



Discipleship Manual 2

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WIN DISCIPLESHIP MANUAL 2

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This manual is the text for Women's Impact Network (WIN) Growing in Service (WINGS), which challenges women to continue their commitment to the network and grow in service to Christ and His kingdom. WINGS is a continuation of the WIN movement, which mobilizes and equips women through literature and practical strategies to impact other women with dynamic, biblical spiritual formation—to lead the unbelieving to Christ and mentor believers for committed discipleship.

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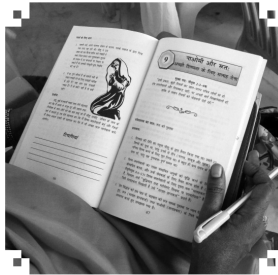


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Dedication



This manual is also dedicated to all the first-generation WIN-ners who accepted the challenge to form WIN groups, faithfully completed both the study and teaching of the first *Discipleship Manual*, and are doing their part to fulfill the Great Commission. Their obedience to the Word of God, their love for others, and their dedication and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, along with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, have made WIN the success it is today.



1

A CALL TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

Part One: *Share the Gospel!*

Key Verse: Matthew 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."



1. **Sharing the gospel is the essential foundation for making disciples.**
 - a. **"Go therefore and make disciples of every nation"** (Matthew 28:19). When Jesus gave this Great Commission to His disciples, He unveiled God's revolutionary plan to make a people of His own, brought out from sinful humankind (Titus 2:14).
 - b. Jesus declared His desire that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name unto all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem (Luke 24:47) and reaching the whole world (Mark 16:15).
 - c. The proclamation of the gospel gives opportunity to the hearer to believe in Jesus Christ and be saved (Acts 16:31). All those who believe and receive baptism are then to be disciples of Christ—His people (Matt. 28:19; 1 Pet. 2:9).
 - d. How can you disciple someone unless they have believed in Jesus as their Lord and Savior? How can he/she believe if he/she has never heard about Jesus? How can he/she hear unless someone tells him/her the gospel of Jesus? (Romans 10:14).

- e. Sharing the gospel is a significant part of the Great Commission. It is the essential foundation for making disciples.
- f. **Hence, share the gospel!**

2. **The spreading of the gospel should not be stopped by any barrier.**

- a. All have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God. But the grace of God is available to **everyone** through Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23; John 1:17; 2 Pet. 3:9b).
- b. God loves the world so much! He demonstrated His own love for us in this—that Christ died for us when we were yet sinners. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and indeed, for the sins of the **whole world** (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 2:2).
- c. God’s offer of salvation is for **every** sinner. In Jesus is the assurance that sins will be forgiven and **every soul** who believes in Him will be saved. Wherever there is man, there this gospel is to be proclaimed (Acts 10:43).
- d. Let no barrier stop you from preaching the gospel. No one has any right to deny this free offer to **any people group** (Acts 1:8).
- e. God does not want **anyone** to perish. His plan is to delay His Day of Judgment until the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached throughout the **whole inhabited earth** as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come (2 Peter 3:9; Matt. 24:14).
- f. **Hence, spread the gospel in the whole world!**

3. **The Lord Himself enables us to share the gospel.**

- a. The Great Commission was a gracious charge given to the earliest believers, but it was also a great challenge for them.

- b. They did not yet have the written account of Christ's miracles or sermons. They did not yet have any man-made mission strategy. They did not yet have any systematic training or special "how-to techniques" of evangelism.
- c. Even so, they had to "go" and "preach." Jesus gave no alternative. He did not suggest any other method. He trusted them (Luke 24::44-49; John 20:19-23).
- d. The disciples trusted Jesus. They had definite assurances from Him: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me" (Matt.28:18). "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20). "You shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).
- e. Because of their trust in Jesus, the disciples, who were utterly frightened just a few days before, did preach the gospel in HIS NAME (Acts 2:32,38). And the very first time when this gospel was preached, three thousand believed (Acts 2:41)!
- f. As Peter preached in his sermon, Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit was not just for those believers but is for every believer of every time—even for us (Acts 2:39).
- g. **Hence, be courageous, share the gospel!**

4. **The sharing of the gospel is not to be stopped even in hostile conditions.**

- a. Those first disciples openly identified themselves as "His witnesses" (Acts 2:32; 3:15; 5:32; 10:39; 10:41; 13:31).
- b. They were assaulted, questioned about their authority, threatened and commanded not to speak in His name; imprisoned; insulted, greatly persecuted and forced to leave their homes; falsely blamed for causing trouble, and violently opposed for their faith. Some were stoned to death, afflicted by King Herod, or killed with a sword (4:1; 4:7; 4:17,18; 5:17-18; 5:41; 8:1; 16:20; 7:58-60; 19:23; 12:1-2).

- c. But those first disciples preached the gospel in these hostile conditions, wherever they went (Acts 8:4). They preached wherever the Holy Spirit sent them (8:26). They preached wherever they were called (10:22-23).
 - d. They preached the truth fearlessly and left the consequences to God and the people (Acts 4;13; 4:29,31; 28:31).
 - e. **Today, we are His witnesses; be fearless, proclaim the gospel!**
5. **The first disciples preached the gospel, bearing good fruit in their world.**
- a. The apostles preached the gospel; people believed—both Jews and Gentiles—and their number increased day by day (Acts 2:47; 5:14, 11:24,16:5).
 - b. Even those who did not believe, testified about them, “These men have turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). This actually was a strong tribute to the revolutionizing power of the gospel. The gospel of Christ Jesus had started changing the world (Col. 1:6).
 - c. The first disciples obeyed their Lord (Acts 1:8, 8:4). Scripture affirms the widespread distribution of the gospel during their lifetime and its “bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world” (Col. 1:6; Acts 19:10).
 - d. The gospel is for the whole world. It is confined to no place or people. It is to be preached everywhere. It offers the same blessedness to all.
 - e. **Hence, share the gospel with confidence and conviction!**
6. **The work of evangelism is not yet finished!**
- a. The apostles preached the gospel and people believed, devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching (Acts 2:42). Thus disciple-making began in the early church.
 - b. These new disciples also preached the gospel (Acts 8:4). Evangelism is the responsibility of the disciples—the Christians—of every century and every generation;

of every church and people of every social status.

- c. However, the work of evangelism is not yet finished. There are about 17,000 people groups in the world, and 7,000 are yet unreached today!
- d. In India alone there are 2,026 people groups that still have not heard the gospel. How can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?
- e. **Hence, be concerned about them, share the gospel!**

7. **Today we are responsible to take the gospel to the whole world. It is urgent!**

- a. Today we Christians carry the responsibility for spreading the gospel. The world's only hope of salvation is with us. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).
- b. All believers are witnesses of Jesus today. Let us spread the gospel in **our** Jerusalem in all **our** Judea and **our** Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth—**wherever we go**.
- c. Everyone who comes in contact with us, even for a few minutes, should hear the gospel. Be involved in taking the gospel to every thirsty soul.
- d. Share the gospel, making it the purpose of your life. Proclaim it fearlessly. Do not be ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16).
- e. The world death clock says 106 people die in the world every minute. Only about 10% of them follow Jesus Christ. That means approximately 96 souls every minute go into eternal condemnation.
- f. **Hence, share the gospel faster—faster than ever before!**

May there be no one to say, **“How can I believe in Jesus?
No one ever told me about Him!”**

PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, I understand that you have entrusted me with the world-changing message of your salvation. Instruct me, strengthen me, and make me bold in sharing the gospel with everyone I meet. Amen.”

ACTIVITY

Ask the Lord to indicate to you someone to whom you should go in the next seven days to share the gospel.



2

A CALL TO THE GREAT COMMISSION

Part Two: *Make Disciples!*

Key Verse: Matt. 28:19-20

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



1. THE GREAT COMMISSION HAS ITS FOUNDATION IN THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT.

- Jesus said the Greatest Commandment is to love God and love others (Matt. 22:37-40).
- This Greatest Commandment is the basis for obeying all of Jesus’ other commandments. Some people only obey God out of fear of punishment, but the higher goal is to obey God because we love Him (John 14:15, 21).
- This Greatest Commandment is also the basis for obeying the Great Commission. Our great love for God compels us to love people and share with everyone the greatest treasure of all—the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:5-7).
- It is not enough that we love God, we should love people and take God’s love to all of them (John 3:16). If Disciples obey the Great Commission, they exhibit that they love Jesus (John 14:15).

2. THE GREAT COMMISSION IS THE MINISTRY OF MAK-

ING "A PEOPLE FOR GOD."

- The Great Commission has a definite effect. Jesus said "Go" into "all nations" and "make disciples" (Matt. 28:19-20).
- All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious standard (Rom. 3:23), but God wants to reconcile us to Himself through Jesus (2 Cor 5:18). He wants to make a people of His own from people of every nation by making them disciples of Jesus (1 Peter 2:9). Therefore, Jesus commanded, "make disciples of all nations."
- Disciple-making is a ministry of transforming lives. When the gospel is heard, believed, and acted upon, lives are transformed (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18).

3. THE FUNCTION OF DISCIPLE-MAKING IS TWO-FOLD: TO LEARN AND TO TEACH.

1. Learning is the personal assignment
 - a. Learning is the assignment entrusted to all disciples. They have to learn to love God and to obey His commandments.
 - b. Before you can teach someone else to be a disciple, you must learn it yourself.
2. Teaching is the responsibility to others
 - a. Teaching is the disciples' Christ-entrusted responsibility to the whole world. Disciples should teach others to love God and to obey His commandments.
 - b. When we learn from God's Word to obey Him in our daily life and teach others (even in our small groups) to obey God's Word, we are fulfilling our part in the Great Commission.

4. OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES ON THE PATTERN OF DISCIPLE-MAKING

First Example: Abraham

Since from the beginning God wanted to make “a people for His own” who would obey and serve Him in sincerity and truth. Therefore, He called Abraham out from his people who worshiped other gods (Joshua 24:2, 14).

- a. Abraham’s personal assignment was to obey God and to come out, leaving his people, his country, and his father’s household (Genesis 12:1). When he obeyed this commandment and came out, God commanded him, “Walk before me faithfully and be blameless” (Gen. 17:1).
- b. Abraham’s responsibility to the world was to bring blessing to all peoples (Gen. 12:3). This blessing came to full fruition when Abraham’s descendant, Jesus, came to earth to provide salvation.

Second Example: The nation of Israel

God brought His people Israel (the descendants of Abraham) out of slavery in Egypt with signs and wonders, by His mighty hand (Jeremiah 32:21).

- a. Israel’s personal assignment, as God’s own people, was to obey Him, love Him and to serve Him with all their heart and soul (Deuteronomy 10:12).
- b. Israel’s responsibility to the world was to be people through whom Christ, the Saviour of the world, would come to earth (John 4:22, 42). They were to be a kingdom of priests, they were to be God’s witnesses before the nations (Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 43:9-10).
 - They were to be a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:6).
 - They were to be God’s witnesses before the nations (Isaiah 43:9-10).

5. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF JESUS MAKING DISCIPLES

Jesus’ own example of obeying His Father and fulfilling His responsibility to the world:

- a. When the right time came, God sent Jesus to redeem people of the world (Galatians 4:4-5). Jesus left the glories of heaven and came to the earth in obedience to His Father (Phil. 2:7). Jesus did on earth what He saw the Father doing, which means He did nothing contrary to the Father's will (John 5:19; 8:29).
- b. As a descendant of Abraham, Jesus fulfilled the responsibility of Abraham to the world (Matt. 1:1; Gen. 12:3). His responsibility to the world was to "give His life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2). By His obedience, even to death on the cross, He provided eternal life to the people of all nations (John 3:16).

To reach all the nations with the gospel of salvation, Jesus made disciples.

- a. The personal assignment of the disciples was to follow Jesus (Matt. 4:19a).
 - Jesus taught disciples to be completely devoted to Him in absolute love and obedience (Luke 14:25-27).
 - They were to adopt the life of obedience (John 15:10).
 - Jesus kept them in close fellowship and explained to them all His teachings (Mark 4:34).
 - When Jesus had ascended to heaven, they were to remember and understand His teachings with the help of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).
- b. The responsibility of the disciples to the world was to do what Jesus had taught them.
 - They were to "fish" for people: that means they were to proclaim the gospel to the people and bring them to Jesus (Matthew 4:19b).
 - They were to do the ministry according to His instructions (Matthew 10:5-14).
 - They were, after His ascension, to be His witnesses in the world, with the help of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
 - They were to preach the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name (Luke 24:47-48).

- e. They were to baptize all those who believed and then were to teach them to obey all His commandments (Matthew 28:19-20).

6. PRESENT DAY DISCIPLE-MAKING

All who have believed in Jesus and have received salvation, are called to be disciple-makers today. Today, we are His disciples. God has chosen us in Christ Jesus to be His own people, holy and blameless in His sight (Eph. 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16, 2:9). This is God's mercy (Titus 3:5) and His grace (2 Tim 1:9).

a. As disciples, we must do the given specific assignments:

- We must follow the Greatest Commandment to love God and love others.
- We must, to grow in loving God, learn and follow all that Jesus has taught (Matthew 28:20; Mark 8:34).
- We must keep learning to discern God's will and be transformed by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12:1-2).

b. As disciples, we must fulfill our specific responsibilities toward the world:

- In the process of loving others, we must fulfill the Great Commission of Christ. This helps us to reflect God's love for the world (2 Cor. 5:20-21).
- We, who are His disciples, must preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus (Acts 5:31-32).
- Today we are God's coworkers in His task of making His own people through the completion of the Great Commission (1 Cor. 3:9).
- For all disciples, "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed" (Hudson Taylor).

COMMITMENT

I pledge my life to fulfill my personal responsibility as a

disciple and my responsibility to the world.

1. I pledge myself to the two-fold ministry of *being* a disciple and *making* disciples.
2. I pledge my life to learn true discipleship from the Word of God and, then, to teach other women to be true disciples of Christ Jesus.
3. I commit my life to the call of the Great Commission and promise to do all I can to grow in this service in my church and wherever God uses me.



3

ANNA *Surrendered for Service to God*

Key Verse: Luke 2:38

"She [Anna] talked about Jesus to everyone who had been waiting for the promised King to come and deliver Jerusalem."



BIBLE TEXT: Luke 2:36-38

INTRODUCTION

1. Anna was an 84-year-old widow who served God at the temple in Jerusalem.
 - a. She lost her husband at a very young age, after being married only seven years, and had no children.
 - b. She would have been encouraged to marry again, but she chose to stay single in order to serve the Lord.
 - c. She served God day and night.
2. She devoted herself to worship, fasting and prayer. Because she drew near to God, He spoke to her, and she was known as a prophetess. She made a valuable contribution to the life of the temple.
3. On His first appearance in the Jewish temple, Jesus was proclaimed as the Promised Messiah by two heralds from different genders—Simeon (a man) and Anna (a woman).
4. Through the life of Anna, God reveals how He uses and honors those who dedicate their lives to serve Him and to tell others about Him.

ANNA'S SITUATION

1. **When her husband died, Anna's future was bleak.**
 - a. Life was hard for women in Israel who had no husband. For this reason, God commanded his people to provide care for widows (James 1:27; Deut. 24:17-21).
 - b. Young widows were expected to re-marry (Deut. 20:7; 1 Tim. 5:14).
 - c. But Anna had a desire in her heart to serve the Lord in His temple.
 - d. Anna did not let herself become controlled by bitterness or self-pity.

2. **Anna's decision to serve God in the temple was a sacrifice.**
 - a. Because she did not remarry, she would never have children, or anyone to care for her in her old age.
 - b. She would serve the Lord among men who had very little respect for women.
 - c. She made her life a "living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1).
 - d. She did not look for any personal blessing, but for the promised redemption of Israel.

3. **She spent so much time at the temple that it seemed she lived there (v. 37).**
 - a. Ancient Jewish culture was very male-dominated. Women were not allowed in many parts of the temple.
 - b. Women could observe ceremonies, but not participate in them.
 - c. Because of her intense devotion to God, Anna might have been given a room at the temple where she could sleep.
 - d. Because of her consecrated life, Anna made herself acceptable not only in the sight of God, but also in the sight of men.

4. **In spite of the restrictions culture put upon her, Anna loved God so much that she wanted to worship Him continually.**
 - a. She did not let the fact that she was a woman and a widow prevent her from serving the Lord, worshipping Him with her whole heart.
 - b. Although she surely had grief and sorrow when her husband died, she found something positive to do.
 - c. She worshipped "night and day," meaning that she worshipped in private times as well as in organized services.
 - d. This must have become difficult with time as she grew old, but God gave her strength to continue.

ANNA'S REVELATION

1. Because Anna spent so much time in prayer, fasting and worship, God's inspiration was available for her in a powerful way.
 - a. When we call out to God in prayer, God has promised to help us understand the difficult things of His Word and will (Jer. 33:3). Only God's inspiration helps us to speak His Word rightly.
 - b. When we fast, God promises to reward us (Matt. 6:17-18).
 - c. When we worship and draw near to God, he inhabits (dwells in) the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3; James 4:8).
 - d. One goal of prayer, fasting and worship should be to grow in God's grace and the knowledge of His will.
2. Because Anna was faithful in her ministry for many years, she was in the temple when Jesus was presented for consecration.
 - a. God's timing is always perfect. He can put us in a specific place at a specific time to fulfill a specific purpose.

- b. Since Anna was there at that moment, she may have heard the announcement of Simeon that Jesus was the Messiah.
- c. As we spend many years in God's Word and doing His will, He takes us to higher levels of spiritual understanding and commitment.
- d. As we continue serving Him faithfully, He gives us opportunities to be useful to Him in special ways (Matthew 25:28).

ANNA'S DECLARATION

- 1. **Anna gave thanks to God for sending the Messiah. Thanksgiving was natural for her, because she spent so much time in the presence of God.**
- 2. **Her words certainly encouraged Mary and Joseph.**
- 3. **Anna did not keep the good news to herself – she told everyone she met about Jesus.**
 - a. Most Jews did not realize that God had fulfilled His promise to send the Messiah.
 - b. Jesus, the Messiah, is the redemption God provided for sin (v. 38; 1 Cor. 1:30).
 - c. Those who don't know about Jesus cannot believe in Him unless they hear. This is why we are commanded to tell others about Jesus and His salvation.
- 4. **Anna had a specific message.**
 - a. She did not just tell people that she had seen a baby.
 - b. She told that He was the Promised One who would be the Redeemer of Israel.
 - c. She saw not a baby, but a Savior.

CONCLUSION

Anna's story teaches us that we should not let old age or sorrow stop us from living our best for the Lord. God uses the weak—even the aged—by renewing their strength (Isaiah 40:30-31). God uses even those whom the world sees as "useless" or "impossible."

1. Sometimes the circumstances of life are disappointing and difficult, but God can still use us and bless our lives (Isaiah 43:2).
2. When we devote ourselves to God and serve Him, He takes care of us and gives our lives meaning and purpose.
3. When we practice the spiritual disciplines of worship, fasting and prayer, God draws near to us and gives us needed wisdom and understanding (Deut. 4:6-7).
4. We need to be always ready to tell about Jesus to people who don't yet know Him and have not yet trusted Him for salvation (1 Pet. 3:15).

PRAYER

*"Heavenly Father, help me to be as dedicated to your service as Anna. In spite of circumstances that are disappointing or difficult, I dedicate my life to your service. As I wait upon you in worship, prayer, and fasting, speak to my heart.
In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen."*

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What circumstances in my life might seem to disqualify me from serving God? Do they?
2. What steps can I take to spend more time in telling people about the Redeemer and the redemption He gives?

ELEPHANT OR BEES?

A charging elephant can be stopped with a single bullet. But a host of bees cannot be stopped by a hundred machine guns!

Our divine calling in this world is to press forward in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ as rapidly as we can, not as charging elephants, which can easily be stopped, but as bees, which cannot be stopped.

WIN-ners involve more and more women who are workers—God's bees! More, more, and more of them work all the time, until our beloved land is full of them—bees swarming everywhere! Unstoppable!

With this in mind, you will see that the WIN logo is the same as it has always been, but now there is one major difference: behind it, for WINGS, are the wings of a bee. This is meant to show that we will fly quickly to do the work of the Lord—to serve Him with all our hearts and energy.

We will "buzz" throughout the world, carrying with us the gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ!



4

PRAYING FOR THE LOST

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 4:4

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."



WHY TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

1. Lee E. Thomas, the author of *Praying Effectively for the Lost*, writes: "The lost will not, and indeed cannot be saved unless someone prays for them." This is a shocking statement.
2. The Bible describes clearly the condition of people who are lost in their sins.
 - a. They are "children of the devil" (John 8:44).
 - b. They are under the power of Satan (Acts 26:18).
 - c. They are in the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26).
 - d. They are blinded to the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).
 - e. The things of God are foolishness to them (1 Cor. 2:14).
 - f. They are lost, like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6:34).
 - g. They are guarded by a "strong man," who is Satan himself (Mark 3:27).

3. Christians must pray for the lost, that they may be able to hear, understand, receive, and believe the Word of God.
 - a. Mere human words are not able to convince a lost person to believe in Christ.
 - b. Only the Holy Spirit can convict a person of sin, which is the first step in receiving salvation (John 16:7-8).
 - c. God wants us to pray for the lost, that they might be saved (Rom. 10:1).
 - d. Praying for the salvation of all men is in accordance with God's nature, His feelings, and his desires for them (1 Tim. 2:1-4).
 - e. We should care deeply about the salvation of the lost, and pray for them, because God cares for everyone and wants none to perish. His desire is for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).
4. The following biblical examples encourage us to pray for the salvation of the lost.
 - a. Moses was ready to give his life for the sake of his people (Exodus 32:32). His plea was, "I pray Thee, blot me out of Thy book which thou hast written." This demonstrated his strong affection for his people and his desire that they be saved.
 - b. Paul had great sorrow and unceasing anguish in his heart for his lost Jewish brothers. So great was his concern for their salvation that he was even willing to be "cursed and cut off from Christ" for their sake (Romans 9:2-3).
 - c. When Jesus instructed us to: "Ask the Lord of the harvest . . . to send out workers into His harvest field" (Luke 10:2), it was His manner of urging us to pray for the unsaved.

TEN WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

1. Ask God to open their spiritual eyes (2 Cor. 4:4).
2. Ask God to give them ears to hear (Matt. 13:15).
3. Ask God to give them faith to believe (Eph. 2:8-9).

4. Ask God to give them the will to respond (Rom. 10:9).
5. Ask God to send people into their lives to witness to them (Matt. 9:38).
6. Ask God for ways to build caring relationships (I Cor. 9:22).
7. Ask God for opportunities to witness (Col. 4:3).
8. Ask God for boldness to witness to them (Acts 4:29).
9. Ask God for an opportunity to invite them to receive Christ (Luke 14:23).
10. Ask God to set them free from spiritual captivity (2 Tim. 2:25-26).

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

1. Maintain a written list of people you know who are lost, and pray for their salvation every day.
 - a. Your list should have at least three names.
 - b. Put it in a place (like your Bible) where you will see it every day.
2. You may also put on your list the names of unreached people groups (UPGs) for which you will pray (Matt. 9:37-38).
 - a. An unreached people group is an ethnic group of people in which less than 2% are Christians.
 - b. ER/AIDA has a list of 29 UPGs to assist you in knowing how to pray.
3. Always pray in the powerful name of Jesus (1 John 5:14-15).
4. Be sure that your own heart is righteous and humble before God (Psalm 66:18).
5. Ask the Lord to show you how to pray specifically for each person (Rom. 8:26).
 - a. Only God knows the heart of a person (1 Sam. 16:7b).
 - b. God can reveal to you the best prayers to pray.

6. Find a partner to agree with you in prayer for those on your list (Matt. 18:19-20).
 - a. Your WIN group should be willing to pray with you in agreement.
 - b. You may also share names with those in your Church or Sunday school class.
7. Be sure that the person's privacy is respected.
 - a. The lost person's name should not be the subject of gossip.
 - b. If a person learns that a group of Christians is praying for their salvation, he or she may become offended.
8. Keep praying; be persistent; do not give up!
 - a. God honors persistent prayer (Eph. 6:18).
 - b. Pray until the person receives Christ.
 - c. Jesus is the best example of persistent intercession (Heb. 7:25).
9. Thank God for His work in the person's life, even if you do not see progress (Phil. 4:6).
10. Always watch for times when you can witness to the person about Jesus.
 - a. God may choose to use YOU to be the one who leads the person to salvation.
 - b. Be prepared with methods to share the gospel, and practice them with others in your WIN group.

An encouraging example of using a prayer list to pray for the lost:

"Some years ago in Springfield, Illinois, an earnest man gathered about him a praying band and made this suggestion to them: 'When you reach home this evening write down the names of all persons in Springfield whom you would like to have saved, and then pray for them name by name, three times a day, that they may be saved. Then make your best possible efforts to induce those persons to turn to God for salvation.'

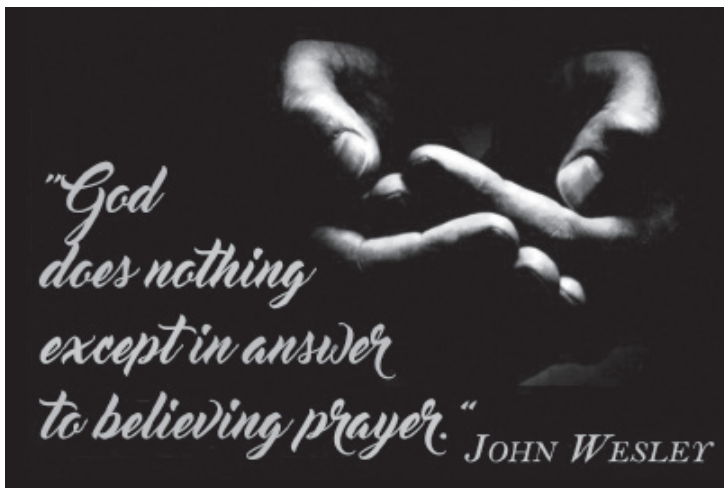
"There resided in Springfield at that time an invalid woman who physically was almost absolutely helpless. She had been bed-ridden for seventeen years. She had been for a long time praying to God in a general way to save a multitude of souls. When her family told her of the suggestion made to the praying band, she said, 'Here is something I can do.' She could use her right hand. There was an adjustable writing table at the side of her bed. She asked for pen and paper. She wrote down names of fifty-seven acquaintances. She prayed for each of these by name three times a day. She wrote them letters, telling them of her interest in them. She also wrote to Christian friends, in whom she knew these persons had confidence, and urged them to speak to these persons about their souls' welfare and to do their best to persuade them to repent and believe. She had unquestionable faith in God. In her humble, earnest dependence upon Him she thus interceded for the unsaved. In time every one of those fifty-seven persons avowed faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior." (Praying Effectively for the Lost—p. 33)

Prayer: *"Lord, help me to be concerned about people who have not yet received Your salvation. Help me to be diligent in prayer for the lost so that they may hear, understand, and respond to the gospel."*

Activity: Begin a notebook with names of lost people for whom you will pray to receive Christ. List at least three names. Place it in your Bible and remember to pray for them daily.

Some of these ideas were borrowed from the book, "Praying Effectively for the Lost" by Lee E. Thomas.

Visit his website at: www.pelministries.org.



TRAVELING ON MY KNEES

Last night I took a journey
To a land across the seas.
I didn't go by ship or plane—
I traveled on my knees.

I saw so many people there
In bondage to their sin,
And Jesus told me I should go,
That there were souls to win.

But I said, "Jesus, I can't go
To lands across the seas."
He answered quickly, "Yes, you can—
By traveling on your knees."

He said, "You pray, I'll meet the need.
You call and I will hear.
It's up to you to be concerned
For lost souls far and near."

And so I did, I knelt in prayer,
Gave up some hours of ease,
And with the Savior by my side
I traveled on my knees.

As I prayed on, I saw souls saved
And twisted persons healed.
I saw God's workers' strength renewed
While laboring on the field.

I said, "Yes, Lord, I'll take the job.
Your heart I want to please.
I'll heed Your call and swiftly go
By traveling on my knees."

By Sandra Goodwin

5

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SCALE

KEY VERSE: 2 Peter 3:18

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.”



INTRODUCTION

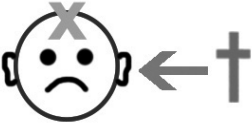
1. **Every person is on a spiritual journey, whether they know it or not.**
 - a. Some people are still living in a state of spiritual darkness, and do not know Jesus or the plan of salvation.
 - b. A person’s progress on their spiritual journey depends on their knowledge of the gospel and their response to it.
 - c. Every journey contains identifiable points of decision and response.
 - d. Although very important, receiving salvation is not the only point of decision, nor is it the ultimate destination of the spiritual journey.
2. **The Spiritual Journey Scale is a tool for Christians—who are fulfilling the Great Commission—to make disciples.**
 - a. Knowing where a person is on their spiritual journey is very helpful for effective evangelism and discipleship.
 - b. Each step on the Journey Scale is required. One by one, they lead progressively to a life of spiritual maturity, grace and fruitfulness.

- c. Identifying a person's progress and knowing the next step they ought to take helps us determine the best way to disciple and encourage them.
 - d. People face different struggles and process information at different speeds, so everyone's spiritual journey is unique.
 - e. Some steps take more time, and sometimes several steps happen at once.
 - f. Leading someone to take even one step ahead on their journey is an important contribution to their spiritual life.
 - g. This list of spiritual decisions may not be exclusive. Some people make decisions that are not listed, but are nevertheless important for spiritual progress.
 - h. The Spiritual Journey Scale is also a good tool for self-evaluation. Ask yourself, "Where do I stand today on this Scale?"
3. **The Spiritual Journey Scale has three important sections.**
- a. **The Evangelism Scale.** The section with negative (-) numbers represents a person's progress toward receiving Christ.
 - b. **The Conversion Steps.** The 0.1 and 0.2 numbers represent decisions made in the transition from spiritual death to spiritual life.
 - c. **The Discipleship Scale.** The section with positive (+) numbers represents a person's progress toward the point of total submission, in which the believer says, "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). Most of the steps on the discipleship scale will continue unceasingly throughout the disciple's life, even if she/he progresses to the next step.

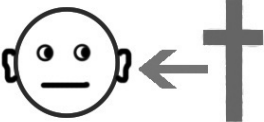
THE EVANGELISM SCALE



- 1. **Never heard** (Rom. 10:14; Rom. 1:21-25) This person has never been told about God's love and plan for man's salvation. She/he lives in spiritual darkness.



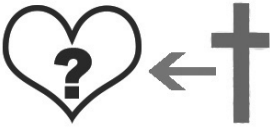
- 2. **Begins to hear** (Matt. 24:14) This person is introduced to the gospel of Jesus Christ, hearing about Him for the first time. Until enough details are known and understood about who Jesus is, this person cannot move up the scale. This is why it is so important to know the gospel and be able to share it in a way that it can be understood.



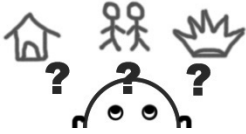
- 3. **Knowledge of the gospel** (1 Cor. 15:3-4) This person has experienced increased exposure to the message of Jesus and His salvation, but has not considered what it means personally.



- 4. **Understands the implications of the gospel** (Matt. 13:23) At this point on the journey, the person understands that acceptance of the gospel and faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved.



- 5. **Recognition of personal need** (Rom. 3:23) As the Holy Spirit works in the person's heart, she/he starts to understand the personal need of salvation. She/he begins to consider that Jesus died for her/his personal sins and He can provide **her/his** personal salvation.



- 6. **Evaluation of the cost** (Phil. 3:7-11) As the person begins to consider accepting salvation, she/he begins to wonder what it will cost. Home? Family? What about eternal life? Is it worth the cost?



- 7. **Acceptance of the truth** (Acts 16:31) The Holy Spirit convinces the person of the truth and shows her/him the need of forgiveness for sins. She/he accepts the truth that believing in the Lord Jesus Christ will bring salvation from sin.



- 8. **Decision to surrender to Christ** (Luke 15:18) The person decides to say "yes" to salvation, and accept Christ as her/his personal Savior.

THE CONVERSION STEPS



0.1. Repentance and invitation (1 John 1:9; Rev. 3:19-20) The person sincerely repents, feeling sorrow for sin and deciding to forsake it. She/he asks Jesus to forgive her/his sins, believes that Jesus paid the penalty for those sins, and invites Jesus to become her/his Savior.



0.2. New birth – “New creation” old things are passed away (Titus 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:17) The person is cleansed and released from bondage to sin. The person begins the life-long process of being transformed, made new within, by the power and influence of the Holy Spirit.

THE DISCIPLESHIP SCALE



+1. Obedience – Beginning of discipleship (Matt. 28:19-20; Psalm 119:11) The new believer receives baptism and begins to be disciple. She/he starts the life-long process of learning the Word of God and obeying it.



- +2. Fruit of the Spirit - Manifestation of the indwelling Spirit** (Gal 5:22-23) The new believer responds to the indwelling Holy Spirit and begins to manifest His fruit (love, joy, peace, etc.).



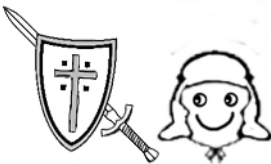
- +3. Ministering spiritual gifts - Edifying the body** (I Cor. 12:4-11; I Peter 4:10; 1 Thess. 5:10-12) The believer learns to use spiritual gifts from God to serve the Church (the body of Christ).



- +4. Being fruitful - Making disciples** (John 15:1-8; Matthew 28:19-20) A true disciple *makes* disciples. The believer takes the gospel to the world, learning ways to witness, winning others to Christ, and discipling new believers by teaching them to obey God's Word.



- +5. Ongoing growth - Growing in the Word** (2 Timothy 2:15) It is not enough for the believer to know a few facts from Scripture. To advance in her/his spiritual journey, she/he must continue to read, study, and apply the Word of God to everyday living.



- +6. Enduring victoriously** (Eph. 6:10-18; 1 John 5:4; John 15:18) The disciple joyfully endures troubles, temptations, trials, and persecution by overcoming the power of the enemy through faith and by putting on the armor of God.



+7. Servanthood - Christ-likeness (Mark 9:35; Phil. 2:5-8) The disciple takes on the mind of Christ, who emptied Himself and became a humble servant. Her/his life is devoted to saying and doing what Christ would say and do.



+8. Crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20; 5:24) Although the disciple still lives in a human body, faith and obedience continually put to death the sin nature. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciple lives a holy life.

ACTIVITY

1. Prayerfully consider where you are on the Discipleship Scale. Let God search your heart (Ps. 139:23-24). As He guides you, write down some ways you can advance up the scale.
 - Be honest before God. Do not pretend you have achieved a higher level of spirituality than you have. It is God who equips us and accomplishes in us what is pleasing in His sight (Hebrews 13:21).
 - All Christians should be constantly growing in all the steps on the Discipleship Scale. We must keep running the race to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:13-14).
2. Whenever you are evangelizing or discipling someone, assess where she is on the Spiritual Journey Scale. With love and concern, prayerfully guide and help her to take the next step(s).

Acknowledgement: This tool is adapted from "Engel Scale" originally developed by James F. Engel



“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” - Galatians 2:20

6

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

Key Verse: Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."



INTRODUCTION

1. Christ was crucified. This was the way He died.
2. By His death on the cross, Jesus died to all things that were surrounding Him.
3. This is what naturally happens to the dead. The natural/physical world ceases to influence the dead as if they do not exist.
4. Paul is using the imagery of being "crucified" in a spiritual sense. He does not mean that Christians will be physically crucified.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN PAUL TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO BE "CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST?"

1. Paul is expressing his complete surrender to Christ. He counts himself dead to the flesh and the world, alive only to Christ.
2. The context of verse 20 is that it follows the argument earlier in the chapter that we cannot be justified (made right with God) by keeping the law: we must be united with Christ in faith/through faith. (Gal. 2:15-19).
3. Paul was crucified "with Christ," meaning this spiritual work (its cause and effect) in him was the result of the presence and power of the crucified Christ in his life.

4. Paul acknowledges Christ first loved him and “gave Himself” for him; now he loves Christ and gives up himself for Christ.
5. Paul is presenting a new principle for disciples: instead of the obligation to “the works of the law,” we are now being “crucified with Christ,” making it possible to live righteously before God (Gal 2:16, 21).

THE RESULT OF BEING CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

1. In the same verse Paul introduces the words “crucified with Christ,” he also describes the result (Gal 2:20):
 - a. Now, it is not “I” living in Paul, but “Christ.”
 - b. Now, though Paul is living in his “body” (i.e. flesh), he lives by “faith” in Christ.
2. “I” and “flesh” represent our selfish desires and old nature. They are our unholy tendencies which have existed since we were born. But when we are “crucified with Christ” in our spiritual journey, we, are enabled from within to live righteously before God and are not under the curse of the law (Gal. 2:19; 3:10).

SCRIPTURES THAT EXPLAIN BEING “CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST”

Although there are several verses in the New Testament that explain being crucified with Christ, these two references make it clear:

1. Romans 6:6

- a. The moment we confess Christ as our Saviour, the Holy Spirit works in us to crucify (put to death) the unholy tendencies of our natural heart and desires of our flesh (Gal. 5:24; Rom. 8:13).
- b. This makes us free from slavery to sin. This is God’s action in us.
- c. We need to cooperate with God’s work in us and determine no longer to be slaves to our sinful nature (Rom. 6:1-2).

2. Galatians 5:24-25

- a. We should not let the passions and desires of flesh control us; we have power to overcome them by the Holy Spirit living in us (Gal. 5:16-18; 1 Cor. 10:13).
- b. We surrender to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in every part of our lives (v 25).
- c. Eventually, being “crucified with Christ” produces the same result in us as it did in Paul’s life: Not “I” but “Christ” lives in us and we no longer live by the “flesh” but by “faith” (Gal. 2:20).

BEING CRUCIFIED IS AN ONGOING DISCIPLINE IN OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

1. Romans 7:18-25

- a. Even committed disciples cannot overcome our inherited sinful nature on our own.
- b. Being “crucified with Christ” is an ongoing process. The spirit still resides in the flesh, which can be tempted to sin. We need to constantly cooperate with the Holy Spirit to put the sin nature to death. (1 Cor. 15:31).
- c. By the Holy Spirit, we are given power to throw off the sinful nature and let the Holy Spirit renew our thoughts and attitudes. We “put on” the new nature. (Eph. 4:21-24).
- d. However, this will happen if only we surrender our will fully to God’s will, to the Lordship of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

2. Romans 6:13-19

- a. We should not offer any part of ourselves to sin as an instrument of wickedness, uncleanness, impurity or to decadent passions of this world.
- b. We must offer ourselves completely to God as an instrument of righteousness and holiness.

3. 1 Corinthians 9:27

- a. “Strike a blow” means to treat with harshness, severity or cruelty. Jesus suffered much harshness, severity and cruelty when He was crucified.

- b. Paul applies this imagery as his daily spiritual discipline to keep himself “crucified with Christ.”
- c. Paul teaches that we should not pamper our bodies to fulfill sinful desires or indulge in the evil pleasures of this world.
- d. Rather we should deal harshly, severely and cruelly with the desires of our old nature and the passions of this world since they are not from God (1 John 2:15-17).

4. **1 John 1:9; Romans 12:1-2**

- a. Repentance should be an unceasing habit in the life of a disciple who desires to be continually crucified with Christ.
- b. Repentance is not just a petition for forgiveness; it is a readiness for correction according to the perfect will of God and action to forsake sin.
- c. Being crucified with Christ is offering our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is our true and proper worship unto God that we should offer Him continually.
- d. The ongoing crucifixion of our “self” and “flesh” will result in continual renewing of our minds, transforming us into a person who is living according to the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Being crucified with Christ is my utmost commitment for the highest pleasure of my Lord:

(Put your name in the blanks and read this application of Galatians 2:20)

“ _____ has been crucified with Christ and _____ no longer lives, but Christ lives in _____. The life _____ now lives in the body, _____ lives by faith in the Son of God, who loved _____ and gave himself for _____.”

PRAY IN YOUR OWN WORDS that God, through the Holy Spirit, will help you to be crucified with your Lord Jesus Christ for His pleasure.

7

ABIGAIL

Committed to Save Her People

KEY VERSE: 1 Samuel 25:18a

"Abigail acted quickly."



INTRODUCTION

1. Abigail was a woman whose evil husband, Nabal, offended King David.
 - a. David and his men had protected Nabal's flock when they were out in the fields.
 - b. In payment, David humbly asked Nabal for food and supplies, but Nabal rudely refused.
 - c. David was angry at Nabal's refusal and vowed to kill Nabal and his people.
2. When Abigail learned that her people would be killed, she interceded with David so they would be saved.
 - a. Her love for her people was strong.
 - b. She knew if she did not help them, her people would die.
 - c. She was willing to take a big risk so they could be saved from death.
3. In the same way God wants us to love people and take actions so they may be saved.
 - a. Sinners have offended God, and the punishment for sin is death (Rom. 6:23).
 - b. Love compels us to do whatever we can to help them seek forgiveness from God so they will not die, but receive eternal life (2 Pet. 3:9).

ABIGAIL'S ATTITUDE

1. Abigail lived peaceably with a man who was surly, wicked and drunken.
 - a. She was a wife of noble character even though her husband was not (Prov. 31:10, 12).
 - b. Although her husband was a fool, Abigail lived with him in obedience to God's will (1 Cor. 7:13-14).
 - c. She was determined to be a soft-spoken wife even when her husband was a harsh and irritating person (Proverbs 15:1).
 - d. She showed no bitterness to her people or to God because of her circumstances (Eph. 4:31).
 - e. Even though her husband was an evil man, she did not criticize him to David. She simply gave an honest description of him (Titus 2:7-8).
2. Abigail was kind to her servants and a wise manager of her household.
 - a. Her servant showed his trust in her by approaching Abigail instead of her husband.
 - b. She must have been known for her intelligence and wisdom, and was used to managing the household because her husband was incompetent.
3. The authority she had was unusual for a woman in her culture, but she was not proud or arrogant because of it. She remained approachable.
4. When we live in a family or home situation in which someone is an unbeliever, God will give us the patience to endure it and to be kind and gentle (Gal. 5:22), even if they are not.

ABIGAIL'S ACTIONS

1. Abigail did not pity herself or became sullen because of her circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18). She accepted her husband's shortcomings and made plans to spare her people from the consequences of his foolishness.

2. Abigail did not waste time—destruction was coming quickly!
 - a. She had very little time to decide what to do.
 - b. She had to assess the situation and act immediately or it would be too late.
 - c. We must also act quickly, with a sense of urgency, to share with others the gospel of salvation before it is too late (Eph. 5:16; Jude 23).
3. Abigail devised a plan and put it into action (Prov. 16:3). She would give David more than what he originally requested, ask for forgiveness, and plead for him to spare her people.
 - a. When she knew what to do, she asked her servants to help with organizing the gift for David.
 - b. The task of witnessing to the lost and bringing them to salvation will take many people. Like Abigail, some will lead, but all Christians must become involved in evangelism whether they lead or follow.
 - c. Many methods for sharing the plan of salvation are available to us. Like the loaves, wine, and sheep Abigail used, these plans are instruments to bring peace between the people and God, the King.
4. Abigail put her plan into action even though she risked death.
 - a. She did not know in advance how David would receive her. He was furious and had vowed to kill her entire household.
 - b. She did not think of her own life, but counted it as nothing if she could save her people (Acts 20:24).
 - c. She also risked the displeasure of her husband should he find out what she was doing. But the lives of her people mattered more to her than personal safety or happiness.
 - d. Sometimes sharing the gospel makes us risk persecution or even death. In those times we must remember how much God loves people and wants them to be saved (Luke 9:24).

ABIGAIL'S APPROACH

1. Abigail approached David with great humility, courtesy and respect.
 - a. She sent the gifts and provisions ahead of her to show David that she intended to give him the supplies her husband had denied him.
 - b. Although she was wealthy, she approached David as a humble petitioner for pardon (2 Cor. 5:20; 1 Peter 3:15).
 - c. Her speech shows respect for David's position: He is anointed by God to be King, so she calls him "my lord" 14 times; Abigail calls herself his "servant" (1 Cor. 9:19).
 - d. When we pray before God for people's salvation, we must approach Him with the utmost humility, respect and reverence (James 4:6).
 - e. When we speak to others about salvation, we should speak in meekness and fear of God (1 Peter 3:15).
2. Abigail appealed to David based on her understanding of God's goodness and His plan for David's life (v. 29-30).
 - a. She knew God and the scriptures well enough to know that wrongs should be forgiven and only God has the right to take vengeance (Deut. 32:35).
 - b. She convinced David that sparing her people from death would also spare him from coming under God's judgment.
3. She reasoned with David not that her people had done anything to be spared from judgment, but that he should show mercy because God would not want him to needlessly shed blood.
 - a. This shows that Abigail knew God and was familiar with His nature.
 - b. It was likely her devotion to God that was the secret to being so courageous, wise, and dedicated to the welfare of others.
 - c. When we pray for the lost, we should ask God to show mercy (Isaiah 55:7).

4. Even though David was in a bad mood, her gentle, humble approach caused him to turn to peace.
 - a. Abigail could not have been sure what David would do.
 - b. Her hope was in God who could protect and save her people and change David's mind (Psalm 39:7-8).

ABIGAIL'S APPROVAL

1. David recognized that God had sent Abigail with her gifts of provision for his men and to give him her message (v. 32).
2. He was thankful for her good judgment and acknowledged that God used her to bless him (v. 33).
3. David spared Abigail's people from death because of her intervention (v. 34).
 - a. When we share the gospel with people, they have the opportunity to hear, to believe, and to be saved.
 - b. Those who listen and respond will know that God sent us for their good.
 - c. When we obey God and act courageously according to His will, we bring praise to Him (2 Cor. 9:13).
4. The story of Abigail should encourage us to be like her in courage, humility, determination, and love for people that will cause us to risk everything so they may be saved.

PRAYER

"My dear Lord and Savior, thank you for Abigail's example of patient, uncritical respect for others. Help me never to try to take vengeance against any who have wronged me. Help me to lovingly introduce to You those in my life who do not know You as Savior. In Jesus' holy name I pray. Amen."

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What can I learn from Abigail that will help me in dealing with difficult people in my life?
2. What risks am I willing to take to share the gospel with people who are lost?
3. Do I ask God for wisdom in difficult situations, and am I willing to do what He instructs even though I may be fearful?



8

PERSONAL EVANGELISM METHODS

Two Things to Know and Two Things to Do
Cross Object Lesson

Key Verse: Acts 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."



INTRODUCTION

There are many methods for sharing the gospel (the Wordless Book, Five-Finger Evangelism, Roman Road, etc.) These have been taught in the first WIN Discipleship Manual. This lesson teaches two more simple ways to share the gospel. Memorize these two methods and the verses *in bold italic letters*, and be prepared for the Holy Spirit to use your life to witness to Christ's salvation.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, help me to memorize this new method of witnessing, and to prepare myself to be a person who shares the gospel. Send me to people who need to hear this message, and prepare their hearts to receive Your truth."



TWO THINGS TO KNOW - TWO THINGS TO DO

Used by permission of Rev. David White

There are TWO THINGS everyone should know and there are TWO THINGS everyone should do.

A. There are two things everyone should know.

- 1. The first thing you need to know is** that we all have sinned against Holy God in thought, word and deed.

A sin is doing, saying, or even thinking something wrong. Maybe we do three wrong things a day.

In one year, that is more than a thousand sins.

In ten years, that is more than 10,000 sins.

How old are YOU? 25?

That is more than 25,000 sins.

Oh no!

God is holy and sinful people cannot live with Him in heaven.

When you stand before Holy God and He shows you that long list of all your sins what will He say?

There is only one thing He can say, "Guilty!"

And the punishment? Hell. Fire.

***The wages of sin is death.*¹**

The total separation from God forever!

But I've got some Good News for you!

- 2. The second thing you need to know is** the Lord Jesus Christ loves you greatly.

He died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins.

If you were the only man or woman, the only boy or girl in the whole world,

the Lord Jesus would still have loved you and died for you.

Isn't that wonderful?

Each of us can say, "***The Son of God loves me and gave Himself for me.***"²

Now you know these two things:

You know that you have sinned against Holy God in thought, word and deed.

You also know that the Lord Jesus Christ loves you so much.

He died on the cross for you, taking the punishment for your sins.

- He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day.
- He died so that we might be forgiven for the wrong things we have done.
- He died to make us holy that we might go to heaven and live with God forever.

B. There are two things everyone should do.

1. **The first thing you need to do is** to truly repent for the wrong things you have done. Instead of continuing in sinful ways,

Living for selfish desires, and doing what you want for earthly pleasure,

“Living my life my way!”

God now wants you to turn away from sin and start living in a way that is pleasing to Him.

One word for “turn around” is REPENT.

To REPENT means:

Being so sorry for the wrong things you have done, so that with God’s help you will not do them again.

Instead of doing what you want to do, you do what God wants you to do.

Repentance is a change of **mind**

- that brings about a change of **heart**,
- that brings about a change of **will**,
- that brings about a whole change of **life**.

When you repent, you become a new person in Christ

- ***old things are passed away, everything becomes new.***³
- You start to live the kind of life that pleases God.

So the question now is, "Have you ever repented in the life-changing way?"

2. **The second thing you need to do is receive Christ.**

The Bible is God's written message to man.

The Bible says ***"As many as received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the power to become children of God."***⁴

The Lord Jesus Himself said that He knocks on the door of the heart, and if anyone opens the door He comes in.

Are you ready to receive Jesus as your Saviour?

Choice is yours.

What would you like to do?

Would you like to repent NOW for your sins?

Would you like to pray to Jesus to forgive your sins?

Would you like to invite Jesus in your heart?

Are you ready NOW to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour?

(Again, pray that the Lord will work in the person's life. When she/he agrees that she/he is ready now to receive Christ, explain that a simple prayer is all that is needed. When the person agrees, lead her/him phrase by phrase in the following prayer to ask for God's forgiveness, showing repentance for sins and accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord.)

Please repeat this prayer after me:

“Lord Jesus, I need you.

I know that I have sinned and as a result, I am separated from you.

I want to turn from all my sins to follow you.

I believe you died for me.

Thank you for forgiving my sins.

Come into my life and take control.

Thank you, Lord, for hearing my prayer as you promised.

Amen.”

(If they do not agree to pray, tell them that you will be praying for them and their salvation.)

The verses that are quoted in this method are:

¹ Romans 6:23

² Galatians 2:20b

³ 2 Cor. 5:17

⁴ John 1:12

⁵ Rev. 3:20.

CROSS OBJECT LESSON

Instructions courtesy of Rev. Joe Cox, Enduring Treasure Ministries

- A. **Draw a sketch of a cross according to the given pattern.**
1. This is drawn making three horizontal and five vertical squares.
 2. Draw a sketch of a heart in the central square.
 3. Write the given words in their places as shown.
 4. Write John 3:16 on the lower long portion.
- B. **After cutting the cross out, fold it in following sequence.**
1. First, fold the bottom section with **JOHN 3:16** thrice so it fits completely behind the "heart design."
 2. Fold the top section having "**JESUS:** and "**SIN**", backward so it fits behind the heart, above the folded portion of the verse.
 3. Fold the "**YOU**" section behind.
 4. Finally, fold the "**GOD**" section behind.
 5. You should be holding a square now with "God" on one side and the "heart design" on the other.
- C. **Unfold the above square in the following sequence. At every step, share brief explanation for each point and present the gospel.**
1. Show the "**GOD**" section of the square and talk about God:

"The Living God is the creator, the maker of heaven and earth. He is a Holy God. He is the Most High over all earth. God created man—you and me too—in His own image" (Psalm 97:9; Genesis 1:27).

2. Fold the **"GOD"** section out so that "God" and the "heart design" show. Say:

"God is full of love. *God is love. He loved us*" (from 1 John 4:8 and 10).

3. Fold out the **"YOU"** section and show it with the "God" section and the "heart design" Say:

"God loves you, because you are His special creation. God has great plans for your life. God wants to tell you, *"I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future"* (Jeremiah 29:11).

4. Fold the **"SIN"** section forward to show that sin separates God and you.

"We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death" (Romans 3:23 and 6:23).

5. Pull down the **JOHN 3:16** section and say the verse.

6. Fold the **"SIN"** section back up to show the **"JESUS"** section also, illustrating how the death of Jesus on the cross takes away the problem of sin. Explain:

"The only begotten Son of God is Jesus. *Jesus loved me and gave Himself up for me. Jesus loved you too; He gave His life for you too. Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures ... He was buried. He hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures*" (Galatians 2:20 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

- D. **Finally, showing the whole cross, explain the need for repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord.**
- E. **If the person is willing, lead him/her to pray for forgiveness of sins.**

*WIN-ners are committed
to prayer for the lost and
soul-winning!*



9

ELEMENTS OF DEFINITE SOUL-WINNING

Key Verse: Acts 16:31

"They replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.'"



Bible text: Acts 16:25-34

INTRODUCTION

1. "Few are called to be preachers, but every born-again Christian is called to be a soul-winner." —Mama Thelma Braun
2. "Soul-winning is a definite effort, to lead a definite person, to accept a definite Savior at a definite time." —Billy Sunday
3. The conversion of the Philippian jailor in Acts 16 gives a helpful illustration of soul-winning.
4. Acts 16:31 is the key verse of this passage.

SEVEN "DEFINITES" IN THE CONVERSION OF THE PHILIPPIAN JAILOR

- **A definite purpose** - Soul-winning
- **A definite witness** - Paul and Silas
- **A definite person** - The Roman Jailor
- **A definite time** - The time after the earthquake

- **A definite Savior** - Jesus Christ
- **A definite action** - "Believe in Jesus Christ"
- **A definite reward** - "You will be saved—you and your household."

1. **We should make soul-winning a DEFINITE PURPOSE in our lives.**

- a. Paul and Silas were men who had become known for telling people the way of salvation (v. 17).
- b. Paul had just performed an act of mercy for the jailor. When he was about to kill himself, Paul shouted to stop him (v. 28).
- c. Paul and Silas became respected "sirs" in the jailor's sight because of their good will in his best interest (v. 30).
- d. Unbelievers understand and expect Christians to witness about their Lord Jesus Christ. Let it be known to others that you are a Christian and that you have the message for their salvation (Acts 4:31; Heb. 13:6).
- e. May your good deeds, your acts of mercy, and your conversation be full of grace and create a suitable environment for sharing the gospel (Col. 4:6).

2. **We become a DEFINITE WITNESS because of our conviction about Christ.**

- a. Paul had earlier been a persecutor of the Church. However, he had a personal encounter with the living Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 22:3-8). That interaction with Jesus Christ changed his life completely (Acts 22:21).
- b. Paul personally knew that Christ loves us and gave Himself as a sacrifice for our salvation (Eph. 5:2).
- c. Paul knew with confidence that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and mankind—the ransom for our sins (1 Tim. 2:5-6).

- d. Paul was convinced that the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).
- e. We too can be passionate soul-winners, used by God, when we are personally convinced that Jesus is the only Savior and if we have experienced personal salvation (1 Pet. 3:15).

3. **We should minister to every DEFINITE PERSON in a definite way.**

- a. The jailor was frightened with the possibility of terrible punishment, which he might incur if all prisoners escaped. He would rather have killed himself than fall into the hands of the Roman government (16:27).
- b. Paul saved him from killing himself. But the jailor also realized that he needed something more than just his physical life being saved - he needed salvation for his soul (16:30).
- c. The jailor realized salvation is a personal decision; therefore he asked, "What should I do to be saved?"
- d. Everyone must understand the need of their personal salvation. We must make people realize the value of their soul and the importance of salvation (Matt. 16:25-26).
- f. May we count every person without Christ as someone who is worthy and needs to hear the gospel (2 Pet. 3:9).

4. **We should make use of every DEFINITE TIME as an opportunity for soul-winning.**

- a. It was a definite time for the jailor; it was his "day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). There was no guarantee that Paul and Silas would get another time to share the gospel with him.
- b. The earthquake had created a suitable situation for him to be concerned about his salvation. It also created the opportunity for Paul and Silas to lead him to Jesus.

- c. He was not listening to their hymns; he was sleeping. God sent the earthquake to wake him up to experience the most frightening thing in his life of service (v. 27 b).
- d. Many times God sends events to help people realize the importance of their spiritual needs. At those times, God also provides disciples who are equipped to share the gospel and lead them to Christ.
- e. Whenever we get an opportunity to spend some time with even a stranger, we should count it as a definite time from the Lord for that person to hear the gospel. When we minister to someone's physical needs, let us not forget to minister to their spiritual needs as well.

5. **We should give witness to Jesus Christ as the DEFINITE SAVIOR.**

- a. Jesus is the definite Savior, the only way to salvation (John 14:6). The jailor had to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved from his sins.
- b. The jailor must have known the reason for the imprisonment of Paul and Silas: They had healed the fortune-teller's maid in the name of Jesus Christ (v. 18). Paul and Silas built upon the jailor's knowledge of Jesus Christ in their effort to win his soul.
- c. When witnessing, we should build upon any knowledge people might have about Jesus. However, even if they have no prior knowledge of Jesus, we can always begin with the key verse in this passage, "Believe in Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!"
- d. Everybody needs to know that Jesus is the One who died for our sins, was buried and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- e. God wants everyone to believe in Jesus Christ, and to receive His salvation (John 6:29; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Pet. 3:9).

6. **We should lead people to take DEFINITE ACTION.**

- a. The jailor felt he had to do something to be saved. He was frightened by his circumstances. Paul and Silas guided him with a quick, concise, and clear invitation: believe in Jesus Christ.
- b. Paul and Silas' invitation contained assurance for the desperate jailor. We must assure seekers that salvation is a gift of God. It is not through good works or religious ceremonies that people are saved. We are saved by the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8).
- c. To believe is a definite action that involves our whole being.
 - The dictionary meaning of "to believe" is "to accept or regard as true."
 - To believe means to be confident about something.
 - To believe in something means to have firm conviction of its being true.
 - To believe in Jesus means trusting the truth about Him as the basis for salvation—it is saying "yes" to Him.
 - To believe in Jesus means to be committed to Him as "My Lord and my God." (John 20:28).

7. **Both the witness and the new believer share in a DEFINITE REWARD.**

a. **The jailor and his family received eternal life and they were filled with joy.**

- Paul and Silas told the jailor and his household more about the Word of the Lord (v. 32).
- The jailor expressed his repentance in washing their wounds (v. 33a).
- He and his household took baptism as a sign of their faith in Jesus Christ (v. 33b; 34b).

- They ate together as a symbol of belonging to the same family of God (v. 34a).
- The jailor was filled with joy because he and his whole household had come to believe in God (v. 34b).

b. Paul and Silas also received a definite reward. As we are soul-winners, we receive the same blessing.

- Paul and Silas must have enjoyed Christian fellowship with the jailor and his family. Our joy in the Lord increases as we incorporate new believers in the Christian fellowship.
- There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10). We all experience that joy often as we win souls for Christ!
- Those who lead many to righteousness, will shine like the stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:3).
- When Jesus comes, those whom we have won to Christ will be like a crown of glory and joy (1 Thess. 2:19-20).
- When we are soul-winners, we know we are pleasing God by obeying His command to be witnesses to Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). He will one day acknowledge us as faithful servants. (Matthew 25:21).

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, I pray that You will grant me opportunities to be Your definite witness, leading people to accept Your definite salvation in Your definite time. Amen."

10

MARY *Submitting to God's Assignment*

Key Verse: Luke 1:38a (KJV)

*"And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
be it unto me according to thy word.'"*



BIBLE TEXT: Luke 1:26-56

1. **Mary, to whom God gave the significant assignment to become the mother of Jesus, was an ordinary teenager.**
 - a. Mary lived in Nazareth, a very insignificant, small town. It was said, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46).
 - b. She was from the tribe of Judah and a descendant of David. Her lineage was the one through whom the Messiah was promised (Genesis 49:10; Jeremiah 23:5; Luke 1:32; Hebrew 7:14).
 - c. She was humble and poor, and was betrothed (engaged to be married) to a poor carpenter, Joseph (Luke 1:48; Matthew 13:55).
 - Joseph was a godly man. Like Mary, he was visited by an angel (Matt. 1:18-25).
 - Joseph and Mary brought a pair of birds to the temple for Jesus' dedication instead of a lamb (Luke 2:24; Lev 12:8). This shows they were very poor.
 - d. Mary was a woman of good character.
 - She was a virgin (Luke 1:27, 34).

- From the song she sang later in the chapter, we know that she was devoted to God and she knew His Word (Luke 1:47, 55).
 - Mary counted herself God’s handmaiden, and God was Lord; He was mighty in her sight (Luke 1:46, 49).
- e. Mary’s selection for her honorable assignment teaches us how God chooses His people.
- God is not influenced by wealth, honor, education, beauty, or status.
 - He seeks the humble and contrite in heart (Psalm 138:6).
 - He will often choose insignificant people to do significant things, even those who are weak according to the flesh (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

2. Mary was blessed among women (v. 28).

- a. Mary was blessed because God’s presence had come to her: “The Lord is with you,” said Gabriel.
- b. Mary was blessed because as Jesus’ mother she would be in the closest possible relationship to the Savior of the world during his earthly life.
- c. This was a blessing “in disguise,” because it would cause her pain, disgrace, shame, and struggles (Luke 2:34-35).
- d. Jesus confirms that we are also blessed if we obey God. He said “But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice” (Luke 11:28; NLT).

3. Mary received from God a greeting of favor (v. 30).

- a. To be “favored” means to be approved, to be esteemed, to have someone’s good will.
- b. The favor of God on Mary is a reflection of God’s delight in her; it is evidence that she has the approval of the Lord.

- c. God looks with favor on “those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at [His] word” (Isaiah 66:2b).
- d. God’s favor has been poured out on all who belong to Him through Jesus (Eph. 1:6).
- e. Because we have God’s favor, we can dare to accept His assignments, even the ones that seem impossible (Luke 1:37; 2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 4:13).

4. **Mary’s assignment presented her with several challenges.**

- a. The supernatural appearance of an angel was unusual and hard for Mary to believe.
 - Mary would have been excited about her upcoming marriage, and did not expect this interruption to her plans.
 - Even in her wildest imagination she could not have expected the news she received from the angel.
 - The assignment God had sent to Mary would change her life forever.
 - The news was so surprising that Mary was greatly disturbed (v. 29).
 - Even though disturbed, she had calmness of mind to ask for God’s guidance (v. 34).
- b. Accepting God’s assignment would be costly to her.
 - The life she dreamed of would be completely changed.
 - Society would assume that she had been sexually immoral—she would be shamed as an unwed mother.
 - She risked her betrothal—Joseph could refuse to marry her (Matt. 1:18-25).

- She risked her life—a betrothed woman was considered married, and sexual relations were treated like adultery. Mary could have been stoned to death. (John 8:5).
 - She would have to deny her desires for marital relations until after Jesus was born (Matthew 1:25).
 - She would have to give her child to God so He could do the Lord's will. Her baby would not belong fully to her.
- c. Every disciple must present their lives, including their bodies, to God as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1).
- Sometimes God's assignment will not be easily understood (Isaiah 55:8).
 - Sometimes God's assignment will cause us to endure shame and scorn (Heb. 12:2; Rom. 10:11).
 - Sometimes God's assignment will cause physical discomfort and pain (Phil. 1:29).
 - Nevertheless, we belong to God because Jesus purchased our lives with His blood (1 Cor. 6:20).

5. **Mary was empowered by God to fulfill her assignment by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

- a. Mary was assured that even in her weakness, she would fulfill God's assignment because the power of the Most High [the Holy Spirit] would overshadow her (v. 35).
- b. Mary was told that through her the Messiah would be born, fulfilling prophecies (v. 32; 2 Samuel 7:13, Is. 9:7).
- c. Gabriel also revealed to her the eternal promise that would be fulfilled through Jesus, "He shall reign forever. Of His kingdom there shall be no end" (v 33).
- d. As she was filled with the Holy Spirit, she spoke like the prophets of old (Luke 1:46-55).
 - Mary had no education or theological training, but she spoke about the mighty works of God.

- She spoke not in her own knowledge, but what God revealed to her by His Spirit.
- e. In our day, we are God's agents to take the gospel of Jesus to the lost.
- We can trust that God will fulfill His Word (Ezekiel 12:25a).
 - God's Word will not return void; it will accomplish what He desires; it will achieve His purpose (Isaiah 55:11).
 - God has promised to fill us with His Spirit so we will be empowered to do His will (Acts 2:17-18).

6. **Mary's submission to God's assignment is commendable.**

- a. She believed in God's announcement that He would do something impossible according to the laws of science (for a virgin to conceive a child).
- Her question "How shall this be?" did not offend God (v. 34).
 - Her question was not asked because of doubt, but because of awe and wonder.
 - Her question was answered by God with no rebuke (v. 35).
- b. Even though Mary did not fully understand how this marvelous thing could happen, she submitted to God by saying, "I am the Lord's servant" (v. 38).
- A servant does not need to know why the master has given a command.
 - A servant merely does what the master has commanded (Matt. 8:8-10).
- c. Mary used her will, agreeing to accept God's assignment, saying "May it be done unto me according to Thy Word" (v. 38).

d. We, too, are God's servants.

- We should surrender to God's orders without hesitation (Psalm 119:60).
- We should not question God's commands according to our own will or wisdom (1 Cor. 2:11; Prov. 3:5-6).
- Our devotion to God demands full, immediate obedience (Jer. 7:23; Luke 11:28).
- What God has said, He will do, even if to us it seems impossible (Luke 18:27).

CONCLUSION

1. God's desire is that we should always submit to His will in all circumstances.
2. As disciples, let us choose to accept God-given assignments even when we know that it will cost us dearly, causing pain and suffering.
3. As we accept God's will and keep His Word we will be blessed.

PRAYER

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus came into this world to save sinners, and thank You that Mary was obedient to your will. Help me to obey You and be Your humble servant so that I may fulfill Your calling in my life. Amen."

11

LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN GOD'S WORD

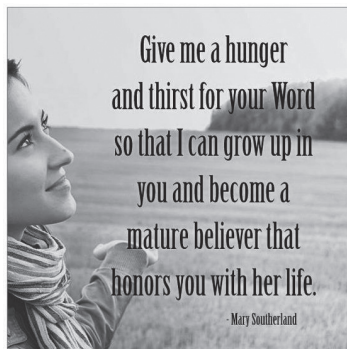
Key Verse: John 8:31

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.'"



INTRODUCTION

1. The Bible alone is the whole counsel of God in written revelation.
2. The Bible—the Word of God—teaches us all that is necessary to be saved from sin.
3. Spiritual nourishment for disciples comes from the Word of God (Deut. 8:3)
4. God's Word gives understanding and make us wise (Psalm 119:104;19:7)
5. Studying God's Word helps believers grow to spiritual maturity (Heb. 5:12-14).
6. God wants us to become life-long students of His Word, learning from it every day (Psalm 1:2)



FOUR WAYS GOD'S WORD IS USEFUL

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

1. God's Word is useful for *teaching* us.

- a. *Teaching* shows us "what is right" according to God.
- b. The Word of God teaches believers His instructions on any necessary subject.
- c. The Word of God is always true. The Bible is always the highest authority on our faith and conduct.

2. God's Word is useful for *rebuking* us.

- a. *Rebuking* shows us "what is not right" in the sight of God.
- b. The Word of God sometimes gives direct commandments and sometimes illustrates through the lives of biblical characters what is not right for God's people to do.
- c. When we are rebuked by God's Word, we must accept and agree with it, acknowledging where we are wrong in our thoughts or behavior.
- d. This humble acceptance of God's rebuke shows that we are obedient students of His Word.

3. God's Word is useful for *correcting* us.

- a. *Correcting* shows us "how to get right" according to God's will.
- b. When we understand according to the teaching of God's Word that we are wrong, we need to correct our thoughts and behavior.
- c. By correcting our behavior, the Word of God goes from our head to our heart to our hands and feet.
- d. This is how we live correctly according to God's Word.

4. God's word is useful for our training in righteousness.

- a. Training in righteousness shows us "how to stay right" in the sight of God.
- b. God uses the Bible to give us constant training in right living.
- c. By studying the Bible we discover how God intends us to live righteously.
- d. As we study the Bible, God promises to make us thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- e. Just as training in righteousness is a life-long process, we are to be life-long learners in God's Word.

THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

Step 1: Read the Passage

1. Always begin with prayer, then read, and re-read the passage.
2. Find out what the Word of God says through accurate **observation**.
3. The goal is to discover what the text says about itself.
 - a. Use a question-answer method for right observation of the passage.
 - b. Ask the 5 "W" and 1 "H" questions:
 - **WHO** - Who is named in the passage (what people)?
 - **WHAT** - What are the main events, ideas, characters and actions of the people and teachings in the passage?
 - **WHEN** - When did the events happen (time factors in the passage--past, present and future)?
 - **WHERE** - Where did the events happen (mentions to places regarding people and events)?
 - **WHY** - Why is this event included in Scripture (reasons for that writing, event, action or teaching)?

- **HOW** - How (by what means) is the event done, illustrated, spoken or happening?

Step 2: Reflect on the passage

1. Pray and meditate on the passage (Jeremiah 33:3).
2. What truth is revealed by God in the passage?
3. Does this section of Scripture expose any error in my beliefs or behavior?
4. Does it show me any corrections I should make in my thoughts or actions?
5. What instructions are given by God to help me to live righteously in His sight?
 - a. Is there any new truth to be believed?
 - b. Is there any new commandment to follow?
 - c. Is there any new insight I have to pursue?
 - d. Is there any promise for me to embrace?
 - e. Is there an example to follow?
 - f. Is there a sin to avoid?
 - g. Is there a prayer to repeat?
 - h. Is there a condition to meet?
 - i. Is there a verse to be memorized?
 - j. Is there a challenge to face?
 - k. Is there any warning to heed?
 - l. Is there any exhortation to accept?

Step 3: Respond to the passage

1. When we discover answers to the questions above, we need to act accordingly.
2. We have to embrace the truth revealed in God's Word.

3. We have to adjust our lives according to the concepts or teaching we receive from our study.
4. If our lives are changed by what we have studied, we have **applied** what we have learned.
5. We will need to be **changed** by the Word of God throughout our entire lifetime; thus, we will need to study God's Word as a life-long learner.

STUDY THE WORD OF GOD REGULARLY

1. Even a whole lifetime would be far too short to study the entire Bible.
2. However, it is possible to develop the habit of searching for more from God's Word every day.
3. Studying the Bible in small groups is an effective way of discipling.
4. As we study God's Word in small groups, we can together apply the Scripture to the needs of the members of the group.
5. We can bear burdens for each other as we all struggle to truly follow the Word of God.
6. We can encourage and correct each other for living the Word in everyday life.
7. Committing ourselves to life-long study and learning from God's Word will equip us for life-long service to our Lord.

PRAYER

"Dear Lord, I commit myself to be a life-long learner from the Word of God. As I study and meditate upon Your Word, send Your Holy Spirit to teach me its truth. Help me to be not only a good student of your Word, but also a good teacher who correctly handles it."



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

12

WINGS COMMITMENT FOR GROWING IN SERVICE TO GOD

Key Verse: Colossians 3:23-24

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."



INTRODUCTION

1. Jesus is the example for all our lives and ministry. He urged us to do as He did (John 13:13-16).
2. Jesus constantly was doing good deeds for people (Acts 10:38).
3. But Jesus, on this earth, lived and died for one primary purpose—to reconcile people to God (Col. 1:19-20).
4. The highest purpose for a disciple is to follow Jesus and be like Him (Matt. 16:24).
5. To be like Jesus, our primary purpose must be to accomplish His purpose/mission on this earth – to bring people to Him so they may be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20).

JESUS SERVED PEOPLE WITH A PURPOSE IN MIND: THEIR SALVATION AND RECONCILIATION TO GOD.

1. Jesus healed and fed the hungry (John 6:1-14), but He also taught them that He was the food that would endure to eternal life (John 6:27).

2. Jesus intervened to keep people from stoning the woman caught in adultery, but He also urged her to “go and sin no more” (John 8:11).
3. When we, who are Jesus’ disciples, do good works of service, we should have the same purpose as Christ, to work not only to meet material needs, but to present Jesus as the One who provides eternal life (1 John 3:17-18; Mark 8:35-37).

WE, WHO ARE JESUS’ DISCIPLES, MUST NOT LOSE OUR FOCUS ON EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP.

1. When Jesus spoke to the Church in Revelation, He told them they must not abandon “their first love” (Rev. 2:4).
2. Our “first love” should be loving Christ, because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).
3. When taken together, the Great Commandment (love the Lord Your God—Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (go and make disciples—Matt. 28:19-20), mean that sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others should be our first priority.
 - a. Some Christians are so focused on doing good works (feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, etc.) that they forget to share the gospel.
 - b. People cannot know about Jesus and His salvation unless we tell them (Rom. 10:14).
 - c. It will do people no eternal good to meet their material needs if they do not also receive eternal life (Matt. 16:26).

WE PLEDGE TO KEEP OUR FOCUS ON EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP.

1. Let us recall our vision for WIN: *WIN envisions Christian women, challenged for deeper discipleship, resolved to undertake dynamic, spiritual formation with other women, who in turn will become empowered disciple-makers.*

2. We who are WIN-ners have already dedicated ourselves to be Christ's true disciples.
3. We have already committed ourselves to study God's Word, obey it, and teach others to obey.
4. We have already committed ourselves to disciple others in the 3x3 campaign, to mentor other women in small groups using *WIN Discipleship Manual 1*.
5. Now, in WINGS, we dedicate ourselves anew to continue our WIN efforts and grow in service to God.
 - a. We dedicate ourselves to grow in our personal commitment to discipleship.
 - b. We pledge that we will continue the 3X3 campaign to disciple more women, using *WIN Discipleship Manual 1*.
 - c. We will undertake the responsibility of leading our groups to deeper discipleship with the help of *WIN Discipleship Manual 2*.

PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, help me to love You more. Help me to serve You by serving others with a cheerful heart, but let me not forget that my highest purpose is to love You and lead others to receive Your salvation. Amen."

THEREFORE, LET US ALL RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO BE WIN-NERS.

Commitment

WIN-NERS 3x3 CAMPAIGN

To: the dedicated disciple of Christ who resolves to undertake dynamic spiritual formation with three other women, the following suggestions are offered:



1. Take time in prayer to seek God's guidance in choosing the three women whom you will mentor for deeper discipleship, so that they will also become empowered disciple-makers.
2. Pray for each of them every day throughout the week, for God to prepare their hearts for meaningful discipleship.
3. Meet them individually so that you, with godly concern and holy boldness, may explain to them the necessity of discipleship.
4. Pray with each one and get their agreement to learn with you and two others from the *Discipleship Manual*.
5. Call all three together for a time of prayer and commitment for weekly discipleship in your WIN group.
6. Prayerfully complete the teaching from the *WIN Discipleship Manual* so that all three will also become dedicated disciples, and each will resolve to begin WIN discipleship groups with three others.

LORD, I AM CONVINCED...

1. That You died on the cross for my sins, and for the sins of my neighbors (*"While we were yet sinners Christ died for us."* Rom. 5:8).
2. That You saved me when I turned to You in faith, and that You will also save my neighbors when they turn to You (*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in."* Rev. 3:20).
3. That because You saved me, I must be Your witness to bring my neighbors to You for salvation (*"I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit."* John 15:16).
4. That I will be Your true disciple if I continue in Your Word (*"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples."* John 8:31).
5. That Your Great Commission for me is to make disciples (*"...go and make disciples of all nations..."* Matt. 28:19).
6. That You want me to undertake the responsibility of spiritual formation with three other women who in turn will become dedicated disciple-makers and begin WIN groups with another three (*"Wherefore exhort one another, and build each other up."* 1 Thess. 5:11).
7. That I must begin at once to pray and carry out both responsibilities of the Great Commission: to win the lost and to make disciples (*"The night cometh, when no man can work."* John 9:4).
8. That I should solemnly make a covenant right now, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit, that I will be a faithful WIN-ner, accountable to You and to this ministry. To this I set my hand as an act of intention.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

The three women whom I want to mentor to be Christ's disciples are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____