passage, ask the following questions:

What do I need to do?

What do I need to stop doing?

Who do I need to talk to?

Who do I need to forgive?

How do I need to change my thinking?

What do I need to ask God to help me with?

What sin do I need to confess and turn away from?

## 5. Commit to live out the truths of Scripture.

God expects His people to live in obedience to His word. When studying the Bible and applying its truths to life, it is essential to live out what was learned. Spend some time in prayer asking for God's grace to live out the truths learned in Bible study.

### Day 4: Memorizing Scripture

Memorizing Scripture is an important part of becoming a Biblical person.

Martin Luther (the great reformer) came to his discovery in the Bible of justification by faith alone because of his love for Scripture and his practice of memorizing it. Luther devoured the Bible in a day when people earned doctorates in theology without even reading the Bible. Luther said that his fellow professor, Andreas Karlstadt, did not even own a Bible when he earned his doctor of theology degree.

Luther knew so much of the Bible from memory that when the Lord opened his eyes to see the truth of justification in Romans 1:17, he said, "Thereupon I ran through the Scriptures from memory," in order to confirm what I had found. (*Dr. Richard P. Bucher, "Martin Luther's Love for the Bible"*).

Waylon Moore, who has been discipling people for more than 50 years, suggests for beginners that it is better to know 100 key verses, reflecting a broad balance of Bible teaching, rather than memorizing two or three entire Bible chapters? (See list on following page).

**Memorize one or two verses each week. Begin on Monday. Say the Topic; then associate the reference to the first word of each verse. Review! Review! Review! After memorizing a verse, meditate on its meaning. (Waylon Moore).**

**Key Scripture Passages to Memorize**  
**(Waylon B. Moore [www.mentoring-disciples.org](http://www.mentoring-disciples.org))**

**Scripture** — Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:105

**Prayer** — John 16:24; Matthew 21:22; Philippians 4:6, 7

**Obedience** — Romans 12:1; John 14:21; Hebrews 5:8

**Witnessing** — Matthew 4:19; Proverbs 24:11, 12; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; Matthew 28:19, 20

**Salvation** — Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 5:24; John 1:12; Revelation 3:20

**Assurance of Salvation** — 1 John 5:13; John 5:24

**Guidance** — James 1:5; Isaiah 30:18; Proverbs 3:5, 6

**Victory** — 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:37

**Christ the Lord** — John 3:30; Galatians 2:20; John 13:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:15

**The Holy Spirit** — 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; John 14:26

**The Father** — John 4:23; Psalm 103:13, 14

**God's Love** — John 3:16; Jeremiah 31:3

**God's Presence** — Isaiah 49:15, 16; Hebrews 13:5

**God's Peace** — Isaiah 26:3; John 14:2, 3

**God's Provision** — Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19; Luke 6:38

**God's Power** — Psalm 147:3-5; Psalm 62:11; 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12

**Christ** — Matthew 11:28-30; John 1:14; Hebrews 1:9

**God's Faithfulness** — 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 1 Corinthians 1:9

**God's Grace** — 2 Corinthians 9:8; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Peter 1:2, 3; Hebrews 4:15, 16

**God's Strength** — Psalm 18:2; 2 Corinthians 12:9

**God's Attitude** — Colossians 3:23, 24; Proverbs 13:10; Philippians 4:13

**Humility** — Philippians 2:3, 4; John 13:13, 14

**Handling Pressure** — Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 46:1, 10; Psalm 18:1, 2

**Disaster** — Isaiah 63:9; Psalm 61:2; 2 Chronicles 14:11

**Provision** — Psalm 1; Psalm 23; Psalm 84:11

**Waiting on God** — Psalm 62:5; Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31

**Return of Christ** — 2 Peter 3:14; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:15

**Praise and Adoration** — 1 Chronicles 16:10-12; 1 Chronicles 29:11, 12

**The Tongue** — Ephesians 4:29; Proverbs 17:27, 28; James 1:19, 20

**Faith** — Hebrews 11:6; Romans 4:17b, 20, 21; Hebrews 10:38

**Christ's Disciple** — Luke 9:23; Matthew 28:19, 20; John 8:31

**Holy Walk** — Isaiah 32:17; Colossians 2:6, 7

**Seeking God** — Psalm 107:9; Psalm 27:4, 8

**Multiply Your Life** — Isaiah 43:4; Deuteronomy 1:11

**Family Promises** — Deuteronomy 6:6, 7; Genesis 22:18; Isaiah 59:21

**Consequences** — Galatians 6:7; Ecclesiastes 10:1; Ecclesiastes 8:11; 1 Samuel 15:22, 23

## Day 5: A Biblical Person Evaluation

Instructions: Respond to each statement by marking the choice that best describes you. Please take your time and seek to provide a genuinely accurate response to each statement.

21. I study the Bible.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally  
\_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

22. The Bible is the authority for the way I think and act.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

23. My life demonstrates the truths of the Bible.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

24. When I read the Bible, I know how to apply its teachings to my life.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

25. I make changes in my life based on the things I learn in the Bible.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

26. I reflect thoughtfully on passages I read in the Bible.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

27. I evaluate my culture by the Bible's teachings.    \_\_\_1=never    \_\_\_2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

28. I study the Bible to understand the doctrines of my church.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

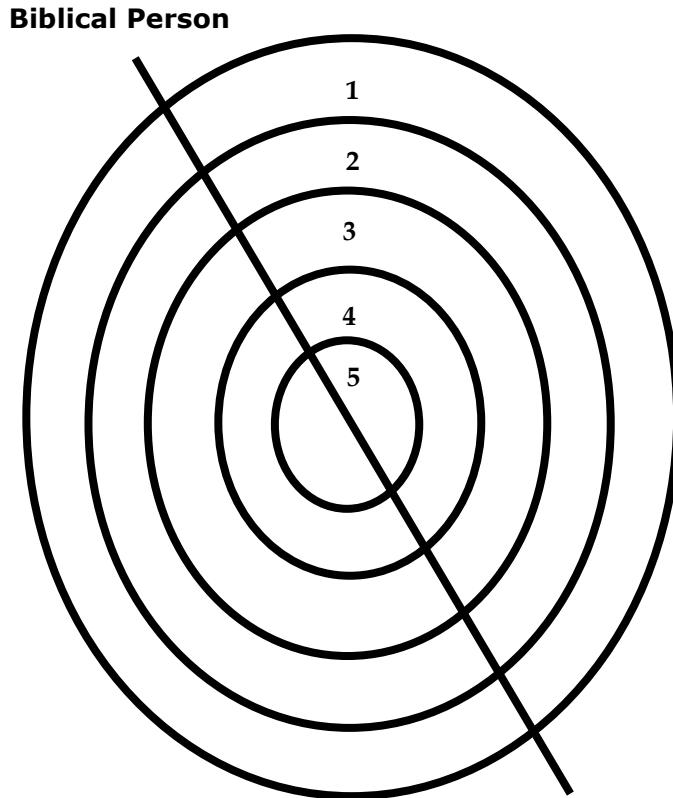
29. My beliefs are based on the teachings of the Bible.    \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom    \_\_\_3=occasionally    \_\_\_4=frequently    \_\_\_5= almost always

30. I read the Bible (choose frequency):    \_\_\_1=less than 1 hour a month  
\_\_\_2=about 1-2 hours per month    \_\_\_3=about 1 hour a week  
\_\_\_4=15-30 minutes a day    \_\_\_5=more than 30 minutes a day



**A Biblical Person**

Add the numbers for the responses you chose in the above Statements 21-30 = \_\_\_\_\_. Divide this number by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Plot this number on the line marked *Biblical Person* on the graph below.



Think of the graph as a target. Our goal should be to hit the center of our target. If you are not hitting the center of the target with regard to becoming a Biblical person, this represents a challenge area. Use the questions below to help you evaluate what steps you should take to grow as a Biblical person.

Biblical Person (Below are some suggestions for growing as a Biblical person)

1. Set aside time each day to read the Bible.
2. Learn how to keep a Bible reading journal.
3. Participate in a Bible study at your church.
4. Other suggestions:

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Based on what you learned this week, what changes will you make in your life to grow as a Biblical person?

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# Week 4

## A Serving Person

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### **Day 1: Jesus the Servant**

Jesus was a servant. His very mission on earth was characterized by a life of exemplary service. Becoming like Jesus requires following Christ's example of embracing a life of service.

Even though Jesus is Lord and God, He chose to serve. First, Jesus humbled Himself to the Father and served His purpose and plan.

### **Philippians 2:5-7a (HCSB)**

Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. 7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men.

In addition to serving God, Jesus, the Lord and God of the Universe, chose to serve people.

### **Matthew 20:28 (HCSB)**

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.

Becoming a Kingdom Person requires a commitment to serve God and serve others.

### **What you will learn this week:**

#### **Day 1**

Jesus the Servant

#### **Day 2**

The Believer's Call to Serve

#### **Day 3**

Improving Your Serve

#### **Day 4**

The Ends/Means Inversion

#### **Day 5**

A Serving Person Evaluation

### **Memory Verse**

**Matthew 20:28**

**(HCSB)**

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.

## **Serving God**

Jesus provides a great example for serving God.

1. Jesus put His Father's agenda before His own.

### **Luke 22:42 (HCSB)**

"Father, if You are willing, take this cup away from Me—nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."

In what ways is it tempting to put one's own agenda before God's agenda?

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## **Jesus Served God**

1. Jesus put His Father's agenda before His own.
2. Jesus was faithful to do His Father's work.
3. Jesus was obedient to His Father regardless of the personal cost.

2. Jesus was faithful to do His Father's work.

### **John 5:17-19 (HCSB)**

But Jesus responded to them, "My Father is still working, and I am working also." 18 This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill Him: not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. 19 Then Jesus replied, "I assure you: The Son is not able to do anything on His own, but only what He sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son also does these things in the same way."

Ask yourself: What changes can I make in my life to be more faithful in joining God's work?

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3. Jesus demonstrated obedience to His Father regardless of the personal cost.

**Philippians 2:8 (HCSB)**

He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.

Ask yourself: In what areas of life do I need God's help to be more obedient?

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## **Jesus Served People**

1. Jesus loved people.
2. Jesus put others before Himself.
3. Jesus met people's needs.

### **Jesus Served People**

Jesus not only led an exemplary life in serving God, He also demonstrated how to serve People.

1. Jesus loved people.

### **John 13:34 (HCSB)**

I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.

2. Jesus put others before Himself.

### **Mark 10:42-45 (HCSB)**

Jesus called them over and said to them, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles dominate them, and their men of high positions exercise power over them. 43 But it must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many."

2. Jesus met people's needs.

### **Matthew 11:1-5 (HCSB)**

When Jesus had finished giving orders to His 12 disciples, He moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns. 2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent [a message] by his disciples 3 and asked Him, "Are You the One who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4 Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 the blind see, the lame walk, those with skin diseases are healed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news.

Jesus demonstrated a life of service to people by loving them, putting others before Himself, and by meeting needs.

What changes would help you more fully follow Jesus' example of serving people?

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**In what ways can you better follow Jesus' example of serving people?**

## **Day 2: The Believer's Call to Serve**

Yesterday, we discussed Jesus' example of serving God and people. To follow Jesus faithfully, we must be ready and willing to answer the call to serve God and people just as Jesus modeled.

To help us understand how we can follow Jesus' example, let's examine ways we can serve God and others in the various realms of our lives including: private life, relationships, occupation, church, and community.

### **Serving God and people in our private lives**

Serving God in our private lives involves intentionality in the way we live. However, while there are specific things we should either practice or avoid, serving God is more than a list of things we should or shouldn't do.

Serving God begins in the heart. Unless we understand this and cultivate the correct heart attitude, all of our actions are meaningless.

### **Revelation 2:1-5 (HCSB)**

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: "The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and who walks among the seven gold lampstands says: 2 I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. 3 You also possess endurance and have tolerated [many things] because of My name, and have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you: you have abandoned the love [you had] at first. 5 Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.



The Christians in the church in Ephesus had fallen into lives of meaningless orthodoxy. They did what they were supposed to do, but their hearts had grown cold with regard to their love for God. Their faith was little more than religious practice and legalism.

God expects more from His followers than cold orthodoxy, He expects hearts that belong completely to Him along with lives that bring Him glory. This type of life begins with a commitment to the Great Commandment:

**Mark 12:30 (HCSB)**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

With the Great Commandment in mind, there are a number of ways that we can serve God and people in private.

1. We can serve God and people in private by paying attention to our own spiritual needs and growth. This involves cultivating those attitudes and practices that will help us live healthy and mature Christian lives, including:

- Studying God's word - Timothy 2:15.
- Praying regularly - Ephesians 6:18.
- Living out the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23.
- Loving your neighbor as yourself - Mark 12:31.

2. We can also serve God and people in private by avoiding those influences and practices that hinder our spiritual growth.

- Avoid acts of the sinful nature - Galatians 5:19-21.
- Avoid evil influences - 1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 1:15-16.
- Avoid loving the world - 1 John 2:15-17.
- Avoid anything that might cause others to sin or stumble - Luke 17:1-2; 1 Corinthians 8:11-13.
- Avoid materialism - Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5.
- Avoid lying and dishonesty - Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8.
- Avoid corrupt speech - Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6

Ask yourself: What are some specific things I can change to better serve God and people in my private life?

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### **Serving God and people in our relationships**

Our relationships offer great opportunities to serve both God and people. Whether it is with our family or friends, we serve God and people when we relate to others according to the truths and principles of God's word.

- Biblical family relationships - Ephesians 5:22-6:4.
- Biblical friendships – Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:17; John 15:13-15.

### **Serving God and people in our occupation**

Whether a student, an employee, or a business owner it is important to view one's work as an opportunity for service.

- Whatever you do, do it as you are serving God with your whole heart – Ephesians 6:7.

### **Serving God and people in our church**

The Church will function properly only when each member understands his or her giftedness and uses those gifts to serve God and others in ministry.

- Learn about your gifts and find a place to serve in ministry - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

### **Serving God and people in our community**

God expects His people to serve Him and others in the community, whether it is across the street or around the world.

- Serve God and people by meeting needs – Matthew 25:31-46.

**Visit one of these websites to help you learn more about your spiritual gifts.**

<http://www.churchgrowth.org/analysis/index.html>

<http://buildingchurch.net/g2s.htm>

[http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF\\_PDF\\_Discover\\_Your\\_Spiritual\\_Gifts.pdf](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_Discover_Your_Spiritual_Gifts.pdf)

- Serve God and people by sharing your faith – Matthew 28:16-20.

What is one new thing I can do to focus on serving God and people?

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### **Day 3: Improving Your Service**

In order to do a better job serving God and others, it is important to know how God has gifted you for service and how those gifts can be used most effectively.

Visit one of the websites listed in the margin and use the provided resources to discover your spiritual gifts.

When you are finished, answer the questions on the following page.

What have I learned about my spiritual gifts?

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In what ways will I use my gifts to serve God and others?

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**If you need some help discovering your spiritual gifts or knowing how to use your gifts in ministry, speak to your pastor or church staff member. They can help you improve your service.**

#### **Day 4: Beware of the Ends-Means Inversion**

On my first day of seminary, one of my professors warned me of something called the “ends-means inversion.”

According to my professor, the ends-means inversion is very prevalent in the church and occurs when Christians mistakenly exchange their methods with their goals.

An example of an ends-means inversion is when Christians become overly focused on church programs. The goal or “end” for a church program should be to edify and equip followers of Christ to be more effective in glorifying God and accomplishing His purposes in their lives.

However, it is easy to lose sight of this goal and turn the program into the goal itself. Instead of using programs to edify and equip people, it is possible to begin to use people as resources to build and manage our church programs.

The ends-means inversion can also occur with regard to our spiritual gifts and our service. We begin serving to glorify God and accomplish His purposes. Eventually, however, we may begin to enjoy the feelings we get through service or the recognition and personal fulfillment we experience. When this happens, serving can become an end in itself. Service then becomes about accomplishing our own goals and purposes, or about pleasing other people.

Jesus warned His disciples about serving others for the wrong reason.

**Matthew 6:1-4 (HCSB)**

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of people, to be seen by them. Otherwise, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 So whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward! 3 But when you give to the poor, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

In what ways might the ends-means inversion be a temptation for you? How can you avoid serving God and others for the wrong reasons?

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## Day 5: A Serving Person Evaluation

Instructions: Respond to each statement by marking the choice that best describes you. Please take your time and seek to provide a genuinely accurate response to each statement.

31. The way I live demonstrates that the needs of others are as important as my own needs.     \_\_\_1=never   \_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally  
\_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

32. I regularly serve in the ministry of my church.   \_\_\_1=never   \_\_\_2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

33. I take responsibility for meeting the needs of others.   \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

34. I use my spiritual gifts to serve God and others.   \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

35. God uses me to make a difference in His Kingdom.   \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

36. I believe that God will help me accomplish the work He has called me to do.  
\_\_\_1=never   \_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently  
\_\_\_5= almost always

37. When I see a need in the church or the community, I offer to help.   \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

38. I make sacrifices to help others.   \_\_\_1=never   \_\_\_2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

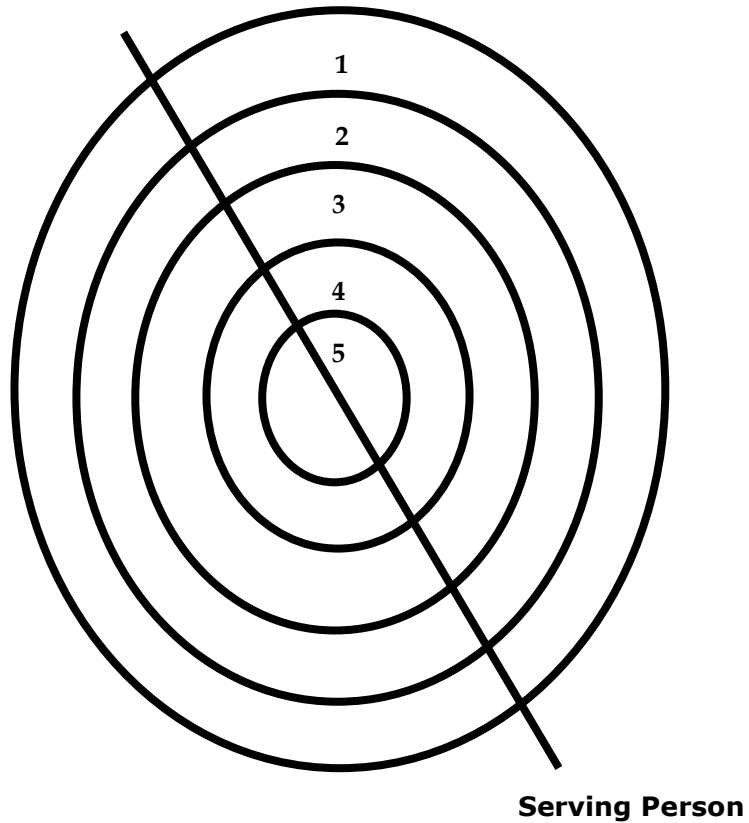
39. I use my talents and abilities to accomplish God's work.   \_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_2=seldom   \_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always

40. I make time in my schedule to serve others.   \_\_\_1=never   \_\_\_2=seldom  
\_\_\_3=occasionally   \_\_\_4=frequently   \_\_\_5= almost always



**A Serving Person**

Add the numbers for the responses you chose in the above Statements 31-40 = \_\_\_\_\_. Divide this number by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Plot this number on the line marked *Serving Person* on the graph below.



Think of the graph as a target. Our goal should be to hit the center of our target. If you are not hitting the center of the target with regard to serving, this represents a challenge area. Use the questions below to help you evaluate what steps you should take to grow as a serving person.

Serving Person (Below are some suggestions for growing as a serving person)

1. Learn about your spiritual gifts.
2. Meet with your pastor or a church staff member to talk about where you could serve in your church.
3. Discover ways you could meet the needs of others in your community.
4. Other suggestions:

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Based on what you learned this week, what changes will you make in your life to grow as a serving person?

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# Week 5

## A Generous Person

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### Day 1: Biblical Generosity

Jesus taught his followers about generosity

#### Luke 6:38 (HCSB)

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

The measure we use in giving to others is the same measure God will use in blessing us. This does not necessarily mean that if we give someone something God will repay us in kind. The Bible is clear, however, that God expects His followers to be generous toward others, and that He will reward their generosity.

#### Acts 20:35 (HCSB)

In every way I’ve shown you that by laboring like this, it is necessary to help the weak and to keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, for He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

In what ways is giving more blessed than receiving?

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### What you will learn this week:

#### Day 1

Biblical Generosity

#### Day 2

Extravagant Generosity

#### Day 3

Becoming a Generous Person

#### Day 4

The Bible on Generosity

#### Day 5

A Generous Person Evaluation

### Memory Verse

#### Luke 6:38 (HCSB)

Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

## **An example of Biblical Generosity: The Good Samaritan**

### **Luke 10:25-37 (HCSB)**

Just then an expert in the law stood up to test Him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 "What is written in the law?" He asked him. "How do you read it?" 27 He answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. 28 "You've answered correctly," He told him. "Do this and you will live." 29 But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

30 Jesus took up [the question] and said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him up, and fled, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down that road. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 In the same way, a Levite, when he arrived at the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, and when he saw [the man], he had compassion. 34 He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.' 36 "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 "The one who showed mercy to him," he said. Then Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

According to this passage of Scripture, God expects His people to have an extraordinary level of compassion and generosity toward others.

Undoubtedly, most of us fall far short of this type of generosity, yet Jesus told those listening to Him to use the parable of the Good Samaritan as an example of how they were to treat others.

In what ways could you be more like the Good Samaritan when it comes to being generous toward others?

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God expects His people to have an extraordinary level of compassion and generosity toward others.

## **Day 2: Extravagant Generosity**

Years ago, I worked as an architectural woodworker in Palm Beach, Florida. The company for which I worked designed and installed custom woodworking in some of the most expensive homes that have ever been built. Many of these homes are mansions that cost tens of millions of dollars.

When I began working in these mansions, I experienced what I believed to be true extravagance. One homeowner, that I worked for wanted to build a mansion that was bigger than the property he owned, so he bought up three additional mansions on his street. Then he tore them all down and built a giant “super-mansion” that spanned all of the properties combined. In addition, no expense was spared in the construction of this extraordinary home. Special stone was imported from Italy. Exotic woods and precious decorative items were brought in from the far reaches of the world, and the most famous and expensive designers and artisans were flown in to complete the project. I was amazed at what I thought was the most extravagant display I had ever witnessed.

Recently, however, I experienced a demonstration of extravagance that more than topped the “super-mansion” on Palm Beach. A married couple I know brought a stranger—a troubled pregnant teenage girl—into their home and took care of her. They provided for her, shared Christ’s love with her, and helped her through that difficult crisis in her life. This couple knows true extravagance, and they demonstrate the type of extravagant generosity that Jesus expected of His followers.

Here is a warning from Jesus that demonstrates the type of generosity He expects from His followers.

**Matthew 25:31-46 (HCSB)**

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you took care of Me; I was in prison and you visited Me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?’ 40 “And the King will answer them, ‘I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’ 41 Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels! 42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger and you didn’t take Me in; I was naked and you didn’t clothe Me, sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of Me.” 45 “Then He will answer them, ‘I assure you: Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me either.’

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

In this passage, Jesus indicates that the righteous will be known by their extravagant generosity. In the same way, the unrighteous will be known by their lack thereof.

Today, many people who call themselves followers of Jesus do not live out the type of generosity that Jesus tells us He expects.

Based on insights from this passage, if the Son of Man returned today, would your life demonstrate the type of generosity that would classify you as one of the sheep or one of the goats? What needs to change in your life?

Based on insights from this passage, if the Son of Man returned today, would your life demonstrate the type of generosity that would classify you as one of the sheep or one of the goats? What needs to change in your life?

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### **Day 3: Becoming a Generous Person**

Like other spiritual practices, generosity does not just happen. Biblical generosity is a spiritual practice that must be nurtured and developed. Paul admonished Timothy to train himself to be godly.

#### **1 Timothy 4:7 (HCSB)**

But have nothing to do with irreverent and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness,

Followers of Christ can train themselves to develop generosity through regular spiritual exercise and practice. James tells believers that people of true faith will produce tangible acts that honor and glorify God, such as giving generously to those in need.

#### **James 2:14-16 (HCSB)**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith, but does not have works? Can his faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it?

How then, can followers of Christ develop lives of biblical generosity? Here are some suggestions that can help one grow as a generous person.

#### **Decide to be generous**

Generosity should be a conscious act of obedience to God. Followers of Jesus must decide to embrace Biblical generosity as a lifestyle.

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-7(HCSB)**

Remember this: the person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **Rely on God's grace.**

According to Scripture, God provides grace for His people so that they will have the means and the ability to express Biblical generosity.

## **2 Corinthians 9:8-15 (HCSB)**

And God is able to make every grace overflow to you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work. 9 As it is written: He has scattered; He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. 10 Now the One who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness, 11 as you are enriched in every way for all generosity, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.

13 Through the proof of this service, they will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others. 14 And in their prayers for you they will have deep affection for you because of the surpassing grace of God on you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

**Be transformed by God’s word.**

A consistent practice of spending time in Scripture will transform a follower of Christ and enable him or her to live out those practices that are consistent with God’s will and bring glory to His name.

**Romans 12:2 (HCSB)**

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

What is something that you can begin doing to grow as a generous person?

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## **Day 4: The Bible on Generosity**

### **Acts 20:35 (HCSB)**

In every way I've shown you that by laboring like this, it is necessary to help the weak and to keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus, for He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

### **Matthew 10:42 (HCSB)**

And whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple —I assure you: He will never lose his reward!"

### **2 Corinthians 9:13 (HCSB)**

Through the proof of this service, they will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others.

### **Proverbs 11:24-25 (HCSB)**

One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. 25 A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.

### **2 Corinthians 9:7 (HCSB)**

Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **Luke 6:37-38 (HCSB)**

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you; a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."

**Luke 19:8 (HCSB)**

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord! And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I'll pay back four times as much!"

**Deuteronomy 8:18 (HCSB)**

But remember that the Lord your God gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm His covenant He swore to your fathers, as it is today.

**Proverbs 19:17 (HCSB)**

Kindness to the poor is a loan to the Lord, and He will give a reward to the lender.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19 (HCSB)**

Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with all things to enjoy. 18 [Instruct them] to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, willing to share, 19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the age to come, so that they may take hold of life that is real.

Which of these passages speaks most powerfully to you? Why?

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## Day 5: A Generous Person Evaluation

Instructions: Respond to each statement by marking the choice that best describes you. Please take your time and seek to provide a genuinely accurate response to each statement.

41. I regularly support the ministry of my church through financial giving.

\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_2=seldom \_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently  
\_\_\_5= almost always

42. I contribute my time to a ministry at my church. \_\_\_1=never \_\_\_2=seldom

\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

43. I give willingly to help others in need. \_\_\_1=never \_\_\_2=seldom

\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

44. I go out of my way to demonstrate compassion to others. \_\_\_1=never

\_\_\_2=seldom \_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

45. It gives me joy to help meet the needs of others. \_\_\_1=never \_\_\_2=seldom

\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

46. I do without things to give sacrificially to the work of God. \_\_\_1=never

\_\_\_2=seldom \_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

47. I use my own possessions to provide for those in need. \_\_\_1=never

\_\_\_2=seldom \_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

48. I give at least a tithe (10% of my income) to support God's work. \_\_\_1=never

\_\_\_2=seldom \_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

49. I pray and ask God what I should give. \_\_\_1=never \_\_\_2=seldom

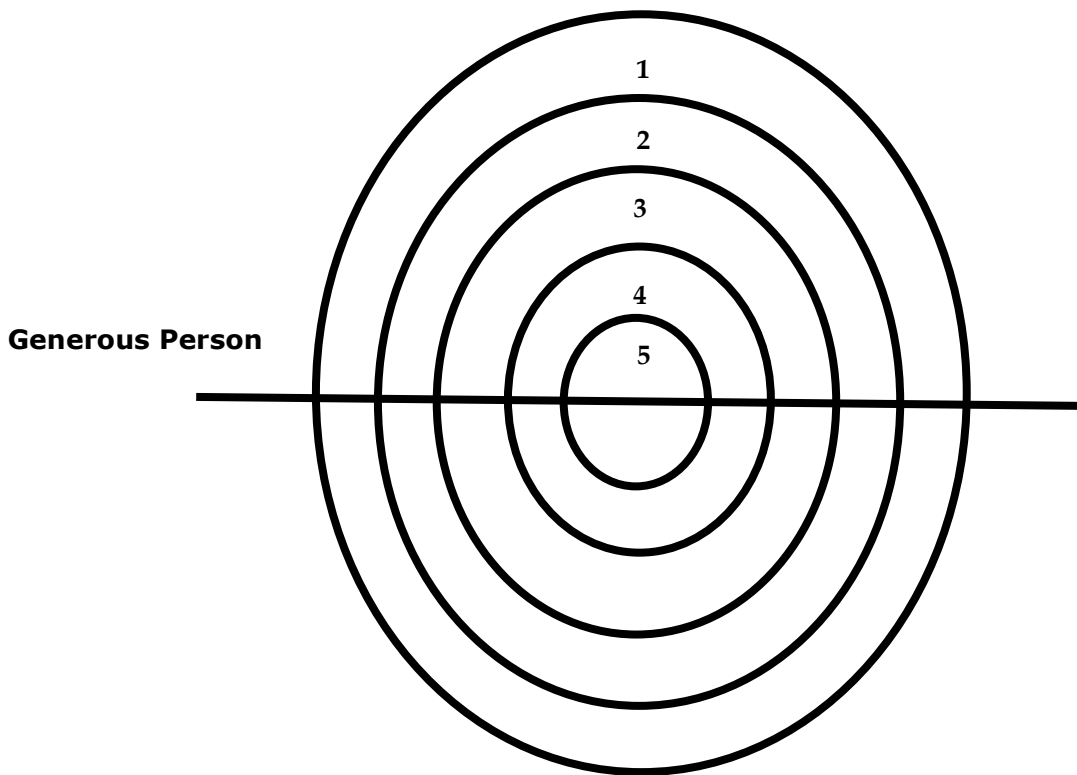
\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

50. My life is characterized by generosity. \_\_\_1=never \_\_\_2=seldom

\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_4=frequently \_\_\_5= almost always

**A Generous Person**

Add the numbers for the responses you chose in the above Statements 41-50 = \_\_\_\_\_. Divide this number by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Plot this number on the line marked *Generous Person* on the graph below.



Think of the graph as a target. Our goal should be to hit the center of our target. If you are not hitting the center of the target with regard to serving, this represents a challenge area. Use the questions below to help you evaluate what steps we should take to grow as a generous person.

Generous Person (Below are some suggestions for growing as a generous person)

1. Commit to supporting the ministry of your church financially (if you are not currently tithing, make a commit to start).
2. Spend time in prayer about what God wants you to give to advance His Kingdom.
3. Learn about Biblical generosity.
4. Other suggestions:

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Based on what you learned this week, what changes will you make in your life to grow as a generous person?

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# Week 6

## A Reproducing Person

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### Day 1: The Call to Follow

#### Matthew 4:18-25 (HCSB)

As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. 19 "Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!" 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. 21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him. 23 Jesus was going all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 Then the news about Him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to Him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. And He healed them. 25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

The first thing Jesus said to his disciples was, "Follow Me and I will make you fish for people."

For the first disciples, it was clear that a call to follow Jesus was a call to become fishers of people. For Peter Andrew, James and John this was a very significant invitation that required a measured and reasoned response.

### What you will learn this week:

#### Day 1

The Call to Follow

#### Day 2

The Great Commission

#### Day 3

Sharing My Faith

#### Day 4

Making Disciples

#### Day 5

A Reproducing Person Evaluation

### Memory Verse

#### Matthew 4:19 (HCSB)

"Follow Me," He told them, "and I will make you fish for people!"

**Throughout the Gospels, whenever Jesus called people to follow Him, he called them to surrender their own agendas and embrace His agenda of reaching people.**

These men were fisherman, and their lives were spent in the pursuit of catching fish. They invested their time, energy, and skills in an attempt to make a living by fishing.

When the first disciples answered the call to follow Jesus and fish for people, it required that they do three things: 1. Change the way they used their time, 2. change the way they used their energy, and 3. change the way they used their skills. Instead of using their time, energy, and skills to accomplish their own agendas, they would be required to use their time, energy, and skills to accomplish Christ's agenda, which is reaching people with the message of the Gospel.

Throughout the Gospels, whenever Jesus called people to follow Him, he called them to surrender their own agendas and embrace His agenda of reaching people.

**Matthew 8:18-20 (HCSB)**

When Jesus saw large crowds around Him, He gave the order to go to the other side [of the sea]. 19 A scribe approached Him and said, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go!" 20 Jesus told him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." 21 "Lord," another of His disciples said, "first let me go bury my father." 22 But Jesus told him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

For these individuals, following Jesus required giving up security and comfort, or being near one's parents in their later years of life. Jesus told these men that in order to follow Him they had to be willing to embrace His agenda regardless of the cost to their own life goals and ambitions.

**Luke 5:27-28 (HCSB)**

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and He said to him, "Follow Me!" 28 So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow Him.

Levi understood what it meant to follow Jesus. When Jesus invited him to follow, Levi left everything to accept the Lord's invitation.

The call of Jesus to follow Him is a call to trade in one life for another. It is a call to embrace Jesus' agenda of reaching the world with the good news of the gospel. Today, that call has not changed. If we want to follow Jesus, we must be willing to embrace His agenda of reaching our world with the gospel regardless of the cost to our own goals and ambitions.

The question we must ask ourselves is, "Am I willing to trade in my life for the call of Christ? Am I willing to embrace Jesus' agenda to reach the world with the gospel regardless of the cost to my own goals and ambitions? Write a prayer asking God to help you understand what it means for you to embrace His agenda of reaching the world with the Gospel.

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**The question we must ask ourselves is, "Am I willing to trade in my life for the call of Christ? Am I willing to embrace Jesus' agenda to reach the world with the gospel regardless of the cost to my own goals and ambitions?"**

**The first thing Jesus said to His disciples was, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." The last thing He said was, "Go and make disciples."**

## **Day 2: The Great Commission**

### **Matthew 28:16-20 (HCSB)**

The 11 disciples traveled to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped, but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The first thing Jesus said to His disciples was, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." The last thing He said was, "Go and make disciples."

These two statements encompass Jesus' plan for reaching the world with the Gospel through spiritual reproduction. Fishing for people involves sharing the good news of God's forgiveness and redemption by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Making Disciples involves leading people to develop their faith to the point that they are able to in turn lead others to reach people and make disciples. This is God's agenda—to reach people with the Gospel and help them become disciple makers.

Reaching people and making disciples is the heart of what it means to Follow Jesus. If these two things are not at the very center of our lives, then it is very difficult to make the claim that we are following Jesus.



## Sharing My Faith

1. Make a List
2. Be Friendly and Serve Others
3. Learn how to begin a spiritual conversation
4. Learn how to transition from a spiritual conversation to sharing the Gospel.
5. Learn how to invite someone to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.
6. Do it!

### Day 3: Sharing My Faith

Fishing for people involves sharing the good news of the Gospel with others. I have found that this will not happen by accident. We must have a plan for sharing and we must be committed to following that plan. Below is a suggested plan for sharing your faith.

**1. Make a List** – Make a list of at least ten people that you know who need to hear the Gospel. A good way to come up with names of people for this list is to think of F.R.A.N. (Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors).

Once you make your list, commit to praying regularly for each person on your list. Pray that God would work in the hearts of these individuals and that you would have an opportunity to build a relationship with them for the purpose of sharing the Gospel.

**2. Be Friendly and Serve Others**– I believe I am pretty friendly, but I know that I don't always present myself as a friendly person. Years ago a loving friend told me that if I smiled more it would change my life. Smiling and presenting a friendly demeanor has become one of the most life-changing disciplines in my life.

As followers of Christ, we must make an intentional effort, not just to be friendly in our thoughts and intents, but to demonstrate friendliness in our daily lives.

Reaching out to people with a friendly smile and serving people through kindness and generosity will open doors to building relationships and sharing the Gospel.

### **3. Learn how to begin a spiritual conversation –**

There are certain interpersonal skills involved in learning to share one's faith. One of these skills involves being able to begin a spiritual conversation.

A spiritual conversation can include a discussion of church, a personal testimony, talking about one's own spiritual journey, or a number of other topics. One way that I have found to begin a spiritual conversation is to start talking about non-spiritual things.

The other day I was in the waiting room at the place where I get my oil changed. A man came in and sat in the chair across from me. I noticed the man's truck that was in for service. I made several comments on how nice it looked. He began telling me about the many miles he had driven in his truck and about all of the work he had recently done to it. We talked about trucks for several moments.

I then used this opportunity to turn the conversation toward a spiritual direction. I told the man that I travel a lot of miles in my work, and wherever I go, I seem to run into people who are discouraged because of difficulties in their lives. He made a few comments in agreement. I also talked about how I was able to face tough times in my own life because of my relationship with God. He smiled and shook his head.

### **4. Learn how to transition to sharing the Gospel.**

Once we were discussing spiritual things, it was not difficult to ask my new friend at the service station about his own relationship with God. This led to an opportunity to share the Gospel with him.

**A spiritual conversation can include a discussion of church, a personal testimony, talking about one's own spiritual journey, or a number of other topics.**

**Sharing our faith is not an option if we want to follow Jesus. We must be committed to sharing our faith regularly.**

Learning how to begin a spiritual conversation and transition to sharing the Gospel takes practice, but it will pay off by creating opportunities to share one's faith.

**5. Learn how to invite someone to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord** – We need to be able to share the Gospel with someone if we are given the opportunity. There are many ways to do this. We can carry tracts or pamphlets that can help us know how to present the Gospel. We can also learn a simple Gospel presentation such as the one on the following pages that uses the five fingers to help remember the main points in the presentation.

**6. Do it!** – Sharing our faith is not an option if we want to follow Jesus. We must be committed to sharing our faith regularly.

What do you plan to change in your life so that you will be more consistent in reaching out to people and sharing the Gospel with them?

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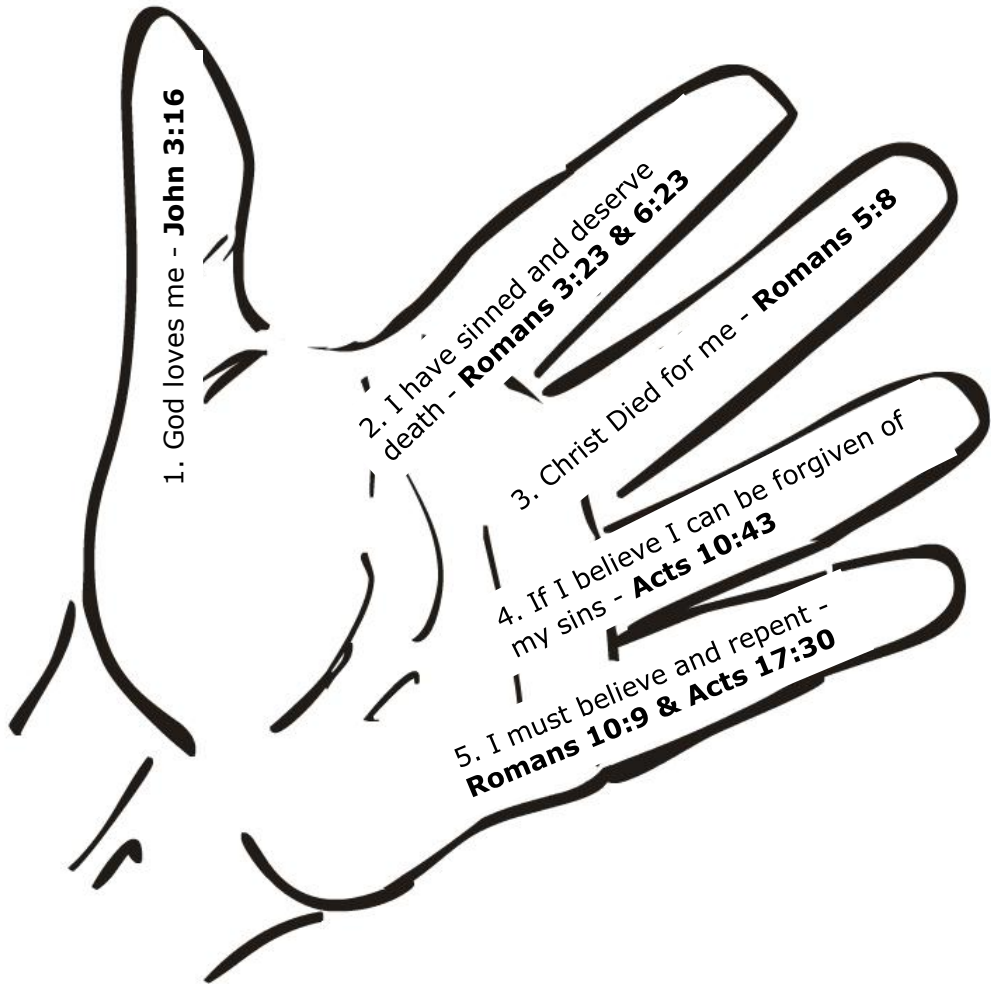
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## A Handy Evangelism Tool

Use the fingers of your hand to help you remember how to present the Gospel



1. Thumb – God loves me - **John 3:16** - 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.

2. Pointer – I have sinned and deserve death - **Romans 3:23** - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God - **Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Middle Finger – Christ Died for me - **Romans 5:8** - But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. Ring Finger – If I believe I can be forgiven of my sins - **Acts 10:43** - All the prophets testify about Him that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His name."

5. Pinky – I must believe and repent - **Romans 10:9** - That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **Acts 17:30** - In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

## **Day 4: Making Disciples**

In addition to sharing the Gospel with others, we must seek to help those that receive Jesus as Savior and Lord grow to a point of spiritual maturity so that they will be able to share the Gospel and help others grow in their faith as well.

We can Make Disciples by helping others Grow in the six dimensions of a Kingdom Person.

**A Worshipping Person** – embraces a life of worship by surrendering his or her own agenda and embracing God’s agenda.

**A Praying Person** – has learned to hear the Father’s voice and respond to His mission, just as Jesus modeled.

**A Biblical Person** – is developing a healthy Biblical framework for living and is committed to following Jesus in every area of life.

**A Serving Person** - demonstrates love to one’s neighbor through willingness to put the needs of others above oneself and live out the truths of the Gospel.

**A Generous Person** – demonstrates an extravagant investment in the Kingdom of God and the well-being of His body.

**A Reproducing Person** – is a disciple maker who leads others to lead others to live like Jesus.

Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you embrace a life of Making Disciples.



## Day 5: A Reproducing Person Evaluation

Instructions: Respond to each statement by marking the choice that best describes you. Please take your time and seek to provide a genuinely accurate response to each statement.

51. I regularly share my faith with others. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

52. I seek out opportunities to help others grow in Christian maturity. \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

53. I am comfortable sharing my faith. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

54. I use my gifts and talents to help people become more mature Christians.  
\_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5=  
almost always

55. I actively work with my church and other Christians to accomplish the Great  
Commission. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally  
\_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

56. I regularly pray that God will send more people to work for the salvation of the  
unsaved. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently  
\_\_\_\_5= almost always

57. I invite unchurched people to attend church or small group meetings with me.  
\_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently  
\_\_\_\_5= almost always

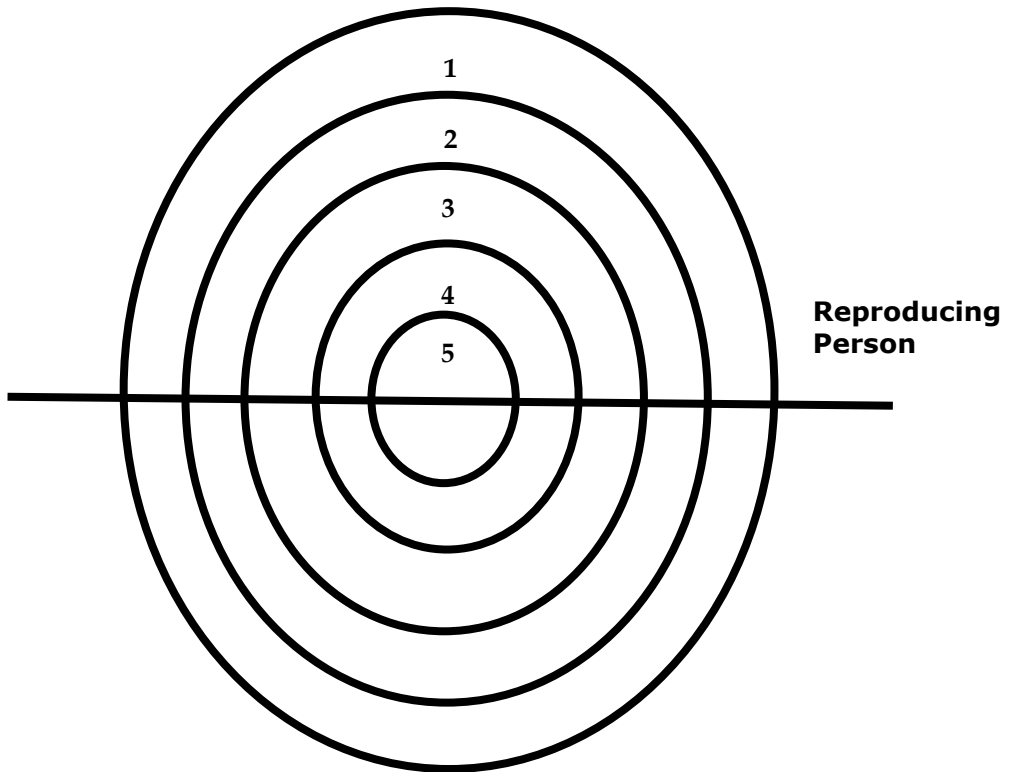
58. I encourage others in their Christian faith. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

59. I pray for unsaved people by name. \_\_\_\_1=never \_\_\_\_ 2=seldom  
\_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

60. I participate in the outreach/evangelism ministry of my church. \_\_\_\_1=never  
\_\_\_\_ 2=seldom \_\_\_\_3=occasionally \_\_\_\_ 4=frequently \_\_\_\_5= almost always

**A Reproducing Person**

Add the numbers for the responses you chose in the above Statements 51-60 = \_\_\_\_\_. Divide this number by 10 = \_\_\_\_\_. Plot this number on the line marked *Reproducing Person* on the graph below.



Think of the graph as a target. Our goal should be to hit the center of our target. If you are not hitting the center of the target with regard to reproducing, this represents a challenge area. Use the questions below to help you evaluate what steps we should take to grow as a reproducing person.

Reproducing Person (Below are some suggestions for growing as a reproducing person)

1. Learn how to share the Gospel.
2. Get involved in the disciple making ministry of your church.
3. Invite others to attend worship services or small group meetings with you.
4. Other suggestions:

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Based on what you learned this week, what changes will you make in your life to grow as a reproducing person?

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